



St. John Lutheran Church ELCA

Montgomery, Minnesota

Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861

April 2018

The Buds Are Coming! The Buds Are Coming!

For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. (Isaiah 61:11 NRS)

Spring is here! Over the next few days, weeks, and months, what was once dormant will spring back to life. With renewed energy – and yes a little more sun – we are excited about getting out there, getting out hands dirty, and getting a few aches and pains in the process. We take the extra time. We apply the fertilizer as needed to kick-start and sustain growth for the whole summer yet to come. We know that with all of this work; there is a reality that this will cost a little money in order to make it all happen. Then, we finally step back and let the growth happen, right? Well, we all know that with growth there is necessary tending that must continue throughout the whole of the growing season.

The same can be said within the life of the church. There has been preparing and planting going on within the life of St. John. We give thanks for not only the teachers share their faith, but also the children who have helped us grow in our faith through their witness to us. We give thanks for the musicians and vocalists who have helped us praise God through music mixed with God's word, but also through the infants contributing their own pitches, squeals, and laments to our congregation who are reminder to us that this church is living and growing. We give thanks for the leaders who offer their time and talents, but also encourage members of all ages to enter into this work we share together. We give thanks for the hands that fiddle with numbers, prepare bulletins, clean, and fix up our church, not only for a season, but for the whole year long. We give thanks for those sewing and tying quilts who feel aches and pains, as they prepare those quilts and health care kits to bring joy and comfort to whoever may receive them. We give thanks for those attending confirmation and adult catechism classes who come not just to learn, but also to share their faith with others right now. We give thanks for each one of you, as you participate within the life of St. John Lutheran and in the much larger garden of the body of Christ – living and breathing, sharing and caring, hurting and celebrating together in Christ.

We give thanks for the fertilizers that come during those peak times of the years, your gifts for our ministry here together, but we also know that the giving is needed throughout the whole year. We invite you to continue to contribute through your giving envelopes or on-line giving, but, especially, as you are able to continue to come and worship together.

We know that there are those who plant, we know that there are those who continue to tend, but it is God that that gives whatever we do growth (1 Corinthians 3:6 NRS).

In the midst of this surprising growth that God brings us, God invites us into the midst of His work by inviting us to tend and grow right along with Him. In this ministry that we share together in the life of this congregation and in the world to which we've been sent, may God's righteousness and praise spring up in us and in all who are around us.

Peace of Christ,

Pr. Jason

April Music Notes

On Easter Sunday, April 1, the Bells of St. John will ring “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” and the Women’s Choir will sing “On the Third Day” at the 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services.

Rally Sunday September 9, 2018

The Worship and Music Committee invited the St. Wenceslaus Polka Music Group to play for our outdoor service on Rally Sunday September 9, 2018. The group is composed of 5 musicians from New Prague who play guitars, drums and trumpet.

We are asking for donations from the congregation to help pay their fee of \$500. They will play prelude, offertory and postlude music plus congregational responses and hymns. They are a talented group of men who use music to give honor to God. Mark your calendars!

Special Music during April

April 1(Easter Sunday) 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. - Bells of St. John and Women’s Choir

April 15 - P/K, Grades 1-4 and Rock’n the Church will sing “He Never Failed Me Yet”.

SPECIAL NOTE: A couple Rock’n the Church member’s fathers sang this song 21 years ago in our youth choir. Now their children are singing it again.

April 29 - Bells of St. John ring



A Time to Give Thanks

As someone who entered into seminary as a second career, one of the realities that hits you is the debt that is assumed as one begins this new call. The average cost of tuition and living expenses during these years comes to over \$100,000. This is very common for those entering into a master’s degree or a PHD program. For pastors and other church lay professional leaders of the church, seminary debt is a reality for the pastors, their families, and for the whole church. If not identified, this is something that the pastor and their family carry alone. In recent years, the whole church has named this reality. Our synod has expressed to congregations the importance of providing some assistance by recommending helping out with \$100 a month payment to their pastor’s student loan lenders.

So why is this a time to give thanks?

In March, I was able to fully pay off all of my student loan debt for seminary. This was done by buckling down within our family, but it was also by the help of others. I had a grandmother who helped by offering support of over \$50,000, the congregations that I served back in Montana contributed to paying down this debt, and you, the members of St. John Lutheran, have helped by paying \$1,800 toward my seminary debt forgiveness. That is why this is a time to give thanks, because of your support and care for me in my ministry here together with all of you.

Thank you, Pr. Jason

March Church Council Meeting

Eric called the meeting to order at 6:35PM; asking that the record show Steve Schroeder (2020), Renee Sorenson (2019), Kathy Peterson (2020) absent; Eric Schroeder (2021), Liz Vlasak (2021), Connie Cihak (2021), Wendy Vargo (2020), Carol Kiekow (2019) and Erin Krautkremer (2019) present.

Pastor Jason led devotion on the faith of Abraham and reminding us God continues to come to us. Carol made a motion to accept the minutes of the February council meeting; second by Wendy, motion carries. Liz gave the treasurer's report, motion by Connie, second by Wendy to approve, motion carries. Pastor Jason went over his activity report; and up-coming events. Pastor will be on vacation, Pastor Rendahl will fill pulpit and Pastor Bruihler will be emergency contact. Carol will be head usher for April; Eric will take the 9 AM Easter Service; Carol the 10:30 AM service. Recycle monies will this time will go towards Food Shelf; the next load monies will go to Vacation Bible School. One recipient noted for the Feed My Sheep program. Carol updated the council on Women of the Church – Renee Pribyl is the Secretary-Treasurer; they continue to seek a new Chair and Co-Chair. Tentative date for the High School Graduation Reception is June 3rd. Erin reported that Jessica Westerman is retiring as Sunday School Superintendent on May 6th. We are in need of someone to fill that position as well as additional Sunday school teachers. We are in need of Sunday school curriculum. Vacation Bible School will be in June.

Motion to adjourn by Connie, second by Wendy, motion carried at 8:32; closing with The Lord's Prayer.

Submitted respectfully, Connie Cihak

Our next meeting will be **April 22, 2018 at 11:00 AM.**

St John Church Council Meeting

Breakfast with the Bishop

The annual Breakfast with the Bishop will be held on April 21st at Cabela's in Owatonna from 9 AM-11 AM. This year's speaker will be Al Batt. There is a sign-sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Please let us know by Easter Sunday. Those attending can pay for this the day of the event. Contact for the breakfast is Russell Tesch - 906 4th Ave. SE, Waseca, MN 56093. Questions: call 507-835-3843 or e-mail: marietesch@mchsi.com.

Summer Worship Helpers Needed!

Instead of assigning helpers to each week during the summer months, we will have sign up sheets. There are sign ups for readers, communion assistants and greeters. The sign ups are located in Fellowship Hall. Please check your schedules and sign up for the Sunday 9 AM service you can attend. Anyone who wants to help with the service is welcome, no experience necessary :) Adults, youth & families. Please talk to Pastor Jason or Missy if you have any questions.

UP-COMING CONFIRMATION EVENTS

4th Graders will be recognized for reading the Gospel of Mark on Sunday, April 22nd.

7th & 8th Graders will not meet for class on April 4th, but they will meet on the remaining Wednesdays in April. Dinner will be at 6 PM and class will be from 6:30-7:30 PM.

9th Graders will meet following the 9 AM Service on April 22nd.

First Communion Recipients

Jacob Lawrence Cihak
Audrey Joellen Krugerud
Ethan John Schroeder
Addison Rose Houn
Edwardo Antonio Flores
Alissa Charlene Napper
Blake Wesley Herman Neysa Kristine Anderson
Emma Kathryn Skluzacek
Alexis Jordan Marcussen
Clare Adeline Kubes

**On Wednesday April 18th at 6:30 PM we will have
John Emery presenting**

What You always Wanted to Know about Islam and Muslims

Always wanted to learn more about Islam and Muslims? During this presentation you will have a better understanding of what Islam teaches and what Muslims practice. The speaker, John Emery, will introduce basic terminology, demographics and differences between religion and culture. You will learn about the beliefs and practices of Muslims as well as religious celebrations. You will also have the opportunity to get your questions answered first hand.

John Emery completed intensive study of the Arabic language in the US Army. He served as a translator and interrogator for nine years, including service in the United States, North Africa, the Persian Gulf, and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. John worked for Army Intelligence, Naval Intelligence, NSA, FBI, DIA, and other agencies.

After his honorable discharge from the US Army, John completed his B.A. in Global Studies at the University of Minnesota.

John is currently a speaker for the Islamic Resource Group, a Minnesota nonprofit dedicated to building bridges of understanding between Minnesota Muslims and the broader Minnesota community. As an American convert to Islam, John is actively engaged in promoting peace and understanding across faith communities

Grief Support Group Coming Up!

“One of the realities of grief and loss is that the rest of the world seems to keep on going forward, while we feel like we have been stopped in our tracks.”

Dr. Alan Wolfelt

Grieving the loss of a loved one is not something we would choose for ourselves! If you are grieving for a loved one, St. John is offering a six week grief support group starting May.

When you are grieving the loss of someone special, no one knows what you are going thru and everyone's grief is unique. Past participants have stated the support group has helped them better understand their grief or as another participant stated, “I don't feel alone and am comforted by the other's support in group.”

Please watch for dates and times in the next church newsletter. If you have any questions, you may call group facilitator, Brenda Peterson (701-269-1439).

Chronic Pain Self-Management

Aging Services of Montgomery is offering some up-coming forums which will be at St. John Lutheran Church. The focus of these forums will be chronic pain self-management. The sessions will be from 12:30 PM – 3:30 PM on Wednesdays running April 18th through May 30th. There is room for up to 15 people for this offering. If you are interested, you can contact Karen at 507-364-5663 or by email karen@aging-services.org

Do you receive your newsletter in the mail? Would you be interested in receiving it via email instead? Newsletters that are received by email get to you 2-3 days faster than in the mail. Help us go green and email stjohnelca@frontier.com to be put on the newsletter email list!



Pastor Jason's Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday &
Friday
9:00 AM-12:00 PM & 1:00-5:00 PM

Missy's April Office Hours

Tuesday-8:30 AM –2:30 PM
Thursday– 8:30 AM-2:30 PM
Friday– 11:30 AM-2:30 PM

ST. JOHN YOUTH



Pastry Puffins are coming soon!

Puffins will be available to order during coffee hour on Sunday, April 8th & 15th. Orders can be placed with Missy in the church office. Sale ends on Tuesday, April 17th. All proceeds benefit the youth league.

Pioneer Power Kitchen Cleaning

Help needed to clean the Pioneer Power Thrashers Kitchen
Sunday, April 22nd, meet at church at 11:30
Junior and Senior League, Parent volunteers also needed
Please sign up on Youth Board

Save the Date!

Annual May Flower Sale
Friday, May 4th & Saturday, May 5th
Adult and Youth volunteers needed for
the sale
Event Flyer and volunteer sign up sheets
coming soon!



April Worship Helpers

Readers

April 1 9:00 Greg Westerman
10:30 Connie Cihak
April 8 Jean Waugh
April 15 Jessica Westerman
April 22 Kathy Westerman
April 29 Cindy Curits

Head Usher

April Carol Kiekow

Ushers / Greeters

April 1 9:00 Paul & Kay Busch
Volunteers needed
10:30 Volunteers needed
April 8 Tom & JoAnne Dawson
Berlyn & Garie Teig
April 15 John & Lori Helling
Myron & Peggy Hentges
April 22 Irene Jindra
Myrna Terwedo
David & Rhonda Solberg
April 29 Ruth Kukacka
John Krautkremer
David & Dorothy Scheffert

Communion Assistants

April 1 9:00 Steve & Anne Schroeder
Travis Napper
10:30 Volunteers needed
Wylie Peterson
April 8 Gerald & Dinna Smith
Youth Volunteer
April 15 Richard & Wendy Vargo
Youth Volunteer
April 22 Cindy Westerhouse
Peggy Hentges
Youth Volunteer
April 29 Carol Kiekow
Ruth Kukacka
Youth Volunteer

Acolytes

April 1 9:00 Hailey Kadrlík
10:30 Volunteer needed
April 8 Aliviya Boyd
April 15 Hailey Kadrlík
April 22 Aliviya Boyd
April 29 Gabrielle Davidson

Altar Guild

April Maridan Nesmoe

Remember in your Prayers... ... Eileen Segna, Diane Schultz, Berlyn Teig, Ellen Flicek, Lloyd Svoboda, Eunice Lund (mother of Mary Brahs), Karen Vlasak, Peggy Svoboda, Nancy Vollmar, Gretchen Vlasak, Tom Trenda, Dale Benson, Heidi Huewe (cousin of Renee Sorenson), Greg Vlasak, Rev. Bob Boda, Phyllis Swidorski, Amy Korthuis (Judy Ferguson's sister-in-law) Nancy Creger and Kris Huhner (Kathy Peterson's sister).

Remember those serving our country...

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

Sympathy

Prayers for the family and friends of Nancy DeCoux (the mother of Cathy Stasney). She died on Thursday March 8th. Services were held on Monday March 12th at Schoenbauer's Funeral Home in Montgomery.

Thank You

To everyone who donated to the March Food shelf Campaign.

Thank you for the donation of the new coffee maker in memory of Elsie Rotter.

Thank you for the donations made in memory of Mayme Richter.

Coffee servers are needed for Sunday coffee hour! Please consider signing up on the calendar in the Fellowship Hall.

Have an announcement for the bulletin or newsletter?

Drop off or e-mail (stjohnelca@frontier.com) information to the church office by:

- ◆ **Wednesday** for the bulletin.
- ◆ **The 25th of April** for the May 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 Jason or Missy of your planned meeting dates.



St. John Lutheran Church Elca

105 Spruce Avenue • P.O. Box 25
Montgomery, Mn 56069-1068

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April Newsletter

St. John Lutheran Church

(507) 364-5002 or 364-8787

E-mail: stjohnelca@frontier.com

Pastor Jason Pollington: pastor@montgomerymnelcalutherans.org

Website: www.montgomerymnelcalutherans.org

St. John's Worship Schedule

5:00 p.m. Saturday Worship

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

10:00 a.m. Sunday School (Sept. 10-May 6)

Distribution of the Lord's Supper
is celebrated at every weekend service.
Fellowship/Coffee Hour follows Sunday's
worship service.

St. John's Staff

Jason Pollington, Pastor (c) 406 665-5320

(h) 507 953-0079

Eric Schroeder, Congregation President

Kathy Heyda, Music Director & Organist

Melissa Gregor, Secretary & Youth Ministry Director

Roman Jindra, Custodian

Jessica Westerman, Sunday School Superintendent

Diane DeWitte, Organist

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

As children of God, we are a family
living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ
through worship, fellowship, and service.