



St. John Lutheran Church ELCA

Montgomery, Minnesota

November 2019

Faith Active through Love - Service

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

***“...whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant,
and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all.
For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve,
and to give his life a ransom for many.”***

Mark 10:43b-45 NRS

Finally as we conclude our walk through the Mission Statement of St. John Lutheran, this month we move forward to “living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ through service.”

When it comes right down to it, as humans, we like to serve. We jump full feet into something that we see needs to be fixed. We are compelled as we want to restructure, correct, and fix the messiness of the world around us. Having two young boys, I often find myself watching a lot of children’s movies. One movie that has made its way back into the rotation is the movie “Robots.” In this cartoon, Rodney Copperbottom is a robot who dreams big and wants to repair those who are around him. He becomes a savior figure amongst the broken and outmoded robots. His and his hero, Mr. Bigweld’s, mantra is “See a need, Fill a need!” Fixing things makes us feel good. And, if we are not careful, we become the savior to those who are broken.

Living out the gospel of Christ through service has a lot to do with two things position and authority. As we are sent out into this broken world in Christ’s name, we are called to be imitators of Christ, as we come as those who serve from the bottom up. We serve not out of a position of superiority, but one of a servant. Dwelling with our neighbor, hearing their story, and listening for what it is that they are really needing, we come as servants to share the gift each of us have received.

“For Freedom, Christ has set us free (Galatians 5:1a).” We have been sent not as a hero or someone to look up to, but as those who have been sent to serve. As those who are servants to our neighbor, we come empowered with the authority and the gifts of the One who has sent us. It is in Christ’s name that we are able to bring the healing and forgiveness which only he can offer to this troubled world. It is in His name that you and I continue to live out the gospel of Christ here in this time and place through service. May these words guide us:

***Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,
serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.***

***Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God;
whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies,
so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ.
To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.***

1 Peter 4:10-11 NRS

Peace of Christ,

Pr. Jason

Worship & Music Notes for November

Vocal Solo “*Plenty Good Room*” on November 3rd

Rock’n the Church will sing on Sunday, November 17th AND at the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 26th at the Church of St. Patrick in Shieldsville.

Bells of St. John will ring on Sunday, November 24th AND at the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 26th at the Church of St. Patrick in Shieldsville.

The Voices of St. John will sing on Sunday, November 24th AND at the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 26th at the Church of St. Patrick in Shieldsville.

The festival of All Saints will be celebrated November 2nd and November 3rd. Before the service begins, worshipers will be invited to light candle(s) of remembrance for loved ones. Votive candles will be arranged on a table at the front of church. Please come early to church this weekend to light one or more candles. During the church service, we will remember ten saints who have died during the previous year: Terry David, Harry Dietz, Gordon Breuer, Mary Kerkow, Darlene Collier, Nancy Vollmar, Dorothy Denzer, Betty Braun, Walter Procenko, Blanche Sorenson.

The Voices of St. John will sing at the 7th Annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at the Church of St. Patrick in Shieldsville on Tuesday, November 26th at 7:00 p.m. They will sing “*Give God Thanks!*”. They will rehearse on Wednesday, October 30th, November 6th, November 13th and November 20th from 7:30 – 8:00 p.m. This is a time change because some students will join us after confirmation class is over at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday nights. We welcome more singers to join.....kids, parents, grandparents. We are hoping that all members of our church who like to sing will feel comfortable in taking part in our choir.

I am excited to announce that Rock’n the Church Choir will offer a song of praise at the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service too. They will sing “*Forever*” by Chris Tomlin. The Bells of St. John will ring “*How Majestic Is Your Name*” at the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service. The bells have been part of this service since the beginning 7 years ago.



Kathy Heyda

October 2019 Council Minutes

President Carol called the meeting to order at 11:08 a.m. on Sunday, October 20, 2019.

Present: Carol Kiekow (2022), Mike Lundquist (2022), Steve Schroeder (2020), Dave Winge (2021), Liz Vlasak (2021), Kathy Peterson (2020), Wendy Vargo (2020), and Pastor Jason.

Absent: Liz Krocak (2022) Connie Cihak (2021),

Pastor opened with devotions.

Motion was made by Kathy, seconded by Dave to approve the Secretary’s report from the September meeting. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Wendy, seconded by Mike to approve the Treasurer’s report. Motion carried.

Pastor gave his activity report for the month along with upcoming events.

7 Confirmation students will be confirmed on Sunday, October 27th.

New Member Sunday will be held on Sunday, November 17th.

Head Ushers for November: Dave Winge – Nov. 3, 10, 17. Mike L. on Nov. 24th.

Currently looking for people to serve on a Nomination Committee for January election of Council Members. We will be needing 3 new members for Council.

The next “First Sunday Forum” will be held on Nov. 3rd with Channele Braekkan from Thrivent speaking.

Next meeting will be Sunday, November 17th, at 11:00.

Motion was made by Dave to adjourn at 12:25 pm and seconded by Mike. Motion carried.

Closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Wendy Vargo

Important Dates

Weekly Bible Study

Come join us on Wednesday mornings for our **Daily Discipleship Bible Study 10 AM at St. John.**

One great thing about this Bible Study is that you can join in at any time, even if you happen to miss a week.

Once again we are collecting items for our Soldier Boxes,

which we will be mailing out the first week of December. There is a box in the fellowship hall for your donations. If you would like to donate cash, to help with the mailing costs, please place in lock box outside of the church office. Boxes are sent to those currently serving and also to local elderly Veterans. If you have the name and address of someone who is currently serving our country, please get it to Missy as soon as possible so we can include him/her while shopping.

SAVE THE DATE

Pictures for our membership directory will be taken on November 21st-23rd!

Time slot will be available from 2-9 PM Thursday and Friday and from 10 AM– 5 PM on Saturday.

Watch for more details and sign up sheets!

November First Sunday Forum

Join us this Sunday, November 3rd

Topic: Tax Designation, Year-end Giving, and Gift Planning

Presenter: Chanelle Braekkan with Thrivent Financial

Where: Fellowship Hall

When: Right after the 9 AM Service for about 15 minutes
(Chanelle will be available following the forum for any questions)

Operation Christmas Child

This is our 20th year of participating in this project!

Girls and boys in more than 150 countries have experienced the joy of Christmas and heard the good news of Jesus Christ thanks to caring people who have packed over 157 million shoebox gifts for Operation Christmas Child since 1993. These simple shoeboxes filled with toys, school supplies and hygiene items bring smiling faces to God's precious children. Help spread joy and hope to children in desperate situations worldwide by taking part in this special Christmas project. Complete details are outlined in the Operation Christmas Child brochures available at church. Please bring your gift filled shoebox to church on or before Sunday, November 24th (shoebox collection and dedication Sunday). Last year we collected 127 shoeboxes. For more information, contact Mary Brahs 364-8058. *(Due to increasing custom regulations, candy and toothpaste will no longer be accepted in shoebox gifts.)*

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

St. John Lutheran of Montgomery and the Roman Catholic churches of Montgomery, Shieldsville, Kilkenny, Heidelberg, and Union Hill invite you to an Ecumenical Thanksgiving worship service on Tuesday, November 26th at 7:00 PM at St. Patrick Catholic Church, 7525 Dodd Road, Shieldsville, MN.

This ecumenical service of music and the Word will be led by Catholic and Lutheran clergy and lay people. It will include numerous delightful vocal and instrumental music offerings, including choirs and hand bells. Coffee and dessert will be served after the worship.

An offering will be taken for the Montgomery Food Shelf. We prefer a monetary offering (cash or check payable to Montgomery Food Shelf). With the special buying power of Minnesota Food Share, the Montgomery Food Shelf is able to turn your \$1 cash donation into \$3 worth of food! An offering of non-perishable food items will also be taken.

Please join us in this exciting celebration to give thanks!

New Member Sunday

Come join us in welcoming those who have joined together in ministry with us here at St. John Lutheran since this past year. We are blessed to share in the gifts and talents that they have to offer. They will be recognized during the Sunday November 17th at the 9 AM Worship Service with a reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Remember in your Prayers.. Paul Swidorski, Lloyd Viskocil, Doug Thompson, Milo Kubinski, Gretchen Vlasak, Matthew Koschade, Lynda McIalwain (niece of Marilyn Richter), Patty Tiede, Gary Janssen, Steve Westerhouse (Uncle of Missy Gregor), Elmer Kukacka, Shari Claire, Clark Kaisershot, Lloyd Svoboda, Adeline Tiede (niece of Billi Larson), Emil & Theresa Knish, Jean Hartman (Aunt of Bruce Smith), Ken Meyer, Katie Lockrem, Jean Waugh, Jessi, Dianne Schultz, Scott Petersen, Gerry Smith, Tom McClune, Rycky Kes, Glenn Kerkow, Tom Trenda, Greg Vlasak, Rev. Bob Boda, Phyllis Swidorski, Amy Korthuis (Judy Ferguson's sister-in-law), and Nancy Creger.

Remember those serving our country...

Cassidy Gilbertson, Travis Ferguson, Shane Morris, Adam Vlasak and Sam Westerhouse.

Thank you

Thank you for the donations to the Bell Tower.
Thank you for the donations to Feed My Sheep.

Out of the Mouths of Our Youth

As we approach these last few months of our year-end giving, I am blessed whenever one of our youth can teach us something about stewardship. As a part of our confirmation process here at St. John, each of these members turns in ten sermon notes a year. It allows them to focus on the sermon and the service as a whole, but it is also a wonderful way to hear their comments, questions, and concerns about the life of their congregation. Just this past week, I received a comment that I felt is just too good not to share. It describes the intentional and ongoing reality of stewardship. I lift up these words of invitation, as you continue to prayerfully and freely support this ministry that we share in here at St. John:

"I feel people really need to stand up and help as much as they can

to get our church to the best it can be.

We should be able to donate at least something each week,

even if it were time!"

(from a 7th Grade Confirmation Member)

Do you receive your mail? Would you be receiving it via email



newsletter in the mail? Would you be interested in 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!



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 November** for the **December newsletter**.

Upcoming All Saint's Services

This weekend during the Saturday and Sunday Services (November 2nd and 3rd), we will be including our observance of our All Saint's Services. Prior to the service, anyone who wishes will be invited to come forward to light a candle and name a loved one who has died this year, as well as, for those who have died in past years. During the service Pastor will read the list of members and non-members who have died that we have had services for since our last All Saint's Services. As each name is read, a candle is lit and a bell is rung.

Financial Corner

We give thanks to God and to each one of you for your faithfulness in giving. We praise God for continually providing all that we need. Let each of us prayerfully seek God's direction in our giving.

Sept. Income	\$	15,144.33
Sept. Expense	\$	(16,375.50)
	\$	(1,231.17)
YTD Income	\$	131,074.68
YTD Expense	\$	(140,301.32)
	\$	(9,226.64)

Bell Tower Donations

Balance 12-2018	\$	10,681.35
Donations 2019	\$	79,723.10
Balance	\$	90,404.45

See Missy about Electronic Giving! Bless you all in Stewardship of your financial resources.

Need to start or change your Simply Giving online donation? Here's the link!

<http://bit.ly/donateStJohn>

Confirmation News and Events

St. John Lutheran celebrates with our 10th Grade members who were confirmed during our Confirmation Sunday Service on October 27th where they made an affirmation of their Holy Baptism: **Aliviya Charlotte Boyd, Tayte Rose Domine, Aubrey Jo Filter, Devin Andrew Filter, Jameson Robert Fonseca, Lauren Paige Houn, Hailey Josephine Kadrlik.**

Confirmation Sunday is not a graduation, but it is instead filled with the very active word of intent - One word of intent on behalf of the confirmand and one word of intent on behalf of our congregation.

First by those who were affirming their baptism, as those who intend to continue in the covenant God made with each of them in their baptism, to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper, to proclaim the good news in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Finally, by you, the members of St. John Lutheran, as those who intend to support each one of them and pray for them as they continue their life in Christ.

Confirmation Sunday is also a wake-up call for all who are baptized. These members are not the church of the future – you are the church now. All who are baptized into Jesus' death and resurrection are called to share the gifts we have received through the Holy Spirit right now – right now here in this place where we have been called and sent – right now in this moment of time for the sake of the those who will come to believe through your word – right now through God's work which empowers us.

**9th Graders will come to the First Sunday Forum,
and then meet with Pr. Jason in the Youth Room**

7th & 8th Grade – No Class on 11/27

We will meet on the other Wednesdays in November

Meal @ 6PM & Class 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM



After school youth group for grades 3-6 will start on Wednesday, November 2nd from 3:05-4:05 PM. This group will meet on the first Wednesday of the month, November through May! Our After school Youth Group will be packing Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes on Wednesday, November 6th and are looking for donations. There will be a donation box at the top of the stairs for anyone wanting to donate items. The youth group made ornaments donation suggestions. We always like to pack school supplies such as small notebooks, pencils, crayons, pencil sharpeners, etc....

November's Second Sunday Youth Event will be our Cardboard box Campout for Homelessness! **Saturday, November 9th 4:00 PM – Sunday, November 10th 10:00 AM** The St. John Lutheran Church Youth Leagues (grades 5-12) will be sleeping in cardboard boxes in the backyard of St John Lutheran Church for a night to awareness for homelessness. Bring warm clothes and sleeping bags, see sign up sheet for more details! Sunday morning we will have breakfast at church and go to the Sunday service together. ***Please sign up on the Youth Bulletin Board or on the Facebook event page by Friday, November 8th.***

Stewardship

Instead of a reporting weekly donations in the bulletin we are changing to monthly reporting. The new location for this information is on the back of our advertisement page. We hope you enjoy the new format and hope it will give everyone a clearer picture of where we are sitting financially.

Worship Helpers

Ushers / Greeters

Myron & Peggy Hentges
Nov 3 Kathy Derhaag
Travis Napper
Steve & Tammi Pan
Nov 10 Paul & Kay Busch
Jesse & Gail Skluzacek
Nov 17 Daryl & Cindy Curtis
Jessica & Greg Westerman
Nov 24 Jim Heyda
Doug & Karen Thompson
Dec 1 Mecca Nightingale
Kaia Krocak
Karen Thompson
Maggie Grimm
Dec 8 Paul Vollmar
Brenda Peterson
Candyce Kadrlik
John Krautkremer
Dec 15 Ted & Colleen Wondra
David & Rhonda Solberg
Dec 22 Ruth Kukacka
Lynn Schuknecht
Gerald & Dianna Smith
Dec 24 3 PM _____

5 PM _____

10PM Connie Cihak

Dec 29 Rich & Liz Vlasak
Maridan & Mike Nesmoe

Save the Bell Tower Fundraiser

Saturday, November 16th
5-8 PM
Next Chapter Winery, Barrel
Room
See flyer for details.
Tickets available through the
church office.

Communion Assistants

Nov 3 Steve & Anne Schroeder
Nov 10 Erin Krautkremer
Karen Vlasak
Nov 17 Kathy Derhaag
Travis Napper
Nov 24 Don Marcussen
Myrna Terwedo
Dec 1 Alexis Hoefs

Dec 8 Richard & Wendy Vargo
Diane Dewitte
Dec 15 _____

Dec 22 _____

Dec 24 3 PM Hilary Birdsell

5 PM _____

10 PM Kathy Derhaag
Wendy Derhaag
Dec 29 _____

Readers

*All lesson readings will be available to
view and/or print on the church
website under info center. Enlarged
paper copies are available in the file
folder outside the church office door.*

Oct 6 Lisa Hoefs
Oct 13 Doris Hendrickson
Oct 20 Marilyn Campbell
Oct 27 Confirmation students
Nov 3 Doreen Marcussen
Nov 10 Dave Winge
Nov 17 Colleen Wondra
Nov 24 Eric Schroeder
Dec 1 Lisa Hoefs
Dec 8 Renee Sorenson
Dec 15 Cindy Westerhouse
Dec 22 _____
Dec 24 3 PM Dave Winge
5 PM _____
10PM Connie Cihak
Dec 29 _____

WOTC Fall Fundraiser

Sunday, November 10th
7:30 AM– Noon in the Fellowship
Hall. See flyer for details.

Acolytes

Nov 3 McKenna Schulte
Nov 10 Riley Skluzacek
Nov 17 Riley Skluzacek
Nov 24 Austin Testerman
Dec 1 Austin Testerman
Dec 8 _____
Dec 15 _____
Dec 22 _____
Dec 24 3 PM _____
5 PM _____
10PM _____
Dec 29 _____

Thank you for your help!

*If you are unable to help on the
day you are listed please call or
email the church office ASAP*

*507-364-5002 or
stjohnelca@frontier.com.*

*If you are available to help in any
of the open spots please call or
email the church office.*

Spring 2020 Grief Support Group

We just finished a six-week fall
grief support group at the church
that was offered to the
community. Grief support groups
are one of the best helping
resources for those who have lost
a loved one thru death. The
participants learn that while their
grief is unique they experience
similarities and understand they
are not alone in their feelings.

A grief support group will be held
in the spring (2020) so watch your
newsletter for dates closer to that
time. If you have any questions
please contact me.

Thank you to the church for
hosting this much needed com-
munity service helping others to
“*grieve and mourn well, going on
to live well*” (Dr. Wolfelt). Also, a
thank you to Kay Busch for being
co-facilitator.

Brenda Peterson, 701-269-1439



St. John Lutheran Church Elca

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November Newsletter

St. John Lutheran Church

(507) 364-5002

E-mail: stjohnelca@frontier.com

Pastor Jason Pollington: prjasonpollington@gmail.com

Website: www.montgomerymnelcalutherans.org

Facebook: St. John Lutheran Church

St. John's Worship Schedule

5:00 PM Saturday Worship

9:00 AM Sunday Worship

10:00 AM Sunday School (Sept.– May)

Pastor Jason's Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
9:00 AM-12:00 PM
& 1:00-5:00 PM

Office/ Youth Director Hours

Tuesday 8:15 AM–2:45 PM
Wednesday 8:15 AM– 2:45 PM
Thursday 8:15 AM-2:45 PM

St. John's Staff

Jason Pollington, Pastor (c) 507-667-9000

Carol Kiekow, Congregation President

Kathy Heyda, Music Director & Organist

Diane DeWitte, Organist

Melissa Gregor, Secretary & Youth Ministry Director

Sara Kuchinka, Sunday School Superintendent

Roman Jindra, Custodian

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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