



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

MONTGOMERY, MINNESOTA

Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861

NOVEMBER 2015

A Word or Two...by Pastor Mark

Have you noticed how a streak of rather forced politeness has wafted through our society? It's something that didn't exist so much when I was a kid. People open doors for each other a lot, and some get annoyed if you don't. I don't remember so much door opening going on years ago. Thank-you notes are pretty much expected after a gift, but when I was a boy nobody seemed to send them (of course that was Iowa, so that might explain everything). You just said "thank you" and that sufficed. On a larger scale, public apologies by prominent people are often demanded after some slip of the tongue, and in many cases that seems to settle the issue. In the past, apologies weren't so crucial, and if they were made they were kind of an add-on to the situation. And then there is unnecessary politeness, like when somebody has the right-of-way at an uncontrolled intersection and they wave you through anyway. They may mean well, but that's actually dangerous because it goes against proper procedure.

Now, the interesting thing is that this cult of politeness comes at a time of unprecedented violence and lack of feeling for others. It reminds me of something I read about France during their violent revolution in the 1790s. In spite of the wanton bloodshed of that era, the most popular stage plays were those that featured tear-jerking displays of humanity. Like today, people loved feelings, but would turn around and exhibit the most unfeeling attitudes. It seems that the more people are surrounded by bad things, the more they look for seemingly good things to balance them out, like emotional interviews or political correctness.

As we come upon the Day of Thanks later this month, I am glad that we will have a real reason to be polite. First of all, polite to God who gave us life and still upholds us (otherwise you wouldn't be reading these words). Rather than just stuff yourself silly with all that good food and then beach yourself to doze and watch football, it's good for the soul to really thank God for what He has done, and could withhold at any minute. He may be a loving God, but He also hates sin – and we have plenty of that to go around. And then, in His name, it's good to show appreciation to the other people He puts in our lives to make them endurable, people like parents, kids, and friends (especially friends). For an extra-special charge of good feelings, you may want to even thank them yourself, out loud. It will be worth it, if only for the experience of seeing them react and wonder what to say back.

Politeness is all around these days, much of it forced. But I'll take that over road rage and angry politics any day. Let's be glad that at least people feel like they're supposed to be decent. And let's be even gladder that God really *is* decent, infinitely so, and has given us a reason to be thankful for real.

November Worship Helpers

Readers

November 1	Don Marcussen
November 8	Doreen Marcussen
November 15	Maridan Nesmo
November 22	Ashlea Pan
November 28	Tammie Pan

Head Usher

Dan Hardel

Ushers / Greeters

November 1	Kathy Westerman John Krautkremer Lynn Schuknecht
November 8	Gerry & Dianna Smith Berlyn & Garie Teig
November 15	David & Rhonda Solberg Philip Solberg Kay Busch
November 22	Doug & Karen Thompson Rich & Liz Vlasak
November 29	David & Dorothy Scheffert Paul Vollmar Cindy Westerhouse

Communion Assistants

November 8	Haley Dietz John Grimm Allie Hardel
November 22	Gary & Jacque Hartwig Peggy Hentges

Acolytes

November 1	Alexys Boyd Maggie Trnka
November 8	Jackson Nesmo Jorgia Pumper
November 15	Maddie Novotny Anton Nelson
November 22	Kayla Horejsi Gunner Domine
November 29	Alan Eotvos Maggie Trnka

Altar Guild

Ruth Hoefs

If you are unable to help on the day assigned, please EXCHANGE with someone else and call the church office at 507-364-5002.

Remember in your Prayers...



Sandy Maroschek (Doris Hendrickson's sister-in-law), Reinhold West (Carol Kiekow's father), Opal Hartwig, Harold Walters (Betty Jindra and Virginia Horejse father), Lyle Terwedo, Kris Huhner (Kathy Peterson's sister), Bev Horejsi, and Tom Mariska.

Remember those serving our country...

Shane Morris, Damon Athey, Matthew Astorino, Adam Vlasak, and Matt Nelson.



Gifts received

Gifts received in memory of Margaret Lindholm.

Gift received in remembrance of Hazel Holms' birthday (96 years) on November 9th from the Dubbe family.

Nomination Committee

The Church Council is looking for members that would be interested in serving on the Nominating Committee this fall. We are also looking for any members that would be interested in serving on the church council starting in January 2016.

The Mitten Tree



The mitten tree is up and ready for decorating with scarves, mittens and gloves which will be used at Le Sueur County Santa Anonymous.

First Communion

The 5th graders completed a class with Pastor Mark to prepare them for their first communion. Those participating were Jordyn Berg, Chloe Grunow, Alexis Hoefs, Konnor Korbitz, Rhia Krautkremer, John Kubes, Kyra Newman, Mecca Nightingale, McKenna Schulte and Riley Skluzacek.

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 - September

	September	Year to Date
Receipt	\$ 14,868.75	\$ 127,180.33
Expenses	\$ 14,232.54	\$ 126,285.27
Cash Flow	\$ 636.21	\$ 895.06

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 November for the December newsletter.

Church Council Meeting

October 27, 2015 - 6:30 pm

Present: Maridan Nesmoe (1/16), John Helling (1/16), Wendy Vargo (1/17), Kathy Peterson (1/17), Eric Schroeder (1/18), Liz Vlasak (1/18), Pastor Mark Wilmes

Absent: John Krautkremer (1/16), Renee Sorenson (1/16) Dan Hardel (1/17)

Kathy Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Pastor lead with a prayer.

Eric Schroeder moved and John Helling seconded a motion to approve the September 2015 council meeting minutes. Motion carried.

On Going

Head Usher - November head usher will be Dan Hardel. December head usher will be John Krautkremer.

Feed My Sheep - No one identified at this time.

Can Recycling - The next load of cans will be used for Operation Christmas Child.

Old Business

Parsonage Rental Update - Renters will be leaving as of November 30.

Ratify E Vote - Motion made by John Helling seconded by Liz Vlasak to ratify the E vote taken to reimburse John Grimm for helping a homeless man. Reimbursement will be made from Feed My Sheep fund.

Sign Up Date - Sign is in place. Kathy will add clergy name, service times, Sunday school time, church phone number and website address. Cost of sign will be paid for through the restoration fund.

Tower Repair - Ongoing

Call Committee - Interviewed 3 perspective applicants. Will continue with their meetings.

Review of Employees: On going.

New Business

Nominating Committee- Need 3 people to serve on the nominating committee for new council members. Maridan Nesmoe and John Helling volunteered to serve on the committee with a need for one more from the congregation.

Donation- EOY donations were discussed with the possibility of replacing tables and chairs, which Eric Schroeder will look into for cost. Also discussed lighting.

Reports

Pastor's Report:

Will have an "All Saints Remembrance" during the service on Oct. 31st and Nov. 1st.

Confirmation is going well, with just finishing up 7th grade and will begin with 9th grade next.

Thanksgiving service will be in Shieldsville on Tuesday, November 24th.

Plans on using his next week of earned vacation the week after Thanksgiving.

Endowment Committee: Met to reinvest 3 investments which were coming due.

WOTC: Will have an Egg Bake fundraiser on November 15th.

Cemetery Board: Will have a report at the end of the year.

Stewardship: Renee Sorenson - absent.

Treasurer Report: Kathy Peterson made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Wendy Vargo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Evangelism Committee: Wendy Vargo - Soldier box campaign has begun with addresses received by Kay and a collection box set out. Will also include those serving in the military from HRS.

Education: Liz Vlasak

Confirmation was Oct. 25 with 9 students.

1st Communion for 5th graders will be Nov. 8th.

Christmas program set for Dec. 20th during the worship service. Confirmation class schedule was set.

Adult education Bible Study going well.

Looking into possible mission trip for youth and adults.

(Church Council Cont.)

(Church Council Cont.)

Youth: Eric Schroeder

Motion made by Eric Schroeder and seconded by Wendy Vargo to provide a Laptop and telephone for the Youth Director to be paid for from a donation. Motion carried.

New Youth Director is planning many events and opportunities for youth.

Will be revamping point system for money earned by youth.

Facility Management – John Krautkremer - absent

Church and Society: Kathy Peterson

Operation Christmas Child date set for going to the distribution center.

Red Kettle campaign will be in December as usual.

Communications: Dan Hardel - absent

Fellowship: John Helling - No report.

Worship & Music Committee: Maridan Nesmoe

Working on music for the Thanksgiving service.

Women's choir planned through Christmas.

Other Business: Budget meeting set for Dec. 15

Next meeting: December 15, 2015, 6:30 pm.

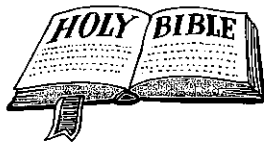
Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm and closed with "The Lord's Prayer"

Submitted by Wendy Vargo, Church Council Secretary

Faith and Life Bible Study for November

In our history of Christianity in Bible study form, the midweek Bible groups now come to the exciting era of the 300s A.D., when Constantine became the first Roman emperor to convert to Christianity. He declared our faith legal, which changed everything. No more lions, no more banishment. Freedom to worship Christ in safety! But then the big challenge came to spell out the faith in writing, and from that need came the Nicene Creed and the finalization of the New Testament list of books.

Faith and Life Bible Study meets 6:30 PM Mondays and 9:30 AM Wednesdays (same content at both). Come any week and check it out. There's always coffee and treats.



Giving Is Fun!

When it comes to giving, nothing makes a Lutheran more nervous than the fall stewardship campaign. But it doesn't have to be that way. Giving is, believe it or not, FUN. Hear about it in November as Pastor Mark talks in a sermon series about giving not from guilt or worry, but from the sheer joy of reaching outside of yourself to support God's work in the world through time and resources – and, that you are able, no matter what your situation. If St. John is going to continue to change people's lives for Christ, or is even going to be here in the future, it depends on its members doing their part. But it doesn't have to be hard. Find out how this month.

SNOW POLICY

In case of inclement weather the church closure policy will be as follows:

The Pastor and Church Council President or Vice President will make the decision if a church service will be cancelled. Notifications will be posted on the front door, KCHK Radio-1350 AM, and there will be a message put on voicemail at church.

**St. John Women of the Church
Egg Bake Fundraiser**

Sunday, November 15, 2014

8:00 a.m.—11:30 p.m.

SERVING: HAM EGG BAKE,
VEGETARIAN EGG BAKE,
FRUIT, PASTRIES, BEVERAGE

\$8 ADULTS
\$6 CHILDREN (10 AND UNDER)
FREE - 3 YEARS AND UNDER

ALSO FEATURING
BAKE SALE
CRAFT SALE
QUILT RAFFLE
GUESSES TO WIN A TABLE RUNNER

It's Shoe Box Time—Save the Date!

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 124 million shoebox gifts for Operation Christmas Child since 1993. These simple shoeboxes filled with toys, school supplies, hygiene items and candy 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 sponsored by the Board of Church in Society. 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 22nd (shoebox dedication Sunday). Last year our church collected 117 shoeboxes - let's try to beat that record this year! For more information contact Mary Brahs at 364-8058.



Operation Christmas Child Processing Center

A group of adults and youth (9th through 12th grade) will be volunteering at the Operation Christmas Child Twin Cities Processing Center on Wednesday, December 2nd from 4 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. There is a sign up sheet on the youth bulletin board. Anyone under 18 must obtain a consent form from church. We will leave from the church at 3:10 p.m. and stop to eat after our work shift is over.

Soldier Package

There is a box in Fellowship Hall for donations for the soldier boxes. Donations can be cards, puzzle books, magazines, hard candy, gum, toiletries, anything not perishable, t-shirts, socks, etc. Be creative. Monetary can also be dropped in offering plate, please mark checks as soldier package on memo line, to help fill the boxes or be used for shipping. Boxes will be sent out the end of November so they can be received by Christmas to those serving in the military.

Addresses needed: Please submit your soldier's address to the church office asap.

November Music Notes

The Women's Choir will sing at the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at St. Patrick Church of Shieldsville on November 24, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. We will rehearse 3 Wednesday evenings.

Rehearse Wed. November 4, 2015 (6:30 – 7:00 p.m.)

Rehearse Wed. November 11, 2015 (6:30 – 7:00 p.m.)

Rehearse Wed. November 18, 2015 (6:30 – 7:00 p.m.)

The Women's Choir will sing at the 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service on December 24, 2015. We will rehearse 3 Wednesday evenings.

Rehearse Wed. December 2, 2015 (6:30 – 7:00 p.m.)

Rehearse Wed. December 9, 2015 (6:30 – 7:00 p.m.)

Rehearse Wed. December 16, 2015 (6:30 – 7:00 p.m.)

The Bells of St. John need another ringer. One of our ten members will be leaving the handbell choir at the end of this year. 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. We practice on Wednesday nights from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. We usually ring on the last Sunday of the month. If you are interested, contact a bell ringer or Kathy Heyda.

November 1

Anne Schroeder will sing "Blessings"

November 8

N/P/K children will sing "Praise Him, Praise Him"

Grades 1 – 4 will sing "Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho"

Emily Hoefs will sing "No More Hills to Climb"

Lynn Wilms will sing "How Beautiful"

November 15

Rock'n the Church will sing "Put on the Armor of God"

November 22

Nicole Schweitzer will sing "Love Grows Here"

November 24 (Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service)

Service starts at 7:00 p.m. at the Church of St. Patrick-Shieldsville, 7525 Dodd Road, Faribault, MN. Churches involved with this service are: Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, Church of St. Patrick-Shieldsville, Church of St. Canice-Kilkenny, Western Catholic Community (St. Scholastica-Heidelberg) and St. John Lutheran Church. It will be a service of readings and music. Reverend Dr. Mark Wilms will give the meditation. There will be vocal selections from the five participating church choirs. Special music will include hand bells, cymbells, harp, trumpet and organ. We pray you will attend.

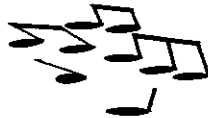
November 29 (1st Sunday of Advent)

Bells of St. John with ring "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel".

Kathy Heyda

Music Director

kathyheyda@gmail.com



Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

An Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service will be on Tuesday, November 24 at St. Patrick-Shieldsville at 7:00 p.m. The Bells of St. John and our Women's choir will be participating at this annual Thanksgiving worship service. The monetary, canned and boxed food offerings this year will go to the Le Center Food Shelf. If you are writing a donation check, please make it out to the Le Center Food Shelf.



ST. JOHN YOUTH

November Thankfulness Challenge

Each day during the month of November have each family member think of 1-3 things they are thankful for. Decide on a fun way to document each day. Some ideas are a gratitude journal, gratitude jar or box, write them on paper leaves and hang on a tree limb for a gratitude tree or make a gratitude banner. On Thanksgiving read everything you've been thankful for!! Share what your doing on our youth group Facebook page!

Cardboard Box Campout for Homelessness

Saturday, November 14th 3:00 p.m. – Sunday, November 15th 10:00 a.m.

The St. John Lutheran Church Youth Leagues (grades 5-12) along with youth at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church will be sleeping in cardboard boxes on the lawn at Holy Trinity Lutheran church in New Prague for a night to raise money and awareness for homelessness. We will meet at St. John at 3 pm and car pool to New Prague. We will return to attend 9am Sunday church service at St. John.

Saturday, November 14th 3:00 p.m. – Sunday, November 15th 10:00 a.m.

Operation Christmas Child

All League shoe box stuffing event. Meet after Sunday school on November 15th. We will have a light lunch and wrap and stuff shoeboxes for the following Sundays dedication service. Event will be done at 12:30. We are in need of shoeboxes. Please let Missy know if you have shoe boxes to donate or bring them to the youth office. Thanks!



Poinsettias

Poinsettia fundraiser for the youth starts Sunday, November 1st through Sunday, November 29th.



Mission Trip

A possible Mission Trip this summer to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in western South Dakota - youth over 13 and adults. We'd be driving. For more information on the site check www.re-member.org. If you are interested, contact Missy Gregor, Emily Hoefs or Kathy Westerman.

Coffee Sales

We have COFFEE! We have Breakfast Blend, Jamaica Me Crazy and new fall flavors for \$9. You can purchase during coffee hour or at the church office during the week. All proceeds go to the youth league.

Pop Tab Collection

We will be 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.

Stewardship of Time and Talents

Name A _____

Phone _____

Name B _____

E-mail _____

I (we) offer our services to God and Community in the following areas:

	A	B		A	B
Scripture Reader	___	___	Quilting	___	___
Communion Assistant	___	___	Help with office work	___	___
Usher/Greeter	___	___			
Nursery attendant	___	___	Maintenance/upkeep	___	___
Music					
Accompanist	___	___	Help with youth program		
Bells of St. John	___	___	Advisor	___	___
Instrumentalist	___	___	Driver	___	___
I play _____			Chaperone	___	___
Vocal soloist	___	___			
Women's Choir	___	___	Serve on a Committee:		
			Youth	___	___
Teaching	___	___	Worship & Music	___	___
Assist with Confirmation	___	___	Evangelism	___	___
Confirmation Mentor	___	___	Education	___	___
Sunday School	___	___	Facility management	___	___
Vacation Bible School	___	___	Stewardship & Finance	___	___
Participate in adult education	___	___	Church in Society	___	___
			Fellowship	___	___
Prayer Chain	___	___	Communications	___	___
Provide transportation	___	___			
Visitation	___	___	Serve on supporting committee:		
Mentor new members	___	___	Archives	___	___
			Endowment	___	___
Serve Sunday coffee hour	___	___	Altar Guild	___	___
Serve Lenten suppers	___	___			
Serve at funerals	___	___			
Bring food as needed	___	___			

All families are asked to complete this Stewardship of Time and Talents sheet and return to the church office by Sunday, November 22. Thank you.