

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

MONTGOMERY, MINNESOTA

Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861

SEPTEMBER 2017

Pickin' Rock

*"Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals
yet chosen and precious in God's sight,
and like living stones,
let yourselves be built into a spiritual house,
to be a holy priesthood,
to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

For it stands in scripture:

*"See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."*

1 Peter 2:4-6

Growing up on a farm back in Montana, I had the privilege (work) of picking rock out in the field. The soil that my ancestors bought to grow wheat on was a part of Northern Plains. The top layer was prairie grass and sod, but below was another layer made up of glacial till: dirt, sand, and rocks of all shapes and sizes. Each time the glaciers grew and retreated, this mix filled in all of valleys and old sea beds that were in that area. This all gives the appearance of fairly flat land that seems to go on for miles. Each year as the frost heaved it pushed up to the surface this hodge-podge of rocks from beneath. Rocks and combine headers don't go together very well, so we picked rock.

Now most of those rocks ended up being piled up, some reburied in a larger pit together, or from time to time, they would be repurposed for another use: A fireplace to keep warm on a cold winter night, Fences to keep animals in, or Walls to keep others out. They are there, you might as well do something with them, right? Just stack them up. Each one of them picked and selected for a particular purpose.

This is not a new thing. As humans, we have been doing this since the beginning of time. Especially, in creating barriers that separate and walls that divide. What a better use for stone cold-dead, lifeless rocks.

End of the geology and anthropology lesson for today.

Well sort of, you see we are chosen, precious, and repurposed by the one who has loved us on account of His Son. We are not however stone-cold and lifeless, but we are living stone - Each with gifts, talents and life to share. Not built up into barriers that separate or walls that divide, but instead, we have been built up into the body of Christ - hand-picked and chosen by God and revealed by the Holy Spirit through the gospel of Christ that has called us into one.

You are those living stones that make up the body of Christ. We are the church together - those who are crushed rough with those who have been worn smooth - those who shine brightly with those may appear to be dull - those who are huge boulders and those who fill in the cracks. All of you are a part of this church. All of you are living stones. Remember that it is Christ that we are built upon, Christ that we rest on, and Christ that holds us up.

Oddly enough in what we would consider the church year, it isn't the winter that has the frost heave, but usually the late summer. In September, I know many of those living stones will reemerge from the summer soil. Sunday School, Confirmation, and Ministry Projects find a way of re-collecting together living stones here in this place. For this, I give thanks. Remember that we are called together and we share in this ministry and outreach all year long. No guilt, No excuses needed, No fear - Just hear the call to Come.

*Come living stones,
let yourselves be built into a spiritual house,
to be a holy priesthood,
to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

Peace of Christ,

Pr. Jason

September Worship Helpers

Readers

September 3 Garie Teig
September 10 Greg Westerman
September 17 Jean Waugh
September 24 Jessica Westerman

Head Usher

Kathy Peterson

Ushers / Greeters

September 3 Jim Heyda
Irene Jindra
Mike & Maridan Nesmoie
September 10 Roman Jindra
Carol Kiekow
John Krautkremer
September 17 David & Dorothy Scheffert
LaNette Kuelper
Don Marcussen
September 24 Dick Milinkovich
Brenda Peterson
Charles Richter
Kelle Schleis

Communion Assistants

September 10 Gary & Jacque Hartwig
Kathy Derhaag
September 17 John & Lori Helling
John Grimm
September 24 Lynden & Deb Jelinek
Peggy Hentges

Acolytes

September 3 Wyley Peterson
September 10 Abigail Schulte
September 17 Nicole Schweitzer
September 24 Abigail Schulte

Altar Guild

Kathy Petersen
Doreen Marcussen

*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...

Ardeen Anderson (Dave's mother), Nancy Vollmar, Marcia (Koschade) Solberg, Gretchen Vlasak, Tom Trenda, Dale Benson, Heidi Huewe (friend of Renee Soreneson), Lisa (Bartyzal) Indhl, Greg Vlasak, Lois Schmidt (Megan Pratola's aunt), Rev. Bob and Ardyce Boda, Phyllis Swidorski, Nancy Creger, 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.

Baptism

Nolan Gregory Vlasak received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Saturday, August 19. Nolan was born August 1, 2017 to Kasie Vlasak. His sponsors are Adam Vlasak and Clinton Vlasak. God's blessings to Nolan and his family.

At the Saturday, September 2nd worship service, Matthew Lloyd Gillett was baptized. Welcome and God's blessing to Matthew and his family.

Thank You

Thank you to Dallas, Derrick and Dustin Horejsi for installing the kick plates.

Thank you to everyone who donated aluminum cans. The cans brought \$111.00 which will go to the Confirmation Retreat. Thank you to Paul Busch for taking cans to Mankato and to Jim Heyda for painting the trailer.

Soldier Packages

We will soon be collection items for the soldier packages. Packages will be sent out before the end of November so they can be received by Christmas. If you have an address of a soldier, please submit it to the church office before November 1.

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.*

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 22nd of September for the October newsletter.

St. John Church Council Minutes

August 6, 2017

Eric called the meeting promptly to order.

Present were Eric Schroeder (2018), Liz Vlasak (2018), Connie Cihak (2018), Carol Kiekow (2018), Kathy Peterson (2020), Steve Schroeder (2020), Wendy Vargo (2020), and Pastor Pollington.

Absent: Greg Westerman (2019), Renee Sorenson (2019).

Liz gave a thorough review of the treasurers accounting practices and processes, the use of Church software, as well as monthly treasurer report. Carol made the motion to approve, Wendy seconded; motion carried.

Pastor presented Kay Busch's letter of resignation/retirement; Liz made the motion, Wendy seconded to accept it; motion carried.

Position description, needs, hours were discussed. Kathy made a motion, seconded by Carol for Eric re-write the job description and email to all council members for approval. Motion carried.

Motion by Liz, seconded by Carol to accept amended Secretary report. Motion carried.

Pastor acknowledged 3 thank you notes from 'Feed My Sheep' recipients.

Next Meeting: August 20, 2017 following church service.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50AM – Respectfully submitted, Connie Cihak

St. John Church Council Minutes

August 20, 2017

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

Absent Renee Sorenson (2019).

Eric called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Carol made a motion, seconded by Greg to accept August 6th Council minutes. Motion carried.

Pastor Jason shared devotion on making church and Christ a priority in our lives. He went over the past 2 months activity report and upcoming activities.

Discussion followed on combining office position and duties, job description.

Committee reports:

Wendy stated that she gearing up for Solder packages/needs.

Liz reported that the Mission trip & VBS were a success, Outline for SS program year, Confirmation update.

Greg is making up a list of 'chores' that need doing around the church to find people who want to do them.

Check into other insurance companies that are church specified.

Rally Sunday will be a collaborated effort of many committees.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer, adjourning at 10:59 a.m.

Next meeting September 17, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.

Connie Cihak, respectfully submitted

SEPTEMBER CONFIRMATION EVENTS

- Mentor Dinner with 10th Graders & Mentors September 6th**
3rd Graders will receive their Bibles on Sunday September 17th
Meeting with the Parents of the 7th & 8th Graders September 13th
Confirmation for 7th and 8th Graders starting September 20th
Dinner 6-6:30 PM - Class from 6:30-7:30PM
Commissioning of 9th Graders & Mentors on Sunday September 24th

TOP 10 WAYS OF HELPING WITH CONFIRMATION

- Support Them**
- Pray for Them**
- Talk to Them**
- Listen to Them**
- Get to Know Who They Are**
- Consider being a 9th Grade Mentor***
- Be a Helper during Class Time (open to high school members and adult members)***
- Provide a Meal for the Wednesday Night Classes***
- Learn from Them**
- Grow in Faith Together with Them**

Please Contact Pr. Jason – Sign-up Sheets are available

EAT THIS BREAD, DRINK THIS CUP

As your Pastor called into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, I have been in conversation with the Church Council, the Worship and Music Committee, Altar Guild, and you, the members of St. John Lutheran Church, during forums throughout the summer about receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion on every Saturday and Sunday service. This sacrament was institute by Christ for us to eat of His Body and His Blood in order that we may receive the forgiveness of sins on account of His death and resurrection for our sake. We are called to receive this sacrament whenever we are in need of it. Personally, we receive this word of forgiveness whenever we hear and believe that this is for us. In communion, we share this together with Christ and all of the saints gathered together. And, in our Christian freedom, we are called to our neighbor who may need to hear this word of forgiveness and peace on a Sunday in which there was no Sacrament of Holy Communion offered.

Starting September 9th and 10th, we will be celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion all weekly services in which we gather.

We are inviting any of you who are interested in helping serve with communion distribution to contact me in person or by email at prjasonpollington@gmail.com OR the church secretary. Helpers include those in confirmation, high school, or adult members.

Pr. Jason Pollington



Rally Sunday

Join us for our Rally Sunday, September 10, outdoor worship service starting at 9:00 a.m. During the service we will have the installation of Sunday School teachers. Please bring a lawn chair for the service.

At 10:00 a.m. the children will report to the Sanctuary for Sunday School opening as parents register their children for this year's Sunday School.

At 10:30 a.m. a potluck dinner will be held at Hilltop Hall. The Fellowship Committee will provide the beverages and paper ware, set up and clean up. Please bring either a salad, main dish or dessert to share.

Opportunities to Help

We need help to facilitate Confirmation for our 7th and 8th Graders on Wednesday evenings. Volunteers are needed to prepare meals for 23-28 Confirmands and helpers (meal from 6-6:30 p.m.) and 2-3 Helpers for Confirmation Sessions (6:30-7:30 p.m.). We are asking parents to assist in both of these areas, but this is also open to other members of our congregation including our high school members. Sign up sheets with dates and times are available. **If you have any questions, please contact Pr. Jason 406-665-5320 or prjasonpollington@gmail.com.**



We Need Help!!!

The Facilities Committee will be hosting a **Fall Yard Work Day on Sunday, October 29**. The plan is to start right after Sunday School/Fellowship and get as much done as possible. There is a large list of chores so any help will be greatly appreciated, whether you are available for just an hour or all afternoon. There will be a wide variety of things to do for both the young and no-so-young. Please bring any yard tools you can to help dig, rake, haul, trim, etc. If you have any specific questions, please see Paul Busch, Berlyn Tieg, Dave Scheffert or Greg Westerman.

*"In the same way, let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."
Matthew 5:16*



Fall Grief Support Group

(Community) Fall Grief Support Group

Weekly beginning October 3rd - November 14th, 7:00 p.m.

"Sometimes when one person is missing the whole world seems depopulated." Lamartine

Losing someone we love, we find our lives are forever changed. You cannot - nor should you try to do this alone. Friends and family members may form the core of your support system and are certainly helpful, but unless they have experienced a close personal loss, they most likely don't fully "get it". That is where support groups can become a valuable resource for those who are also, living life after loss.

A support group gives participants a safe and confidential place to interact with others who may be experiencing similar feelings without being judged. It is also reassuring to learn that what they are going through is normal!

The six week group will meet at the church and is open to anyone in the community. The group is free of charge, however, participants are asked to register to ensure that enough materials are available. For more information or to register, call facilitator, Brenda Peterson at (701) 269-1439 or co-facilitator, Pam Hinze, 612-423-0222.



Music Notes

Our music ministry seeks to proclaim God's word. Choir rehearsals begin in September. Mark your calendars!

Sunday school children practice their songs during Sunday school opening. The children usually sing during the church service on the second Sunday of the month. They will also sing at the 3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

Rock'n the Church Choir will start practice Sunday, September 17. This choir is open to children in grade 3 through grade 6. We practice after Sunday school from 11:00 – 11:30 a.m. in the church sanctuary. Rock'n the Church Choir usually sings during the church service on the third Sunday of the month. They will also sing at the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. If your child is interested in singing, let me know.

Bells of St. John will start practice Wednesday, September 6 at 7:00 p.m. Our handbell choir is made up of 10 ringers. We usually ring during the church service on the last Sunday of the month and for special services.

Women's Choir will sing for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter services. We will rehearse on Wednesday nights before each of these services. For the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service – rehearsals are November 1, 8, 15. For Christmas Eve – rehearsals are November 29, December 13, December 20. For Easter – rehearsals are March 21 and March 28.

Studies have found that group singing/ringing releases a chemical that manages anxiety and stress and enhances feelings of trust and bonding. I know of no other activity that gives so much and is this eminently affordable and accessible: Just show up for choir practice. Singing and/or ringing might be our most perfect drug; the ultimate mood regulator, lowering rates of anxiety, depression and loneliness, while at the same time amplifying happiness and joy, with no discernible, unpleasant side effects. Songs need to be sung – which is why we need you to sing them! Bells need to be rung - which is why we need you to ring them!

Being in a choir gives us the opportunity to be worship leaders. It focuses on DOING rather than OBSERVING. It allows praise with body, mind, spirit, and voice. It helps develop concepts of teamwork and cooperation. It is a gift that will last a lifetime.

Kathy Heyda
Music Director



Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School was a great success. We had 49 campers, 14 youth helpers and some wonderful adult workers! Special thanks to Josh Kuchinka for helping and for the fire pit, and to Don Westerman for the tent.

Our theme was camping and we had great weather for our last night at Richter's Woods Park where the children hiked, did crafts and had a program for their parents!

Adult helpers were Erin Krautkramer, Emily Hoefs, Jessica Westerman, Lisa Schroeder, Pastor Jason, Sara and Josh Kuchinka, Amy Grunow, Gail Westerman, Ann Schroeder, Sarah Vlasak, and Jeanne Anderson.



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

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 23 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.

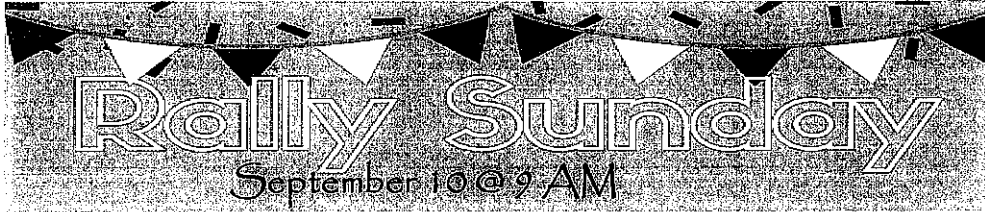
ST. JOHN YOUTH



T-shirts for Sale!

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

Available through Kay in church office or Missy in youth office.



October 1st

Mission Trip presentation
during church



Fall Butter Braid Sale

September 10th—24th

AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE DURING COFFEE HOUR

September 17th

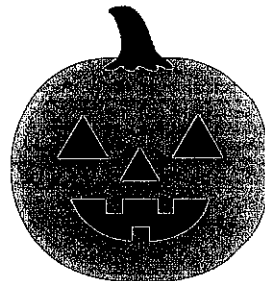
Youth host coffee hour with Butter Braid



Pumpkin Decorating Party

October 28 10 AM-Noon

Little League (grades 3 & 4) kids under 3rd
grade can attend with a parent. BYOP (bring your own pumpkin):)



FALL YOUTH RETREATS

November 3-4 Fall Youth Blast grades 3-5 @

Good Earth Village

November 10-11 Fall Youth Blast grades 6-8 @

Good Earth Village

November 17-19 Fall Retreat Senior League @

Trinity in Owatonna

Please sign up with Missy by September 15th

Fall Flavors are here!

\$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 the
European Roasterie website for a
list of flavors. All proceeds go to
the youth league.