

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

MONTGOMERY, MINNESOTA

Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861

FEBRUARY 2017

ANSWER ME!

"O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me!..." (Micah 6:3)

If you are a child, then you have heard these words come out of the mouth of your parent(s). The one who utters these two words does so expecting the hearer to give a response. They want the hearer to remember the words that have been spoken and the relationship that has been established. However, the normal reaction to these words is usually the opposite for the hearer of these words, instead, wants to run and hide.

Running and hiding isn't new: Adam and Eve did it (Genesis 3:8), Jonah did it (Jonah 1:1-3), and you (what's your story). We've heard what God has said and the relationship He offers, then we've turn aside. When God comes to bring us back to Himself, we get scared and we run and hide.

God speaks, "Answer me!" And, yes, He does want us to respond.

God doesn't give up on Israel. He reminds them again of what it was that He did for them: He rescued them and brought them out of Egypt, going before, behind, and with them the whole way. He turned back the curse that King Balak wanted to be placed on Israel. And in its place He restated the blessing again on His people. God sees the offerings that we try bringing Him in the midst of our fear and transgressions (sins), and reminds them that it is His righteousness and Him walking His people making them who they are "Israel" - those who strive with God (Genesis 32:28).

And, God, your Father, does not give up on you. Whenever we get sidetracked and forget who we are – His on account of His Son Jesus Christ, God wakes us up with this call for repentance and relationship once again: "OK, kids, Answer Me!" **Remember** My words for you, **Remember** what I have done in the past, and **Know** what my will for you is – **TO DO JUSTICE, AND TO LOVE KINDNESS, AND TO WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD (Micah 6:8).**

May this guide us in our identity and ministry here at St. John as God's child along with all of those other crazy kids God has gathered together here walking humbly with Him.

Peace of Christ,

Dr. Jason

February Worship Helpers

Readers

February 5 Maridan Nesmoe
 February 12 Greg Westerman
 February 19 Cindy Westerhouse
 February 26 Kathy Westerman

Head Usher

Liz Vlasak

Ushers / Greeters

February 5 Jim Blum
 Roman Jindra
 Mike & Maridan Nesmoe
 February 12 Irene Jindra
 Carol Kiekow
 John Krautkremer
 LaNette Kuelper
 February 19 Steve & Tammie Pan
 Don Marcussen
 Dick Milinkovich
 February 26 Dave & Dorothy Scheffert
 Charles Richter
 Kelle Schleis

Communion Assistants

February 12 John & Lori Helling
 Candyce Kadrlik
 February 26 Lynden & Deb Jelinek
 Carol Kiekow

Acolytes

February 5 Dustin Horejsi
 February 12 Caleb Cihak
 February 19 Dustin Horejsi
 February 26 Natalee Korbitz

Altar Guild

LaNette Kuelper

*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...

Gail Pollington (Pastor's aunt), Dale Benson, Gretchen Vlasak, Joanne Chase (Marilybn Richter's sister-in-law), Elsie Schultz (Diane's mother-in-law), Blanche Sorenson, Heidi Huewe (friend of Renee Sorenson), 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), Haven Peterson (Susie Trenda's grandson), 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.



Gifts

Gifts received in memory of Margaret Lawson for the "Feed My Sheep" program. Thank you.

Thank You

Thank you to all who helped with the planning, promoting and presenting inspirational speaker Deb Hadley. Thank you for everyone who made food, brought snacks, served and cleaned up-it was a blessing for all. 117 people attended.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered in ringing the bell for the Salvation Army Kettle Campaign. In spite of the very cold weather we were able to collect \$1,406.63. It was still a very successful year.

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.*

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 22nd of February for the March newsletter.

Financial Corner General Fund - December

	December	Year to Date
Receipt	\$ 21,858.37	\$ 178,533.16
Expenses	\$ 16,103.45	\$ 182,590.87
Cash Flow	\$ 5,754.92	\$ (4,057.71)

St. John Church Council Minutes

January 17, 2017

Present: Kathy Peterson (1/17), Wendy Vargo (1/17), Dan Hardel (1/17), Eric Schroeder (1/18), Connie Cihak (1/18), Liz Vlasak (1/18), Pam Edel, (1/19), Renee Sorenson (1/19), Greg Westerman (1/19), Pastor Jason

Absent: None

President Kathy Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. Pastor Jason opened with devotions and prayer.

Greg Westerman made a motion to approve the minutes from the December meeting. Dan Hardel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dan Hardel made a motion to approve the Treasurers report. Greg Westerman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor's Update:

Pastor Jason reported on his official acts from the month of December. Thrivent representative possibly coming to St. John.

Head Ushers: Liz Vlasak will be the head usher for February.

Feed My Sheep: No one recognized at this time.

Old Business:

Discussed employee reviews.

Discussed bell tower.

Updated rental fee schedule was tabled until February.

New Business:

Motion was made by Gregg Westerman and seconded by Pam Edel to appoint Carol Svobada to the Cemetery Board. Motion carried.

Elected officers for the upcoming year. President Elect: Eric Schroeder, Vice President Elect: Greg Westerman, Treasurer Elect: Liz Vlasak, Secretary Elect: Connie Cihak.

The discussion of health and safety will be planned in March.

President Kathy Peterson thanked Dan Hardel for his 6 years of service.

Annual Meeting format was discussed which will be held on January 22, 2017

Motion to adjourn at 8:30 was made by Renee Sorenson. Seconded by Pam Edel. Motion carried.

Pastor Jason closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Next council meeting is set for February 21st- 6:30 pm.

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

St. John Annual Congregational Meeting

January 22, 2017

President Kathy Peterson called the meeting to order 10:00 a.m. There were 67 members present.

Kathy recognized current council members Dan Hardel, Wendy Vargo, Connie Cihak, Pam Edel, Greg Westerman, Renee Sorenson, Liz Vlasak, and Eric Schroeder.

The minutes were read by secretary Wendy Vargo from the January 24, 2016 meeting. Connie Cihak made a motion to approve the minutes. Pam Edel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Kathy explained the Committee structure and different ways members of St. John could get involved in the workings of the church. "How You Can Get Involved" forms were handed out.

Kathy thanked the transition committee and call committee for their work over the last 2 years. She also thanked the staff of St. John; Kay Busch, Roman Jindra, Missy Gregor, Kathy Heyda, and Jessica Westerman for their work and dedication to St. John.

The repairs to the bell tower were discussed. 3 different bids were presented. Questions were taken from the floor.

Pastor Jason remarked on things he'd like to accomplish over the next year and see come about in the church.

The budget for 2017 was explained as to how the council comes about putting it together. A motion was made by Carol Kiekow and seconded by Liz Krocak to approve the budget. Motion carried.

Kathy reported the council has 3 openings that needed to be filled. She also pointed out as per by laws, we need to have a nominating committee set for next year. She thanked Dan Hardel for his years of service. Dan was not eligible to run for council as he served 6 consecutive years. Kathy Peterson and Wendy Vargo offered to stay on the council. Steve Schroeder offered to run for council. Nominations were called for from the floor. Hearing none, ballots were handed out to vote. The 3 council members will be Kathy Peterson (3 year term), Wendy Vargo (3 year term), and Steve Schroeder (3 year term).

The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 by a motion from Charles Richter, seconded by Dave Scheffert. Motion carried.

Lenten Worship Services

Weekly Lenten Worship Services will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 1 at 6:30 p.m.

Again this year a simple supper will be served starting at 5:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed to prepare and serve these meals. If interested, please sign up on the calendar in Fellowship Hall.

Please join us on Wednesday evenings during Lent for fellowship and worship.

Ash Wednesday Lunch/Supper

The Women of the Church will be serving a soup and salad lunch/supper on Ash Wednesday, March 1. New this year is lunch serviced from 11:00 a.m.– 1:00 p.m. and then our Lenten Supper 4:30-6:15 p.m.

This event is open to the public and will include both meat and meatless soups.

There will be a free will offering with all the proceeds going to the Montgomery Food

YOUR CHURCH – YOUR FAITH – OUR STORY

(11 AND UNDER)

This month we have two contributions for us to read and see how faith is active here at St. John. Thank you for Alice and Isaac Schroeder for sharing. In March we will be here from someone from our confirmation class.

My church means a lot to me, because it is a place I can go where everybody is positive, find a calm environment, and learn about Jesus. It is important that my church includes me, because I have more to learn. My church can support me by helping me, caring about me, and teaching me. Some of the gifts I have to share with my church are that I really love Jesus and would help anyone if they needed and I love music, singing, and playing piano.

Those who have helped me develop in my faith are my Mom because we read devotions and my Dad, because they both pray with me. The people in my life who have shared their faith with me are my Mom, Dad, and Grandparents. It is important to share my faith with others to get the word out about Jesus.

I have a strong connection with God and Jesus. I don't really remember when it started, but I always want to learn more and follow them. I feel like Jesus blesses me every day. I feel good about that.

Isaac Schroeder (11 years old)

My church means a lot to me, because it is place to come and learn. It is important that my church includes me, because we are like family and friends. My church can support me by helping me learn. Some of the gifts I have to share with my church are that I like to sing with "Rock'n the Church" and doing liturgical dancing. I also love helping with the little kids.

Those who have helped me develop in my faith are my Mom, my Dad, Pastor, and my Sunday School teachers by teaching me and praying with me. The people in my life who have shared their faith with me are my Parents, my Grandparents, and my friends. It is important for me to share my faith with others, so they can learn more about Christ.

My Family talks about Jesus and it catches on and is always a part of my life. I try to keep Jesus in my heart every day at school, at home, and around others, so that everyone can have a great day.

Alice Schroeder (11 years old)

February Music Notes

Thank you for the Recognition Service. The impact of the Recognition Service on January 15th marking my "50 Years of Making Music" is still ringing in my heart. Thank you for the kind words spoken and the cards that I received. Being an organist is a gift from God that brings great blessings to me as I assist people in public worship, inspiring them and energizing their song. *Kathy*

The Bells of St. John are looking for a ringer to fill an open position in our 3 octave adult bell choir. We rehearse on Wednesdays from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. (rehearsal time changes during Lent) and present music in worship *usually* once a month from September – May. We also ring at special worship services during the year. This unique opportunity will give you the chance to learn the art of bell ringing – and the instrument is provided! We prefer applicant to be able to read music. See Kathy Heyda for more information.

February 5 - Anne Schroeder will sing "Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)" ..

February 12 - Nursery/Pre-K/Kindergarten and Grades 1-4 will sing

February 19 - Rock'n the Church choir will sing "One Thing Remains"

February 26 - Bells of St. John will ring "Joyful Praise"



ST. JOHN YOUTH

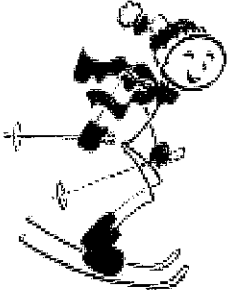
T-shirts for Sale!



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

**Will be for sale after church on October 9th also available through Kay
in church office or Missy in youth office**

St. John friends and family Skiing at Mount Kato



Sunday, March 5th Meet at church at 1 PM, we will arrive as a group,
return whenever you like.

Cost is \$10.50 for a lift ticket, \$9.50 for ski or snowboard rental,
\$4 helmets, \$4 beginner lessons. \$7.50 food package includes hotdog or
hamburger, fries & pop. Youth League members can use youth funds/
points can be put toward the cost. We need at least 15 participants
for this event. Please sign up on youth bulletin board.

All League Family Fun Night!

Sunday, February 26th

3-5 PM Swimming at the TCU pool

5-6 pizza

Please sign up on the youth bulletin board by Feb 19th

Mission Trip

We have a few spots left on our Mission trip to Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Youth 7th grade and up and adults have the opportunity to serve. This trip will take place June 24-30th, the cost is \$549 + travel expenses. We have multiple fundraising opportunities available for this trip. Check out Re-member.org for more information about Pine Ridge. Please contact Missy Gregor or Kathy Westerman if you are interested.

Ronald McDonald House

Serve a spaghetti dinner to families staying at the Ronald McDonald house in Rochester.

Sunday, February 19th.

Meet at the church at **2:00 PM**. We will be home by approximately **9:00 PM** Please **sign up by Sunday, February 12th** to make sure we have enough adult chaperons.



Sweetheart Spaghetti Supper & Silent Auction

Sunday, February 12th 4:30-6:30 PM

