



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

MONTGOMERY, MINNESOTA

Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861

JUNE 2016

A Word or Two...by Pastor Mark

We are heading into the summer, when the national conventions of the two major parties in the US will be held. I've lived through this every four years for over six decades, and I can't remember an election more divisive, or entertaining (to be honest). It's getting so nobody wants to say who they're for, for fear of getting a negative response.

As a pastor, I think I need to say something about it, rather than ignore it while living in some sealed off ivory tower. After all, as St. Paul says, we need to live in the world while not belonging to the world. But then it gets complicated. For starters, you will never hear me use my position to push for one candidate or issue over another, because that would imply that all those who disagree are somehow less Christian. Unless there is an obvious reason to make a moral statement, such as the Confessing Church did in Germany against Hitler, partisan politics has no place in the pulpit. Besides, what criteria are you going to use? As one Baptist minister pointed out recently, in 1980 Jimmy Carter, a born-again Christian, weekly worshipper, Sunday school teacher, lifelong husband of one wife, and experienced President, ran against Ronald Reagan. Reagan was divorced, a former movie star, and married to a woman who sought out astrologers. Who did the evangelicals overwhelmingly vote for? Reagan – go figure – and he ended up a conservative icon. Morally, John F. Kennedy was highly challenged, to put it mildly, but was the right man to inspire a whole nation, and bravely stand up to the Russians in the Cuban missile crisis.

Nevertheless, there is some guidance scripture offers when it comes to politics and voting:

- Pray. Prayer doesn't change God, but it puts us in connection with God's will. It is the most powerful and effective tool we have. Prayer for our country and its leaders or potential leaders should be first in our minds and hearts.
- Be an ambassador of light, not darkness. Too many are all about winning our cause and destroying the other guy. Those who want to follow Christ try to bring grace to all situation, not more hate. That doesn't mean that we aren't strong about our beliefs. Jesus drove the money-changers out of the temple when it was necessary. But our intentions should always be for good in the long run. Support those issues and people you feel will bring spiritual and physical healing to this world, and do it with love.
- Listen. Everybody talks, but few really listen and try to understand someone else's point of view. Like they say, we never learned anything yapping about what we think. Good listening will surprise you the way it opens up doors with others. It makes them more willing to listen to you, also.
- Support your elected leaders, whatever the party. Our country is wonderful because if you don't like your government, you can vote for somebody else at the next election. In the meantime, St. Paul is very clear (Romans 13:1-7, for example) that those who govern us have been put there by God to protect us. They deserve our respect and cooperation. All leaders do some good. It doesn't do us any good to make their job more difficult in those things. That doesn't mean we can't oppose what we feel is wrong. But Christians should be known for peaceful support of their government. Only in matters that go directly against the word of God as conscience leads you should you take the serious step of disobeying the government for your faith. (Some might make a good case for the American Revolution against Britain in this way.)

It will be a rough ride from here to November and beyond. At times it will be discouraging to see our nation's struggle over politics. But it is actually a sign of our strength that since George Washington the system has worked, and no President has ever come into office because of a lawless revolution. As a follower of Christ, you can witness to your faith by bringing the healing salve of God's good news to your little corner of a country that needs it so badly.

June Worship Helpers

Readers

June 5 Maridan Nesmoe
 June 12 Tammie Pan
 June 19 Brenda Peterson
 June 26 Kathy Peterson

Head Usher

Connie Cihak

Ushers / Greeters

June 5 Doug & Karen Thompson
 Rich & Wendy Vargo
 June 12 Rich & Liz Vlasak
 Cindy Westerhouse
 Kathy Westerman
 June 19 Greg & Jessica Westerman
 Ted & Colleen Wondra
 June 26 Daryl & Cindy Curtis
 Jeanne Anderson
 Rhonda Berg

Communion Assistants

June 12 Lynden & Deb Jelinek
 Ruth Kukacka
 June 26 Don Marcussen
 Tammie Pan
 Brenda Peterson

Acolytes

June 5 Madison Gilbertson
 June 12 James Krautkremer
 June 19 Nick Novotny
 June 26 James Krautkremer

Altar Guild

Kathy Derhaag
 Carol Kiekow

*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...



Alex Lawson (Jake's son), Rev. Bob and Ardyce Boda, Mable Craig (Blanch Sorenson's sister), Phyllis Swidorski, Amy Korthuis (Judy Ferguson's sister-in-law), Nancy Creger, 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 Rich and Wendy Vargo and family upon the death of Rich's brother Kenneth.

We extend our sympathy to Harry and Brenda Peterson and family upon the death of Harry's mother Gertie on Sunday, May 15.

We extend our sympathy to Betty Braum and family upon the death of Betty's sister Louise Bartusek on Monday, May 16.

We extend our sympathy to Virginia Horejsi and Betty Jindra and family upon the death of their father Harold Walters on Friday, May 20.

Gifts Received

Gifts received in memory of Opal Hartwig.

Gifts received in memory of Leonard Duffney for the Feed My Sheep Program.

Thank you for your gifts.

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.

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 23rd of June for the July/August newsletter.

Financial Corner General Fund - April

	April	Year to Date
Receipt	\$ 12,420.80	\$ 59,755.96
Expenses	\$ 14,514.44	\$ 61,219.54
Cash Flow	\$ (2,093.64)	\$ (1,463.58)

St. John Church Council Minutes

May 17, 2016

Present: Kathy Peterson (1/17), Wendy Vargo (1/17), Dan Hardel (1/17), Liz Vlasak (1/18), Pam Edel, (1/19), Pastor Mark Wilms

Absent: Connie Cihak (1/18), Eric Schroeder (1/18), Renee Sorenson (1/19), Greg Westerman (1/19)

President Kathy Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. Pastor lead with prayer.

Liz Vlasak made a motion to approve the minutes from the April meeting. Dan Hardel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pam Edel made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Liz Vlasak seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Currently working with 4th graders and their parents. Working with 6th graders on the Lord's Prayer.

Head Ushers: Connie Cihak will be the head usher for June.

Feed My Sheep: Family has been identified.

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

Old Business:

Call committee will be meeting for a second interview with a candidate.

Thank you to Kathy Peterson and Paul Busch for cleaning and organizing the storerooms.

New Business:

A Health Tax Credit was filed for the year 2012 and 2013. St. John will be receiving \$1,615.00 for 2012 and \$2,366.00 for the year 2013.

Discussed possible donation of property to the church from an individual.

Committee Reports:

Endowment: Will be meeting in the fall.

Women of the Church: No report.

Cemetery: No report.

Audit Committee: No report.

Stewardship: Renee Sorenson - Absent. No report.

Evangelism: Wendy Vargo - No report.

Education: Liz Vlasak - Jessica Westerman will remain Superintendent for next year. Looking for teachers and helpers. VBS is being planned for August.

Youth: Eric Schroeder - Absent - No report.

Facility: Greg Westerman: Absent - Is working on quote for spraying weeds in front of the church and SS. Still need church parking lot entrance repaired.

Church in Society: Kathy Peterson - No report.

Communications: Dan Hardel - No report

Fellowship: Connie Cihak, Absent - Senior breakfast will be served to the seniors on May 23rd. Scholarship will be awarded to Trey Krautkremer.

Worship and Music: Pam Edel - Hand bells will be refurbished. Change in liturgy will take place in June. Next meeting is set for Sept. 3rd.

Other Business: None

Pam Edel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:58. Wendy Vargo seconded the motion. Motion carried. Pastor lead the council in closing with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting will be June 14th at 6:30 pm., which is the second Tuesday, due to scheduling conflicts.

Submitted by Wendy Vargo, Council Secretary

***Congratulation
Class of 2016***

***Garrett Domine
Madison Glende
Kiersten Horejsi
Trey Krautkremer
Jacob Schleis
Alisa Spitzack
Jayden Stasney
Isaac Young***



Scholarship Awarded

Congratulations to Trey Krautkremer who was awarded a scholarship by the St. John Youth Board during the 2016 graduation reception on Sunday, May 22.

Thank you

Thank you to Gerold Augst, Jim Cihak, Charles Richter, Carol Svoboda, Gary Hartwig, Dale Huber for bringing his gator, Dave Scheffert and Glenn Kerkow for helping clean the cemetery on Saturday, May 14.

Faith and Life Bible Study for June

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! There are treats and coffee every week. We are getting ready to read about the reign of David, one of the greatest kings of Israel but also flawed. Like all of us, he had a dark side, and a noble side. God used both to make His glory known.



June Music Notes

We are changing the setting for our services to **Setting Ten** starting June 4/5. Last time we used this setting was back in 2011-2012. This setting starts on page 203 in our hymnal. The Confession and Forgiveness is the same as before but the Kyrie and Hymn of Praise will change. You will recognize the music for the Hymn of Praise as "The Hymn of Joy" often called "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" written by Ludwig van Beethoven. When we celebrate communion, the Great Thanksgiving response will be spoken and the "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord" will change. Starting June 4/5 we will also change our Offertory Hymn to #885 "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow".

Kathy Heyda
Music Director

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

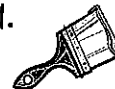
**Saturday, July 30th 3-8pm. Bring a life jacket and towel.
Meet at church and we will go to Gregor's lake lot on Greenleaf Lake.
Sign up on the youth board or the facebook event page.**

Adopt-a-Highway

DATE CHANGE: Junior and Senior League Clean Up Community Service Event on Thursday, June 16th at 2pm. We will clean our Adopt-a-Highway. We would like all confirmation students who have not fulfilled their community service requirement to attend. Sign up on Facebook event page or on the youth bulletin board.

YOUTH ROOM MAKEOVER!!

We will be painting the Youth room on Wednesday, June 29th starting at 11am. There will be lunch and snacks! Wear clothes that can get messy and bring some paint brushes or pans if you have them around.



Camp Omega

We are organizing a Camp Omega trip. Mini youth camp dates are July 19-22, July 26-29 or August 16-19. There will be a meeting on Sunday, June 12th at 10am in the youth room for kids interested in attending camp.

Vacation Bible School

Registration for Vacation Bible School is taking place right now! VBS will be held August 8-11th, 6-8pm. Registration forms are available on the youth bulletin board and on the church website.

Youth Ministry

One of our goals is to get parents more involved in our Youth Ministry. A few ways of accomplishing this goal are the Youth Helper Survey and the Summer Take Out Church. You can find a Youth Helper Survey in the June church newsletter. Please check out our youth calendar and think about where you can volunteer. Please return the survey by August 1st.

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 to pick up after church on Sundays by the children's bags or through the youth or church office.

Fundraising

Please contact Missy for information regarding fundraising opportunities and youth funds available to help pay for summer trips. mgregor@montgomerymnelcalutherans.org

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.



St. John Lutheran Church
Youth Ministry Helper Survey
2016-2017

One of the goals for our youth ministry is that every youth parent serves in at least one youth ministry program each year. We invite adults in the congregation, who may not have youth in the program to have the opportunity to volunteer too. Please review the list below and check any roles that sound like a fit for you. Look at the enclosed planning sheet for specific events and note if there is a specific event you would be interested in helping with. Thank you for your support of our youth ministry.

Mom/Adult: _____ **Preferred Phone:** _____

Email: _____

Dad/Adult: _____ **Preferred Phone:** _____

Email: _____

Name & Grade of Students (if applicable):

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

O Help with a Fundraiser _____

O Serve as a League Advisor _____

O Serve as a Sunday school teacher (2 teachers to each class)

O Serve as a Sunday school substitute teacher

O Help with a League-Level Service Project _____

O Help with a League-Level Event _____

O Help with Vacation Bible School- August 8-11, 2016 6-8pm

O I already volunteer with the youth as _____

___ Food ___ Faith ___ Fun ___ Safety spotter ___ I'll do anything

Please return this survey by August 1st via email to mgregor@montgomerymnelcalutherans.org or mail to St John Lutheran Church, Attn: Missy Gregor, PO Box 25, Montgomery, MN 56069.

Youth Event Calendar | 2016/2017

	Little League 3 rd & 4 th	Junior League 5 th -8 th	Senior League 9 th -12 th	Fundraisers/ Misc
September	Apple Orchard Rally Sunday-9/11	Rally Sunday-9/11	Rally Sunday-9/11	
October	Pumpkin decorating- 10/29	Ditch cleaning-10/5 Ronald McDonald House	Ronald McDonald House Ditch cleaning-10/5	Script fundraiser
November	Shoebox event-11/13	Homelessness Awareness-11/12- 11/13 Shoebox event-11/13	Homelessness Awareness-11/12- 11/13	Poinsettia Fundraiser Script fundraiser
December	Christmas Caroling-12/11	Christmas Caroling-12/11	Christmas Caroling-12/11	Poinsettia fundraiser Kids Xmas goodie bags Coco stand @ torchlight?
January				
February	Valentine's Sweetheart Dinner	Skiing at Mount Kato	Skiing at Mount Kato	Sweetheart Spaghetti Dinner (all 3 rd & 4 th grade parents)
March	Feed my Starving Children	Skiing at Mount Kato-first Sunday Food Shelf-Last Saturday Feed my Starving Children	Skiing at Mount Kato-first Sunday Food Shelf-Last Saturday Feed my Starving Children	Easter Lily Fundraiser
April	Easter Egg Hunt-4/15 Easter Basket Event-4/9	Easter Basket Event-4/9	Easter Basket Event-4/9	Pioneer Power fundraiser Puffin Fundraiser
May		Ditch cleaning	Ditch cleaning	Flower sale fundraiser
June		Mission Trip	Mission Trip	
July	Lake Day	Lake Day	Lake Day	Kolacky Pageant fundraiser
August				Pioneer Power fundraiser

*Items in red indicate service events.

2016 VBS at St. John

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



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 June 11th 2016
WEAR CLOTHES THAT CAN GET DIRTY!