

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

MONTGOMERY, MINNESOTA

Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861

DECEMBER 2015

A Word or Two...by Pastor Mark

Christmas is totally a blessed time. There is a lot of goodwill, LOTS of good food, families getting together, decorations, even a torchlight parade in Montgomery (the origins of which I have yet to learn). But as wonderful as it all is, everywhere I go people love to complain about the commercial aspects of the holiday. A lot of folks say that they will be glad when it's over. I think all this venting is understandable, but it can easily leave us more stressed out than glowing with the season.

We Christians are in a great place where this is concerned. That's because we have a reason to really feel good about Christmas. It's contained in the name: Christ's Mass, or a time of worshipping the Baby Jesus. You see, if there is no driving force behind a holiday, then it's just a time to get stuff done and over with. But if we don't lose the reason we had that holiday in the first place, then that reason itself can keep the glow alive.

I read a story about a fancy Christmas party at a wealthy home. The parents had put their baby to sleep on the bed in the master bedroom in its baby bed, covered up quite a bit to be cozy. Unfortunately, guests started throwing their coats on that bed as they arrived, and soon the little tyke was covered up. He wasn't hurt, but nobody could see him, and a frantic search finally revealed where he was. That's what happens to Christmas every year in so many lives. We can easily cover up the real reason for it with the outer coverings of life. Then we ask, "What ever happened to Christmas?" Well, just like that baby, it's been there all along. It just needs to be taken out of the pile of the stuff of our lives and kept safe to live in our hearts. We do that as we refocus again and again on the Savior who was born for our sins and for our salvation.

*Dear St. John family,
May the peace and joy of
the first Christmas
be yours to share during
this blessed season.*

Pastor Mark and Lynn Wilms

December Worship Helpers

Readers

December 6 Brenda Peterson
 December 13 Kathy Peterson
 December 20 Marilyn Richter
 December 24 Christmas Eve
 Volunteers Needed
 December 27 Eric Schroeder

Head Usher

John Krautkremer

Ushers / Greeters

December 6 Daryl & Cindy Curtis
 Kathy Westerman
 Jeanne Anderson
 December 13 Paul Busch
 Myrna Terwedo
 Jim Blum
 Kathy Derhaag
 December 20 Tom & JoAnn Dawson
 Ralph Hendrickson
 Jim Heyda
 December 24 Christmas Eve
 Volunteers Needed
 December 27 Rick & Gwen Hanzlik
 John & Lori Helling

Communion Assistants

December 13 John & Lori Helling
 Dallas Horejsi
 December 24 Christmas Eve
 Volunteers Needed
 December 27 Lynden & Deb Jelinek
 Candyce Kadrlik

Acolytes

December 6 Miranda Crosby
 Alexys Boyd
 December 13 Anton Nelson
 Kayla Horejsi
 December 20 Sunday School Program
 December 24 Christmas Eve

3:00 p.m.

Alan Eotvos
 Jackson Nesmoe
5:00 p.m.

Gunner Domine
 Maddie Novotny
10:00 p.m.

December 27 Volunteers Needed
 Miranda Crosby
 Jorgia Pumper

Altar Guild

Weekly Volunteers

*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...



Arlene Washa, Edward Richardson (Paul Swidorski's brother-in-law), Mary Steinhouse, Harold Goerndt (Bev Horejsi's brother), Sandy Maroschek (Doris Hendrickson's sister-in-law), Reinhold West (Carol Kiekow's father), Opal Hartwig, Harold Walters (Betty Jindra and Virginia Horejse father), Lyle Terwedo, Kris Huhner (Kathy Peterson's sister), Bev Horejsi, and Tom Mariska.

Remember those serving our country...

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



Our Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the family Faye Brown who passed away Monday, November 23.

Gifts received

Gift received in memory of Delmar Braun. Thank you

Baptisms

Chloe Elizabeth Grunow, Brandon Lee Grunow and Benjamin Anthony Grunow were baptized Saturday, November 21. God's blessings to Chloe, Brandon, Benjamin and their family.

Nomination Committee

The Church Council is looking for members that would be interested in serving on the Nominating Committee this fall. We are also looking for any members that would be interested in serving on the church council starting in January 2016.

The Mitten Tree



The mitten tree is up and ready for decorating with scarves, mittens and gloves which will be used at Le Sueur County Santa Anonymous. Please have all items on the tree by Sunday, December 13.

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 23rd of December for the January newsletter.

Financial Corner General Fund - October

	October	Year to Date
Receipt	\$ 11,491.75	\$ 138,672.08
Expenses	<u>\$ 15,039.83</u>	<u>\$ 141,325.10</u>
Cash Flow	\$ (3,548.08)	\$ (2,653.02)

Church Council Meeting

November 17, 2015 - 6:30 pm

Present: Maridan Nesmoie (1/16), John Helling (1/16), John Krautkremer (1/16), Renee Sorenson (1/16) Dan Hardel (1/17), Wendy Vargo (1/17), Kathy Peterson (1/17), Eric Schroeder (1/18), Liz Vlasak (1/18), Pastor Mark Wilmes

Absent: None

Kathy Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm. Pastor lead with a prayer.

Eric Schroeder moved and John Krautkremer seconded a motion to approve the October 2015 council meeting minutes. Motion carried.

On Going

Head Usher - December head usher will be John Krautkremer. January head usher will be Eric Schroeder.

Feed My Sheep - One family identified at this time.

Can Recycling - TBD.

Old Business

Nominating Committee - Still looking for one more person from the congregation to serve on this committee.

Call Committee - 2 individuals were given second interviews.

Review of Employees - On going.

End of the Year Donations - Eric Schroeder is getting prices for replacing the tables and chairs.

New Business

Committee reports need to be to Kay by January 1st.

The upgrade to the modem and internet has been completed.

Reports

Pastor's Report:

Pastor is currently working with the 8th grade confirmation students.

Has had many baptisms and many people interested in becoming new members.

A Thrivent member has given 2 \$250 gift cards. It was decided to use one for the family identified with Feed My Sheep, and the other donated to Altar Guild.

Treasurer Report:

Renee Sorenson made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Eric Schroeder seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Endowment Committee:

Made changes to 5 different funds. A motion was made by Eric Schroeder and seconded by Liz Vlasak to have Ralph Hendrickson and Dan Hardel as designated signers.

WOTC: Will meet Sunday, Nov. 22nd.

Cemetery Board:

Had meeting. Will send report at the end of the year.

Stewardship: Renee Sorenson - No report

Evangelism Committee: Wendy Vargo

Soldier box campaign is underway. Will mail out boxes the first week in December.

Education: Liz Vlasak

Sunday School program will be December 20 during the 9:00 worship service.

American Legion donated money to use for some new costumes.

Next meeting will be January 10th.

Youth:

Spent time filling shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

Spent a night sleeping outside in cardboard boxes as homeless people do.

Continues to plan a Ski event, the Spaghetti Supper, filling Christmas bags, and a Mission Trip to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

(Church Council Cont.)

(Church Council Cont.)

Facility Management: John Krautkremer
The work on the tower has been completed.

Church and Society: Kathy Peterson

On December 3rd, a group will be going to the distribution center to help prepare the boxes to be sent off for Operation Christmas Child.

Salvation Army bell ringing will begin in December. Watch for a schedule to come out soon in the church bulletin.

Communications: Dan Hardel

Presented a letter which will be sent to all members pertaining to the Transition Fund.

Fellowship: John Helling - No report.

Worship & Music Committee:

Music is planned for all Christmas services.

Next meeting: December 15, 2015, 6:00 pm. budget meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm and closed with "The Lord's Prayer"

Submitted by Wendy Vargo, Church Council Secretary

Faith and Life Bible Study for December

Our weekday Bible study for adults will meet twice in December. And now the two Bible studies are featuring different content! The Monday night one (6:30-8:00 PM) is going through the book of Proverbs and will choose another soon. The Wednesday morning one (9:30-11:00 AM) continues to look at the history of the church in Bible study form, now in the 1500s and the first Christians on the North American continent.

In December, Faith and Life will meet the 7th and 9th, and the 14th and 16th, before we have to break for Christmas and New Years. Come check it out! There are treats and coffee each week.



December Music Notes

December 6

Flute accompaniment for "Hark the Glad Sound"

December 13

Bells of St John will ring "Christmas Bell Tidings"

Liturgical Dance by Sophia Smith, Alice Schroeder, Morgan Gjerstad

December 20

Sunday School Christmas Program

December 24 Christmas Eve

Pastor Mark and Lynn Wilms will sing "A Starry Night" at all three services

3:00 p.m. - N/P/K will sing "Away in a Manger" and Grades 1 - 4 will sing "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy"

5:00 p.m. - Rock'n the Church will sing "Rise Up Shepherd and Follow"

10:00 p.m. - Bells of St. John will ring "On Christmas Night"

December 27

Angel Band will accompany our hymns for the service



RING THE BELL!

It's time again to ring in the Salvation Army Kettle Campaign. Collection will again be held at Fred's in Montgomery. All money collected will stay in Le Sueur County. Ringing starts Thursday, December 10th through Wednesday, December 23rd. To schedule a date to work a two hour shift call JoAnn Dawson at (507) 364-5835.

Weekdays: December 10-12, 14-18, 21-23 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Saturdays: December 12 and December 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sundays: December 13 and December 20 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



Thrivent Contribution

The Women of the Church are receiving \$250 toward the cost of quilt batting. This supplemental fund will be provided by the Le Sueur County Chapter of Thrivent. This fall we have made 37 quilts for Lutheran World Relief and the Peace Center. Thank you to all that helped. Quilting will resume in January.

WOTC Egg Bake

Thank you to all who contributed, worked, and those who attended the Egg Bake Fundraiser on Sunday, November 15.

Congratulations to Vicky Horejsi for winning the quilt raffle and to Charles Richter for winning the table runner.

Annual Meeting Reports

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, January 24, 2016. Please submit all reports for the annual meeting to the church office by Friday, January 1. Thank you.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for our Christmas Eve Services. Needed are readers, ushers/greeters and communion assistants. If you can help, please sign up 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.*

Sunday School Christmas Program

The Sunday School Christmas Program will be held Sunday, December 20 during the 9:00 a.m. church service.



Sunday School

Christmas Eve Worship Services

3:00 p.m. Worship with Communion

5:00 p.m. Worship with Communion

10:00 p.m. Worship with Communion



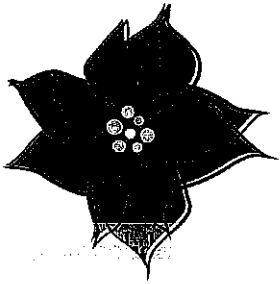
ST. JOHN YOUTH

All League Christmas Caroling Event

Sunday, December 20th at 10:15am. We will spread Christmas Joy to our area assisted livings and group homes.



Poinsettias



Poinsettia pick up Sunday, December 13th 10-11am in fellowship hall. If you purchased a poinsettia and will not have it stay at church, please pick it up at this time.

Summer Mission Trip 2016

We will be having a meeting for those interested in attending a summer mission trip during the summer of 2016. We are hoping to secure a date in early June for the trip. We will meet Sunday January 10th at 11am in the youth room to talk about possible dates, prices and when deposits are due to get the best discount. These trips are open to this years 7th-12th graders and adults.

Please email or facebook message Missy if you are interested in attending one of these trips and cannot attend the meeting mgregor@montgomerymnelcalutherans.org Please visit re-member.org for information about the mission trip site.

Coffee Sales

We have COFFEE from European Roasterie! New Christmas flavors are here! We have Breakfast Brew, Jamaican Me Crazy, Eggnog Crème, Buttered Rum, Chocolate Almond Junkie, Cookies & Cream, English Toffee, and Jazzy Chestnut. \$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.

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.