



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

MONTGOMERY, MINNESOTA

*Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861*

**MAY 2015**

### **A Word or Two...by Pastor Mark**

When I was a kid, my parents said that it was best to avoid two topics in family gatherings: politics and sex. They never kept that rule – I used to hear them discuss the politics of the day with my uncles, and if they switched into German I knew it might be about the other hot topic and they didn't want us to hear what they were saying. One subject we shy away from in the church is giving money, but we also can't avoid that reality. After all, if it weren't for people willing to share their financial resources, the church as we know it would close up in a matter of weeks, and that would be the end of it. And more than half of Jesus' parables had to do with how we handle our material goods, so it must be an important conversation for us, too. Regular givers know this. Those who struggle with giving sometimes will complain that "the church is always asking for money," even if the church only brings it up once.

I think the best way to lift up this important part of our walk with Christ is as an opportunity, not a guilt trip. Anybody knows that, while it's fun to receive, it's even more fun to give, and that holds true in church, too. I don't know about you, but paying my bills is not all that fun, while writing out my monthly check to the ministries of the church makes me feel good, like I'm part of something greater. Even the risk is exciting because I trust God's promise that He will supply for all my needs.

This month I will launch on the topic of giving, not just our financial resources but our time as well. Weekly worship is our first and most important gift, because it builds us and our children in the faith, and keeps the congregation strong. Even more so if you go beyond worship and help in some way with the church's activities and outreach. Then our regular financial contributions make sure that there will be a church for us and to hand down to future generations. I will spell this out in my sermons this month (look for the topics elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter). We will also have some bulletin bits on stewardship to get us thinking. Through it all, I hope we can see that giving is possible for everyone, no matter what the situation, and that it is a joyful thing if our hearts are in the right place. My favorite quote from the Apostle Paul on this subject says it all:

*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. (II Corinthians 9:6-8)*

## May Worship Helpers

### Readers

May 3 Kathy Peterson  
 May 10 Brenda Peterson  
 May 17 Marilyn Richter  
 May 24 Eric Schroeder  
 May 31 Kelly Nordling

### Head Usher

Eric Schroeder

### Ushers / Greeters

May 3 Berlyn & Garie Teig  
 Myrna Terwedo  
 Paul Vollmar  
 May 10 Cindy Westerhouse  
 Greg & Jessica Westerman  
 Kathy Westerman  
 May 17 Jeanne Anderson  
 Jim Blum  
 Mark & Mary Brahs  
 May 24 Daryl & Cindy Curtis  
 Tom & JoAnn Dawson  
 May 31 Rich & Gwen Hanzlik  
 John & Lori Helling

### Communion Assistants

May 3 Garie Teig  
 Myrna Terwedo  
 Cindy Westerhouse  
 May 24 Jessica Westerman  
 Kathy Westerman  
 Taylor Crosby

### Acolytes

May 3 Maddie Novotny  
 Maggie Trnka  
 May 10 Miranda Crosby  
 Jorgia Pumper  
 May 17 Alexys Boyd  
 Gunner Domine  
 May 24 Maddie Novotny  
 Anton Nelson  
 May 31 Kayla Horejsi  
 Alan Eotvos

### Altar Guild

Cindy Zahratka

*If you are unable to help on the day assigned,  
 please EXCHANGE with someone else  
 and call the church office at 507-364-5002.*

## Remember in your Prayers...

Ken Meyer, Reinhold West (Carol Kiekow's father), Roy Berg, Bev Horejsi, Alice McClune, Braden Flicek, Tom Mariska, Betty Ann Heuer, Harold Walters (Betty Jindra and Virginia Horejsi's father), Alexander Sticha, Patricia Morrill (Peggy Hentges' mother), Greg Vlasak, and Terri Pekarna (Robert & Glenda Larsen's daughter).

## Remember those serving our country...

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

## *Our Sympathy*

*We extend our sympathy to Dorothy Denzer and family upon the death of her brother Ralph Dietz.*

*We extend our sympathy to the family of Judy Ramlo who passed away Tuesday, May 5.*

## *Gift Received*

*Gifts received in memory of Alice Hoefs for Women of the Church and Music fund. Thank you.*

## Baptisms

Kendyl Roxanne Balfe was baptized Sunday, April 19. Kendyl was born January 21, 2015 to Desiree Studnicka and Aaron Balfe. Her sponsors are Brianna Berninghaus and Brad Studnicka. God's blessings to Kendyl and her family.

Eli Alexander Mestre was baptized Saturday, April 25. Eli was born December 19, 2014 to Daniel and Danielle Mestre. His sponsors are David Hubble and Samantha Novak. God's blessings to Eli and his family.

## Cemetery Cleaning

Thank you to Paul Busch, Gary Hartwig, Dale Huber, Glen Kerkow and Dave Scheffert for sprucing up our cemetery. Thank you Dale Huber for donating fertilizer and applying.

## 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.*

## 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 21st of May for the June newsletter.

## Financial Corner General Fund - March

	March	Year to Date
Receipt	\$ 18,656.97	\$ 45,736.60
Expenses	\$ 14,656.62	\$ 38,604.38
Cash Flow	\$ 4,000.35	\$ 7,132.22

# Church Council Meeting

April 21, 2015 - 6:30pm

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

The meeting was called to order by President Kathy Peterson. A devotion was lead by Pastor Mark.

Dan Hardel moved and John Helling seconded a motion to approve the March 17, 2015 council meeting minutes. Motion carried.

**President's Report:** Transition committee is hard at work. Dave Scheffert is the chair. They will send out questionnaires later in summer. Kathy met with different church committees and asked for reports when their committees meet.

**Vice President's Report:** No report.

**Secretary Report:** No report.

**Treasurer Report:** Reviewed treasurer's report ending March 2015.

**Pastor's Report:**

1. Bible study is going well.
2. Visiting homebound.
3. Finishing up with 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation. Will start with other groups.
4. Some people expressed interest in joining the church. Will meet with those interested.
5. Pastor will stress Stewardship in May.
6. Spoke about how well the transition task force is going.

## Ongoing

### **A. Head Ushers**

May: Eric Schroeder

June and July: Council Members will split Sundays.

### **B. Feed My Sheep** - No family identified as of this time.

### **C. Can Recycling:** Next load of cans will be used to defray VBS costs.

## Old Business

### **A. Personnel Policy:**

1. Motion by Eric Schroeder. Seconded by John Krautkremer to approve the personnel policy as presented. Motion carried.

### **B. Job Descriptions:**

1. Motion by Dan Hardel. Seconded by Wendy Vargo to approve job descriptions as presented. Motion carried.

### **C. Sign Update:**

1. John Krautkremer is working with M & M Signs from Mankato to update the sign in front of the church.

## New Business

### **A. New Council Member**

1. Renee Sorenson has agreed to fill the vacant council spot. Wendy Vargo made motion to accept Renee until the next yearly election with John Helling seconding the motion. Motion carried.

### **B. Facility Rental Fee Schedule**

1. Discussion to update church rental fees and regulations for church usage. Motion made by John Krautkremer to accept facility rental fee schedule and regulations as presented. Seconded by Maridan Nesmoe. Motion carried.

## Committee Reports

**A. Stewardship Committee:** No report

**B. Evangelism Committee:** Wendy Vargo - No report

**C. Education:** Liz Vlasak - Board of Education met on Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>

1. Last day of Sunday School will be May 3<sup>rd</sup>.
2. Teachers will be recognized in church on May 3<sup>rd</sup> for their time and talents for teaching Sunday School and presented with gifts. Motion was made by Dan Hardel to spend up to \$1,000 for the gifts. Seconded by Liz Vlasak. Motion carried.
3. Mentor dinner will be held on May 20<sup>th</sup>.
4. VBS is being planned for May 31<sup>st</sup>, June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.

(Church Council Cont.)

(Church Council Cont.)

**D. Youth:** Eric Schroeder:

1. Youth Committee: Presented description of new Youth Committee guidelines. Dan Hardel made motion to accept the guidelines. Liz Vlasak seconded. Motion carried.
2. A meeting has been set up for Sunday morning (April 26<sup>th</sup>) for all youth leaders and committee members to go over guidelines and get ideas for planning upcoming events.

**E. Facility Management** – John Krautkremer

1. Met with city council again on handicapped parking. Can get signs to put out during church services if we wish.
2. Presented contract from B & D Lawn Care for mowing, etc. for church and parsonage. Eric Schroeder made a motion to accept the contract. Dan Hardel seconded the motion. Motion carried.
3. May 2<sup>nd</sup> will be a day set aside for church member sto help clean up the cemetery grounds. (Also see Facility Rental Fee Schedule under New Business).

**F. Church and Society:** Kathy Peterson

1. 141 pounds of food was given to the food shelf during March from the church for “Food Shelf Month”.
2. Presented an invitation from Hope House, which is a place in New Prague, that serves meal to those in need. If anyone is interested in helping with serving meals, see Kathy Peterson for more details.

**G. Communications:** Dan Hardel

1. Laptop is in place with email set up for Pastor.

**H. Fellowship:** John Helling

1. Some people have been asking to go to a Twins game again. John will look into getting tickets.

**I. Worship & Music Committee:** Maridan Nesmoe

1. Will meet again in May.

**Other Business** None

Next meeting: May 19th, 2015, 6:30 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm and closed with “The Lord’s Prayer”

Submitted by Wendy Vargo, Church Council Secretary

### **WOTC Organizational Meeting**

Women of the Church organizational meeting will be held on Sunday, May 17 at 10:00 in the fellowship hall. Discussion: schedule regular meeting, create by-laws, appointment of officers. If you are unable to attend, please submit an e-mail, via the ‘email us’ on the church’s website, with suggestions or comments.

### **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](mailto:stjohnelca@frontier.com)

### **Sermon Topics for May**

This month the sermons in worship will be about the joy and possibility of giving:

May 2/3	Your Giving Passes Down to Future Generations	Psalm 22:25-31
May 9/10	Giving Is Fun! And Possible for Everyone	Psalm 98
May 16/17	YOU Have Been Chosen to Give Your Time	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
May 23/24	The Holy Spirit of God Empowers Us to Give	II Corinthians 9:6-8
May 30/31	Worship: Our First and Last Gift	Romans 8:12-17

### **Faith and Life Bible Study for May**

There are no guarantees when it comes to how kids are going to turn out in life. We put our best efforts in them, along with our highest hopes, but then it's up to them to stand or fall throughout the challenges of the years. In Genesis, we see Abraham hand off the reins to Isaac, who in turn has to see his two sons, Jacob and Esau, almost come to murderous blows over their conflicts. Finally both get what they are hoping for in life, but not without God teaching them a thing or two about what it means to be faithful.

Join us at Faith and Life Bible study as we read about these and other great family sagas, and share stories from our own lives. Every week there's good fellowship and treats with coffee. We meet in the lower-level Sunday school room on Monday nights 6:30-8:00, and Wednesday mornings in the fellowship hall 9:30-11:00 (same content at both). Give it a try!

### **March Food Shelf**

The Church in Society committee would like to thank the congregation for the support they received during March for the food shelf. We contributed 141 pounds of food, \$873 in the envelopes provided, \$450 from the WOTC soup suppers, \$135.20 from aluminum cans, \$20.50 from Sunday School children, \$26.26 from piggy banks in the social hall and \$100 from a soup supper. This is a great contribution during March when funds are matched. Thank you.



### **Online Giving Option!!!**

We are excited to announce that you can now 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](http://www.montgomerymnelcalutherans.org) and click on donate button, then follow onscreen instructions.

## May Music Notes

May 3 N/P/K sings "Happy All the Time"  
Grades 1 – 4 sing "A Place in the Choir"  
Rock'n the Church sings "I Wonder How It Felt"

May 10 (Mother's Day) Bells of St. John ring "Down by the Riverside"

May 17 Don Marcussen will sing "Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)"

May 24 (Day of Pentecost)

May 31 (The Holy Trinity)



*"The Lord put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the Lord."*

*Psalm 40:3*

*What a powerful place music holds within the service! I want to take a moment to thank everyone involved with our music program (children and adult) for the time, work, and heart that you put into preparing the music throughout the year.*

*Kathy*

## Pentecost

Members of the congregation are encouraged to **wear red** on May 23 –24 when we celebrate Pentecost. On the fiftieth day of Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as the power of God among us that heals, forgives, inspires and unites. 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.



The St. John Call Committee has begun the process to fill our pastoral vacancy. This survey is the first step: to determine ministry areas which the congregation believes to be most important for the future growth & work of St. John. Your completion of this survey will also provide our pastoral candidates with an outline of our expectations for St. John's future in the next five years. The survey results will be compiled into a congregational profile to be used as the Call process continues.

Please feel free to share thoughts & concerns you have with the members of the Transition Committee: Mary Brahs, Dawn Anderson, Erin Krautkremer, Josh Kuchinka, Allie Hardel, Wade Young & Dave Scheffert. You can also email your questions, thoughts & concerns to [callcommittee15@gmail.com](mailto:callcommittee15@gmail.com)

Please complete this survey by **June 21, 2015**. The Survey can be returned to the church office at St. John Lutheran Church, 105 Spruce Ave. NW, Montgomery, MN 56069; deposited into the box located at one of the church entrances; or emailed to the Call Committee email address: [callcommittee15@gmail.com](mailto:callcommittee15@gmail.com)

<b>MINISTRY AREA</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b> These Areas relate to a pastor's work within St. John	<b>RATING</b> (scale of 1-5, with 1 = low priority and 5 = high priority)
<b>Evangelism</b>	Outreach within the church and the community	
<b>Worship, Leadership and Preaching</b>	Place high value on carefully planned and well-conducted worship service. Able to prepare & deliver applicable message.	
<b>Teaching Youth &amp; Adults</b>	Teach, work and relate well with children, youth & adults. Creatively relate to youth to teach the faith & inspire commitment	
<b>Counseling and Ministering in Crisis</b>	Assist persons facing problems or decisions. Support persons in midst of crisis.	
<b>Social Ministry</b>	Enable persons to become aware of community needs and participate in action and advocacy.	
<b>Stewardship</b>	Motivate persons in developing and using resources in the service of the church.	
<b>Recruit, Equip, and Share Leadership</b>	Enlist, equip, and motivate leaders to carry out the work of the church. Work mutually with volunteers and staff.	
<b>Visitation</b>	Support & nurture persons by visiting with them in setting other than church functions.	
<b>Spiritual Discipline / Interpreter of Theology</b>	Pastor maintain a disciplined life of prayer & personal devotion. Communicate a comprehensive understanding of the Bible and Christian theology from a Lutheran perspective.	
<b>Financial Guidance</b>	Support church council in management of church finances.	
<b>Musical and Artistic</b>	Enjoy and use music and the arts to invite and enhance worship.	

The following is a supplement to the main questionnaire and will allow you an opportunity to further express your thoughts and concerns regarding the pastoral candidates. As you complete this portion of the questionnaire, please keep in mind the Mission Statement for St. John: **As children of God, we are a family living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ through worship, fellowship, and service.**

Supplemental Questions:

1. What level of experience do you feel is best suited for our congregation?

New to ministry?

Some Previous Experience?

Very Experienced?

Comments:

2. What would you expect a new pastor to accomplish in the first year of ministry? What about in the first 5 years?

3. In what ways would you like to see a new pastor demonstrate healthy leadership?

4. Describe your "perfect pastor" - what characteristics and traits would he/she possess?

5. Comments / items you would like the council and Call Committee to consider in choosing a pastor:



# ST. JOHN YOUTH

## **Scholarship**

Scholarship applications for 2015 High School graduating seniors are available in the church office. Applications must be completed and returned by Sunday, May 10. Scholarship will be awarded Sunday, May 31 during our worship service.

## **Coffee Sales**

**We have COFFEE!** European Roasterie Coffees - Seasonal/Winter blends. We have Santa's Treats and Sugared Snowflake left for just \$7 per bag, discounted rate! We also have Breakfast Blend and Jamaica Me Crazy for \$9. You can purchase during coffee hour or at the church office during the week. All proceeds go to the youth league.



## **Cell Phone Fundraiser**

Please donate your old phone to the Luther Leagues. We send in the old phones to a recycling program and receive money in return. These funds help keep the events held at St. John Lutheran inexpensive and available to everyone. A basket for donations can be found on top of the coat racks near the church office.



## **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.



# Bible Bootcamp

St John Lutheran Church  
Vacation Bible School

Held at  
**St. John Lutheran Church**  
**105 Spruce Ave. NW, Montgomery MN**

Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup> 3:00 – 7:00pm  
Monday June 1<sup>st</sup> 6:00 – 8:00pm  
Tuesday June 2<sup>nd</sup> 6:00 – 8:00pm

All Children Welcome! Invite Your Friends! Scholarships Available call 507-364-5002  
\*Parents please plan on attending if child is not potty trained!

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## VBS Registration Form 2015

Child's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Fathers Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Contact Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Person & Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Known Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_ Medical Restrictions \_\_\_\_\_

Other Concerns \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature & Date

Willing to Volunteer \*Best Contact Number \_\_\_\_\_

**\$10 per child or \$25 for a family**  
**Checks payable to St. John Lutheran notate VBS in Memo Line**  
**Please Return By May 17, 2015**  
**WEAR CLOTHES THAT CAN GET DIRTY!**