



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

MONTGOMERY, MINNESOTA

Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861

MARCH 2015

A Word or Two...by Pastor Mark

I really like getting together with folks for Bible study. For this reason, back around 2000 I decided to write a pastoral commentary on the entire Bible with discussion questions. Being a busy pastor, it took me ten years to complete the project on the side, but it was worth it because people seem to have enjoyed it down through the years. Now I am devoting a few hours a week to another series on the history of the Christian church in Bible study form.

I would like to invite you and others, member of St. John or not, to join me for something I call "Faith and Life Bible Study" starting in mid-March. It will be offered twice a week (same content at both), Monday nights 6:30-8:00 PM in the Sunday school room next to the fellowship hall, and Wednesday mornings 9:30-11:00 AM in the fellowship hall. It is a "no threat" Bible study. You can be well-versed in scripture or hardly know what a Bible looks like. You can come every week or just when you feel like it. You can share during discussion or just keep your mouth shut. And best of all, there will be treats and coffee every time. Each week we will read a portion of scripture, I will give some background to the text, then we will share about how that portion of God's word impacts our lives. Just bring your favorite Bible.

We start on Monday and Wednesday, March 16 and 18. Since my stay at St. John will not allow us to go through the whole Bible, I think I will start with Genesis and all its family drama, then on to the Gospel of John, the deepest and most moving stories of Jesus' life.

Let me know if you have any questions. And I'll see you at Faith and Life Bible Study!

Pastor's Notes:

March Worship Helpers

Readers

March 1	Carol Kiekow
March 8	Will Kiekow
March 15	Lisa Hoefs
March 22	Grace Krautkremer
March 29	Don Marcussen

Head Usher

John Helling

Ushers / Greeters

March 1	Myron & Peggy Hentges Jim Heyda Dallas Horejsi
March 8	Mike & Maridan Nesmoe Roman Jindra Irene Jindra
March 15	Steve & Tammie Pan Carol Kiekow John Krautkremer
March 22	David & Dorothy Scheffert LaNette Kuelper Charles Richter
March 29	Jesse & Gail Skluzacek Kelle Schleis Don Marcussen

Communion Assistants

March 8	Candy Kadrlík Carol Kiekow Erin Krautkremer
March 22	Grace Krautkremer Don Marcussen Mike Nesmoe

Acolytes

March 1	Jorgia Pumper Kayla Horejsi
March 8	Jackson Nesmoe Miranda Crosby
March 15	Anton Nelson Maddie Novotny
March 22	Kayla Horejsi Alan Eotvos
March 29	Anton Nelson Gunner Domine

Altar Guild

Tammie Pan

Remember in your Prayers...



Clifford Denzer, Jim Anderson (Dave's dad), Bev Horejsi, Alice McClune, Karen Rauschke, Braden Flicek, Tom Mariska, Betty Ann Heuer, Harold Walters (Betty Jindra and Virginia Horejsi's father), Gabrick Rose, Alexander Sticha, Patricia Morrill (Peggy Hentges' mother), Greg Vlasak, Terri Pekarna (Robert & Glenda Larsen's daughter), and Nancy DeCoux (Cathy Stasney's mother).

Remember those serving our country...

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

Our Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Tammie Pan and family upon the death of her step-brothers Blaine Lande and Phillip Lande.

We extend our sympathy to Leonard Duffney and family upon the death of his brother Ambrose.

We extend our sympathy to the family of William Miller who passed away February 28.

We extend our sympathy to Maria Smith upon the death of her mother Maria de los Angeles Flores.

Altar Cleaning

Altar cleaning will take place Saturday, March 28 at 9:00 a.m. For more information or if interested in joining Altar Guild, call Connie Cihak at 507 744-2048.

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.

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 25th of March for the April newsletter.

Financial Corner General Fund - January

	January	Year to Date
Receipt	\$ 10,858.65	\$ 10,858.65
Expenses	\$ 11,162.94	\$ 11,162.94
Cash Flow	\$ (304.29)	\$ (304.29)

Church Council Meeting **February 17, 2015 - 6:30pm**

Present: John Krautkremer (1/16), Wendy Vargo (1/17), Kathy Peterson (1/17), Dan Hardel (1/17), Eric Schroeder (1/18), Liz Vlasak (1/18), Pastor Mark Wilmes, Guest Cindy Westerhouse

Absent: Maridan Nesmoe (1/16), John Helling (1/16)

Opened with Dan Hardel welcoming new council members Eric Schroeder and Liz Vlasak and guest Cindy Westerhouse.

Eric Schroeder moved and Dan Hardel seconded a motion to **approve the January 20, 2015 council meeting minutes.** Motion carried.

President's Report: No report

Vice President's Report: Kathy Peterson informed council of a "Council as Leaders" program in Owatonna on Feb. 22nd from 2-5:00 p.m. for those interested in going.

Secretary Report: No report

Treasurer Report: Dan Hardel explained how to read the Treasurer's report to the new members. John Krautkremer moved, Kathy Peterson seconded to **approve the Treasurer's report** for January 2015. Motion carried.

Old Business:

A. Head Ushers:

February: 1st- John Krautkremer 8th -Maridan Nesmoe
 15th -John Krautkremer 22nd- Dan Hardel

March: John Helling

April: Liz Vlasak

(Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday (9:00) Easter Sunday (10:30) to be filled.

May: Eric Schroeder

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

C. Audit Committee: in process

D. ELCA Campaign: John Grimm has agreed to chair this at this time

ELCA Campaign Coordinator / Committee: to manage our Church's 5 year Campaign

2014 Malaria 2017 Global Church

2015 Congregational 2018 Leadership

2016 Hunger & Poverty

New Business:

A. Can recycling: Designated next load of cans to go to food shelf as March is Food Shelf month.

B. Ratify E-Vote: An E-vote was taken earlier to purchase a new laptop, docking station, and software package for Pastor Mark to use. A donation has been committed for this purpose. Bids are in place. Motion was made by Kathy Peterson, seconded by Dan Hardel. Motion carried.

C. Personal Policy: Guest Cindy Westerhouse was in attendance to explain the importance of and how she and Pastor Kaul put together the Personal Policy. Council members are asked to read over the policy and express changes where needed. Policy will be discussed at the March council meeting.

D. Youth League: Dan Hardel explained how the youth program operates and reviewed financial summary. Discussion was held on possible ways to get more youth involved and what direction we would like to see the youth program go. A sub-committee will be established under the leadership of Pastor Mark and Council members Eric Schroeder and Dan Hardel.

E. Call Committee: Kathy Peterson and Pastor Mark explained the first step in the call process which is to form a Transitional Task Force which will gather information from the congregation as to where and in what direction the congregation wants to go. Interested people who volunteered to be on the call committee will be contacted and Pastor Mark will direct the committee through this process. This is a separate committee from the call committee which will be established at a later date.

F. Council Committee Chairs: Council members choose which committee they would like to chair.

G. Nomination/Election of Officers: Kathy Peterson agreed to take on the role as President of the Council. John Helling was elected Vice-President, with Wendy Vargo taking on the Secretary position and Dan Hardel as Treasurer. Dan Hardel and Kathy Peterson will be the signers, and John Krautkremer will be removed from the signature card. Kathy will stop at the bank to sign the signature card. Motion was made by Eric Schroeder to elect these officers. Liz Vlasak seconded the motion.

(Church Council Cont.)

(Church Council Cont.)

Committee Reports:

- A. Stewardship Committee:** No report
- B. Evangelism Committee:** Wendy Vargo - No report
- C. Education:** Pastor Mark & Liz Vlasak
 - 1. Pastor is currently working with the 8th grade confirmation class.
- D. Youth:** Eric Schroeder
(See "Youth League" under new business)
- E. Facility Management – John Krautkremer**
 - 1. More handicapped parking is needed. John will look into this with the city.
 - 2. Motion was made by Dan Hardel to improve the face of the monument sign in front of the church with John contacting sign companies. Seconded by Wendy Vargo. Motion carried.
- F. Church and Society:** Kathy Peterson
 - 1. Plans are in the works for "March Food Shelf Month" activities for youth and adults.
- G. Communications:** Dan Hardel - No report
- H. Fellowship:** John Helling - No report
- I. Worship & Music Committee:** Maridan Nesmoe
 - 1. Kathy Heyda and Pastor Mark have chosen hymns for the services through Easter.
 - 2. Coffee hour will be served on March 8th by members of the committee.
 - 3. The bell choir has 10 ringers again.
 - 4. Pastor Mark will be speaking about the disciples for the Lenten services.
 - 5. Special music for February will be: Feb. 8 - SS Children, Feb. 15 - Rockin the Church Choir, Feb. 18 - Bells of St. John, Feb. 22 Bell of St. John.
 - 6. Next meeting will be March 7th.
- J. Pastor Mark's Report:**
 - 1. Great beginning at St. John other than a few minor mishaps.
 - 2. Has planned the Ash Wednesday / Lenten Services and will be preaching on the disciples.
 - 3. Plans to start a Bible study in March to be held on Monday nights and Wednesday mornings.
 - 4. Pastor is still working with the transition to Interim Pastor as this is a 3 step program.

Next meeting: March 17, 2015, 6:30 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm and closed with "The Lord's Prayer"

Submitted by Wendy Vargo, Church Council Secretary

Faith and Life Bible Study for March

If you think family drama started with Dr. Phil, just look back in the Bible. Its first book, Genesis, is about more than creation and Noah's ark. It goes on to describe the first families that would lead to God's people Israel in the Old Testament. These weren't plastic saints walking around saying holy things. They were real men and women with faults and noble points. We have Abraham and his son, who both lied to rulers at the cost of their wives. Sons like Jacob and Esau, one quiet and the other an outdoorsman, whose constant fights almost led to murder. And much more dysfunction with a capital "D."

Come to Faith and Life Bible study, Mondays 6:30-8:00 PM in the room next to the fellowship hall, and Wednesdays 9:30-11:00 AM in the fellowship hall (same content at both). Bring a Bible and yourself. Pastor Mark will give some background to the chapters we read, then we will have a great time discussing how it impacts our lives. Best of all: treats and coffee every time! See you there.

Lenten Worship Services

Weekly Lenten Worship Services continue on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. through March 25. We have a Lenten Suppers 5:00-6:30 p.m. served by volunteers. Please join us for fellowship and worship.

Sermon Series on the Disciples

Starting Ash Wednesday and all the Wednesdays and Sundays during Lent, Pastor Mark's sermons feature the twelve disciples. Come and hear about each one!

Holy Week Schedule

April 2, Maundy Thursday - 7:00 p.m.

April 3, Good Friday - 7:00 p.m.

April 5, Easter Sunday - two services - 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.



Volunteers Needed for Easter Services

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

MN Food Share March Campaign

We will be collecting food and cash donations for the Montgomery Food Shelf. This year, the Sunday school classes are being challenged with bringing in nonperishable food items. The challenge or request to the adults is for monetary donations. Food Shelves can stretch cash further than donations of food because of their access to discount products and programs. Take a minute to look at the display at the top of the stairs where envelopes for donations can be found. Checks should be made payable to Montgomery Food Shelf. The donations can be placed in the offering plate or dropped off at the church office.



March Music Notes

- March 8 N/P/K will sing "Lord's Army"
Grades 1 – 4 will sing "Amazing Grace"
- March 15 Rock'n the Church choir will sing "Every Time I Feel the Spirit"
- March 29 Palm Sunday Bells of St. John will ring "Festival Piece on St. Theodulph"

Holy Week Worship Notes

April 2 Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 p.m.

We will present an audience participation drama on "The Last Supper" where you will hear from the twelve disciples and Jesus in the upper room.

April 3 Good Friday Service at 7:00 p.m.

We will reflect on the seven last words of Jesus from the cross in prayer and song.

April 5 Easter Sunday Services at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

With Good Friday behind us, we celebrate Easter Sunday. Please join us as we hear the Good News. The Bells of St. John will ring "Bell Peal on Ellacombe". The Women's Choir will sing "Alleluia".

Women's Choir

The Women's Choir will rehearse their song for Easter Sunday services on Wednesday, March 11th and Wednesday, March 25th and Wednesday, April 1st. We will practice after the midweek Lenten services in March. On April 1st we will rehearse at 6:30 p.m. I invite everyone interested in singing on Easter Sunday (9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.) to come to rehearsals. If you haven't sung with us before, let me know and I will get a music folder ready for you. If you'd like to rehearse on a different day or time, let me know. Easter is the greatest story ever told.

Kathy Heyda

ST. JOHN YOUTH

Thank You

The Little League would like to thank everyone who attended the Sweetheart Spaghetti Dinner and all who helped in any way.



Food Shelf Event

Junior and Senior League Community Service Food Shelf event will be held Saturday, March 28. Meet at the church at 11:45 a.m. to gather food collected by congregation and Sunday school. We will bring it to the food shelf and help them stock and organize shelves. Sign up on Youth Bulletin Board.

Coffee Sales

We have COFFEE! European Roasterie Coffees - Seasonal/Winter blends. We have several different blends left for just \$8 per bag, discounted rate! Elf Nog, Santa's Treats, Baby, It's Cold Outside, Wind Chill, Sugared Snowflake, Peppermint Stick, Golden Maple Syrup, Caramelized Pralines, Honey Oatmeal Cookie, Pumpkin Cheesecake. You can purchase during coffee hour or at the church office during the week. All proceeds go to the youth league.



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.



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.