



**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH** ELCA

**MONTGOMERY, MINNESOTA**

***Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861***

**JULY/AUGUST 2015**

**A Word or Two...by Pastor Mark Wilms**

Ever notice that people are doing things backwards these days? Maybe we should have seen it coming when boys started to wear their hats turned around – when I was a kid only catchers did that. Now they not only wear their hats backward, people wear pajamas during the day, underwear pulled to the outside of their pants, and shoes in opposite colors. Used to be people got together, fell in love, married, and then had a child. Now people have a child, get married, fall out of love, and go their separate ways. And when it comes to morality, the biblical prophets warned that one day people would call good things bad and bad things good – that is definitely the new normal today. It reminds me of a scene from a Kurt Vonnegut novel where two boys got into a theater after hours and ran a war movie backwards; they watched buildings and people come together, bombs fly up into the holds of airplanes, those planes landing backwards, the bombs unloaded, disassembled, and the parts melted down and returned to the earth. The world around me seems like that: a movie running backward.

Lest we shake our heads and “wonder where it’s all going to,” it’s good to remember that backward happenings aren’t always that bad. In the Bible, ancient Israel was patiently moving forward toward the promise of God doing a great thing, sending a Messiah who would make all things right. This mysterious person would offer forgiveness for their many sins, and hope for their beloved nation. But when the Savior actually did come, Jesus Christ, many of the religious officials took one look and said, “What is this world coming to, and who IS this guy?” Instead of affirming them as religious heroes, Jesus was holding them accountable for their sins. Instead of condemning the riff-raff who didn’t seem to deserve God’s love, Jesus hung out with them (without sharing in their bad habits, of course), offering them forgiveness and new life while the officials stood in a corner grumbling about this weird rebel of a rabbi. Jesus stood the world as they knew it on its head, because it was the only way to get its attention. It worked – and Jesus paid with His life. But in the end, God carried out the Mother of All Backward Happenings, raising Himself from the tomb and into the hearts of all who would believe.

When the most powerful armed forces in the world at the end of the American Revolution, the English Army and Navy, surrendered to a rag-tag militia fiercely dedicated to the freedom to run their own country, the British Army Band played a piece called “The World Turned Upside Down.” For them it was true, but it made possible the kind of life we have hundreds of years later. When Jesus rose from the dead, the world of sin and darkness was also turned on its head, and for us two thousand years later the blessings are as strong as ever; the backwards ironies are, too, especially grace for those who don’t deserve it, and hope for the hopeless.

## July Worship Helpers

### Readers

July 5 Carol Kiekow  
 July 12 Will Kiekow  
 July 19 Kathy Derhaag  
 July 26 Volunteer Needed

### Head Usher

July 5 Kathy Peterson  
 July 12 Maridan Nesmoe  
 July 19 John Helling  
 July 26 To be determined.

### Ushers / Greeters

July 5 Mike & Maridan Nesmoe  
 Brenda Peterson  
 Don Marcussen  
 July 12 Steve & Tammie Pan  
 Charles Richter  
 Kelle Schleis  
 July 19 David & Dorothy Scheffert  
 Eric Schroeder  
 Lynn Schuknecht  
 July 26 Jesse & Gail Skluzacek  
 Gerry & Dianna Smith

### Communion Assistants

July 12 John & Lori Helling  
 Dallas Horejsi  
 July 26 Ruth Kukacka  
 Erin Krautkremer  
 Candy Kaderlik

### Acolytes

July 5 Kayla Horejsi  
 Miranda Crosby  
 July 12 Maddie Novotny  
 Gunner Domine  
 July 19 Jackson Nesmoe  
 Maggie Trnka  
 July 26 Jackson Nesmoe  
 Jorgia Pumper

### Altar Guild

July 5 Maridan Nesmoe  
 July 12 Connie Cihak  
 July 19 & 26 Volunteers Needed

*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!***

## August Worship Helpers

### Readers

August 2 Jessica Westerman  
 August 9 Greg Westerman  
 August 16 Taylor Crosby  
 August 23 Cindy Curtis  
 August 30 Cindy Westerhouse

### Head Usher

To be determined.

### Ushers / Greeters

August 2 Lynden & Deb Jelinek  
 Kay Busch  
 Myrna Terwedo  
 August 9 Berlyn & Garie Teig  
 Doug & Karen Thompson  
 August 16 Paul & Kay Busch  
 Paul Vollmar  
 Cindy Westerhouse  
 August 23 Greg & Jessica Westerman  
 Kathy Westerman  
 Jeanne Anderson  
 August 30 Jim Blum  
 Daryl & Cindy Curtis  
 Kathy Derhaag

### Communion Assistants

August 9 Lynden & Deb Jelinek  
 Carol Kiekow  
 August 23 Steve & Tammie Pan  
 Don Marcussen

### Acolytes

August 2 Alexys Boyd  
 Maggie Trnka  
 August 9 Jorgia Pumper  
 Anton Nelson  
 August 16 Alexys Boyd  
 Jackson Nesmoe  
 August 23 Miranda Crosby  
 Maddie Novotny  
 August 30 Alexys Boyd  
 Alan Eotvos

### Altar Guild

Debbie Jelinek  
 Wendy Vargo

*If you are unable to help on the day assigned,  
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 and call the church office at 507-364-5002.*

***Thank you for your help!***

## Financial Corner General Fund - May

	May	Year to Date
Receipt	\$ 14,454.77	\$ 75,836.68
Expenses	\$ 13,665.69	\$ 69,784.69
Cash Flow	\$ 789.08	\$ 6,051.99

## 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.*

# Church Council Meeting

June 16, 2015 - 6:30 pm

**Present:** John Krautkremer (1/16), Wendy Vargo (1/17), Kathy Peterson (1/17), Dan Hardel (1/17), John Helling (1/16), Liz Vlasak (1/18), Pastor Mark Wilmes,

**Absent:** Maridan Nesmoie (1/16), Eric Schroeder (1/18), Renee Sorenson (1/16)

Kathy Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm. Pastor lead with a prayer.

Dan Hardel moved and John Helling seconded a motion to approve the May 2015 council meeting minutes with a correction in the WOTC item with Lori Helling as the co-leader, not Cindy Westerhouse. Motion carried.

**President's Report:** No report

**Vice President's Report:** No report.

**Secretary Report:** Noted change in May minutes for WOTC.

**Treasurer Report:** Presented treasurer's report though May. Efforts to raise money for the call process will begin.

**Pastor's Report:**

A. Currently finishing up with 6<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation.

B. Will be meeting with households who are planning to become new members of St. John on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**On Going Business:**

A. **Head Ushers:** Council members are sharing the June/July Sunday services.

B. **Feed My Sheep:** No individual/family identified at this time.

C. **Can Recycling:** Eric Schroeder will take cans in when full.

**Old Business:**

A. **Transition Task Force:** Will go over surveys and give report to the church council by mid-July. Some members of the task force wish to stay on the call committee.

B. **ELCA Campaign:** No report

C. **Youth:** Job posting will remain open until filled for the youth director. May open it up to the community if no one from the church is interested.

**New Business:**

A. Kathy will begin calling individuals who showed interest in being a member of the call committee.

**Committee Reports:**

A. **Stewardship Committee:** Renee Sorenson - absent - No report.

B. **Evangelism Committee:** Wendy Vargo

1. Will be planning New Member Sunday during coffee hour sometime in July.

C. **Education:** Liz Vlasak

1. Mentor dinner was held on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Kathy Westerman organized the event with approximately 20 people in attendance.

2. Bible Boot Camp (VBS) was held on May 31, June 1 and 2. 50 children participated.

3. Next Education meeting will be Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

D. **Youth:** Eric Schroeder - absent - No report.

E. **Facility Management** – John Krautkremer

1. John Schmidt is looking into signs for handicapped parking.

2. Dave Scheffert is looking into the leaks in the bell tower with a company in LeSueur that will seal the brick..

3. John Krautkremer met with M & M sign company and has bids/ideas for lettering, etc.

4. There was a request by volunteers to fix up the main Sunday School class room area. Dan Hardel made a motion to approve up to \$500 to be used for paint and stain for this project. John Krautkremer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

F. **Church and Society:** Kathy Peterson - No report.

G. **Communications:** Dan Hardel - No report.

H. **Fellowship:** John Helling

1. Has set possible date for Twins game as August 16<sup>th</sup>.

I. **Worship & Music Committee:** Maridan Nesmoie - absent.

1. Will meet the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in August.

J. **Audit Committee:**

1. Met on June 16<sup>th</sup> to finish up audit.

(Church Council Cont.)

(Church Council Cont.)

**K. Endowment Committee:** No Report

**L. WOTC:**

1. Met on June 9<sup>th</sup> to work on constitution.

**M. Cemetery:** Meet once a year.

Next meeting: July 21, 2016, 6:30 pm with a modified agenda.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:19 pm and closed with "The Lord's Prayer"

Submitted by Wendy Vargo, Church Council Secretary

## **WOTC Meeting June 9, 2015**

### **Minutes**

Welcome and introduction of officers – absent: Lori Helling (Co-leader); Garie Teig (Treasurer)

Discuss frequency of meetings and interest circles. – decided that twice a year (August and February) would be enough. We are able to call special meetings if needed.

Cindy Westerhouse had some examples of circles from the website. – Mission, political, Bible study, etc. Carol Kiekow will look these up and send a list to Kay Busch to send to everyone.

Discussion and adoption of By-laws and Constitution – We went through the Approved Model Constitution and By-laws item by item, making adjustments to fit our organization.

Representative and Alternate for Synod Convention – September 19<sup>th</sup> in Preston, MN – Doris Henderson made a motion, and Connie Cihak seconded the motion to send Kathy Derhaag and Carol Kiekow as voting delegates to the convention in September. Motion carried.

Women's Day 2015 - June 27<sup>th</sup> at Good Earth Village – Distributed; there are still copies available for anyone who is interested.

Formation of Committee for Fundraisers – Doris made a motion for Renee Sorenson and Myrna Terwedo to head up the Fundraising Committee; Wendy Vargo seconded. Motion carried.

Coffee Hour - Possible fundraiser to pay for coffee and supplies - frequency? – not at this time

Kolacky Days fundraiser – we will be invited for next year.

Other ideas for fundraisers (murder mystery?) – Pork n dumplings; sale; silent auction with a dinner; participate in holiday fair

Open forum – n/a

Next Meeting: - August – to be set by the Board.

Adjournment – Cindy Westerhouse moved; Debbie Athey 2<sup>nd</sup>; Motion carried. Adjourned @ 8:10 pm.

## New Member Sunday

On Sunday, July 19, at the 9:00 AM service, new members of St. John will be received! They include:

Paul Busch  
Cassandra Hartwig and infant daughter Naeve  
Brandon Horejsi  
Duane and Bev Horejsi  
Richard Milinkovich  
Steve and Anne Schroeder  
Ted and Colleen Wondra

## Minnesota Twins Game

The Fellowship Committee is planning a trip to a Twins game on Sunday, August 16 for the 1:10 p.m. game. Reserved seating in section 102. Cost: \$44. You can sign up in Fellowship Hall and pay in church office. If you have questions, please contact John Helling during coffee hour on Sundays, call or text at 507 560-1071 or e-mail [jhelling@mchsi.com](mailto:jhelling@mchsi.com) Also, kids can run bases after the game.



## The Southeastern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization Convention

The convention will be held Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> in Preston, MN – there are still copies of the registration form for the convention as well as the scholarship available for anyone who is interested. They are providing free child care. Please contact Carol Kiekow, via email: [ckiekow@frontiernet.net](mailto:ckiekow@frontiernet.net), home phone #507-364-7967, or cell phone #952-457-4613, for the registration form and/or scholarship form, if interested.

## Remember in your Prayers...



Hazel Holms, Bob Kaul, Agnes Tuma, Dave Charlson, Paul Busch, Kris Huhner (Kathy Peterson's sister), Ken Meyer, Reinhold West (Carol Kiekow's father), Roy Berg, Bev Horejsi, Braden Flicek, Tom Mariska, Betty Ann Heuer, Harold Walters (Betty Jindra and Virginia Horejsi's father), Alexander Sticha, Patricia Morrill (Peggy Hentges' mother), Greg Vlasak, and Terri Pekarna (Robert & Glenda Larsen's daughter).

## Remember those serving our country...

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



## Our Sympathy

*Word was received of the death of Mark Koschade's wife Kelley. Kelley was killed in a rafting accident on the Colorado River. We extend our sympathy to Mark and family.*

*We extend our sympathy to the George Kadrlík family upon the death of George's brother Donald.*

## Baptism

Ivy Jo Coen was baptized Saturday, June 7. Ivy was born April 8, 2015 to David and Molly Coen. Her sponsors are Karen Braasch and Ryan Olson. God's blessings to Ivy and her family.

## Have an announcement for the bulletin or newsletter?

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

- ◆ Thursday for the bulletin.
- ◆ The 24th of August for the September newsletter.

## 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](mailto:stjohnelca@frontier.com)

## **Faith and Life Bible Study for July/August**

Our midweek Bible study for adults will get into a more stable schedule in July, as we go through the whole month without a break and most of August as well. We will finish up the great stories of Genesis, ending with young Joseph going from a dark, moldy prison cell to become Prime Minister of Egypt, showing unbelievable forgiveness to the brothers who sold him into slavery. Then we turn to the New Testament and the Gospel of John. This is the most unique and moving of the four accounts of Jesus' life, based on the idea of light and darkness, of those who see and those who don't. Reading these pages together and talking about how they shed light into our own situation will enrich our lives.

Faith and Life meets every Monday night 6:30-8:00, and Wednesday mornings 9:30-11:00 (same content at both). You can come whenever you want, and don't need any more knowledge than a desire to share in God's word. Plus there's treats and coffee every time. Try it, like it! See you there.

## **Youth Ministry Director**

St. John Lutheran Church is seeking to enhance its youth ministry through increased participation in a variety of faith based youth league activities. As part of our Youth League Program we are seeking a Director that has a passion for youth ministry and an appreciation for Lutheran Theology. Specific qualifications include:

- Demonstrated leadership and organizational skills.
- Ability to identify and foster leadership in youth and adults.
- Strong personal aptitude for spiritual and social wellness.
- Energetic with the ability to remain flexible.

This is a part time, paid position, averaging approximately 10 hours per week. Interested applicants may inquire at the Church Office or by contacting Eric Schroeder, [eschroeder@tcu2905.us](mailto:eschroeder@tcu2905.us). This position will remain posted and open until filled.

## **July/August Music Notes**

We changed liturgy to Setting Two on June 13/14. For many people, change does not come easy. Change requires us to stop doing things a certain way in order to do something else. Many people find comfort in familiar routines. Change interrupts those familiar routines. But change is also an opportunity to stop and reflect on what we are doing and to come to a better understanding of God, who does not change. Soon you will become comfortable with the new musical setting and adjust to the new texts and gradually commit them to your heart.

I have been working with Lynn Wilms on some piano/organ duets. We decided to play three songs on **Sunday, July 19**. We will play "Panis Angelicus" during the Prelude, "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" after the Psalm and "Thanks Be to God" at the end of the service. We'd like the congregation to stay seated after the sending hymn while we play our third duet during the Postlude. We are practicing faithfully so we sound as good as we look!

Our Summer Children's Choir has been learning some fun songs. We plan to sing "Come and Go With Me" and "A Little Talk With Jesus" on **Sunday, August 9**. I enjoy music and enjoy working with kids who enjoy music.

Kathy Heyda, Music Director

# ST. JOHN YOUTH

## **St. John Lutheran's 2015 Bible Boot Camp Vacation Bible School**

St John Lutheran had a wonderful turn out for this year's 3 day vacation bible school. Our theme centered on a Bible Boot Camp, where we learned to put on the full armor of God for our everyday interactions. We held our Boot Camp at St. John Lutheran church and it was a great kick off to the beginning of summer. 50 children participated from pre-kindergarten age to sixth grade. We had crafts, games, skits, songs, story time, and snack every day. Emily Hoefs led the crafts, which consisted of each child making a belt, breastplate, shield, lace-up shoes, helmet, and sword. It was fantastic and rewarding to see all the children participate, learn, and really get excited about VBS. We had great adult and older youth volunteers and VBS couldn't have been a success without all the help and participation to make it such a fun and Christ centered event.

Submitted by:

Jessica Westerman



### **Coffee Sales**

**We have COFFEE!** European Roasterie Coffees - Seasonal/Winter blends. We have Santa's Treats and Sugared Snowflake left for just \$7 per bag, discounted rate! We also have Breakfast Blend and Jamaica Me Crazy for \$9. You can purchase during coffee hour or at the church office during the week. All proceeds go to the youth league.

### **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.

### **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.