



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

MONTGOMERY, MINNESOTA

Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861

MARCH 2016

A Word or Two...by Pastor Mark

A TV program that Lynn and I used to watch was “What Not to Wear.” Each week someone who was good at their work but a terrible dresser would be secretly chosen by their friends to get a fashion overhaul. They would be followed around for a couple of weeks, being visually recorded to demonstrate how bad they really looked. Then the day of surprise would come when the program’s hosts would show up at their work, and their friends would break the news that they were loved, but just had to do something about their terrible appearance. They would get a \$5,000 credit line to get clothes, but they had to agree to dump their old clothing and get a new look, not only with clothes but also with a new hairdo and makeup. When asked the obvious question about why they let themselves go so badly, usually they would say that they didn’t care and wanted people to “know the real me inside.” The hosts were quick to remind them that nobody would get to know the real person because the public was put off by their appearance. Very often the person was really suffering from low self-esteem and needed permission to put some effort into their look. And always they would feel great in the end and were determined to live a new life of better appearance.

I think the reason many people liked that show, outside of the schadenfreude of seeing a slob face up to the truth, was all about transformation. We like things that live the Cinderella story. We like rags to riches, ugly duckling to swan, Eliza Doolittle to My Fair Lady. Lives that can be magically transformed are a joy to see, and give us the idea that there’s hope for us yet.

Easter is all about transformation, too. It wasn’t just an egg to a chick. Instead, it was the empty tomb to a risen Lord. Jesus was thought to be only a man by His enemies, and a miracle-working rabbi to many followers. But He was much more than that. He was true God, but also true man. And His job wasn’t just to tell us nice religious thoughts or show off with miracles, as important as those things were. The main thing we need to take away from Easter was that the only real transformation that matters is the one in our hearts when we see Jesus as Lord. The cross and tomb both trumpet this message loudly and clearly. They call us to trust in a God who tells us that in our sins we just look terrible and need a real makeover, not just once but continually. And once we are aware of what that does to us, how it transforms us, we never want to go back again.

May Easter be that kind of spiritual makeover for you this year. It will be, if your heart is open to being transformed.

March Worship Helpers

Readers

March 6 Jessica Westerman
 March 13 Taylor Crosby
 March 20 Kathy Derhaag
 March 27 Easter Sunday
 Volunteers Needed

Head Usher

Liz Vlasak

Ushers / Greeters

March 6 Daryl & Cindy Curtis
 Jim Blum
 Kathy Derhaag
 March 13 Tom & JoAnn Dawson
 Rick & Gwen Hanzlik
 March 20 John & Lori Helling
 Ralph Hendrickson
 Jim Heyda
 March 27 Easter Sunday
 Volunteers Needed

Communion Assistants

March 13 Wendy Vargo
 Joslyn Vargo
 Cindy Westerhouse
 March 27 Easter Sunday
 Volunteers Needed

Acolytes

March 2 Nick Novotny
 March 6 James Krautkremer
 March 9 Gretchen Vlasak
 March 13 Madelyn Wehe
 March 16 Maddison Gilbertson
 March 20 Ariana Krautkremer
 March 24 Gretchen Vlasak
 March 25 Madelyn Wehe
 March 27 9:00 a.m. - Nick Novotny
 10:30 a.m. - Madison Gilbertson

Altar Guild

Tammie Pan

*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...

Amy Korthuis (Judy Ferguson's sister-in-law), Larry Bachman, Lyle Terwedo, Opal Hartwig, Nancy Creger, Reinhold West (Carol Kiekow's father), Harold Walters (Betty Jindra and Virginia Horejse father), Kris Huhner (Kathy Peterson's sister), and Bev Horejsi.

Remember those serving our country...

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



Our Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the family of Geraldine Bentley who passed away Tuesday, February 9.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Tom Mariska who passed away Thursday, February 18.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Betty Ann Heuer who passes away Tuesday, February 23.

Baptism

Kate Julia Skluzacek was baptized Sunday, February 21. Kate was born May 10, 2015 to Jacob and Gina Skluzacek. Her sponsors are Matt and Jamie Gehrman. God's blessings to Kate and her family.

Lenten Worship and Soup Suppers

Worship services will be held every Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. through March 16. A simple dinner will be served before worship starting at 5:00 p.m. We are still looking for someone to serve our Wednesday, March 16 supper. If you would like to serve that supper, please sign up on the calendar in Fellowship Hall.

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.*

Financial Corner General Fund - January

	January	Year to Date
Receipt	\$ 14,260.54	\$ 14,260.54
Expenses	\$ 16,036.82	\$ 16,036.82
Cash Flow	\$ (1,776.28)	\$ (1,776.28)

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 March for the April newsletter.

St. John Church Council Minutes

February. 16, 2016

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

Absent: None

President Kathy Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. Pastor lead with prayer.

Kathy Peterson welcomed the new members to the council.

Eric Schroeder made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 12th meeting. Renee Sorenson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor explained what was going on in Confirmation and the Mentoring program. Also talked about New Member Sunday. Pastor presented names of those wishing to become members of St. John - Scott and Rhonda Berg and daughter Jordyn, Mason and Maggie Grimm and children Alice, Adeline, and Cora, Liz Krocak, Vance Kuball and Rachelle Herman and children Blake Kuball, Aiden Kuball and Blake Herman. Motion was made by Greg Westerman and seconded by Connie Cihak to approve the new members. Motion carried.

Dan Hardel gave the Treasure's report. Wendy Vargo made a motion to approve the report. Pam Edel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dan Hardel made a motion for \$2,000 of Pastor's salary be moved to housing allowance. Eric Schroeder seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Head Ushers: March will be Liz Vlasak. Wendy Vargo will head up Maundy Thursday. Kathy Peterson will be in charge of Good Friday.

Feed My Sheep: \$500 will be given to a family with extremely high medical expenses.

Can Recycling: Next load will go for the Food Shelf in March.

Old Business:

The annual meeting was reviewed. Questions from the Call Committee were addressed. They will be interviewing 2 more candidates soon. The parsonage has no candidates for renters at this time. Tax update was given. Insurance report is due by April 1st.

New Business:

Election of Officers was held with the following results: President Kathy Peterson, Vice President Liz Vlasak, Secretary Wendy Vargo, Treasurer Dan Hardel. A motion was made by Eric Schroeder to approve the slate of officers for the new year. Greg Westerman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Safety Deposit Signatures: It was brought to attention we needed to get new signatures for the bank. A motion was made by Pam Edel to have the President to do the signing for the accounts and safety deposit at the bank. Seconded by Connie Cihak. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Endowment: No report.

Women of the Church: No report.

Cemetery: No report.

Audit: Cindy Westerhouse is willing to head up the next audit committee.

Stewardship: Renee Sorenson: Currently looking for people to join this committee.

Evangelism: Wendy Vargo: New member Sunday will be held on February 21st.

Education: Liz Vlasak: Presented goals of the Board of Education for the upcoming year. Set Mentor dinner for May 11th.

(Church Council Cont.)

(Church Council Cont.)

Youth: Eric Schroeder: Listed upcoming fundraisers. The Sweetheart Spaghetti Supper was a great success.

Facility: Greg Westerman: No report.

Church in Society: Kathy Peterson: Food drive will be coming up in March.

Communications: Dan Hardel: No report.

Fellowship: Connie Cihak will head up this committee.

Worship and Music: Pam Edel will head up this committee.

Dan Hardel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45. Connie Cihak seconded the motion. Motion carried. Pastor lead the council in the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting is March 15th at 6:30 pm.

March Music Notes

March 13

N/P/K will sing "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"

Grades 1 - 4 will sing "Oh, When the Saints"

March 20 (Palm Sunday)

Rock'n the Church will sing "Hosanna"

March 24 (Maundy Thursday)

"Ah, Holy Jesus" with Carol Kiekow on cymbells

March 25 (Good Friday)

Lynn Wilms, Anne Schroeder, Don Marcussen will sing "Were You There?"

March 27 (Easter 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.)

Women's Choir will sing "Glory to the Risen Lord" and "Because He Lives"

Bells of St. John will ring "Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

On Good Friday, March 25, we will present short skits reliving the events of Good Friday. The skits are: The Agony in the Garden, The Betrayal and the Arrest, The Denial, The Trial, The Crucifixion and The Death. The cast includes Dan Hardel (Peter), Eric Schroeder (John), Marc Peterson (James) and Pastor Mark (Jesus). We will rehearse on Wednesday, March 23 at 7:00 p.m.

The Women's Choir will sing at both Easter Sunday services on March 27 - at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. We will rehearse 3 Wednesday evenings in March.

Rehearse Wed. March 2 after the Lenten service

Rehearse Wed. March 16 after the Lenten service

Rehearse Wed. March 23 from 6:30 - 7:00 p.m.



Holy Week Schedule

March 24, Maundy Thursday - 7:00 p.m.

March 25, Good Friday - 7:00 p.m.

March 26, NO SATURDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

March 27, Easter Sunday - two services - 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Minnesota FoodShare Campaign

March will kick-off the 2016 Minnesota FoodShare Campaign. As in the past we are challenging the St. John youth to participate. The Youth Group will be having a Noisy Offering on Palm Sunday, March 20th. Jessica Westerman will be coordinating with the Sunday School Students on how they can best participate.

Cash goes the farthest. For *every dollar* donated the Montgomery Food Shelf is able to purchase 7.5 pounds of food from Second Harvest Heartland. **7.5 pounds of food for \$1.00!** Envelopes are available on the display table. Please make checks payable to the **Montgomery Food Shelf**. Donations can be placed in with the regular weekly offering.

The 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 a.m. to noon. If interested, please contact Renee Southworth, office 364-7321 or home 364-8743.

Thank you for your consideration.

WOTC Ash Wednesday Supper

Donations from the Ash Wednesday soup supper to support the food shelf totaled \$335. This will be given to the food shelf during March when donations are doubled. All of the food and supplies were provided through Thrivent Financial for Lutherans \$250 donation. Thank you to all who worked and otherwise helped.

Tables and Chairs

Thank you to everyone who helped remove the tables and chairs, those who unload the truck and set up the new tables/chairs. We have 4 of the old tables and 70 chairs available to anyone who want them. If you are interested, contact Roman or Kay before Sunday, March 20. A donation would be appreciated.

Welcome New Members

Scott and Rhonda Berg and daughter Jordyn, Mason and Maggie Grimm and children Alice, Adeline, and Cora, Liz Krocak, Vance Kuball and Rachelle Herman and children Blake Kuball, Aiden Kuball and Blake Herman.

Thank You

Thank you to Rhonda Berg, Faye Kaderlik, Mary Ann Helgeson, Pam Mariska, Garie Teig, and Agnes Tuma for making 80 "Baby Bundles" for Lutheran Relief and Liberia.

Doris Hendrickson

Church Council Officers

Our 2016 church council officers are:
President - Kathy Peterson
Vice President - Liz Vlasak
Secretary - Wendy Vargo
Treasurer - Dan Hardel

Easter Volunteers Needed

We are in need of ushers, readers and communion assistants for our 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. Easter worship services. If you can help, please sign up on sheets in Fellowship Hall.

Daylight Saving Time

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 13. Remember to set your clock ahead one hour Saturday evening so you won't be late for Sunday morning worship.

Thank You

The Luther League Committee would like to thank those individuals and business that donated goods or services to benefit the Sweetheart Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser!

Quilters Dream
Ag Power
Pla Mor Lanes
Natalie Korbitz
Pizzeria 201
Wayside Liquor

TCU Community Ed
Classic Creations
Cindy Westerhouse
Todd's Auto Parts
Odenthal Meats
Montgomery Oil Co & David's Diner

The Fitness Center
Subway
European Roasterie
Lakeside Supper club
Next Chapter Winery
Fred's

We would also like to thank all of our 3rd-5th grade kids and parents whose hard work made this event possible. One more big thank you to everyone that attended the dinner and supported our raffle and silent auction. Your support of the St John youth league is greatly appreciated!

Mission Trip

The Mission Trip for this summer is postponed due to the slots being full already. We are planning to go to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation the third week of June - June 17 to the 13rd, 2017. We will meet in May, 2016, to plan. As of August 1, we will need a \$182 deposit to reserve each spot. We can reserve some extra spots, but it would really be helpful if you could make up your mind before August 1, 2016.

Mentor Teams

The 9th graders continue to prepare for their confirmation in October by selecting mentors. A mentor team commissioning ceremony was held in February during worship service. Please keep these youth and their mentors in your prayers.

Alexys Boyd - Mentor: Ellen Flicek
Miranda Crosby - Mentor: Lynn Heinzig
Gunner Domine - Mentor: Kate Sommers
Alan Eotvos - Mentor: Don Marcussen
Kayla Horejsi - Mentor: Vicky Horejsi

Anton Nelson - Mentor: Wendy Vargo
Jackson Nesmoe - Mentor: Adria Domine
Maddy Novotny - Mentor: Kandyce Kadrlik
Jorgia Pumper - Mentor: Kathy Heyda
Maggie Trnka - Mentor: Mary Brahs

Grief Support Group

A Grief Support Group is being offered at St. John Lutheran Church. The group is for anyone who is grieving the loss of someone important to them, whether the loss is recent or from years past. The group will meet at St. John Lutheran Church beginning sometime in April and will run for six weeks.

Dr. Alan Wolfelt, (internationally recognized expert in the field of loss and grief) state, "You can benefit from a connectedness that comes from people who have also had a death in their lives. Support groups, where people come together and share the common bond of experience, can be invaluable in helping you and your grief and supporting your need to mourn long after the event of the death.

Watch for additional information in the April 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

Transition Task Force Survey Results

At the Annual Meeting in January, it was asked that we publish the result of the transition task force survey which was taken last year. Below is the overall results of this survey. You can find a more detailed report on our website or you can pick up a hardcopy in the church office.

	5	4	3	2	1	TOTAL	ORDER
Evangelism	11	10	10	3	0	131	9
Worship, Leadership & Preaching	30	6	2	0	0	180	1
Teaching Youth & Adults	26	10	0	0	1	171	2
Counseling & Ministry in Crisis	19	15	4	0	0	167	3
Social Ministry	6	11	17	3	0	131	9
Stewardship	9	7	19	3	0	136	7
Recruit, Equip & Share Leadership	5	19	8	4	0	133	8
Visitation	13	13	10	1	0	149	6
Spiritual Disc/Interp of Theol	19	10	8	0	0	159	4
Financial Guidance	6	10	15	3	0	121	10
Musical and Artistic	14	14	7	2	0	151	5
<hr/>							
Level of Ministry	NEW	4					
	SOME	29					
	VERY	10					

Faith and Life Bible Study for March

Our weekly Bible study for adults goes on with lessons in God's word that will warm your heart. The Monday night group, meeting from 6:30-8:00, will be working through the book of Job, dealing with the vexing question of human suffering. The Wednesday morning group, meeting from 9:30-11:00, will be looking at the first Lutherans who arrived in North America in the 1600s. Try Faith and Life Bible study. It's a no-threat Bible study for anyone who just wants to learn more about God's word and how it applies to our lives. Come any time, and see for yourself.

Bible Talk Study Group



ST. JOHN YOUTH

Boundary Waters Canoe Trip 2016

Our mission trip to South Dakota has been rescheduled for next summer. This gives us an opportunity to go on a Boundary Waters Canoe Trip! Trip dates are July 9th-15th. This trip is open to this years 7th-12th graders. If we book very soon we can get a discounted price of \$510 per person, we may be able to get a bigger discount depending on how big our group is. We would also add transportation cost to the trip but they should be minimal. We need 6 kids to attend to make the trip possible. Please email or facebook message Missy as soon as possible if you are interested in attending mgregor@montgomerymnelcalutherans.org.



Camp Omega

We are organizing a camp omega trip for kids not old enough to go to boundary waters. Mini youth camp dates are July 19-22, July 26-29 or August 16-19. Please contact me or sign up on youth board on your preferred dates by April 1st if you would like to go to camp.

Easter Egg Hunt



March 13th 11-1pm We'll have an egg hunt, snacks and crafts at the church after Sunday school! This is a Little League event but is open to kids under 3rd grade with a parent. Please sign up on the youth bulletin board.

ALL LEAGUE EASTER BASKET EVENT

ALL LEAGUE EASTER BASKET FILLING EVENT SUNDAY, MARCH 20TH 11AM-NOON. WE WILL PUT TOGETHER EASTER BASKETS TO DELIVER TO THE SHUT IN MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH. PLEASE SIGN UP ON YOUTH BULLETIN BOARD.



Food Shelf Service Event

Junior and Senior league community service event for the Food shelf Saturday, March 26th 11:30-12:45. Meet at church and we will bring collected food to food shelf and help them organize the shelves. Please pick up kids at the food shelf at 12:45. It is the house next to the Holy Redeemer basketball courts.

Feed My Starving Children

We have a Feed My Starving children service trip planned for Saturday, April 23rd. This is at there Eagan location. This is open to all kids K-12 and adults. All kids younger than 5th grade must have an adult attend with them. Please sign up on the youth board or facebook for this event by April 17th.

Coffee Sales

We have COFFEE from European Roasterie!

We have Breakfast Brew, Jamaican Me Crazy, Toasted Marshmallow, Turtle Nut, Chocolate Covered Cherry, Swiss Chocolate Almond 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.