



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

MONTGOMERY, MINNESOTA

Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861

JANUARY 2017

WE ARE HERE AND NOW!

Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. (1 John 3:2 NRS).

In preparation for this new year and in guidance for me as your pastor called by you, the members of St. John Lutheran, to share in the ministry of this congregation, I pulled out the portion of my letter of call which touches on the responsibilities of the pastor that you, your call committee, and your council lifted up: Worship leadership & Preaching; Teaching Youth & Adults; Counseling & Ministry Crisis; Spiritual Discussion & Interpretation of Theology; and Musical & Artistic Direction. These help me get a picture of what you see matters and how we can grow in ministry together.

This is an area of give and share as you encourage and come alongside me in ministry here and now - Volunteering your time, gifts, and talents to support one another; Committing to actively work to follow our mission statement; and Living in Christian faith together here and now – and into the future together.

One other key matter that you lifted up was you wanting me to provide leadership and guidance to take our congregation in new directions. On a personal level, I am constantly brought to the taking on of this leadership, but I am always brought back to my installation reality, “I do, and I ask God to help and guide me!”

However, it doesn't stop there. You have called me in ministry together with you, so I need to hear from you, 1) What it is that you are excited about?, 2) What it is that keeps you up at night?, & 3) What it is that you are looking forward to in the future for St. John Lutheran?

My first leadership of St. John in a new direction involves this: **REDIRECTION!**

I am not talking about nostalgically looking back to something that has slipped away or dreamy-eyed looking ahead to something we would like to be, but instead, I am talking about being real. We must name who we are and where we are.

So let's begin by redirecting back to something that we've seen before – our mission statement:

As children of God, we are a family living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ through worship, fellowship, and service. We are a church of families, here to support our families and our church family. We are here for the global mission of Jesus – both locally and abroad.

This is a great direction and the first place we should ever begin – **In Christ**. With joy and hope, we are called to live into this. In freedom in Christ, we are to live it out for the sake of those around us.

Here and now: we worship together, we fellowship together in our joy and in our suffering, we share our God given gifts for ministry, we joyfully waste our time (that precious commodity), and, yes, we share financially to ensure the ongoing ministries that enrich our neighbors and tend to our needs – the young, the old, and everyone in between.

Peace of Christ,

Pr. Jason

January Worship Helpers

Readers

January 1 Renee Sorenson
 January 8 Garie Teig
 January 15 Kathy Peterson
 January 22 Marilyn Richter
 January 29 Eric Schroeder

Head Usher

Pam Edel

Ushers / Greeters

January 1 Ted & Colleen Wondra
 Jeanne Anderson
 Volunteer Needed
 January 8 Daryl & Cindy Curtis
 Tom & JoAnn Dawson
 January 15 Rick & Gwen Hanzlik
 Kathy Derhaag
 Ralph Hendrickson
 January 22 John & Lori Helling
 Myron & Peggy Hentges
 January 29 Lynden & Deb Jelinek
 Jim Heyda
 Dallas Horejsi

Communion Assistants

January 8 Kathy Westerman
 John Grimm
 Peggy Hentges
 January 22 Gary & Jacque Hartwig
 Dallas Horejsi

Acolytes

January 1 Preston Anderson
 January 8 Derrick Horejsi
 January 15 Preston Anderson
 January 22 Derrick Horejsi
 January 29 Caleb Cihak

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!*

Remember in your Prayers...

Lisa (Bartyzal) Indhl, Jaime Schultz (Diane Schultz's step-daughter), Kim Edel, Gauge Kodada, Lindsey Jensen, Wayne Schonning (Gwen Hanzlik's father), Betty Braun, Greg Vlasak, Keith (Zeke) Zahratka, Lois Schmidt (Megan Pratola's aunt), Haven Peterson (Susie Trender's grandson), Gail Embretson, Rev. Bob and Ardyce Boda, Phyllis Swidorski, Amy Korthuis (Judy Ferguson's sister-in-law), Nancy Creger, Reinhold West (Carol Kiekow's father), and Kris Huhner (Kathy Peterson's sister).

Remember those serving our country...

Travis Ferguson, Colin Hulke, Shane Morris, Matthew Astorino, Adam Vlasak, and Matt Nelson.



Sympathies

We extend our sympathy to the family of Margaret Lawson who passed away Monday, December 26.

We extend our sympathy to Paul and Kay Busch upon the death of their sister-in-law Linda Nutt.

Gift

Gift received in memory of Yvonne Brahs for the altar guild. Thank you.

Wedding

Congratulations and best wishes to Bill and Kristi (Kitmillier) Krenik who were married Sunday, Jan. 1.

Baptism

A new member to our congregation, Kelly Lou Pieper was baptized on Sunday, December 11.

Thank You

A special "Thank You" to Thrivent, Legion Post #79 and all who were very generous. My Project Christmas gift to our service people and veterans was a huge success. Thank you. *Paul Vollmar, Sr.*

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Mitten Tree. We received 58 mitten pairs, 10 scarves, 10 headbands, 28 hats, 19 sets, 1 pair of boots and 6 stuffed animals which went to the Le Sueur County Santa Anonymous.

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 January for the February newsletter.

Financial Corner

General Fund - November

	November	Year to Date
Receipt	\$ 12,525.67	\$ 156,674.79
Expenses	<u>\$ 14,500.85</u>	<u>\$ 166,487.42</u>
Cash Flow	\$ (1,975.18)	\$ (9,812.63)

St. John Church Council Minutes

December 13, 2016

Present: Kathy Peterson (1/17), Wendy Vargo (1/17), Dan Hardel (1/17), Eric Schroeder (1/18), Connie Cihak (1/18), Liz Vlasak (1/18), Pam Edel, (1/19), Renee Sorenson (1/19), Greg Westerman (1/19)
Pastor Jason

Absent: None

President Kathy Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m. Pastor Jason opened with devotions and prayer.

Eric Schroeder made a motion to approve the minutes from the November meeting. Wendy Vargo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pam Edel made a motion to approve the Treasurers report. Connie Cihak seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor's Update: Pastor Jason reported on his official acts from the month of November. Some upcoming events for December will be a wedding after Thanksgiving and another wedding on New Years Day.

Head Ushers: Pam Edel will be the head usher for January.

Feed My Sheep: A thank you was received from the family who were the recipients of the Feed My Sheep donation.

Old Business:

No update on the tax info.

No AED recommended as per the Emergency Dept.

Will review employee reviews in January.

New Business:

Motion was made by Dan Hardel and seconded by Wendy Vargo to add Missy Gregor as signor for the youth checking account and also issue her a debit card. Motion carried.

Budget was discussed and prepared for next year.

Motion was made by Eric Schroeder and seconded by Greg Westerman to adjourn at 9:14. Motion carried. Pastor Jason closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

The Annual Meeting will be January 22nd following the morning worship service.

Next council meeting is set for Jan. 17th - 6:30 pm.

HELP WANTED

The Church council is in the process of helping Kathy Heyda lighten her work load with the music program. We are currently looking for someone(s) to coordinate Sunday School Opening/Music for N/PS/K and the Sunday School Music for Gr 1-4 for the remainder of the year. This would begin as soon as possible!

We are also looking for someone to Coordinate and Direct the Christmas Program for 2017. This would include all facets of preparing and organizing.

We do have a stipend available for each position. There is more information available in the office. Please speak to Pastor or Kathy Peterson for more information or if interested.

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 Kay of your planned meeting dates.*

Thank you for your cooperation.

YOUR FAITH – YOUR CHURCH – OUR STORY

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength (Mark 12:30).”

I put before you the need for us to continue to share the story of our congregation. This serves two purposes: first, it is evangelism, we share our faith through what Christ has done for us to those who need to hear it again or for those who have never heard this redeeming and life-giving word. And second, the telling of your story may be the first time that you connect your faith and your church to your life – your whole life.

Your whole life means how this faith and this promise are a part of your lives: not just when times are good, but also when they are rough - not just when we have all of the answers before us, but also when we are able to trust in things that aren't right in front of us through faith in God's word spoken, heard, and received as a gift for us to put our trust in above all else; and not just when we are old and wise, but also when we are young and child-like in our faith.

So, starting in the February Newsletter, we will be inviting you the members of St. John Lutheran to share your stories with all of us. Just so you don't freak out, we are not starting with the oldest, but with the youngest members: 10 and under, confirmation, high school, 20's, 30's, and so on. They can be short or long. Each month, we will have an article from one member of St. John Lutheran. They can be simple and straight forward or can be thought provoking and challenging. If you are interested in writing one of these articles, let us know. I am willing to offer some guidance for those sharing these stories, but in the end they are your stories and our stories.

Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who have an undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 6:23-24).

Pastor Mark's Correspondence

Hello Friends,

I am leaving the ELCA and taking a regular call Feb. 1 at an LCMC (Lutheran Churches in Mission for Christ) church in Iowa. Below is our new contact information. Our cells remain the same; our new e-mail address is up and running now, and this one (marklynn) will shut down around January 23. Our new P.O. Box is established now, and the one in Blue Earth will start forwarding mail January 23 or so. We will start living at our new address Jan. 25.

I am going to Bethlehem in Royal, Iowa, about 10 miles from Spencer. I had thought I would do a few interims and then retire. Now I guess I'll do one long "interim" and then do the same. God's always got other ideas. When I make plans, it's like God says, "That's interesting. Now here's what you're really going to do."

Warm regards to you all,
Mark (and Lynn) Wilms

Our Contact Information in Royal

Post Office Mail

Mark and/or Lynn Wilms

P.O. Box 215

Royal, Iowa 51357

E-mail (for both)

pmamlw@royaltelco.net

Cell PhonesLand Line Number

Mark: 507-251-8993

Lynn: 507-251-9242

Land Line Number

712-933-5545

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you so much to everyone who participated in the Operation Christmas Child project by donating gift filled shoeboxes to children living in poverty around the world. 147 shoeboxes (a new record for our church) were collected and delivered to the processing center in Eagan. St. John's also donated \$135 for shipping from the aluminum can collection money. A special thanks to Cindy Westerhouse, Maridan Nesmo, Deb Jelinek, Kathy Peterson and Kathy, Wendy and Chase Derhaag who volunteered their time at the processing center with me. Your continued support of this project is much appreciated!

Mary Brahs

50 Years of Making Music

Kathy Heyda will be recognized at the end of the Sunday morning worship service on January 15th in honor of her "**50 years of making music**" for St. John. The recognition will be followed by cake and coffee in the fellowship hall. Please join us for this celebration.



Congregational Annual Meeting

The Congregational Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 22, following the Sunday morning worship service.

January Music Notes

January 29
Bells of St. John ring

"CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR ST. JOHN"

Thank you for the following gifts to St. John:

George and Anne Balluff, get rid of the red.

Ellen Flicek, AED.

George and Faye Kaderlik, get rid of the red.

Jean Kopp, get rid of the red.

Harry and Brenda Peterson, get rid of the red.

Marc and Kathy Peterson, kick plates.

Charles and Shirley Richter, repair water damage, repair kitchen plumbing.

David and Rhonda Solberg, get rid of the red.

Carol Svoboda in memory of Reuben Svoboda, repair kitchen plumbing

Charlene Washa, get rid of the red.

ST. JOHN YOUTH



T-shirts for Sale!

Youth sizes M & L \$10 Adult sizes XS-XL

**Will be for sale after church or available through Kay in church office
or Missy in youth office**

Junior and Senior League Skiing at Mount Kato.

Sunday, January 22nd - Meet at church at 1 PM, return at 7 PM



Cost is \$21 for a lift ticket, \$19 for ski or snowboard rental, \$4 helmets, \$4 beginner lessons, food package \$7.50 includes hotdog or hamburger, fries & pop. Junior & Senior League members will have their lift ticket paid for, any youth funds/points can be put toward the remaining cost. We need at least 15 participants for this event. We will need a few adult drivers

Please sign up on youth bulletin board.

\$7

2017 Calendars for Sale

All proceeds to benefit the 2017 Mission trip to Pine Ridge South Dakota. Purchase through Missy in Youth office or any Mission Trip participant.

Mission Trip to Pine Ridge Reservation

We have a few spots left on our Mission trip to Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Youth 7th grade and up and adults have the opportunity to serve. This trip will take place June 24-30th, the cost is \$549 + travel expenses. We have multiple fundraising opportunities available for this trip. Check out Re-member.org for more information about Pine Ridge. Please contact Missy Gregor if you are interested.

Coffee Sales

We have COFFEE from European Roasterie! We have Breakfast Brew, Toasted Marshmallow, Cherry Devils food cake, Banana bread, Blueberry swirl and Irish Cream . \$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.



Save the Date!!

Sweetheart Spaghetti Supper

Sunday, February 12th 4:30-6:30 PM

