



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

MONTGOMERY, MINNESOTA

*Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861*

MAY 2017

### PLANTING – WATERING - & GOD’S GROWTH

*I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.*

*So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything,  
but only God who gives the growth.*

*The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose,  
and each will receive wages according to the labor of each.*

*For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.*

*1 Corinthians 3:6-9*

The signs of spring surround us. Perennial plants have already got a jump start on those annual plants waiting to be seeded. Blossoms surround us, as we know something is changing. For those farmers and gardeners planting or getting ready to plant, you know that there are things around us that make planting timely and intentional. The fertilizer needs to be added to bring back nutrients. The soil can't be too cold. The risk of frost passes. And even, the wind chill of the early morning air needs to be taken into account. After this, comes the watering. Whether it be the spring rains, irrigation, or dragging around that hose, these plants need moisture tend and care for them – too much drowns the seed and too little leaves them parched for more.

In this time of Easter, we are reminded that the signs of spring always surround us when it comes to faith. Those who have died and risen again through their baptism into Jesus Christ, pop up anew to be those who continue to show and share the way. We are called to share the gospel of Christ for others to hear and believe. Whether it be the preacher from the pulpit or at the hospital bedside - whether it be the parent through the placing of scripture into the hands of their little ones or kneeling by the bedside at night praying and sharing God's word for us – or whether it be the friend who comes alongside another during times of joy and pain, the timing and intentionality of sharing this word and planting of this seed is a necessary part of the process which ends with the harvest.

The watering continues as teachers (right along with parents and others in the church) keep this word in front of the young and old for the building up of the body of Christ. Thank you to all of the Sunday school teachers, music directors, and youth helpers for this year's service in this important ministry here at St. John. Mentors do a wonderful way of watering faith. Where pastors and parents tend to turn on the fire hose, mentors tend to be very good at using the sprayers that allow the words to trickle down a little more gently by taking special and intentional time to help the word settle in. Thank you to the mentors who have agreed help in the faith formation of this year's 9<sup>th</sup> Graders.

But above all, we need to always remember who it is that brings the growth – **It's God Who Brings The Growth.** This growth and identity brings what it says it will. God comes to us, brings us into relationship with Him, and truly makes us who we are. Although God invites others into His work, He is truly the one who has promised not only the growth but also the fruit that we will bear in His name for others to see and receive as good gifts from God. Each Sunday, each "Little Easter," God continues to come to us, gather us up, and grow us up together with Him and our other brothers and sisters in Christ. As we dwell in spring and head into summer business, don't let yourselves get too parched. The purpose of seeding and watering is so that we grow up to be who we are God's field growing together and serving others in His name.

O God, give us your growth!

Peace of Christ,

*Dr. Jason*

## May Worship Helpers

### Readers

May 7 Erin Krautkremer  
 May 14 Don Marcussen  
 May 21 Graduate  
 May 28 Doreen Marcussen

### Head Usher

Renee Sorenson

### Ushers / Greeters

May 7 Rick & Gwen Hanzlik  
 John Krautkremer  
 Roman Jindra  
 May 14 John & Lori Helling  
 Irene Jindra  
 Carol Kiekow  
 May 21 Myron & Peggy Hentges  
 LaNette Kuelper  
 Jim Heyda  
 May 28 Lynden & Deb Jelinek  
 Ruth Kukacka  
 Don Marcussen

### Communion Assistants

May 14 Cindy Westerhouse  
 Jessica Westerman  
 Kathy Westerman  
 May 28 Gary & Jacque Hartwig  
 John Grimm

### Acolytes

May 7 Abbigail Schulte  
 May 14 Nicole Schweitzer  
 May 21 Tanner Smith  
 May 28 Timothy Tiede

### 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.  
 Thank you for your help!*

## Remember in your Prayers...

Ted Schmidt (Megan Pratola's step father), Tom Trenda, Gretchen Vlasak, Anne Anderson (Paige Nordling's sister-in-law), Dale Benson, Heidi Huewe (friend of Renee Sorenson), Lisa (Bartyzal) Indhl, Jaime Schultz (Diane Schultz's step daughter), Gauge Kodada, Kim Edel, Lindsey Jensen, Greg Vlasak, Lois Schmidt (Megan Pratola's aunt), Gail Embretson, Rev. Bob and Ardyce Boda, Nancy Creger, Phyllis Swidorski, Amy Korthuis (Judy Ferguson's sister-in-law) and Kris Huhner (Kathy Peterson's sister).

## Remember those serving our country...

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



## Our Sympathy

*We extend our sympathy to Bill and Carol Kiekow and family upon the death of Carol's father Reinhold West.*

## Gifts

*Gift received in memory of Donald Holmes who would have been 98 on March 31, for the cemetery grounds keeping. Thank you.*

## Baptism

*Grace June Henderson was baptized Sunday, April 9. Grace was born March 8, 2016 to Paul and Kelly Henderson. Her sponsors are Ryan and Bobbie Jo Nash and Jenna and Jordan Henderson. God's blessings to Grace and her family.*

## Thank you

Thank you for cleanup at cemetery on April 29, Gary Hartwig, David Scheffert, Carol Svoboda, Gerald Augst, and Glen Kerkow. A special thanks to Jim Cihak and Dale Huber for the use of their equipment.

Thank you to everyone who donated aluminum cans. The cans brought \$122.20. Thank you to Dale Korbel for taking the cans to Mankato.

## Financial Corner General Fund - March

	March	Year to Date
Receipt	\$ 15,079.37	\$ 43,222.33
Expenses	\$ 17,368.00	\$ 49,595.48
Cash Flow	\$ (2,288.63)	\$ (6,373.15)

## 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 May for the June newsletter.

# St. John Church Council Minutes

## April 18, 2017

Eric called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM. Present were: Eric Schroeder (01/2018), Connie Cihak (1/2018), Steve Schroeder (1/2020), Kathy Peterson (1/2020), Renee Sorenson (1/2019), Wendy Vargo (1/2020), Carol Kiekow (1/2019). Absent Greg Westerman (1/2019) and Liz Vlasak (1/2018) Pastor Jason was on vacation.

Scott Simon presented his plan for new shrubs and landscape at the parsonage. Discussion followed, Kathy will contact Mr. Simon and report back to the council.

Secretary's report – motion by Kathy to approve minutes from the March meeting, seconded by Carol.

Treasurer's report – in Liz's absence, we went over the financials, discussion on the procedures being used; motion by Kathy and second by Wendy to approve the financial report.

Pastor Jason's report on activities was presented.

Feed My Sheep – a recipient was identified. Motion by Wendy, seconded by Steve to send \$500.00

### Old Business:

Eric gave update on contractors being sought for bell tower repairs.  
The fence at the cemetery is fixed and looks great.

### New Business:

High school seniors being encourage applying for scholarship.  
Recognition of Seniors will be May 21, 2017.  
We will distribute gift cards in appreciation to our Sunday school teachers.  
Discussion regarding communion practices.  
Eric commented on the 'Flamingo program' – it is GREAT!

### Committee reports:

New member Sunday, possibly in June.  
Steve went through the upcoming music schedule.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer

Motion by Wendy, seconded by Carol to adjourn at 7:52 PM

Submitted by 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](mailto:stjohnelca@frontier.com)



## **2017 Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly:**

Equipping You to Follow Jesus into a Changing World  
Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup> - 7:30AM through Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup> 3PM  
at the Mayo Clinic Civic Center in Rochester MN

Pastor Jason will be serving as the clergy delegate from St. John Lutheran Church for the assembly. Please keep him in your prayers during this time of connection together ministry with the congregations of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod.

## **CONFIRMATION MEETING FOR NEXT YEAR'S CONFIRMATION PROCESS**

Parents of Confirmation students (members who are currently in Grades 2<sup>nd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>), there will be an opportunity for you to discuss a few transitions in the confirmation process here at St. John. Pr. Jason will be meeting with parents on May 21<sup>st</sup> at approximately 10:30AM. You are invited to come and hear some of the changes ahead and to join the discussion.

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## **FEED MY SHEEP**

The Lord Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me? Then feed My sheep". What does this mean? It means we are to be His hands, to help take care of our fellow man.

There are times in life when disaster strikes, or illness hits. It becomes extremely hard to maintain our regular lives while dealing with the added expense and effort of attending to the crisis. Our church has established a fund specifically to provide a little monetary relief for those life emergencies.

In the past five years, we have given cash to about 40 families who have lost their homes due to fire, to accident victims' families, to those fighting medical crises or facing cancer or other diseases. Families facing these kinds of crises have medical bills, of course, but also transportation to hospitals, meals or hotels for spouses or children, parking fees, gasoline costs, etc.

Anyone can nominate someone to receive a gift from Feed My Sheep. When the gift is given, the recipient is told only that someone in our church saw their need, and we want to help. We don't care how they use the money. It might be for some of the things mentioned above. Or, it might be for an outing with the patient or the children to let off some stress, that they wouldn't otherwise be able to afford.

Our fund is still young. Our gifts have typically been for a few hundred dollars each. The amount given is decided by the church council. It depends on how much we have in the fund, and the duration and extremity of the crisis. The amounts and the recipients remain confidential, as well as who nominated them.

**To Nominate Someone:** Tell Pastor or someone on the church council or write down their name and any information you may have about how to contact them. Hand it with the offering, turn it in to the church office, or give it to Pastor.

**To Donate:** Write **Feed My Sheep** in the memo section of your check, or on your offering envelope.

## May Music Notes

The Bells of St. John are looking for a handbell ringer starting this fall. One of our ten members will be leaving the bell choir and we need someone (male or female) to ring her 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.

### May 7

N/P/K and Grades 1-4 sing "Praise the Lord Together"  
Rock'n the Church sings "Goliath"

### May 14 (Mother's Day)

Bells of St. John ring "Polka Fest"



## Consider Simply Giving

St. John Lutheran Church invites you to consider our electronic giving program as a way to automate your regular weekly offering.

Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much needed donation **consistency** for our congregation. We anticipate that electronic giving will appeal to many church members—from longtime worshippers who will appreciate an alternative to frequent check writing to younger members and others who prefer to pay or donate by electronic means whenever possible.

**Direct Debit Giving** is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account. If you are already using direct debit to make mortgage and car payments or to pay utility bills, then you know how it works.

**Credit and Debit Card Giving** lets you make offerings automatically on a predetermined schedule using a credit or debit card. Today, many families use debit cards as a convenient alternative to checks or use credit cards in a responsible manner to manage a wide range of obligations.

We presently have 24 families who give to St. John through Simply Giving or through our website giving option. If you are interested in participating or have any questions, contact Kay Busch in the church office.

## 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.*

# ST. JOHN YOUTH

## **T-shirts for Sale!**



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

**T-shirts are available Sundays after church service or during the week through Kay in church office or Missy in youth office.**

## **High School Graduate Recognition**

Our 2017 High School Graduates will be recognized at the Sunday morning worship service on May 21. A reception in Fellowship Hall will follow in their honor at which time a St. John Youth Scholarship will be awarded.



## **Youth League Parents**

Missy has set up an account on **remind.com**. This is a great way to keep in touch with all the activities going on in the youth group. Head to <https://www.remind.com/join/missygre> They have an email and text option and an app! Let Missy know if you have any questions.

## **Vacation Bible School**

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 the church website.



## **Pop Tab Collection**

We are 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.

## **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.

