



St. John Lutheran Church ELCA

Montgomery, Minnesota

Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861

May 2018

## PRAY ALWAYS: PRAY IN PUBLIC

***Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication.  
Ephesians 6:18***

Often when we think of how Christians should act and pray out in the world, we get sucked into thinking – a closed-door thinking – that we should not just be out there revealing what we do, what we pray, and how we live. Jesus notes that if we turn our lives into a way of just practicing our piety (our personally designated righteousness) before others such as trumpeting our giving, praying hypocritical prayers for notoriety among others (Luke 18:10-15), and serving for the sake of our self-righteousness bank account receiving another credit that you've already received your reward – a very temporary reward (Matthew 6:1-6). Jesus isn't telling us not to be Christians living our lives: giving freely, praying in public, serving others, and sharing our faith, but reminds us of two things: that we are in relationship with God our Father through Christ and that we are now sent to be a servant to our neighbor. This we can do freely on account of Christ wherever and whenever it is needed – both privately and, yes, publicly as well. He commands us to pray to Him in our time of need, and promises to hear our prayer. He sends us not for the sake of receiving a reward for the good thing that we've done, but to realize that we've already received our reward through Jesus' death and resurrection without any added work of our own. We are called to pray for and serve our neighbors, because they are in need.

So what does praying public look like? A. Trevor Sutton in his book *Being Lutheran* has lifted up for us to not only think about, but also to live out in our Christian lives - and not just practice praying in public, but really praying:

***“When a friend tells you that she is going through a hard time, resist the urge to say, “I will keep you in my prayers.” Rather than offering a sugary platitude, actually pray with her right then and there. Sure, it might make you uncomfortable. The people near you will stop and stare. Do it anyway. Other opportunities include praying a blessing before a meal at a restaurant, taking time at work to pray, or engaging complete strangers in prayer as opportunities arise. Praying in public is a way that you can reflect the bold color of Jesus (Being Lutheran, CPH, 2016.)”***

In those times of struggling to pray or knowing what to pray, may you and those you seek to pray for, trust that “the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God (Romans 8:26-27).”

Peace of Christ,

*Pr. Jason*

## May Music Notes

### Special Services during May:

- May 6 – Sunday School Recitation Sunday
- May 13 – Mother's Day
- May 20 – Pentecost
- May 27 – Holy Trinity



Members of the congregation are encouraged to wear **red** on May 19/May 20 when we celebrate Pentecost. Along with Christmas and Easter, Pentecost is one of the three most important and celebratory days of the church year. On the fiftieth day of Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as the power of God among us. Tongues of flame appeared as a sign of the presence of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, **red** is the energetic color for this day.

Trinity Sunday will be celebrated on May 26/May 27. On this day we celebrate the name of God: holy blessed Trinity. The opening Confession and Forgiveness begins in the name of the Trinity. The greeting with which we begin the liturgy each week proclaims the Trinity. When we recite the Nicene Creed/Apostles' Creed, we confess our belief in the Trinity. Our worship concludes with a Trinitarian blessing.....Praise Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

### 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!

### Special Music during May

- May 13 - Rock'n the Church will sing "Open Up Your Heart and Let the Sunshine In"
- May 13 - Bells of St. John will ring "Joyful Rhythm"

## Sunday School

We would like to recognize these 4<sup>th</sup> Graders for their reading of the Gospel of Mark: Brandon Grunow, Caleigh Hoefs, Claire Hoefs, Allen Krenik, Emily Kuchinka, Morgan Meier, Triston Garret Olson, & Olivia Westerman. Blessings to you as the Holy Spirit continues to open your eyes through faith to the word we have received in the gospel of Christ.

Our Sunday School program is looking for volunteers for the 2018/2019 year. Are you being called to share your time and talents with the Sunday School program? There will be an informational meeting on Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM in Fellowship Hall to find out more about the program and answer any questions.

## 2018 SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD ASSEMBLY:

### "Celebrating Our Global Congregation"

Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> - 7:30AM through Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup> 3PM  
at the Verizon Center in Mankato, MN

Pastor Jason will be serving as the clergy delegate from St. John Lutheran Church for the assembly. Please keep him in your prayers during this time of connection together with the other ministry congregations of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod.

## April Church Council Meeting

Eric called the meeting to order at 11:05, asking that the record show Renee Sorenson (2019), Liz Vlasak (2021) absent; Eric Schroeder (2021), Steve Schroeder (2020), Connie Cihak (2021), Wendy Vargo (2020), Kathy Peterson (2020), Carol Kiekow (2019), Erin Krautkremer (2019) and Pastor Jason present.

Pastor Jason led in devotion – how do we live out God’s promise that Jesus was sent to save and redeem us; being aware of others’ needs and being servants to those in need. Carol made a motion to accept minutes from the March council meeting, Kathy seconded; motion carried. No treasurer’s report. Pastor Jason reviewed his past activity report and up-coming activities.

Erin will be head usher for May; Sunday school teacher appreciation will be May 6<sup>th</sup>. Steve will take the recycling, this time monies will go towards VBS – scheduled for August 6 – 9. We reviewed the report from Grinnell Insurance. Discussed the procedure for cancelation of services. June 3<sup>rd</sup> will be High school Graduation reception.

Motion by Connie to adjourn, second by Wendy motion carries. Closing with The Lord’s Prayer

**Next meeting May 20, 2018 following worship service.**

### Summer Worship Helpers Needed!

Instead of assigning helpers to each week during the summer months, we will have sign up sheets. There are sign ups for readers, communion assistants and greeters. The sign ups are located in the Fellowship Hall. Please check your schedules and sign up for the Sunday 9 AM service you want to assist with. Anyone who wants to help with the service is welcome, no experience necessary :) Adults, youth & families. Please talk to Pastor Jason or Missy if you have any questions.

### Summer Newsletter

Please have all submissions for the summer newsletter to the church office by Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. The summer newsletter will cover activities and events in June, July and August.

### **SUMMER STEWARDSHIP 1-2-3**

- 1) Always Continuing! The ministry of St. John Lutheran Church continues throughout the summer, so the expenses continue throughout the summer.**
- 2) Consider! Think about the different ways that are available to contribute during the summer: In person, through the mail, or on-line giving.**
- 3) You! Summer stewardship, yes, does involve financial contributions, but it also involves you: your gifts of service through assisting with summer worship or an other area of ministry, your fellowship with one another, your talents that contribute in a unique way our lives together in the body of Christ, and your presence at worship during the summer as one who is gathered together with the whole body of Christ kept and sustained by His promise in the word spoken, the washing of Baptism, and the receiving of life and forgiveness in His body and blood.**

## Senior Sunday

We will celebrate our graduating Seniors during our Worship Service on **Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Please join us afterwards for a reception in their honor.

*The*  
**Future**  
*is*  
**Yours**



### *Congratulations to*

Katie Brokl  
Chase Derhaag  
Cassidy Gilbertson  
Kassidy Korbitz  
Matthew Koschade  
Emily Krautkremer  
Tyler Nesmoe  
Audrey Peterson  
Abigail Schleis  
Cody Studnicka

### ***SPRING CONFIRMATION WRAP-UP***

As this part of the year's confirmation programming comes to a close, I thank you, 3<sup>rd</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Graders for growing together with me in faith as we have met over this year. Keep your questions, struggles, confessions, and proclamations coming as we live out and affirm our baptism into Jesus Christ. I appreciate the time and attention that you have put in so far, and I look forward to what is yet to come. (And, for you still needing to turn in sermon notes and community service hours for this year, keep them coming!) **I would also like to take a moment to thank the Anderson, Birdsell, Cihak, Domine, Filter, Grunow, Hoef, Houn, Kadrlík, Kerkow, Korbitz, Krautkremer, Kubes, Napper, Smith, Skluzacek, Westerman, and Young Families** for providing meals on Wednesday nights for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders when they met. These are great ways of learning about fellowship with one another, filling the stomachs of hungry kids, and learning to thank those who take time out of their days to provide these meals.

## **Grief Support Group Coming Up!**

***“One of the realities of grief and loss  
is that the rest of the world seems to keep on going forward,  
while we feel like we have been stopped in our tracks.”***

Dr. Alan Wolfelt

Grieving the loss of a loved one is not something we would choose for ourselves! If you are grieving for a loved one,

St. John is offering a six week grief support group which will be held weekly on **Tuesday evenings at 7 PM starting on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and continuing through June 26<sup>th</sup>.**

When you are grieving the loss of someone special, no one knows what you are going through and everyone's grief is unique. Past participants have stated the support group has helped them better understand their grief or as another participant stated, "I don't feel alone and am comforted by the others support in group."

If you have any questions,  
you may call the group's facilitator, **Brenda Peterson (701-269-1439)**.

## **Chronic Pain Self-Management**

Aging Services of Montgomery is offering some up-coming forums which will be at St. John Lutheran Church. The focus of these forums will be chronic pain self-management. The sessions will be from 12:30 PM – 3:30 PM on Wednesdays running April 18<sup>th</sup> through May 30<sup>th</sup>. There is room for up to 15 people for this offering.

If you are interested, you can contact Karen at 507-364-5663 or by email [karen@aging-services.org](mailto:karen@aging-services.org)

Do you receive your newsletter in the mail? Would you be interested in receiving it via email instead? Newsletters that are received by email get to you 2-3 days faster than in the mail. Help us go green and email [stjohnelca@frontier.com](mailto: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 May Office Hours**

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

# ST. JOHN YOUTH



## **Pastry Puffins are coming soon!**

Please pick up your Puffin order on Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup> during coffee hour.  
Thank you for supporting the youth league!

## **Annual May Flower Sale**

Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup> 2-6 PM  
&  
Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>  
8:30 AM-NOON  
Todd's Auto Parts



**Volunteers needed** to help with the May flower sale! Sign up to help on the youth bulletin board. Adults and youth needed. Volunteers receive 10% off their plant purchase; youth can earn funds to go towards summer camp.

## **Save the Date for Vacation Bible School!**

August 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, 6-8 PM.

Registration forms are on the Sunday School bulletin board (upstairs). Payment and completed forms can be placed in the black youth drop box (downstairs hallway).

## **May Worship Helpers**

### **Readers**

May 6 Isaac Schroeder  
May 13 Volunteer needed  
May 20 Volunteer needed  
May 27 Volunteer needed

### **Head Usher**

May Erin Krautkremer

### **Ushers / Greeters**

May 6 Isaac, Alice & Eric Schroeder  
May 13 Volunteers needed (3)  
May 20 Volunteers needed (3)  
May 27 Volunteers needed (3)

### **Communion Assistants**

May 6 Eric, Lisa, Alice, Isaac & Ethan Schroeder  
May 13 Volunteers needed (4)  
May 20 Volunteers needed (4)  
May 27 Volunteers needed (4)

### **Acolytes**

May 6 Gabrielle Davidson  
May 13 Volunteer needed  
May 20 Tayte Domine  
May 27 Aubrey Filter

### **Altar Guild**

May Cindy Zahratka  
JoAnn Dawson

*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 able to volunteer please sign up in fellowship hall or call or email the church office at 507-364-5002 or stjohnelca@frontier.com.*

**Remember in your Prayers...** Cathy Herrmann, Isla Bortnem (Cindy Curtis's mother), Scott Petersen, Eileen Segna, Diane Schultz, Ellen Flicek, Lloyd Svoboda, Karen Vlasak, Peggy Svoboda, Nancy Vollmar, Gretchen Vlasak, Tom Trenda, Dale Benson, 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 thoughts and prayers to the family of Heidi Huewe (Renee Sorenson's cousin). She passed away on Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Thank You**

Thank you for the donation to the Bell Tower in memory of Lyle Terwedo.

Thank you for the donation to the Memorial fund in memory of Wayne Svoboda.

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 **25<sup>th</sup> of May** for the **Summer 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.*



## **St. John Lutheran Church** Elca

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

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## ***May Newsletter***

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### **St. John Lutheran Church**

(507) 364-5002 or 364-8787

E-mail: [stjohnelca@frontier.com](mailto:stjohnelca@frontier.com)

Pastor Jason Pollington: [pastor@montgomerymnelcalutherans.org](mailto:pastor@montgomerymnelcalutherans.org)

Website: [www.montgomerymnelcalutherans.org](http://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.