



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

MONTGOMERY, MINNESOTA

Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861

MAY 2016

A Word or Two...by Pastor Mark

Children and giving – it's something we don't think a lot about when it comes to church. Thankfully, parents, schools and churches are inculcating a spirit of doing for others in all the "service hours" they are building into the system. Granted, kids may complete them as more of a requirement than anything else, but at least it makes them go beyond themselves, and that is always a good thing. However, I find that outside of some special projects in Sunday school, parents and churches often don't take seriously the need for children to learn giving at an early age. And here's the deal: if they don't learn as they are growing up, how can they become the kind of giving adults the church needs when they take their place as adult members?

I think that kids should have envelopes or some way to officially give through their congregation as early as they know that money buys stuff, which is pretty young. I don't really remember my parents giving (I learned later that they did give a proportion of their income to the church), but I do remember that they put money in my Sunday school envelope, and if that money didn't make it to church there would be consequences to pay! I also know of a young family today raising children whose kids are earning small amounts of money doing odd jobs. The parents make sure that 10% goes to the church, a certain amount goes into their savings accounts, and they have conversations with the kids about how to handle the rest. That is such great, faith-based parenting.

The first and foremost thing kids should learn about church is the importance of weekly worship together as a family. But another vital lesson is how to live a life of giving. We give of ourselves when we help others, and we give of our resources when we set them aside for the Lord's work. You are never too young to make that a natural part of your life as a follower of Christ.

Emphasis on Giving During May

In May, the sermons will emphasize the importance of giving, especially as we head into the summer when we need to be reminded of the church's continuing financial needs. Here are the sermon topics:

May 1: Teaching kids to give.

May 8: The best things in life are free, but they cost a lot.

May 15: The Spirit helps us to give.

May 22: Giving makes you stronger.

May 29: Giving makes you sing.

May Worship Helpers

Readers

May 1	Carol Kiekow
May 8	Will Kiekow
May 15	Erin Krautkremer
May 22	Don Marcussen
May 29	Doreen Marcussen

Head Usher

Eric Schroder

Ushers / Greeters

May 1	Steve & Tammie Pan Don Marcussen Charles Richter
May 8	David & Dorothy Scheffert Kelle Schleis Lynn Schuknecht
May 15	Jesse & Gail Skluzacek Eric Schroeder Myrna Terwedo
May 22	Gerry & Dianna Smith Berlyn & Garie Teig
May 29	David & Rhonda Solberg Phillip Solberg Paul Vollmar

Communion Assistants

May 8	John & Lori Helling Dallas Horejsi
May 22	Candyce Kadrlik Carol Kiekow Erin Krautkremer

Acolytes

May 1	Madelyn Wehe
May 8	Ariana Krautkremer
May 15	Madison Gilbertson
May 22	Madelyn Wehe
May 29	Gretchen Vlasak

Altar Guild

Cindy Zahratka
JoAnn Dawson

*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...



Bob and Ardie Boda, Mable Craig (Blanche Sorenson's sister), Phyllis Swidorski, Amy Korthuis (Judy Ferguson's sister-in-law), Nancy Creger, Reinhold West (Carol Kiekow's father), Harold Walters (Betty Jindra and Virginia Horejse father), Kris Huhner (Kathy Peterson's sister), and Bev Horejsi.

Remember those serving our country...

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



Our Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the family of Lyle Terwedo who passed away Thursday, April 7.

We extend our sympathy to Mike and Maridan Nesmoie and family upon the death of Mike's father.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Leonard Duffney who passes away Thursday, April 21.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Opal Hartwig who passes away Sunday, April 24.

Gifts Received

Gift received in memory of Gerry Bentley.

Gifts received in memory of Tom Mariska.

Gift received in memory of Les Stanek, a member of St. John, who died in 2002.

Gift received in honor of the luncheon help of Lynden and Deb Jelinek, Rich and Wendy Vargo for WOTC.

Gifts received in memory of Opal Hartwig.

Gift received in memory of Tehnlee Eileen Teberg, great granddaughter of Rhoda Duffney and the late Leonard Duffney for the Sunday School.

Thank you for your gifts.

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 May for the June 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 - March

	March	Year to Date
Receipt	\$ 18,664.66	\$ 47,335.16
Expenses	<u>\$ 16,305.12</u>	<u>\$ 46,705.10</u>
Cash Flow	\$ 2,359.54	\$ 630.06

St. John Church Council Minutes

April 19, 2016

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

Absent: Renee Sorenson (1/19)

President Kathy Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. Pastor lead with prayer.

Greg Westerman made a motion to approve the minutes from the March meeting. Eric Schroeder seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pam Edel made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Greg Westerman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Currently finishing up 8th grade confirmation. Planning to meet with 4th and 6th graders. He is planning a Stewardship series.

Head Ushers: Eric Schroeder will be the head usher for May.

Feed My Sheep: Eric Schroeder made a motion to donate \$500 from Feed My Sheep to a family in need. Pam Edel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Can Recycling: Ted Wondra delivered the cans to Mankato for recycling. Money was donated to the food shelf.

Old Business

Call committee is currently interviewing new applicants.

Parsonage is now being rented.

A motion was made by Connie Cihak to increase the fee to \$100 for funeral luncheons which will go to the Women of the Church for supplies, etc. Greg Westerman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New Business

Dates will be set by the Youth Board for a Graduation reception to honor the graduates.

End of Sunday School for this school year will be May 1st. Teachers and Superintendent will be recognized during the church service.

Committee Reports

Endowment: No report.

Women of the Church: No report.

Cemetery: No report.

Audit: Looking for members to serve on the Audit Committee with Cindy Westerhouse.

Stewardship: Renee Sorenson, absent, No report.

Evangelism: Wendy Vargo: No report

Education: Liz Vlasak

Working on ideas for a new Sunday School Superintendent.

Will reinstate presenting teachers and Superintendent with a stipend for teaching.

Mentor/Mentee dinner is May 11th.

VBS will be Aug. 8-11 in the evenings.

Confirmation retreat is planned for Sept. 24& 25.

Will need 4 or 5 teachers for fall.

Next meeting is May 22nd.

Youth: Eric Schroeder:

Group going to Feed My Starving Children on Saturday, April 23rd.

Currently selling Pastry Puffins as fundraiser.

Will be selling flowers the first part of May as a fundraiser.

Ditch cleaning is being planned.

Facility: Greg Westerman:

Ruhland's will finish changing bulbs behind the stained glass windows to LED bulbs.

Will talk to the city about fixing entry to parking lot and to the alley.

Presented bid from B & D Lawn Service for lawn care this year. Motion made by Greg Westerman to accept the bid.

Pam Edel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

(Church Council Cont.)

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Church in Society: Kathy Peterson: There was \$1,948.68 and 88 pounds of food collected during the March food drive.

Communications: Dan Hardel: No report

Fellowship: Connie Cihak: No report.

Worship and Music: Pam Edel:

Discussed Lenten service for next year.

Hand bells will be refurbished.

Next meeting is May 7th.

Other Business: None

Pam Edel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:17. Eric Schroeder seconded the motion. Motion carried. Pastor lead the council in closing with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting is May 17th, at 6:30 pm.

Faith and Life Bible Study for May

Our weekly Bible study for adults goes on with a look at the kings of united Israel. They were not boring figures from the dusty past. They were real people with weaknesses and noble attributes. King Saul struggled with emotional issues, likely a manic-depressive disorder, which clouded his reign and led to his downfall. King David has gone down as the most iconic king of Israel's history – his star adorns the Israeli flag today. Nevertheless, he failed as a husband and father, having an affair and trying to cover it up by having someone murdered, then being absent from his children leading to their horrible acting out. Finally, Solomon ruled over Israel at its greatest point in history, but his love for riches and lust for literally hundreds of women caused him to lose sight of how his people were faring, and on his death the country was ripped in two by civil war.

Faith and Life Bible study meets on Monday nights 6:30-8:00, and Wednesday mornings 9:30-11:00. Drop in and give it a try! There are treats and coffee every week.



St. John Cemetery Clean Up Day

Volunteers are needed on Saturday, May 14 starting at 9:00 a.m. to clean our cemetery before Memorial Day. If raining or bad weather the date will be changed to May 21. Please bring gloves, rakes, hoes, shovels, etc. to help get the job done.

Graduation Service

On Sunday, May 22 we will be honoring our 2016 High School Seniors at the 9:00 a.m. worship service.

Also on that Sunday, the Youth Board will be awarding a scholarship to one of our seniors.

Garden Request

Would you like to enhance a Senior's dining experience? When planting your garden this spring consider planting an extra row to donate to Senior Dining / Meals on Wheels. We are able to accept fresh garden produce to use as delicious, nutritious side dishes for our diners. Questions? Call Marsha Horejsi at 507-271-7483.

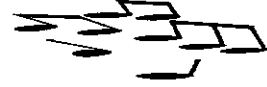
May Music Notes

May 1

N/P/K will sing "Rejoice in the Lord Always"
Grades 1 – 4 will sing "Dry Bones"
Rock'n the Church will sing "10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)"

May 8 (Mother's Day)

Bells of St. John will ring "This Train" and "Fanfare Festiva"



May 15 (Pentecost)

Jessica Westerman, Anne Schroeder and Rhonda Berg will sing "Dona Nobis Pacem"

May 22 (Holy Trinity)

Flute soloist Kay Busch will accompany the hymn of the day "Come Join the Dance of Trinity"

Special Services in May

On **May 1** the Sunday School children will share what they have learned this year.

On **May 7/8** the hymn of the day will be "Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth" with the text written by poet Jean Janzen. Ms. Janzen was born on the central Canadian prairies and grew up in Mountain Lake, Minn. She weaves the metaphor of God as nurturing mother into a hymn describing the Holy Trinity. The inspiration for Ms. Janzen's text comes from the writings of a 14th-century mystic, Julian of Norwich (c. 1342–c. 1416). The text is written in the first person, attributing to each person of the Trinity different aspects of motherhood.

Members of the congregation are encouraged to wear **red** on **May 14/15** 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 **May 21/22**. 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!

On Memorial Day Weekend **May 28/29** we remember the men and women who died in service to our country.

2016 VBS at St. John

VBS will be held Monday, August 8-Thursday, August 11, 6:00-8:00 p.m. All children welcome!

Invite your friends! Scholarships available by calling the church office at 507 364-5002.

VBS registration forms can be found in the back of the church or in the church office.

Please return form by June 1.



ST. JOHN YOUTH

Scholarship

We are now accepting college scholarship applications from this year's senior class. Applications will be available on the church website and on the youth bulletin board.

Applications must be turned into Kay or Missy by 10 am on Sunday, May 15th.

Awards will be announced at the Graduates Service on Sunday, May 22nd.

Applicants must be present at this service. Please contact Missy with any questions.

mgregor@montgomerynelcalutherans.org or 612-756-2566

Community Service Event

Junior and Senior League Clean Up Community Service Event on Saturday May 21st, 1-4 pm. We will clean at the cemetery and our adopt-a-highway and have pizza back at church. We would like all confirmation students who have not fulfilled their community service requirement to attend.

Camp Omega Trip

We are organizing a Camp Omega trip. Mini youth camp dates are July 19-22, July 26-29 or August 16-19.

Please contact Missy or sign up on youth board on your preferred dates by May 15th if you would like to go to camp.

Fundraising Opportunities

Please contact Missy for information regarding fundraising opportunities and youth funds available to help pay for summer trips. mgregor@montgomerynelcalutherans.org

Flower Sales

May Flower Sale Fundraiser will be held on Friday May 6th 2-7pm and on Saturday May 7th 8am-2pm. Our sale will be in the Todd's Auto Parts (NAPA) parking lot on HWY 13. Profits raised will help our youth attend summer events. Any remaining plants will be for sale at church after the service on Sunday May 8th.

These beautiful flowers make a great Mothers Day gift!



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.