

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

MONTGOMERY, MINNESOTA

Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861

JULY/AUGUST 2014

Dear People of St. John,

I am so sorry to have received a letter of resignation from Emily Hoefs as Youth Activities Coordinator effective August 15. Thank you, Emily for all that you have done and accomplished through your ministry at St. John. My prayer is that we will be granted the wisdom to build on your work and continue to grow our youth ministry. I know that God will continue to use you and your special gifts.

One of my favorite verses pops up in the Old Testament at least eight times. I remember hearing that verse for the first time on an Ash Wednesday, many long years ago. From Joel 2:13, "Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love." Then, over the years I began to realize that this is a major theme in the Old Testament. We will hear it twice during the month of July. On July 6th it appears in Psalm 145, and on July 20th it appears in Psalm 86. This theme helps to balance out some of the very negative images of God in the Old Testament that are bone-crushing, heart-breaking images claiming that God is punishing and vengeful. A theme of grace must be repeated over and over again to counteract those negative images. "Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love." That's pure grace!

Another of my favorite passages is read from Matthew 11 on July 6th. "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." These words of encouragement are good and uplifting news for anyone who feels pressed down by the weight of this world – anxiety, depression, grief, sickness, worry – Jesus says, come to me, let me take that burden from you.

On May 25th a representative from the Gideon's organization was here and told us about their theme verse. That verse shows up on July 13th from Isaiah 55:10-11. I referenced this passage in my sermon on June 14-15. "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it." God's word is not just ink on paper or information to be memorized. Just like God, the word is living and active, accomplishing God's purpose for you and for the world.

I pray that you are renewed and refreshed during these summer months, that your travels are safe and your homecomings joyful, and that you will be inspired, encouraged and challenged by God's word to live embraced by the gift of God's grace.

In His Service,
Pastor Bob Kaul

July Worship Helpers

Readers

July 6 Kathy Derhaag
 July 13 Diane DeWitte
 July 20 Doris Hendrickson
 July 27 Lisa Hoefs

Head Usher

July 6 & 13 John Grimm
 July 20 Kathy Peterson
 July 27 Jeanne Anderson

Ushers / Greeters

July 6 David & Rhonda Solberg
 Phillip Solberg
 Paul Vollmar
 July 13 Doug & Karen Thompson
 Rich & Liz Vlasak
 July 20 Greg & Jessica Westerman
 Cindy Westerhouse
 Jim Blum
 July 27 John Helling
 Lori O'Keefe
 Kay Busch
 Kathy Derhaag

Communion Assistants

July 13 Gary & Jacque Hartwig
 John Grimm
 July 27 Myrna Terwedo
 Jean Waugh
 Cindy Westerhouse

Altar Guild

Maryann Kaul

*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!

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 August for the September newsletter.

Financial Corner General Fund - May

	May	Year to Date
Receipt	\$ 11,305.39	\$ 71,938.99
Expenses	\$ 14,575.25	\$ 76,567.72
Cash Flow	\$ (3,269.86)	\$ (4,628.73)

August Worship Helpers

Readers

August 3 Deb Jelinek
 August 10 Maryann Kaul
 August 17 Carol Kiekow
 August 24 Will Kiekow
 August 31 Erin Krautkremer

Head Usher

August 3 Jeanne Anderson
 August 10 John Helling
 August 17 Kathy Peterson
 August 24 John Krautkremer
 August 31 Wendy Vargo

Ushers / Greeters

August 3 Mark & Mary Brahs
 Betty Braun
 Ralph Hendrickson
 August 10 Todd & Kala David
 Kay Busch
 Roman Jindra
 August 17 Myron & Peggy Hentges
 Jim Heyda
 Dallas Horejsi
 August 24 Lynden & Deb Jelinek
 Carol Kiekow
 Irene Jindra
 August 31 Ruth Kukacka
 Maryann Kaul
 John Krautkremer
 LaNette Kuelper

Communion Assistants

August 10 Lori O'Keefe
 John Helling
 Jessica Westerman
 August 24 Lynden & Deb Jelinek
 Peggy Hentges

Altar Guild

Deb Jelinek
 Wendy Vargo

*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!

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 Bob or Kay of your planned meeting dates.*

Thank you for your cooperation.

Remember in your Prayers...



Jeff and Peggy Schaak, Terri Pekarna (Robert & Glenda Larsen's daughter), Jeff Klonne (Pat Boyle's brother), Nancy DeCoux (Cathy Stasney's mother), Bob Hauer, Harold Walters (Betty Jindra and Virginia Horejsi's father), Chad Solheid (Michelle Trcka's brother), Opal Hartwig, Ethan Scheffert, Scott Collier, Adelle Shultz (Carol Kiekow's aunt), John Teig (Berlyn's brother), Arlene Washa, Reuben Svoboda, Braden Fliccek, Lester Moen, Sandy Hajney, Mayme Jindra, Nancy Vollmar, Alvin and Leona Winterfeldt and Todd Trcka.

Remember those serving our country...

Eric Braun, Kyle Eckstrom, Adam Minett, Kevin Baer, Jacqueline Sellner, Shane Morris, Damon Athey, Nathan Kubinski, Matthew Astorino, Adam Vlasak, Matt Nelson and Andy Moen.



Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the family of George Noiske who passed away Sunday, June 22.

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who donated aluminum cans. The cans brought \$177 which went to the Feed My Sheep program. Thank you to Paul Busch for taking the cans to Mankato.

General House Cleaning

Sunday, August 3 after church a general housecleaning of storage rooms and Sunday School rooms. Please help to identify stuff that should not be discarded.

Resignation of Youth Activities Coordinator

Emily has resigned from her position effective August 15, 2014. We are incredibly grateful for Emily's ministry over the past 5 years. We pray for God's blessings on her as she continues to use the wonderful talents that God has given to her. If you or someone you know may be interested in applying for this position, please see Pastor Bob or any member of the Church Council. Application deadline is July 15th.

Large Print

Large print bulletins, inserts and hymnals are available in the back of the church. The head usher can assistance you in getting these materials.

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.

Vacation Bible School

This year St. John Lutheran's VBS focused on "Splashing into the Bible"! It was held at the church and conducted over 3 days. We had such a fun time learning about stories such as Noah's Ark, The Wise and Foolish builders, and Jesus Calms the Storm. Crafts, games, food, and songs all reinforced the story Pastor told during each session. The weather even cooperated by raining on the day we learned about Noah's Ark! The kids enjoyed all aspects of VBS and we heard many comments of "We're having fun - can't VBS last a couple more days?" It was rewarding to see how the older youth of St. John helped throughout each day of VBS - and interacted with the younger kids. ALL the parent volunteers were amazing and VBS was a success due to such great teamwork! Photos are posted on our website.



Church Council Meeting

June 17, 2014 - 6:30pm

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

Absent: Jeanne Anderson (1/15), Dan Hardel (1/17)

The meeting opened with **devotion** by Pastor Kaul.

John Grimm moved, John Helling seconded to **approve the May 2014 meeting minutes**. Motion carried.

President's Report: No report

Vice President's Report: No report

Secretary Report: No report

Treasurer Report: John Krautkremer moved, Wendy Vargo seconded to approve the **Treasurer's Report** for May 2014. Motion carried.

Old Business:

A. Head Ushers

July 6: John Grimm

August 3: Jeanne Anderson

July 13: John Grimm

August 10: John Helling

July 20: Kathy Peterson

August 17: Kathy Peterson

July 27: Jeanne Anderson

August 24: John Krautkremer

August 31: Wendy Vargo

B. Feed My Sheep: We are at \$98. With the money from aluminum cans, we are at \$275. Kathy Peterson made a motion to give \$500 to a family within the congregation that is in need. Wendy Vargo seconded that motion. Motion carried.

C. Endowment Fund: Check with Dan to access the Catastrophic Endowment money.

D. Parsonage Rental: Tenants moved in on May 24th

E. Constitution / Bylaws: waiting for synod approval. Pastor contacted someone new at the Synod to get things moving.

F. Audit Committee: Committee is established and will be meeting soon.

G. Nomination Committee: Will convene in the fall.

New Business:

A. Can Recycling:

1. The trailer was emptied on Monday. Paige made a motion that this money go towards Feed My Sheep. Seconded by John Grimm. Motion carried.

2. We were contacted by the Boy Scouts. They typically collect aluminum cans following the Firemen's Dance, but it is not worth the effort for the small amount of cans collected. Paul Busch will see that the trailer is emptied and taken down so that we can collect any cans that are discarded.

B. Resignation of Youth Director- Emily Hoefs:

1. Emily has resigned effective August 15th, 2014. We do have someone interested in the position, however, we will plan to post the position within the congregation via newsletter, website and bulletin. Deadline for applications will be July 15th. It was decided that members the Youth and Education committees will be involved in the interviewing process. Once we have someone hired, we will take a look at the future of the Youth program and decide if changes need to be made to the structure of that committee.

Committee Reports

A. Stewardship Committee: John Grimm

1. There was a note in the bulletin about each member give another dollar a day. Still waiting for those results!

B. Evangelism Committee: Wendy Vargo

1. Wendy has been working on getting price quotes for "Welcome" cards and starting on Soldier boxes for later this summer/fall.

C. Education: Pastor & Jeanne Anderson

1. VBS was held with a very good attendance. Approximately 48 children attended, with about 8 teens helping. Jessica Westerman led the program, with about 10 adults volunteering.

2. The Education Committee is meeting on June 22, one of the main items for discussion is the space needed for Sunday School. Discussion was had regarding cleaning up and organizing some of the rooms throughout the church in an effort to create more room.

(Continues on back)

(Council Cont.)

D. Youth: Paige Nordling - Luther League Committee- Last planning meeting was April 6th

1. Little League - No report
2. Junior League - No report
3. Senior League
 - a. Planning an outdoor movie / campfire night from 8 – midnight on Saturday, June 21st at church.
4. Mission trip set for July 13 – 19th. The sending service for the mission trip group will be Sunday, June 29th. There is a planning meeting Wednesday, June 18th.
5. We are planning an all league activity out at Gregor's lake lot again this summer. It will be on Monday, July 28th 10:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
6. Boundary Waters Trip – August 2nd-8th. Deposits are being gathered and registration forms completed. Another meeting will be held on Sunday, June 29th at 6:00 p.m.
7. 9th Graders Mentor Dinner – Wednesday, May 21st 6:30 p.m. Had a great turnout.
8. ELCA Youth Gathering 2015 – Detroit, MI – July 15th-19th 2015 – need to set an informational meeting for early summer – need commitments by September/October.
9. Will be switching the ages of the leagues in the middle of the summer (new league group ages – Little League = 3rd and 4th, Junior League = 5th-8th, Senior League = 9th-12th).
10. We are always looking for more youth involvement in the church services one Sunday a month.
11. Next Advisory meeting date is set for 2:00 on Thursday, June 26th.
12. Next Events Planning Meeting will likely be in August.

E. Facility Management: John Krautkremer

1. There is still some with water leaking in the bell tower. We will continue to monitor that.
2. All bathrooms need overhauling. John will talk to Berlin Tieg and Dave Scheffert to come up with a plan as well.
3. Replacement lighting in the sanctuary is still being planned. Still waiting on Ruhland's
4. There were some water issues in the parsonage that have been taken care of.
5. If anyone has a playset that they would like to donate to the back yard, contact the church office.

F. Church and Society: Kathy Peterson - No Report

G. Communications: Dan Hardel - No Report

H. Fellowship: John Helling

1. John was approached to do a picnic out at Richter's Woods. Some ideas were tossed out.
2. The Twins have contacted John as well. There are some tickets set aside for a game in August. John will get the word out and do some more planning.

I. Worship and Music: Maridan Nesmoe

1. No scheduled events at this time.
2. Next meeting August 16th.

Pastors Report:

1. Various mailings that have come into the office were shared.
2. Pastor will be taking some vacation time in August 9th thru the 17th to go to Texas.
3. Monday, June 23rd, there is an informational meeting in Mankato regarding the National Youth gathering in Detroit that Pastor Bob will be attending.

Next council meeting: August 19, 2014, at 6:30 p.m.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Wendy Vargo and seconded by Maridan Nesmoe. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm and closed with "The Lord's Prayer"

Submitted by Paige Nordling

Twins Game

The Fellowship Committee has organized an evening outing on Friday, August 22 to see the Minnesota Twins vs. the Detroit Tigers, 7:10 p.m. start time. 30 tickets are available in Section 211 at \$35 per seat. No bus this time, we will be car pooling. If interested in going, please sign up in Fellowship Hall and pay at the church office ASAP. Make check payable to St. John Lutheran Church.



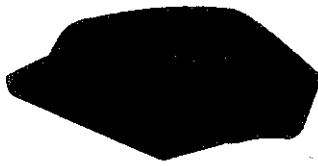
July/August Music Notes

I'm lining up music for next year starting with the service on Rally Sunday. On Sunday, September 7 there will be an Outdoor Worship Service starting at 9:00 a.m. in the back yard of our beautiful church property. Our church has been standing at 105 Spruce Avenue since 1913.....that's 101 years.

On Rally Sunday we will sing hymns sung to familiar melodiesJulida Polka, Du Du Liegst Mir Im Herzen, Beer Barrel Polka, You Are My Sunshine, Edelweiss and Happy Wanderer. I'll play most songs on the keyboard but I'm planning to play one hymn on my mom's accordion. Do you play an accordion? If so, let me know. We'll "squeeze" you into the service.

Worshipping outdoors gives us a chance to get in touch with nature. By joining voices in harmony, we somehow promise that we will not forsake each other. There will be a special prayer for all the kids and teachers as they begin their journey together with Christ for the 2014-2015 school year. I suggest bringing a blanket or chair to sit on. A potluck brunch will be served after the service.

Kathy Heyda, Music Director



2014 Mission Trip

The Mission Trip to McDowell County, West Virginia is approaching quickly. The group will be departing on Sunday, July 13 and returning Saturday, July 19. The members of the mission trip are Haley Dietz, Cassidy Gilbertson, Kassidy Korbitz, Tyler Nesmoie, Meleah Schoenbauer, Ashley Stewig, Denise Gilbertson, Emily Hoefs, Maridan Nesmoie, Shirley Pumper, and Kathy Westerman.

Cassidy Gilbertson submitted:

Why I'm going on the West Virginia Mission Trip

My name is Cassidy Gilbertson and I'm going on the 2014 Mission Trip to West Virginia. While we are there we are going to be doing community service for people in need. I'm going on this mission trip because I think it gives me a chance to help others in different parts of the country. There is a lot of poverty in this area, this trip helps get rid of poverty in this community and in the country. Our mission trip will also help us spread the word of God to other states and other communities.

On behalf of all the youth and adults going to West Virginia, thank you for your support and prayers.

Stewardship

As you've likely noticed, our giving has been falling short of our budgetary needs. Specifically, to date our offerings have totaled \$79,472, while our budgeted weekly income should have been \$86,788. Obviously, we must strive together to rectify this.

The good news is that we can do it without undue hardship, by simply increasing our giving by one dollar per day. You must admit that each of us spends a dollar without much thought or sacrifice - on a cup of coffee, a lottery ticket or a candy bar. So please join me, by setting aside just one dollar per day to add to your regular offering each week.

We have a vibrant, inspirational ministry at St. John; together we must support it generously if we are to continue changing lives.

John Grimm

ST. JOHN YOUTH

Luther League Day at the Lake

Luther League Day at the Lake – Monday, July 28th. This event is open to youth entering grades 3-12. We will meet at the church at 10:30 a.m. and travel together to the Gregor Lake lot south of Montgomery on Greenleaf Lake. We will enjoy paddle boating, kayaking, swimming, yard games, and some lunch and snacks while at the lake. Items to bring... swimsuit (best to have it already on), life jacket, sunscreen, bug spray, water bottle, towel, and a snack to share with the group. Please message Emily Hoefs (507)291-0387 if you are interested in attending to make sure we have enough chaperones and food for everyone.



Pioneer Power Kitchen Cleaning

Want to earn some extra money for your church account...come help clean the Pioneer Power Thresher's Kitchen on Wednesday, August 20th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Meet at church and wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty.

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.



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.

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.

Events Planning Meeting

Our next events planning meeting will be held in August – if you are interested in joining the Youth Board or have a great idea for an event this fall, please contact Emily Hoefs (507)291-0387.