



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

MONTGOMERY, MINNESOTA

Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861

JULY/AUGUST 2016

A Word or Two...by Pastor Mark

We are distressed by the violence that plagues our world. It's always been around, but now it is present to us through 24-hour news. During the Second World War, people were stunned into reality when President Roosevelt finally lifted the ban on photos of dead U.S. soldiers, and the cover of Life Magazine showed a deceased marine on the shore of a beach that he helped storm. Now, images of carnage fill our screens every week. On the internet, you can get even more graphic clips of death and destruction.

This carnage hits especially close to home when terrorism senselessly kills our own citizens in places where people think they are safe, like the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando recently. A night of dancing turns into a chamber of horrors, with police combing through bodies whose cell-phones are ringing with relatives trying to get hold of their loved ones. Blood everywhere. I cannot imagine. This is where Americans with any sense of unity rise above sexual orientation, political affiliation, religion, or any other differentiation to unite in solidarity as a people attacked. That happened right after 9-11 as well. If the pressure lifts, it doesn't take long for us to start bickering again, but for a few days or weeks we see the value of humanity behind all differences.

We Christians have a great opportunity here to really show what our faith is about. We get criticized by non-believers for many things, some of them true and others false, but one thing is for sure: there has never been a religious faith that is more committed to showing the value of human life in the light of Christ's message. While other religions have certainly done much good in the world, their central quest has been finding a path to God. Only Christianity says that this is impossible – we cannot find a path to God. That is why God found a path to us, in Jesus Christ. More than anything, Christ based His ministry on the grace of God being more powerful than hate, on love triumphing over cruelty, on the value of human beings as creations of God winning over the short-term satisfaction of selfish victory at others' expense. This is not an easy message to bring to the world in light of the anger that we feel when people hurt us, but it is our message nonetheless, or rather the message Christ has given us. It doesn't mean we lie down and let ourselves be killed and abused. We can fight evil, even militarily if necessary, and still work for peace.

If you are distressed by the violence that will surely continue to be with us, that's good, because it means you have a heart. But don't be discouraged. As in all the centuries of our history, God is working through it, and somehow good always defeats evil. May we followers of Christ be a part of making that happen.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Call Committee and the Church Council are excited to call a special congregational meeting on **SUNDAY, JULY 17** following our regular worship service (approximately 10 a.m.) to vote on extending a call to a candidate that has been through the rigorous interview process and approved by the Church Council. We urge every member to make every effort to attend this meeting where you will learn more about this exciting candidate and the how this candidate will fit into our congregation and help to lead us into the future!

There will be a brief presentation followed by a vote through a secret, written ballot. There must be at least 25 members in attendance. No absentee ballots are permitted per the Synod guidelines. You must be present at the meeting and a member of the congregation to vote!

July Worship Helpers

Readers

July 3 Marilyn Richter
July 10 Eric Schroeder
July 17 Gail Skluzacek
July 24 Jesse Skluzacek
July 31 Renee Sorenson

Head Usher

Pam Edel

Ushers / Greeters

July 3 Tom & JoAnn Dawson
Jim Blum
Kathy Derhaag
July 10 Rich & Gwen Hanzlik
John & Lori Helling
July 17 Myron & Peggy Hentges
Ralph Hendrickson
Jim Heyda
July 24 Lynden & Deb Jelinek
Dallas Horejsi
Paul Busch
July 31 Steve & Tammie Pan
Irene Jindra
Carol Kiekow

Communion Assistants

July 10 Charles Richter
Cheryl Schulte
Kathy Westerman
July 24 Garie Teig
Myrna Terwedo
Cindy Westerhouse

Acolytes

July 3 Nick Novotny
July 10 James Krautkremer
July 17 Nick Novotny
July 24 Gretchen Vlasak
July 31 James Krautkremer

Altar Guild

July 3 Kathy Derhaag
July 10 Tammie Pan
July 17 Connie Cihak
July 24 Volunteer Needed
July 31 Volunteer 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 7 Garie Teig
August 14 Patty Tiede
August 21 Jean Waugh
August 28 Cindy Westerhouse

Head Usher

Council Member

Ushers / Greeters

August 7 David & Dorothy Scheffert
John Krautkremer
LaNette Kuelper
August 14 Ruth Kukacka
Don Marcussen
Dick Milinkovich
Maridan Nesmoe
August 21 Jesse & Gail Skluzacek
Brenda Peterson
Charles Richter
August 28 Kelle Schleis
Eric Schroeder
Lynn Schuknecht
Myrna Terwedo

Communion Assistants

August 14 Rhonda Solberg
Volunteers Needed
August 28 Rich & Wendy Vargo
Joslyn Vargo

Acolytes

August 7 Gretchen Vlasak
August 14 Ariana Krautkremer
August 21 Gretchen Vlasak
August 28 Ariana Krautkremer

Altar Guild

Deb 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!*

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.

Remember in your Prayers...



Gerry Smith, Harlen Jindra (Roman's cousin), Alex Lawson (Jake's son), Rev. Bob and Ardyce Boda, Mable Craig (Blanch Sorenson's sister), Phyllis Swidorski, Nancy Creger, Amy Korthuis (Judy Ferguson's sister-in-law), Reinhold West (Carol Kiekow's father), Kris Huhner (Kathy Peterson's sister), and Bev Horejsi.

Remember those serving our country...

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



Our Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the family of Cheryl Borchardt who passed away Wednesday, June 22.

Gifts Received

Gift received in memory of Edna Wieland Thom for the cemetery fund. Thank you.

Wedding



Congratulations and Best Wishes to Vance and Rachele (Herman) Kuball upon their marriage on Sunday, June 12.

Thank you

Thank you to the 8 women who helped me put bundles together, 35 for LWR and 17 for Liberia. Missionary Carrie Van Epps of Willmar asked that I thank the ladies of my church for all they each do in making the bundles for Liberia's newborn children. So far this year we were able to deliver 47 total bundles to her. Thank you all for your service to others and God.

Doris Hendrickson

Thank you to everyone who donated aluminum cans. The cans brought \$159.60 which will go to offset cost of VBS. Thank you to Jim Blum for taking the cans to Mankato.

Thank you to Preston and Neysa Anderson, Tyler Newmoe and Missy Gregor for painting the youth room. Job well done.

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.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Feed My Starving Children

Isaac Schroeder is collecting donations for Feed My Starving Children. His goal is \$1,800. That will feed 42 children for one year. For his birthday (Aug. 25) he will be going to pack food and donate the money he collects. This year he doesn't want any gifts for his birthday, only donations to feed children.

You can donate directly to him, fill the coin boxes on the table at coffee hour or mail to Isaac Schroeder, PO Box 103, Montgomery, MN 56069.

Toothbrushes Needed

Lutheran World Relief Health Care Kits will be assembled soon and we are still in need of toothbrushes. Brushes can be left in the church office or given to Myrna Terwedo.

Food Shelf

The Montgomery Food Shelf is desperately looking for volunteers to help when the food shelf is open Tuesdays from 4-6 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to noon. If interested, please contact Renee Southworth, office 364-7321 or home 364-8743.

Thank you for your consideration.

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

Financial Corner General Fund - May

	May	Year to Date
Receipt	\$ 17,277.73	\$ 77,033.69
Expenses	\$ 16,548.48	\$ 77,738.02
Cash Flow	\$ 759.25	\$ (704.33)

St. John Church Council Minutes

June 14, 2016

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

Absent: Eric Schroeder (1/18)

President Kathy Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Pastor lead with prayer.

Connie Cihak made a motion to approve the minutes from the May meeting. Pam Edel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dan Hardel made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Greg Westerman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Will have one wedding in June, a baptism in July and has resumed Bible study.

Head Ushers: Pam Edel is the Head Usher for July.

Feed My Sheep: A motion was made by Wendy Vargo to donate \$400 to a family in need from the Feed My Sheep fund. Renee Sorenson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Can Recycling: Next load of cans will go to VBS.

Old Business:

Call committee will be meeting for a second interview with a candidate. Council reviewed the salary package for new pastor if/when hired.

Parsonage is still being rented on a month-to-month basis.

New Business:

Motion was made by Liz Vlasak and seconded by Connie Cihak to have the front lawn of the church and parking lot sprayed and fertilized. Motion carried.

Discussed plan for custodial work while Roman is out.

Rally Day is set for September 11th.

Group asked to rent the kitchen to bake and sell baked goods. Council agreed not to let them use the kitchen but could sell baked goods.

Committee Reports:

Endowment: Will be meeting in the fall.

Women of the Church: No report.

Cemetery: Care of Pastor Koschade's grave site was discussed..

Audit Committee: No report.

Stewardship: Renee Sorenson - Will speak on June 21st about stewardship.

Evangelism: Wendy Vargo - No report.

Education: Liz Vlasak: VBS is being planned for August 8-11 from 6:00 - 8:00 with a farm theme.

Youth: Eric Schroeder - Absent - No report.

Facility: Greg Westerman: Talked to city about gravel for the entry to the church parking lot. Cranks on windows are stripped on the windows upstairs in the Sunday School areas.

Church in Society: Kathy Peterson: No report.

Communications: Dan Hardel: No report

Fellowship: Connie Cihak: Planning ideas for fellowship for later in the year.

Worship and Music: Pam Edel: Next meeting is set for Sept. 3rd.

Other Business: None

Dan Hardel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10. Greg Westerman seconded the motion. Motion carried. Pastor lead the council in closing with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting will be August 23rd at 6:30 pm.

Submitted by Wendy Vargo, Council Secretary

Faith and Life Bible Study

Faith and Life Bible study meets on Monday nights 6:30-8:00, and Wednesday mornings 9:30-11:00. Drop in and give it a try! You don't have to know anything about the Bible, just have a willingness to enjoy its pages. Plus, we discuss how it impacts our lives. And there are treats and coffee every week. See you there!

Bible Talk Study Group



The Power of Music

Historically, music has been a rallying voice in times of battle, conflict and trial creating zeal in the hearts of those engaged in struggles. A trumpet can sound a battle cry, but your church organ can also sound a Christian rally of ordinary people calling on the Lord for hope, strength, and guidance in troubling times.

The sound and rhythm of music brings a sense of stability, a soothing calmness, a healing way to make it through profound grief and anxiety. It doesn't take a high-tech research lab to tell us that there is a physiological connection between music and the mind. Any musician can share incidents where, sitting down at the keyboard or the instrument of their choice, they were able to achieve a sense of peace during a troubling time in their own personal day.

As public musicians, it becomes a vital responsibility on our parts to increase our awareness of the critical need to select appropriate music for the worship service. There is an abundance of music available to the church organist for use as preludes, offertories and postludes. Countless collections are available in almost every style and difficulty imaginable and something for the taste of every organist. Music can be glorious, majestic and happy, all in praise of God. It can also be quiet and meditative to direct listeners' thoughts toward God.

Thank you, Lord, for the joy of playing for you, in your holy place, for your people. May the music I play praise your name, comfort the hurting, and lift the spirits of the depressed. Keep my mind on you.

Kathy



Mission Trip

Right now we're planning on going to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota on June 24 to June 30, 2017. We are hoping to reserve spots and make our deposits by August 2016. Spots fill up VERY fast and we found out last year we cannot wait till fall! This mission trip is for youth 12 and over and adults. Check out the website www.re-member.org. Questions, contact Kathy Westerman.

ST. JOHN YOUTH



All League Lake Day

Saturday, July 30th 3-8pm. Bring a life jacket and towel. Meet at church and we will go to Gregor's lake lot on Greenleaf Lake. Sign up on the youth board or the facebook event page.

Mini Youth Camp

Camp Omega Mini Youth Camp dates are July 26-29. Cost is \$210. Contact Missy if you are interested in attending mgregor@montgomerymnelcalutherans.org

Vacation Bible School

Registration for vacation bible school, *On the Farm*, is taking place right now! August 8-11th, 6-8pm. Registration forms are available on the youth bulletin board, the church website and in the newsletter. Completed forms and payment may be put in the black box next to the youth board.

VBS Helpers Needed

We are looking for students 6th grade and up that would like to help with vacation bible school. Dates are August 8-11th, 6-8pm. You do not have to attend everyday. We need helpers for crafts, games, food and more! Contact Missy if interested.

Youth Helper Survey

One of our goals is to get parents more involved in our Youth Ministry. A few ways of accomplishing this goal is the Youth Helper Survey and the Summer Take Out Church. You received a Youth Helper Survey in the June church newsletter and it has also been posted on our church website. Please check out our youth calendar and think about where you can volunteer.

Please complete and return the survey by August 1st.

Take Out Church

Take Out Church is a way for you to take church with you on your Summer adventures. Small pizza boxes with lots of activities for the summer are available for each family to take home. Take Out Church boxes are available for you to pick up at church by the children's bags.

Come see us at Kolacky Days!

We will have youth running the concessions at the Kolacky Days Queen's Pageant on Friday, July 22nd at 7 PM at the TCU auditorium. Missy will be coordinating the Kiddie Parade in partnership with Holy Redeemer on Saturday, July 23 at 10 AM in Memorial Park.

Coffee Sales

We have COFFEE from European Roasterie! We have Breakfast Brew, Jamaican Me Crazy, Toasted Marshmallow, Turtle Nut, 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.





2016 St. John's VBS On the Farm Where God's Love Grows

St John Lutheran Church
Vacation Bible School

Held at

St. John Lutheran Church
105 Spruce Ave. NW, Montgomery MN

Monday August 8	6:00 – 8:00pm
Tuesday August 9	6:00 – 8:00pm
Wednesday August 10	6:00 – 8:00pm
Thursday August 11	6:00 – 8:00pm

**THE LAST NIGHT will be held at the HOEFS FARM please pick up and drop off there:
32606 181st Ave New Prague, MN 56071**

All Children Welcome! Invite Your Friends! Scholarships Available call 507-364-5002
*Parents please plan on attending if child is not potty trained!

VBS Registration Form 2016

Child's Full Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Grade: _____

Mother's Name: _____ Fathers Name: _____

Best Contact Number _____ Email: _____

Emergency Contact Person & Phone # _____

Known Allergies: _____ Medical Restrictions _____

Other Concerns _____

Parent Signature & Date

Willing to Volunteer *Best Contact Number _____

\$10 per child or \$25 for a family
Checks payable to St. John Lutheran notate VBS in Memo Line
Please Return By August 1st

WEAR CLOTHES THAT CAN GET DIRTY!
Please Bring a plain white T-shirt for each child they will be doing a Tie Dye project!