



St. John Lutheran Church Elca

105 Spruce Avenue • P.O. Box 25
Montgomery, Mn 56069-1068

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March Newsletter

St. John Lutheran Church

(507) 364-5002 or 364-8787

E-mail: stjohnelca@frontier.com

Pastor Jason Pollington: pastor@montgomerymnelcalutherans.org

Website: www.montgomerymnelcalutherans.org

St. John's Worship Schedule

5:00 p.m. Saturday Worship

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

10:00 a.m. Sunday School (Sept. 10-May 6)

Distribution of the Lord's Supper
is celebrated at every weekend service.
Fellowship/Coffee Hour follows Sunday's
worship service.

St. John's Staff

Jason Pollington, Pastor (c) 406 665-5320

(h) 507 953-0079

Eric Schroeder, Congregation President

Kathy Heyda, Music Director & Organist

Melissa Gregor, Secretary & Youth Ministry Director

Roman Jindra, Custodian

Jessica Westerman, Sunday School Superintendent

Diane DeWitte, Organist

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

As children of God, we are a family
living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ
through worship, fellowship, and service.

March Worship Helpers

Readers

March 4 Megan Pratola
March 11 Cindy Westerhouse
March 18 David Winge
March 25 Garie Teig

Head Usher

March Eric Schroeder

Ushers / Greeters

March 4 Doug & Karen Thompson
Deb & Lynden Jelinek
March 11 Greg & Jessica Westerman
Jeanne Anderson
Jim Heyda
March 18 Steve & Anne Schroeder
Kathy Westerman
Jim Blum
March 25 Kathy Derhaag
Dick Milinkovich

Communion Assistants

March 4 Don Marcussen
Tammi Pan
Youth Volunteer
March 11 Kathy & Marc Peterson
Youth Volunteer
March 18 Gary & Jacque Hartwig
Youth volunteer
March 25 Renee Pribyl
Myrna Terwedo
Youth volunteer

Acolytes

March 4 Devin Filter
March 11 Lauren Houn
March 18 Devin Filter
March 25 Lauren Houn

Altar Guild

March Tammi Pan

All lesson readings will be available to view and/or print on the church website under info center. Enlarged paper copies are available in the file folder outside the church office door.

If you are unable to help on the day assigned, please EXCHANGE with someone else and call or email the church office at 507-364-5002 or stjohnelca@frontier.com.

Thank you for your help!

Remember in your Prayers... Rich Vargo, Diane Schultz, Berlyn Teig, Ellen Flicek, Lloyd Svoboda, Eunice Lund (mother of Mary Brahs), Karen Vlasak, Peggy Svoboda, Nancy Vollmar, Gretchen Vlasak, Tom Trenda, Dale Benson, Heidi Huewe (cousin of Renee Sorenson), Greg Vlasak, Rev. Bob Boda, Phyllis Swidorski, Amy Korthuis (Judy Ferguson's sister-in-law) Nancy Creger and Kris Huhner (Kathy Peterson's sister).

Remember those serving our country... Matthew Astorino, Travis Ferguson, Colin Hulke, Shane Morris, Adam Vlasak and Sam Westerhouse.

Sympathy

Our Sympathy and prayers go out to the family of and friends of Eunice Lund (the mother of Mary Brahs) following her death on February 2nd.

Thank You

Thank you for the gifts received in memory of Elsie Rotter and Eunice Lund.

Coffee servers are needed for Sunday coffee hour! Please consider signing up on the calendar in the Fellowship Hall.

Have an announcement for the bulletin or newsletter?

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

- ◆ **Wednesday** for the bulletin.
- ◆ **The 21st of March** for the April newsletter.

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 Jason or Missy of your planned meeting dates.

Women of St. John Lutheran Church
Minutes
February 21, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kathy Derhaag at 7:05 p.m. Nine members were present.

The first order of business was the election of new officers. Renee Pribyl stated that she is willing to run for the office of Secretary/Treasurer. Carol Kiekow made the motion to close nominations for this office. Garie Teig seconded the motion. The motion carried. A vote was held for the office of Secretary/Treasurer. Renee Pribyl was elected with a unanimous vote.

Each person that was nominated for either Chairperson or Vice Chairperson declined the nomination. Chairperson Kathy Derhaag and Vice Chairperson Lori Helling stated that they would be willing to hold the office for a little while longer until we have another meeting in which we might find replacements. It was decided that we will table the election of the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson until another meeting.

Renee Sorenson made a motion that Garie Teig be removed as signer for the checking account. Wendy Derhaag Corona seconded the motion. The motion carried. In a previous meeting, Liz Vlasak told us that we now need to have two signers on all checks over \$500; it would be preferred that all checks have two signers.

Carol Kiekow made a motion that Renee Pribyl and Kathy Derhaag be added as signers for the checking account. Renee Sorenson seconded the motion. The motion carried. It was reported that the Church Council needs a copy of the minutes of our meetings. They would also like a representative from WOTC to give a monthly report at the council meeting, along with a monthly financial report of income and expenditures, as well as a copy of the reconciled monthly bank statement. Garie Teig stated that she has not been receiving the monthly bank statement. Renee is going to check with Liz Vlasak so she can get a copy of the bank statement. Carol Kiekow told Renee she would only need to email the statement and the report to a female member of the Church Council, since all female members of St. John are members of WOTC.

Lori Helling gave a report on the Ash Wednesday Soup/Salad meals. We served 33 people at Lunch and 60 people at the evening meal. We collected \$152 at lunch and \$279.15 at the evening meal, for a total of \$431.15 to be donated to the Montgomery Food Shelf in March. We are not sure if there will be matching funds as have occurred in March in past years. We took in \$30 more than last year, and things went much smoother.

Garie Teig reported that Paul Busch approached her and Connie Cihak about the possible replacement of the coffee pot. He got a quote of more than \$1,000. Garie told him that WOTC will pay for it. Just before she left for church tonight, Garie got a call from Liz Vlasak in which Liz informed her that she can get one through one of the suppliers of European Roasterie for a discount of about \$200. We will be going with that source. The main problem with the old coffee pot was the filters getting clogged. Paul has volunteered to make certain that the filters are replaced every other month.

Discussion was held regarding Coffee Hour and the fact that WOTC pays for the coffee without adequate reimbursement from the proceeds. It was mentioned that we need better communication; coffee servers need to learn how to fill out the form that goes to the bank with the proceeds from Coffee Hour and Lenten Soup Suppers. If nothing is noted regarding where they want the money to go, the money will go to the General Fund. If they want the money to go to WOTC, they need to write that on the form.

We will have another meeting in the Spring to address the election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

Myrna Terwedo made a motion that we adjourn the meeting. Renee Pribyl seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol Kiekow
Outgoing Secretary
Women of St. John Lutheran Church

St John Church Council Meeting

February 2018 St John Church Council Minutes

Eric Schroeder called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Present: Eric Schroeder (2021), Liz Vlasak (2021), Connie Cihak (2021), Kathy Peterson (2020), Wendy Vargo (2020), Steve Schroeder (2020), Carol Kiekow (2019), Erin Krautkremer (2019); absent Renee Sorenson(2019).

Pastor Jason led us in devotion; traditions - organ, hymnals, sanctuary and their meanings; that every generation has something of value and how we need every one. Then led us in prayer.

Kathy moved to accept minutes from the Annual meeting, Carol seconded; motion carried. Liz presented Treasurers report, and status on new accounting procedures; Connie moved to approve, second by Wendy; motion carried.

Pastor Jason reported on his activities December and January; as well as upcoming events.

Several applicants for Feed My Sheep; Four were granted as well as gift cards for food and gas to have available for emergency situations.

Kathy made the motion to appoint: Eric as Council Chair, Carol as Vice Chair, Liz as Treasurer and Connie as Secretary, Steve seconded; motion carried.

Discussion on Employee reviews to be done by end of March. Pastor updated us on church records, retention and membership. We will begin the process of updating using Church Windows and hard copy.

Discussion on Committee Assignments

Adjourned at 9:15, closing with The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Connie Cihak

During Lent the WOTC would appreciate donations for personal care kits. Boxes will be in the Fellowship Hall starting on Ash Wednesday.

Items needed: Full sized bar soap
Bath towels (used ok as long as they are in good condition)
Wash clothes
Toothbrushes
Combs

Thank you for your help with this.

The Montgomery food shelf is in need of volunteers! Tuesdays & Thursdays 9-11AM, Tuesdays 4-6PM and Saturdays 9AM– 12PM. Once a week, once a month or one day as you have availability. Help is greatly appreciated! Contact Renee at the food shelf for more information or to schedule a volunteer time. 507-364-7321

March Music Notes

Wednesday Lenten Services

For five weeks starting February 21st, we will be using “The Holden Evening Prayer” written by Marty Haugen for our Wednesday Lenten services. Marty Haugen is a Twin Cities Lutheran composer and liturgist who has written widely for ELCA and Catholic publishers. Wednesday Lenten services continue on March 7th, March 14th and March 21st at 6:30 PM.

Women’s Choir

The Women’s Choir will rehearse music for Easter Sunday. Two rehearsals are scheduled for Wednesday, March 21st after the Lenten service from 7:15 to 8:00 PM and Wednesday, March 28th from 6:30 to 7:00 PM. Please pick up music from Kathy before March 21st. The choir will sing on Easter Sunday, April 1st, at 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM. More singers are welcome to join us.

Holy Week Services

March 25th, Palm Sunday – Service begins at 9:00 AM.

March 29th, Maundy Thursday – Service begins at 7:00 PM.

5th Grade Students will receive their First Communion during this service.

March 30th, Good Friday – Service begins at 7:00 PM.

“The Way of the Cross” will reflect on the story of Jesus’ passion – from his arrest to his burial from the Gospel of John.



Rally Sunday September 9, 2018

The Worship and Music Committee invited the St. Wenceslaus Polka Music Group to play for our outdoor service on Rally Sunday September 9, 2018. The group is composed of 5 musicians from New Prague who play guitars, drums and trumpet.

We are asking for donations from the congregation to help pay their fee of \$500. They will play prelude, offertory and postlude music plus congregational responses and hymns. They are a talented group of men who use music to give honor to God. Mark your calendars!

Lenten Dinners & Services

Suffering~ Wednesday March 7th

Dinner 4:30PM-6:15PM

Service 6:30PM

Temptation~ Wednesday March 14th

Dinner 4:30PM-6:15PM

Service 6:30PM

Cross~ Wednesday March 21st

Dinner 4:30PM-6:15PM

Service 6:30PM

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday Service March 29th

Service 7PM

Good Friday Service March 30th

Service 7PM

Easter Sunday Service April 1st

Services 9AM & 10:30AM

Preschool Opportunities

As the first teachers of your children, you want all that is good for them. With that thought in mind, I am encouraging you to consider enrolling your child in Most Holy Redeemer School (HRS). HRS welcomes students of all backgrounds and faith traditions. Currently, we are reaching out to parents of young children and are excited to highlight how our school programs can meet your family's needs. Your son or daughter will flourish in our safe, state licensed, Christ-centered environment that provides outstanding early childhood education and teaches Christian values. What will please and perhaps surprise you is that this quality, preschool education costs less than the average daycare does. Feel free to contact HRS at 507-364-7383, email info@mosthrs.org or visit www.mosthrs.org to learn more about how we can serve your child and your family.

Sincerely, Mr. George Vondracek, HRS Principal

HRS will have an open house on Thursday, March 8th, 6-7:30 PM.

The 11th Annual Roman Barten Memorial Breakfast Benefit

Sunday, March 18th, 8 AM– 1 PM.

New Prague KC Hall, 411 4th Ave SW

Cost: Free will donation

Pancakes, Sausages & Cinnamon Rolls

Proceeds benefit 12 year old Steven Odenthal.

Steven was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma on December 22, 2017. He is scheduled to receive aggressive chemo treatments for the next 6 months. He is a 7th grade student at HRS in Montgomery and loves farming and basketball. Steven's parents are Ted and Tracy Odenthal of Heidelberg.

Do you receive your newsletter in the mail? Would you be interested in receiving it via email instead? Help us go green and email stjohnelca@frontier.com to be put on the newsletter email list!



Pastor Jason's Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday &
Friday
9:00 AM-12:00 PM & 1:00-5:00 PM

Missy's March Office Hours

Tuesday-8:30 AM –2:30 PM
Thursday– 8:30 AM-2:30 PM
Friday– 11:30 AM-2:30 PM

**TWO GREAT WAYS THRIVENT FINANCIAL
CAN HELP IN OUR MINISTRY HERE AT ST. JOHN**

Do you know how to designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars to St. John Lutheran?

Do you know how to create Thrivent Action Teams that can help by assisting with projects (\$250 per qualifying project) within the life of St. John Lutheran?

On Sunday, March 4th, Thrivent Associate, Channelle Braekkan, will be joining us at St. John Lutheran following the 9AM service in the Fellowship Hall to briefly tell us a little about Thrivent Financial, to help those qualifying for Thrivent Action Teams put them to work, and to help members designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars. **Thrivent Dollars need to be designated by March 31, 2018.**

UP-COMING CONFIRMATION EVENTS

5th Graders will meet to discuss the Sacrament of Holy Communion. They are scheduled to be at the church from 3:15-4:30PM on Wednesdays on March 7th, 14th, and 21st. Students will receive their First Communion on Thursday, March 29th during the 7PM Maundy Thursday Service. There will be Lenten dinners starting at 4:30PM that you and your families can enjoy, if you choose, followed by a Lenten Service starting at 6:30PM.

7th & 8th Graders will not meet for class during Lent, but they SHOULD attend the Wednesday Evening Services.

9th Graders will meet following the 9AM Service on March 11th.

BREAKFAST WITH THE BISHOP

The Annual Lutheran Men in Mission **Breakfast with the Bishop** will be held on **April 21st at Cabela's in Owatonna from 9AM-11AM**. This year's speaker will be Al Batt. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. We need to send our reservations and check(s) by Friday, April 13th to Russell Tesch 906 4th Ave. SE, Waseca, MN 56093. Questions: call 507-835-3843 or e-mail: marietesch@mchsi.com.

Giving envelopes for 2018 and 2017 Giving Statements are ready. Envelopes and statements are now located in the church office. Please pick these items up by Sunday, April 15th. Please email the church at Stjohnelca@frontier.com if you would like your 2017 giving statement emailed.



St. John Lutheran Church ELCA

Montgomery, Minnesota

Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861

March 2018

GETTING READY TO GET READY!

We spend a lot of time and energy preparing for something that is just around the corner. Spring is almost here, and you can feel the electrified tension in the air as you get ready for those projects that you have put on hold, the spring cleaning lists that are growing, and the waiting, just waiting, to get outside and do something productive.

On the other hand, we have the professional procrastinators putting off the needs that are right there in front of them. We are not excited, but we are anxious as our lists, their piles, our last years projects still loom over us, and the waiting, just waiting to be forced to do something because the deadlines have come.

We are different, but we are usually more related than we would like to admit – kind of like siblings or maybe even two sides of the same coin – Each anticipating that point where the time and conditions meet.

In life and in seasonal transitions, both the professional procrastinators and the punctual preparers perceive that we have a little more time. But, as the church, those who are gathered into the body of Christ, our time is right now. Not some far off point in the future, not months or weeks out, but we are the church now. Right now, we are called into ministry together. Right now, we are called to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. Right now, we are called into the disruption of our plans for the sake of our brother and sister who need our hands, our hearts, or, maybe, just our ears to listen in the midst of their time of need. Right now, we are called to let the little children come, so that they may learn about God's promises for themselves, and so they may teach us how to live as children of God.

Are you startled?
Are you ready?

If you've been here already, "Thank you!" If you are ready, then "Great!" If you aren't ready yet, then "Just come anyway!" You'll be surprised by what can happen, because God and His word – God and His promises are already here and at work in this place. It is "only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building (1 Corinthians 3:7-9)."

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them (Matthew 18:20)."

Peace of Christ,

Pr. Jason