

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

MONTGOMERY, MINNESOTA

Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861

JUNE 2017

Gathered Up

**Then Jesus took the loaves,
and when he had given thanks,
He distributed them to those who were seated;
so also the fish, as much as they wanted.
When they were satisfied, He told His disciples,
"Gather up the fragments left over,
so that nothing may be lost."
So they gathered them up,
and from the fragments of the five barley loaves,
left by those who had eaten,
they filled twelve baskets.**

John 6:11-13

Over the next few months, especially throughout the summer, the stewardship committee of St. John will be continuing to "Remind, Remind, Remind" us about our stewardship and giving within the lives of our parish. This reminder will focus a lot on continued giving toward the budgets that we have set in place to tend to the ministry of our congregations. As with all budgets, part of this giving goes toward the day to day and month to month expenses that continue to all throughout the year.

Financial giving is a part of stewardship and ministry, but so are you. We are the bits and pieces that have been gathered together, so that nothing may be lost. We have been gathered together in Christ's name and by His will. In this gathering, there is abundances and grace beyond our imagination. Often we get to thinking that "we are just an insignificant bit or crumb." "What does it matter if I'm not gathered up together with those other bits and pieces?" "The church will go on even if I'm not there." The church building points to those who have been gathered and then sent in Jesus' name. It is the people that make up the church in Jesus name. We are living and breathing, thriving and suffering, scattered out for the sake of the world and gathered up so that we may be one in Christ.

The reminder and request for giving will come, but this reminder cannot wait. Hear and remember - "Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread (1 Corinthians 10:17)." Hear and come - We need your involvement here to join with us in worship, study, fellowship, care, and ministry together in Jesus' name. *We need you here with us, and you need us with you.*

May God bless us as we come alongside one another and we are gathered up and kept together with Christ and all of the saints.

Peace of Christ

Dr. Jason

June Worship Helpers

Readers

June 4 Maridan Nesmoe
 June 11 Tammie Pan
 June 18 Brenda Peterson
 June 19 Kathy Peterson

Head Usher

Renee Sorenson

Ushers / Greeters

June 4 Mike & Maridan Nesmoe
 Dick Milinkovich
 Brenda Peterson
 June 11 Steve & Tammie PaN
 Charles Richter
 Kelle Schleis
 June 18 Dave & Dorothy Scheffert
 Eric Schroeder
 Lynn Schuknecht
 June 25 Steve & Anne Schroeder
 Jesse & Gail Skluzacek

Communion Assistants

June 11 John & Lori Helling
 Peggy Hentges
 June 25 Gary & Jacque Hartwig
 Candyce Kadrlik

Acolytes

June 4 Tammer Smith
 June 11 Timothy Tiede
 June 18 Preston Anderson
 June 25 Derrick Horejsi

Altar Guild

Kathy Derhaag
 Carol Kiekow

*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...



Marcia (Koschade) Solberg, Betty Jindra, Dianna Smith, Tom Trenda, Ted Schmidt (Megan Pratola's step father), Gretchen Vlasak, Dale Benson, Heidi Huewe (friend of Renee Sorenson), Lisa (Bartyzal) Indhl, Greg Vlasak, Jaime Schultz (Diane Schultz's step daughter), Nancy Creger, Lois Schmidt (Megan Pratola's aunt), Gail Embretson, Rev. Bob and Ardyce Boda, Phyllis Swidorski, Amy Korthuis (Judy Ferguson's sister-in-law) and Kris Huhner (Kathy Peterson's sister).

Remember those serving our country...

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



Wedding



Congratulations and best wishes to Bryce and Kelly (Pieper) Niemeyer who were married Saturday, May 27th.

Baptism

Greyson Thomas Gillard was baptized Saturday, May 5. Greyson was born August 31, 2016 to Matthew Gillard and Jayda Badger. His sponsors are Tiah Badger and Joel Angrimson. God's blessings to Greyson and his family.

Thank you

Thank you to all who donated to the Personal Kits for the Mission. *The Women of the Church*

2017 VBS

2017 VBS will be held Monday, August 7 thru Thursday, August 10, 6:00-8:00 p.m. All children are welcome. Invite your friends! Scholarships available. Registration forms can be found in the back of the church and on our website.

Financial Corner General Fund - April

	April	Year to Date
Receipt	\$ 19,778.22	\$ 63,000.55
Expenses	\$ 16,229.20	\$ 65,824.68
Cash Flow	\$ 3,549.02	\$ (2,824.13)

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 23th of June for the July/August newsletter.

St. John Church Council Minutes

May 16, 2017

Eric called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM, on May 16, 2017.

Present: Eric Schroeder (2018), Greg Westerman (2019), Connie Cihak (2018), Liz Vlasak (2018), Steve Schroder (2020), Kathy Peterson (2020), Wendy Vargo (2020), Carol Kiekow (2019).

Absent Renee Sorenson (2020).

Pastor Jason opened with devotions from Martin Luther on serving each other – with a meditation from Galatian's 5.

Kathy made a motion to approve April 2017 minutes, Carol seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor Jason gave his activity report.

Motion by Kathy, seconded by Greg to approve the treasurer's report, Motion carried.

Liz gave an update on best practices suggested from ELCA.

Usher's report – Connie is head usher for June 2017.

A recipient for Feed My Sheep was identified, motion by Kathy seconded by Greg; motion carried.

Eric reported to the group that a second company has refused to work on the bell tower/leak. He continues to pursue additional options/companies.

We will be recognizing our high school seniors on May 21 following the service.

A discussion regarding donations with/from Thrivent. A motion was made by Greg, seconded by Steve those Members who have a donation from Thrivent Choice need to submit a statement to the church council designating how they want the funds used. Monies not designated in 90 days, will be moved to the general fund.

A motion was made by Greg, seconded by Wendy to accept Common Ground Landscaping to mow lawn, and snow removal.

A motion by Kathy, seconded by Greg to have Scott Simon install edging, plastic and mulch around parsonage and garage.

Committee reports:

New member Sunday will be June 4th.

Vacation Bible School will be August 6 – 10; this year's theme will be a camping theme, "S-More of Jesus" (the latest can recycling monies will go towards VBS supplies).

We will be awarding a scholarship to a high school senior on May 21st following the service.

Worship and Music have plans for many special events for June!

Motion to adjourn by Kathy, seconded by Wendy, motion carried at 8:03 PM

Closing with the Lord's Prayer. Connie Cihak

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

2017 SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD ASSEMBLY RECAP

On May 6th and 7th, 280 lay members along with 153 rostered leaders gathered together in Rochester, MN for our synod assembly. Among the business of the synod, this year's delegates had the opportunity to attend workshops for continuing education for the use equipping our congregations for ministry. I attended workshops on "Forming Faith Beyond the Building" and "Interpreting Community in the Age of Technology." Both of these workshops lifted up a very important area in our lives together – How Do We Communicate. From fellowship and education to pastoral and congregational care, we communicate in many and various ways. How do we use this for life together in ministry in, through, and because of Jesus Christ? We had an opportunity to hear about the ministries of our synod and our continued work together with our companion synods globally in Tanzania and South Sudan. One constant refrain throughout our assembly was looking ahead to the retirement of many pastors over the next three years. As a pastor and as a congregation we are called to identify those among us who we see with gifts for ministry here at St. John and out among the larger church. Who can we name, encourage, and empower as those identified for gifts for ministry and leadership over the next year and in the years to come?

We are able to have two lay delegates and 1 youth delegate. Next year's 2018 Southeastern Synod Assembly will be held in Mankato, MN during the first weekend of May, please consider if you would want to represent our congregation. Thanks you, Pr. Jason

Class of 2017

Congratulations to

Taylor Crosby

Haley Dietz

Alyssa Eotvos

Justin Guajardo

Allie Hardel

Grace Krautkremer

William Shippman

Ashley Stewig

Jaymin Vargo

Joslyn Vargo

Erik Vlasak



Graduation

Mentor Teams

The 9th graders continue to prepare for their confirmation in October by selecting mentors. Please keep these youth and their mentors in your prayers.

Madison Gilbertson - Mentor: Jeanne Anderson
Ariana Krautkremer - Mentor: Kris Anderson
Nick Novotny - Mentor: Tammy Plonsky
Gretchen Vlasak - Mentor: Amber Athey
Made Wehe - Mentor: Emily Hoefs

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.

Let's Talk about the Sacrament of Holy Communion

As a way of having intergenerational learning and looking ahead to some additions to our worship services starting in September. We will be having short discussions open to all following the 9AM Sunday Service throughout the Summer held on the **2nd and 4th Sundays of each month**. You can grab a treat and join us in conversations. *Topics and discussion are built around those confirmation age and older, but everyone is invited (the younger ones usually willing to ask questions that will help us all learn together).*

June 11

Luther's Small Catechism on The Sacrament of the Holy Communion
What is Holy Communion? & Why do we receive Holy Communion?

June 25th

Bits and Pieces from Luther's Large Catechism on The Sacrament of Holy Communion
How often have we received Holy Communion in the past here at St. John,
Historically how often has the Christian Church received the Sacrament of Holy Communion?
& Who is Holy Communion for?
The many different looks to how Holy Communion is given and received

July 9th

Where do we find the Lord's Supper in Scripture?
Does Faith Matter?
Who is invited to the Sacrament of Communion?
At what age can you start receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion?
What do we intentionally do here at St. John to help the recipient of Holy Communion live into the promise given and received?

July 23rd

Communion at St. John in September
Why will we be having Holy Communion more often?
When will we be starting this?
How often will we be receiving Holy Communion?
What will it look like for each of the services?
In what ways can you be invited to assist with this?

August 13th & August 27th

I Don't Know If I Could Help Serve Communion!
I Don't Know If I Could Help Out With Altar Guild!
Or
I Would Like to Help Out with Communion, But I've Never Been Asked!
I Would Like to Help Out with the Altar Guild, But I've Never Been Asked!
Or
What in the world is the Altar Guild?

On these two Sundays in August, Pastor Jason and members of the Altar Guild Committee at St. John will be meeting with anyone who is confirmation age or older who has an interest in learning more about how you can help out within either of these two areas.

June Music Notes

The Bells of St. John are looking for TWO handbell ringers starting this fall. Two of our ten members will be leaving the bell choir and we need someone (male or female) to ring their bells. We practice September through May on Wednesday nights from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. We usually ring in church the last Sunday of the month. It would help if the ringer could read music, but not necessary. While each ringer has only certain assigned notes, he or she must learn to depend on, and be dependable to those who ring all the other notes. It combines physical movement with musical expression. If you are interested, contact a bell ringer or Kathy Heyda.

We will change the liturgy for our worship services to Setting One on June 3/June 4. This liturgy starts on page 94 in our hymnal. The last time we sang Setting One was in 2012-2013. Our Offertory hymn will change to #186 “Create in Me a Clean Heart”.

Members of the congregation are encouraged to wear **red** on June 3/June 4 when we celebrate Pentecost. Along with Christmas and Easter, Pentecost is one of the three most important and celebratory days of the church year. It demands we pull out all the stops and go crazy with **red**. On the fiftieth day of Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as the power of God among us. In the reading from Acts, images of wind and fire describe the Spirit poured out on disciples of all nations. Think fire, think God. Therefore, **red** is the energetic color for this day. Members of the congregation will process into church during the gathering song waving **red** streamers high as the Spirit falls on the congregation.

Trinity Sunday will be celebrated on June 10/June 11. On this day we celebrate the name of God: holy blessed Trinity. There is no other day quite like this one in the church’s year. There is no other God like ours. 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. Our worship concludes with a Trinitarian blessing.....Praise Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

Special Music June 4 (Pentecost)

“*Wind Song*” (Jessica Westerman & Anne Schroeder, Dylan Westerman - wind chimes)
“*Dona Nobis Pacem*” (handbell quartet) Carol Kiekow, Wendy Corona, Kathy Derhaag,
Diane Schultz

Special Music June 18 (Father’s Day) Sending Service for Mission Trip

“*Faith of Our Fathers*” (Isaac Schroeder on the organ)
“*Morning Joy*” (Carol Kiekow, Kathy Heyda)



Mission Trip Update

The group leaves from Church on Saturday, June 24 at 6 a.m. We will be going 9 hours west to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. We have 9 youth and 6 adults going and we're excited. Youth going are: Tyler Nesmoe, Tanner Smith, Preston Anderson, Allie Schley, Haylee Mach, Nicole Schweitzer, Katie Brokl, Natalee Korbitz and Cassidy Korbitz. Adults are Missy Gregor, Shirley Pumper, Dawn Anderson, Maridan Nesmoe, Kathy Westerman and Dustin Meadows. We return Friday June 30.

We will be having a **Sending Service** at St. John on **Sunday, June 18** during the regular service. Please pray for a safe and successful trip!

THANK YOU!!

We are writing this note to give our personal "thank you" to everybody who prayed for us and gave us your thoughts, sent cards &/or gifts, made meals, & whatever else you could have done to help us during Gretchen's illness.

When you sit and watch your child in a hospital bed or at home, sometimes you feel totally helpless. The only thing you can do is love them and be there for them. Your life changes instantly. Tests, appointments, surgeries and procedures, and a medical team made up of specialists doing everything in their power to help your child. You pray more, you read scripture more, and are so thankful for family, friends, prayer chains, cards, flowers, support and all of the love that everyone and anyone has for you. We cannot express how fortunate and blessed we feel to have such an amazing church family. We know that the power of prayer truly works. We thank you for encouraging us and giving us hope. We thank God for Children's Hospital and Gretchen's medical team. Living in a community where people are genuinely concerned and willing to lend a helping hand is a great gift. So, again, we thank you all.

May God Abundantly Bless You,
Neil and Karen Vlasak

Welcome New Members

Sunday, June 4
at the 9:00 a.m. worship service
we welcome new members:

Jayda Badger
and son Greyson Gillard

Paul and Kelly Henderson
and daughter Grace

Bill and Kristi Krenik
and daughter Emma

Teddy and Janna Wondra
and children Theo and Evalyn

A reception will follow in their honor.

Online Giving Option!!!

You can manage your giving online! Giving online is easy and allows you to set up one time giving or automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account or processed using your credit or debit card. Just visit our website at www.montgomerymnelcalutherans.org and click on donate button, then follow the onscreen instructions.

ST. JOHN YOUTH

T-shirts for Sale!



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

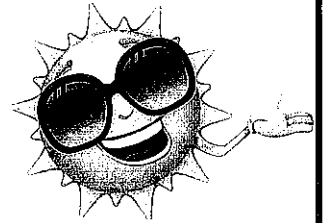
Available through Kay in church office or Missy in youth office

Mission Trip 2017

Thank you to everyone for their support of the 2017 Mission Trip!
Join us on Sunday, June 12th for a send off service!

Take Out Church Boxes

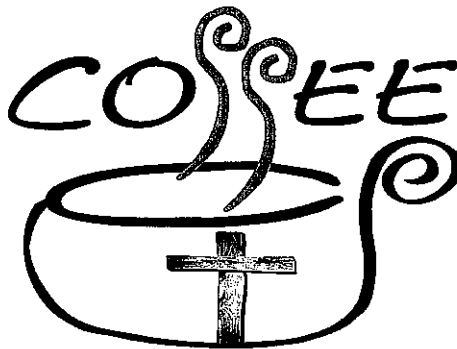
Summer Take out boxes are ready! Take out Church is a way for your family to bring your faith to life with you on vacation this Summer. In this box are ways that you can Worship God, Grow as Disciples, and Love your Neighbors. Please take one box per family.
Have fun, be safe, and take church with you this Summer!



Coffee Sales

We have COFFEE from European Roasterie!

\$9 for a 12 ounce bag.
You can purchase during coffee hour or at the church office during the week.



We take orders!
See Missy or check out European Roasterie's website for a list of flavors.

All proceeds go to the youth league.



Scholarship

The college scholarship was awarded to Joslyn Vargo. Congratulations to all of our graduating seniors and may God be with you on your next journey!

