

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH** ELCA

**MONTGOMERY, MINNESOTA**

***Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861***

**APRIL 2017**

### **CONTACT, CONFIDENTIALITY, & CARE**

***I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord,  
beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called,  
with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,  
making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.  
There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling,  
one Lord, one faith, one baptism,  
one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.  
Ephesians 4:1-6***

As someone called to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, I am also called to pastoral care of you the members of St. John. In this day and age, there are a number of things that get in the way of care and support, but here are probably the top two: 1) I don't want to bother or burden you & 2) I don't want everyone to know.

Whether it be physically, mentally, or spiritually, we can go from "I've got this!" to "Why are we going through this alone?" within a very short period of time. We feel like we've moved from community to isolation. With this feeling, bitterness can sneak in and we are left feeling more and more alone and being filled with anger in the midst of dealing with suffering, recovery, and transition that we did not ask for.

This is an invitation for your contact to come. Not with an expectation that myself nor anyone else will have all the answers or be able to provide a quick fix, but instead with the offer to come and dwell with you - bringing a word of God where there is one to share, but also just dwelling with you when there are no words to be found.

It has become harder and harder for pastors to know about members who are sick, hospitalize, or in need of support. With pastoral care, there is a respect for privacy. There are issues that are private and cannot and must not be shared without the permission of those involved.

Those suffering and disrupted never asked for this to happen to them. You find yourselves with time on your hands and thoughts running through you heads. I've been talking in terms of pastoral care, but now I want to switch to the other care which comes to us if we are open to it - congregational care. We are brothers and sisters in Christ; and we all are called into the ministry of mutual consolation and care of one another. It is hard for us to open up - it is hard to open our lives up to others and move from privacy to bearing our needs and concerns with others.

I want to say it again your privacy is your own. However, whenever you find the freedom to let others in you are always surprised by the relationships you find.

(continues)

Just remember, you are not a burden to God or to your friends. There is a quote from the animated movie Robots that fits this understanding of bearing with and being with others. In feeling both the brokenness and rightness of what this world tells us, one of the characters said, "If you burden your friends, soon you won't have any." To which another rightly responded, "What are you a fortune cookie? That's what friends are for!"

Scripture reminds us,

*Above all, maintain constant love for one another,  
for love covers a multitude of sins.  
Be hospitable to one another without complaining.  
Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,  
serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.  
Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God;  
whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies,  
so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ.  
To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.  
1 Peter 4:8-11*

Peace of Christ,

*Pr. Jason*

**Southeastern Minnesota Synod  
Lutheran Men in Mission Fifteenth Annual  
Breakfast with the Bishop**

Keynote – Professor Rolf Jacobson, Professor of Old Testament and Alvin N. Rogness  
Chair of Scripture, Theology and Ministry.

Known for his humor and good nature, Jacobson is an in-demand speaker and author.

Saturday April 22, 2017

9-11AM at Cabela's (I-35 N) in Owatonna

\$10/person

Send reservation and check by Friday April 14<sup>th</sup> to:

Rev. Michael Walerius

224 Bryan Ave.

Owatonna, MN 55060

Questions: Call (507) 446-0839 or e-mail [mikewalerius@yahoo.com](mailto:mikewalerius@yahoo.com)

**2017 Southeastern Minnesota Synod:**

Equipping You to Follow Jesus into a Changing World

Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup> - 7:30 a.m. through Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup> 3 p.m.

at the Mayo Clinic Civic Center in Rochester, MN



Two adult members plus an additional youth member have the opportunity to represent St. John Lutheran Church as voting members. This is a two-day event. The registration fee and accommodations will be paid by the congregation. There is an early voter registration fee if registered by April 7<sup>th</sup>. Please let Pastor Jason or Kay know as soon as possible if you are interested in serving our congregation by attending. There is also a Learning Event with workshops open to non-voting members on Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the Synod Assembly (registration fee of \$25 for non-voting members). More information can be found at [semnsynod.org/assembly2017](http://semnsynod.org/assembly2017)

## April Worship Helpers

### Readers

April 2 Lisa Hoefs  
 April 9 Doris Hendrickson  
 April 16 Easter Sunday  
 Volunteers Needed  
 April 23 Kathy Derhaag  
 April 30 Deb Jelinek

### Head Usher

Steve Schroeder

### Ushers / Greeters

April 2 Greg & Jessica Westerman  
 Jeanne Anderson  
 Paul Busch  
 April 9 Ted & Colleen Wondra  
 Greg Westerman  
 Jim Blum  
 April 16 Easter Sunday  
 Volunteers Needed  
 April 23 Mark & Mary Brahs  
 Daryl & Cindy Curtis  
 April 30 Tom & JoAnn Dawson  
 Kathy Derhaag  
 Ralph Hendrickson

### Communion Assistants

April 9 Joslyn Vargo  
 Wendy Vargo  
 Garie Teig  
 April 16 Easter Sunday  
 Volunteers Needed  
 April 23 Ruth Kukacka  
 Brenda Peterson  
 Myrna Terwedo

### Acolytes

April 2 Caleb Cihak  
 April 9 Derrick Horejsi  
 April 16 Caleb Cihak (9:00)  
 April 23 Abigail Schulte  
 April 30 Nicole Schweitzer

### Altar Guild

Maridan Nesmoe

*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...



Gretchen Vlasak, Anne Anderson (Paige Nordling's sister-in-law), Marc Peterson, Tom Trendera, Steve Scheffert, Gail Pollington (Pastor's aunt), Dale Benson, Heidi Huewe (friend of Renee Soreneson), Lisa (Bartyzal) Indhl, Jaime Schultz (Diane Schultz's step daughter), Kim Edel Gauge Kodada, Lindsey Jensen, Greg Vlasak, Keith (Zeke) Zahratka, Lois Schmidt (Megan Pratola's aunt), Gail Embretson, Rev. Bob and Ardyce Boda, Nancy Creger, Phyllis Swidorski, Amy Korthuis (Judy Ferguson's sister-in-law), Reinhold West (Carol Kiekow's father), and Kris Huhner (Kathy Peterson's sister).

## Remember those serving our country...

Travis Ferguson, Colin Hulke, Shane Morris, Matthew Astorino and Adam Vlasak.



## Our Sympathy

*We extend our sympathy to the family of Joseph Kaisershot who passed away Tuesday, March 7.*

*We extend our sympathy to Dean and Diane LaVine Schultz upon the death of Dean's mother Elsie Schultz.*

## Gifts

*Gift received in memory of Joanne Chase for Altar Guild and Feed My Sheep. Thank you.*

## Baptism

*Kathryn Mae Kopp was baptized Sunday, March 19. Kathryn was born July 6, 2016 to Kody and Jean Kopp. Her sponsors are Greg and Jessica Westerman. God's blessings to Kathryn and her family.*

## Wedding

*Congratulations and best wishes to Shawn and Melanie (Herrera) Christensen who were married Saturday, April 1.*

## Personal Kits

The Women of the Church are looking for donations for the personal kits they will be putting together for Lutheran World Relief. Items needed are Ivory bar soap (regular size), tooth brushes, bath towels and combs. You can place your items in box in fellowship hall. Thank you

## Financial Corner General Fund - February

	February	Year to Date
Receipt	\$ 14,913.10	\$ 28,142.96
Expenses	\$ 16,435.13	\$ 32,227.48
Cash Flow	\$ (1,522.03)	\$ (4,084.52)

## 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 24th of April for the May newsletter.

# St. John Church Council Minutes

March 21, 2017

Council was called to order by Chair Eric Schroeder at 6:30. Pastor Jason opened with a devotion on Ps. 23, reminding us WHO has led us beside the still waters, restored our souls.....and called us to be leaders.

Present: Kathy Peterson (1/20), Renee Sorenson (1/19), Liz Vlasak (1/18), Connie Cihak (1/18), Steve Schroeder (1/20) Eric Schroeder (1/18) Wendy Vargo (1/20), Greg Westerman(1/19) and Pastor Jason.

Motion by Kathy, second by Greg to approve February minutes.

Pastor Jason reported on his past month's activity and upcoming events; noting the need to schedule the next New Member Sunday.

Liz gave the Treasurer's report. Motion by Wendy, second by Kathy to approve the Treasurer's report. Further discussion on the new protocol for collecting various monies and delivering to the bank. Liz will send out final recommendations from Audit committee to Council members.

Eric gave an update on Bell Tower and damage to the fence at the cemetery.

Usher schedule: Steve Schroeder April Head Usher. May – Renee Sorenson

Holy Week: Maundy Thursday – Connie; Good Friday – Wendy; Easter – 1<sup>st</sup> Service – Greg; 2nd Service – open

Discussion and following the meeting assessment of moving a pew to provide wheel chair accessibility in the sanctuary.

Discussion on committees and by laws. We will invite each committee to attend a council meeting.

Recipient identified for Feed My Sheep.

Carol Kiekow has agreed to fill the open council seat until the annual meeting.

Committee Assignments:

Stewardship – Renee

Evangelism-Wendy

Education – Liz

Youth – Eric

Facility Management – Greg

Church in Society

Communications – Kathy

Fellowship – Connie

Worship & Music - Steve

Motion by Connie, seconded by Steve to Adjourn at 7:45 PM

Closing with The Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Cihak

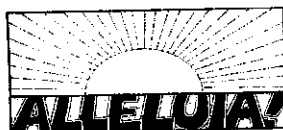
## Holy Week Schedule

April 13, Maundy Thursday - 7:00 p.m.

April 14, Good Friday - 7:00 p.m.

April 15, NO SATURDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

April 16, Easter Sunday - two services - 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.



## April Music Notes

On Maundy Thursday, April 13, we will present the "Living Last Supper" Drama at 7:00 p.m. When God called these twelve men to be His disciples, He chose flawed individuals, people just like you and me, men who were not saints or even finished products, but works in progress; men whose qualities needed to be honed, molded and channeled in positive ways. We are reminded that He is not yet finished with any of us and that every one of us is guilty of denying and betraying Him. The most important lesson of this presentation is that His love and mercy covers every uncertainty and His will is perfect, even if it is difficult to understand.

On Good Friday, April 14, we will recreate the passion according to St. John. The service starts at 7:00 p.m.

On Easter Sunday, April 16, the Bells of St. John will ring and the Women's Choir will sing at both services (9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.) The Women's Choir will rehearse Wed. April 5 after the Lenten service and Wed. April 12 from 6:30 – 7:00 p.m.

April 2 Organ/Flute Duet "Tis So Sweet To Trust in Jesus"

April 9 (Palm Sunday) N/P/K and Grades 1-4 sing

April 16 (Easter Sunday) 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. Women's Choir sings "Risen Today!"  
Bells of St. John ring "Variations on Easter Hymn"

April 23 Rock'n the Church sings "L-O-V-E You, God"

April 30 Bells of St. John ring "Majestic March"



### The Living Last Supper

St. John Lutheran Church will present "The Living Last Supper" on Maundy Thursday, April 13, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

They will recreate the night when the twelve disciples gathered with our Lord in the Upper Room to celebrate the Passover Supper. In this living dramatization, the twelve disciples speak their minds in light of the words they have just heard Jesus speak, "One of you will betray me." Please join us for a look into that fateful night.

Good Friday Service, April 14, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Morning Worship Services, April 16, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

No Sunday school on Easter Sunday.

### Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers for ushering, reading and communion for the Easter Worship Services. You can sign up on sheet 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 Jason or Kay of your planned meeting dates.*

*Thank you for your cooperation.*

### Cemetery Clean Up

On Saturday, April 29, volunteers are needed to help with cemetery grounds clean up, starting at 9:00 a.m. Volunteers are asked to bring gloves, rakes, trimmers or anything that might be useful.



# Spring Grief Support Group

**(Community) Spring Grief Support Group**  
**7:00 pm, weekly beginning May 2nd - June 6th**

*"Sometimes when one person is missing the whole world seems depopulated."* Lamartine

Losing someone we love, we find our lives are forever changed. You cannot - nor should you try to do this alone. Friends and family members may form the core of your support system and are certainly helpful, but unless they have experienced a close personal loss, they most likely don't fully "get it". That is where support groups can become a valuable resource for those who are also, living life after loss.

A support group gives participants a safe and confidential place to interact with others who may be experiencing similar feelings without being judged. It is also reassuring to learn that what they are going through is normal!

The six week group will meet at the church and is open to anyone in the community. The group is free of charge, however, participants are asked to register to ensure that enough materials are available. For more information or to register, call Brenda Peterson at (701) 269-1439 or Irene Jindra at 952-564-7172.



## Mission Trip Update

The Mission Trip to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation is getting closer...we leave June 24 for a week at one of the poorest places in the United States. We will be learning about the Lakota culture - similar to that of the people who lived in Minnesota before the white settlers came.

There are 15 going - 9 youth - Tyler Nesmoe, Tanner Smith, Preston Anderson, Allie Schley, Kailey Mach, Nicole Schweitzer, Katie Brokl, Natalee Korbitz, and Cassidy Korbitz. The 6 adults are Missy Gregor, Shirley Pumper, Dawn Anderson, Maridan Nesmoe, Kathy Westerman and Dustin Meadows.

We've been preparing by praying, reading about Native culture and fund raising. We are working at the Lion's Palm Sunday Breakfast and Pioneer Power in April. We've worked at Pizza Ranch and selling pastries, lilies and in May will be the big flower sale. We received generous donations from Waste Management and Minnesota Valley Electric and Megan Petrola is donated a portion of her book sales to our cause.

We want to thank everyone who has supported us by prayer or donations. We will continue to put out the jars at coffee and will also have some envelopes in the Fellowship Hall for donations. If you'd like to make a donation contact Missy Gregor or Kathy Westerman, or put it in the locked box on Missy's door (at the bottom of the stairs).

We're all excited to enter a culture very different from ours. Please pray for us.

## YOUR CHURCH – YOUR FAITH – OUR STORY

### HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

I came across the song *Here For A Reason* by Ashes Remain on YouTube and thought many of you could relate to it like I did. Here are the lyrics, but I would strongly recommend that you go and check it out because the lyrics are great but the beat makes the song complete.

#### **Ashes Remain - Here For A Reason**

You're not forgotten, you're not alone; you think you're worthless, but you're worth it; And He calls you His own; Made in His image, you were made for more; You think there is no plan, that it's all by chance; But don't believe that anymore; Every time that you wake up breathing; Every night when you close your eyes; Every day that your heart keeps beating; There's purpose for your life; So don't give up; Don't lay down; Just hold on; Don't quit now; Every breath that you take has meaning; You are here for a reason; If you spend your days just getting by; When you feel useless, He can use you; And show you what it means to be alive; Every time that you wake up breathing; Every night when you close your eyes; Every day that your heart keeps beating; There's purpose for your life; So don't give up; Don't lay down; Just hold on; Don't quit now; Every breath that you take has meaning; You are here for a reason; Every day is a gift from above; Don't throw it away; When it feels like too much; He'll be there; Every time that you wake up breathing; Every night when you close your eyes; Every day that your heart keeps beating; There's purpose for your life; So don't give up; Don't lay down; Just hold on; Don't quit now; Every breath that you take has meaning; You are here for a reason.

To me, this connects to my Faith because it indicates why we all should believe that God put us here for a reason. Just remember that, even during the tough times that we have a purpose and it will all be okay because God knows where we're going.

Even though my story has just begun, I believe that I'm Here For A Reason!

Kayla Horejsi (Age: 16)



## YOUR CHURCH – YOUR FAITH – OUR STORY

**My Church-** For me, church has always been a very inclusive place. It is a place that all can come together and worship. There are also many other opportunities for service that I have been able to participate in. When I was younger, we did things such as helping at the Food Shelf, Operation Christmas Child, and Feed My Starving Children. As I have grown up, more opportunities have arisen. Two years ago, I was able to go on a mission trip to West Virginia. I also now have the chance to give back to my church by teaching Sunday school.

**My Faith-** For me, I always went to my parents whenever I had a question about my faith. They have really helped me along my spiritual journey. My grandparents also were big influences on me growing up. They always shared their faith with me, and helped me to learn and grow. It is important to share your faith with others, because you can help them see new perspectives or learn new things.

**My Story-** I grew up in the church. I began my faith journey when I was baptized as an infant. From then on, my parents took on the responsibility helping me along the way. I spent many Sundays in church and Sunday school, went on mission trips, and helped in the community. I then took my faith into my own hands when I was confirmed. I am lucky to now be helping others along their faith journey as I teach Sunday school myself.

**Our Story-** My story, along with others at St. John, helps to show what a strong community we have. There are many activities and groups to help people grow and learn in their faith.

***Kassidy Korbitz***  
***High School Junior***

# ST. JOHN YOUTH

## **T-shirts for Sale!**

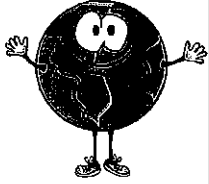


**Youth sizes M & L \$10      Adult sizes XS-XL**

**Will be for sale after church and are also available through Kay in church office or Missy in youth office.**

### **Little League Easter Egg Hunt**

Saturday April 8th from 10– Noon. We'll have an egg hunt, snacks and crafts!  
Open to kids under 3rd grade with a parent.



### **Earth Day Volunteer Opportunity for Junior and Senior League**

Clean the Church Adopt-a-highway ditch.  
Sunday, April 23rd 1-3pm

## **PINK FLAMINGOS**

Flocking season is here! We have confirmed reports that flocks of pink flamingos will soon be landing on the lawns of unsuspecting area residents. These plastic pink flamingos travel in flocks of and they love getting the chance to rest in beautiful yards throughout our area. Now, for the first time ever, the St John Lutheran Church Youth Group has made an arrangement with these flamingos to have them to stop in a yard near you.

Here is your chance to order a "hit" on friends, family, even co-workers. Want to celebrate an engagement, a new baby or a new house in a way your friends will never forget? Are you tired of tying balloons on mailboxes to say happy birthday? Or are you just game for a good, old fashioned prank? This is your chance!

### **Order a Flocking!**

Here's how it works: Place an order for a flock of flamingos to be sent out to the yard of your choice. Adult leaders and teens will be sent out to covertly flock the yard. The flock will be picked up by specially trained flamingo wranglers for a reasonable suggested donation of \$20. The "Flockee" will then have the opportunity to pass along directions for the flock's next migration location. Flamingo Protection Insurance is also available to guarantee that your home will be spared of blushing in various shades of pink!

**All proceeds of the Flamingo Flocking Fundraiser will help send our Mission Trip 2017 group to Pine Ridge South Dakota!! Flocks reside in our area from Monday, April 17th through Sunday, April 30th.**

Orders forms can be found on the Youth bulletin board.



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### **LIONS PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST**

Come Support the Montgomery Lions Club and the St John Mission Trip at the Annual Lions Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, April 9, 8:00-12:00 at the American Legion.

### **College Scholarship**

We will be accepting college scholarship applications from this year's senior class. Applications are available on the church website and on the youth bulletin board. Applications must be turned into Kay or Missy by 10 a.m. on Sunday, April 30th. Awards will be announced at the Graduates service on Sunday, May 21st. Applicants must be present at this service. Please contact Missy will any questions.

