



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

MONTGOMERY, MINNESOTA

Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861

FEBRUARY 2016

A Word or Two...by Pastor Mark

The Ten Commandments were God's gift to the human race, a practical way of living out Jesus' call to love God and other human beings. The first three have to do with our vertical relationship with the Lord, keeping Him first in our hearts, keeping His name holy, and taking time for worship. The other seven have to do with how we live with each other, our horizontal life in community. We are taught to tell the truth, stay loyal to our relationships, not to steal, and to be content with what we have.

Join me during Lent as we take time Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings for 10 sermons on the Ten Commandments. As someone once said, they aren't the "Ten Suggestions." They are directives from God that save us a lot of trouble if we live by them. We will look at each in turn, and apply them to our daily lives. It all starts with the Sunday after Ash Wednesday.

Faith and Life Bible Study for February

Our weekly Bible study for adults goes on through the tail end of winter with lessons in God's word that will warm your heart. The Monday night group, meeting from 6:30-8:00, will be finishing Romans, doing the Song of Solomon (a love poem in time for Valentine's Day!), and then on to another book of the Bible. The Wednesday morning group, meeting from 9:30-11:00, will be looking at Christianity in North America in the 1600s. Try Faith and Life Bible study. It's a no-threat Bible study for anyone who just wants to learn more about God's word and how it applies to our lives. Come any time, and see for yourself.

February Worship Helpers

Readers

February 7 Jean Waugh
 February 14 Cindy Westerhouse
 February 21 Greg Westerman
 February 28 Jessica Westerman

Head Usher

Wendy Vargo

Ushers / Greeters

February 7 David & Rhonda Solberg
 Philip Solberg
 Kelle Schleis
 February 14 Berlyn & Garie Teig
 Lynn Schuknecht
 Kay Busch
 February 21 Doug & Karen Thompson
 Paul Vollmar
 Cindy Westerhouse
 February 28 Rich & Liz Vlasak
 Kathy Westerman
 Jeanne Anderson

Communion Assistants

February 14 Rhonda Solberg
 Garie Teig
 Volunteer Needed
 February 28 Lynden & Deb Jelinek
 Dallas Horejsi

Acolytes

February 7 James Krautkremer
 February 10 Madison Gilbertson
 February 14 Madelyn Wehe
 February 17 Nick Novotny
 February 21 Ariana Krautkremer
 February 24 James Krautkremer
 February 28 Gretchen Vlasak

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...



Gerry Bentley, Lyle Terwedo, Opal Hartwig,
 Betty Heuer, Nancy Creger, Reinhold West
 (Carol Kiekow's father), Harold Walters (Betty
 Jindra and Virginia Horejse father), 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 Bruce and Maria Smith and
 family upon the death of Bruce's mother, Patty Smith.*

*We extend our sympathy to the family of Ernest
 Koschade who passes away Sunday, January 24.*

*We extend our sympathy to the family of Sheryl (Athey)
 Neubauer who passed away Friday, February 5. Her
 funeral will be held Tuesday, February 16 at 11:00 a.m.*

Gifts Received

Gifts received in memory of Faye Brown. Thank you.

*Gift received in memory of Shirley Lindseth for Sunday
 School. Thank you.*

*Gifts received in memory of Reuben Svoboda for altar
 guild, youth little league, music fund, quilting and
 transition fund. Thank you.*

Lenten Worship and Soup Suppers

Weekly Wednesday worship services will be held at
 6:30 p.m. beginning Ash Wednesday, February 10.

Soup and Sandwich Suppers will be served before the
 service. The Ash Wednesday supper begins at 4:30, all
 other weekly suppers start service at 5:00. If you would
 like to serve a Lenten Supper, please sign up on the
 calendar in Fellowship Hall.

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 February for the March 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 Mark or Kay of your planned meeting dates.
 Thank you for your cooperation.*

Financial Corner General Fund - December

	December	Year to Date
Receipt	\$ 19,931.22	\$ 177,529.70
Expenses	\$ 16,702.77	\$ 173,829.33
Cash Flow	\$ 3,228.45	\$ 3,700.37

Church Council Minutes

January 4, 2016

Special Meeting

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

Absent: Maridan Nesmoe (1/16)

President Kathy Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. to discuss special budget and financial issues.

Moved January council meeting up one week to January 12 in order to approve budget and give Kay time to prepare annual report.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

St. John Church Council Minutes

January 12, 2016

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

Absent: None

President Kathy Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. Pastor lead with prayer.

Eric Schroeder made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 17th meeting. Maridan Nesmoe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Eric Schroeder made a motion to approve the minutes from the special meeting on January 4. John Helling seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dan Hardel gave the Treasure's year end report. Renee Sorenson made a motion to approve the report subject to a final accounting of all 2015 expenditures. Eric Schroeder seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dan Hardel made a motion to approve the proposed budget report which will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting. Wendy Vargo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report:

Ash Wednesday will be on February 10th. Sermon series will be on the 10 Commandments.

Confirmation be begin in February for 8th graders.

He will visit with 4th graders and parents.

9th graders are starting their Mentoring program.

Bible study continues on Monday nights and Wednesday morning.

He will meet with prospective new members on January 28th for orientation.

Head Ushers: February will be Wendy Vargo. Liz Vlasak will be the head usher in March.

Feed My Sheep: \$500 will be given to a family with extremely high medical expenses.

Old Business: Call Committee will give a report at the annual meeting.

Nominating Committee has 5 candidates for the 4 empty council seats.

Tables and chairs were ordered with year end donations. We continue to look for renters for the parsonage.

New Business:

Feed My Starving Children: Holy Redeemer has asked us to pair with them to look into hosting a site to hold "Feed My Starving Children". The Youth Committee will look into more details on this project.

Pay Roll Update: It was questioned whether we need to carry unemployment insurance. It was determined that the church does not need to carry unemployment insurance.

(Church Council Cont.)

(Church Council Cont)

Annual Meeting Agenda: Kathy went over plans for the annual meeting on January 24th.

Audit Committee: Will be discussed at the February meeting and be brought up at the annual meeting to get members.

Committee Reports:

Endowment: Report was sent in for annual meeting.

Women of the Church: Fundraiser in November was successful. Report was sent in for annual meeting.

Cemetery: Report sent in for annual meeting.

Stewardship: Currently looking for people to join this committee.

Evangelism: Sent off 19 soldier boxes at Christmas time. Will be having a new member Sunday reception sometime in February.

Education: Plan to discuss confirmation and the mission trip at the next meeting on January 17th.

Youth: Explained their budget. Committees are starting to fill up with more people joining.

Facility: Faucets are here but not installed yet.

Church in Society: Over \$1,652.00 raised in the Red Kettle campaign. Next project will be the Food Shelf in the month of March.

Communications: No report.

Fellowship: No report.

Worship and Music: Next meeting will be February 6th.

Other Business:

Kathy thanked the members who will be going off the council for their years of service. Those that will be leaving are John Helling, John Krautkremer, and Maridan Nesmoie. Renee Sorenson's one year of service is complete, however, she has decided to run again.

Renee Sorenson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:37. John Krautkremer seconded the motion. Motion carried. Pastor closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Wendy Vargo

Thank you

Thank you to all who rang the bell for the Salvation Army Kettle Campaign. The campaign raised \$1,652.59 which will help those in Le Sueur County.



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

The Annual Congregational meeting

January 24th, 2016

Church Sanctuary

The meeting was called to order by council president Kathy Peterson at 10:00am. The 2015 annual report was handed out. There were 65 members present. Carol Kiekow made a motion to approve the secretary's report from the January 25, 2015 annual meeting. Kathy Derhaag seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Kathy noted that we need to form an audit committee for 2016. Anyone interested in helping with that to talk to her. She thanked the Transition Committee and the Call Committee for all the work they have done.

Jim Cihak gave a report on the progress of the Call Committee, and explained the work of the Transition Committee. The members on the Transition Committee were Dawn Anderson, Mary Brahs, Dave Scheffert, Allie Hardel, Erin Krautkremer, Josh Kuchinka, and Wade Young. This committee created a congregational profile, and a survey from congregation members, what they were looking for in a new pastor. The Call Committee has interviewed 4 candidates, 2 candidates were brought back for a second interview, consisting of a sermon and children's sermon, tour of the church, parsonage, and community. The committee declined on one person and the other declined on further discussion with our congregation. The committee has received 2 more names. The members of the call committee are Dawn Anderson, Mary Brahs, Mark Wehe, Ashlea Pan, Emily Hoefs, Jim Cihak, and Kevin Krohn.

Pastor Mark Wilms encouraged the congregation to find a vision for reaching out to the community. He has been here for one year.

The 2016 budget was reviewed. Kathy Peterson explained the rationale used in preparing the proposed budget. Mike Nesmoe had a question about retaining the parsonage. Kathy explained the council decided to keep the parsonage through the call process. If the new pastor is not interested in living in the parsonage the council will decide what the next step will be. Dave Scheffert moved, and Tammy Pan seconded the motion to approve the 2016 budget. Motion carried.

President Kathy Peterson reported the council has 4 openings that need to be filled. The terms that are expiring are John Helling, John Krautkremer, Maridan Nesmoe, and Renee Sorenson. A nominating committee was established in November to seek nominees. The members of this committee were John Helling, Mike Nesmoe, and Maridan Nesmoe. Ballots were handed out to the members for voting. The new members for the church council are Renee Sorenson (3 year term), Greg Westerman (3 year term), Pam Edel (3 year term) and Connie Cihak (2 year term).

The meeting was adjourned at 10:33am by a motion from Charles richter and seconded by Kathy Derhaag. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Maridan Nesmoe, Church Council Member

**YOU ARE INVITED TO
ASH WEDNESDAY SUPPER
AT ST JOHN CHURCH
MONTGOMERY MN.**

Wednesday February 10th, 2016

Serving: 4:30 PM to 6:15 PM

Free Will Offering

All Proceeds going to

Montgomery Food Shelf

Meatless Menu Available

Soup, Salad Bar, Bread, Dessert

Event sponsored by: Women of the Church &

Thrivent Financial

WELCA Meeting

January 12, 2016

Call to order: 6:37

Present: Kathy Derhaag, Lori Helling, Carol Kiekow, Garie Teig, and Connie Cihak

We discussed the Soup Supper. We will begin serving at 4:30 and serve until 6:15. Connie suggested that we have a comprehensive salad bar. Lori has something that we can put the bowls in to keep things cold. Connie will do the salad bar. Lori will make a Broccoli-Cauliflower soup, which is meatless. Garie will make a Bean and Ham soup. We will make a Chicken and Wild Rice soup here at Church. We will buy heat-n-serve Bread Sticks to go with the soup and have bars and other desserts.

We will pass a sign-up sheet around during Coffee Hour for bars and desserts.

We will send an Invitation to Holy Redeemer; Connie will design an invitation.

We discussed the possibility of a Kolacky Days Car Show fundraiser. Garie did some research by checking with the Fire Department. They barely make any money with three days of serving food. With the upfront costs and the special items needed, it would not be worth it for us to have a stand. We will not be having one.

Garie submitted a financial report. We are in fairly good condition, financially. We will wait and see how many people will be going on the Mission Trip and decide what and how we will donate towards the trip.

The meeting was adjourned @ 7:21.

Submitted by Carol Kiekow

February Music Notes

February 10 (Ash Wednesday)

Bells of St. John will ring "It Is Well with My Soul"

February 14

N/P/K will sing "Deep and Wide" and "My God is So Big"

Grades 1 – 4 will sing "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love"

February 21

Rock'n the Church choir will sing "Jesus Loves Me"

February 28

Bells of St. John will ring "God's Hand"

Women's Choir

The Women's Choir will sing at both Easter Sunday services on March 27 - at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. We will rehearse 4 Wednesday evenings. Please let Kathy know if you will be singing so she can get choir folders ready. Mark your calendars.

Rehearse Wed. February 17 at 7:15 p.m. after the Lenten service

Rehearse Wed. March 2 at 7:15 p.m. after the Lenten service

Rehearse Wed. March 16 at 7:15 p.m. after the Lenten service



ST. JOHN YOUTH

Boundary Waters Canoe Trip 2016

Our mission trip to South Dakota has been rescheduled for next summer. This gives us an opportunity to go on a Boundary Waters Canoe Trip! Trip dates are July 9th-15th. This trip is open to this years 7th-12th graders. If we book very soon we can get a discounted price of \$510 per person, we may be able to get a bigger discount depending on how big our group is. We would also add transportation cost to the trip but they should be minimal. We need 6 kids to attend to make the trip possible. Please email or facebook message Missy as soon as possible if you are interested in attending mgregor@montgomerynelcalutherans.org.



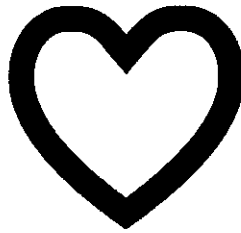
Sweetheart Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction

Sunday, February 14th

4-6:30pm in fellowship hall

Spaghetti, Garlic Bread, Salad Bar, Beverages and Dessert.

If you would like to donate items to the silent auction please contact Kay or Missy.



Tickets can be purchased at the door.

\$8 Adults and Youth ages 10 and up

\$4 Youth ages 5-9

Ages 4 and under FREE

Proceeds for this fundraiser go to the Youth League

Easter Lily Fundraiser for the Youth

Starts Sunday, February 7 through Sunday, March 6.

6" Lily's are \$12.00



Coffee Sales

We have COFFEE from European Roasterie! We have Breakfast Brew, Jamaican Me Crazy, Toasted Marshmallow, Turtle Nut, Chocolate Covered Cherry, Swiss Chocolate Almond and Irish Cream.

\$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.

