

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

MONTGOMERY, MINNESOTA

Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861

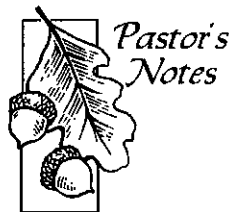
OCTOBER 2015

A Word or Two...by Pastor Mark

I have always liked fall. As nature ages into later middle life before the white winter comes, it blesses us with leaves of many colors, the spicy taste of cider and apple pie, the drums and cheers (or groans) of football, far-off sounds in the night of motorcycles speeding off or trains de-coupling on side tracks, a chill in the air that reminds us to put a jacket on in the morning and justifies that kolacky with coffee because, after all, you need an extra layer against the cold winter coming. It's all beautiful, and comforting as the seasons remind us that life does go on.

There's a thrill in church life also as the programs ramp up and take off: confirmation, Sunday school, the annual stewardship drive, quilting, music activities. People often say to me at Christmas that I must be really busy due to the holiday season, and I appreciate their concern, but you might be interested to know that right now in the fall is the very busiest time of year for church workers this side of Lent. It is now that the preparatory spade work is being done for all that holiday worship, along with the starting up of the major programs of the church. From my perspective, once you've conquered September and October, November and December just kind of play themselves out with some extra services but no big deal.

So, what's the point of this rambling of mine? Nothing more than to celebrate the seasons, and the Lord who makes them. In this world of change and violence, unbelief and political posturing, the Lord simply goes about His business as He has in all history. Isn't that great? He isn't thrown by the economy. He doesn't gasp in helpless horror at the struggles of today. Instead, in His infinite love and judgment He calls us to faithfulness year after year, equipping us to join with those who have gone before and those yet to be born who will take our place. And the message continues: His grace is sufficient for His power is made perfect in our weakness (II Corinthians 12:9). God bless you as you claim that promise for all seasons.



October Worship Helpers

Readers

October 4 Lisa Hoefs
 October 11 Deb Jelinek
 October 18 Erin Krautkremer
 October 25 Confirmand

Head Usher

Maridan Nesmoe

Ushers / Greeters

October 4 Mark & Mary Brahs
 LaNette Kuelper
 Ruth Kukacka
 October 11 Mike & Maridan Nesmoe
 Don Marcussen
 Dick Milinkovich
 October 18 Steve & Tammie Pan
 Brenda Peterson
 Charles Richter
 October 25 David & Dorothy Scheffert
 Kelle Schleis
 Eric Schroeder

Communion Assistants

October 11 Jean Waugh
 Cindy Westerhouse
 Jessica Westerman
 October 25 Don & Kathy Westerman
 Taylor Crosby

Acolytes

October 4 Jorgia Pumper
 Madelyn Novotny
 October 11 Jackson Nesmoe
 Anton Nelson
 October 18 Kayla Horejsi
 Alan Eotvos
 October 25 Gunner Domine
 Miranda Crosby

Altar Guild

Mary Brahs
 Cindy Curtis

*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...



Harold Walters (Betty Jindra and Virginia Horejse father), Mark McDaniel (Rhonda Solberg's relative), Floyd & Ellen Erkel (Carol Svoboda's brother), Amber Athey, Charlene Washa, Nancy Creger, Lyle Terwedo, Agnes Tuma, Kris Huhner (Kathy Peterson's sister), Reinhold West (Carol Kiekow's father), Bev Horejsi, Braden Flicek, Tom Mariska, and Betty Ann Heuer.

Remember those serving our country...

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



Our Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the family of Delmar Braun who passed away Monday, October 5. His funeral will be held here Friday, October 9 at 11:00 a.m.

Wedding



Congratulations and Best Wishes to Matt and Ashley (Pinc) Zouvak who were married here Saturday, October 3.

Thank You!!

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make our Rally Sunday a success.

Whereabouts???

Do you know the whereabouts of the church's projector? It was used last year, but there was a problem with it and was going to be taken for repair. We are unsure of who took it. If you know where it is, please contact the church office. Thank you.

Confirmation Service

Sunday, October 25 is Confirmation Day at the 9:00 a.m. service. Being confirmed are Katie Brokl, Chase Derhaag, Cassidy Gilbertson, Matt Koschade, Emily Krautkremer, Tyler Nesmoe, Audrey Petersen, Abigail Schleis and Cody Studnicka.

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.

Financial Corner General Fund - August

	August	Year to Date
Receipt	\$ 13,803.55	\$ 112,311.58
Expenses	\$ 14,071.94	\$ 112,052.73
Cash Flow	\$ (268.39)	\$ 258.85

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 26th of October for the November newsletter.

Church Council Meeting

Sept. 15 , 2015 - 6:30 pm

Present: John Krautkremer (1/16), Renee Sorenson (1/16), Maridan Nesmoie (1/16), Wendy Vargo (1/17), Kathy Peterson (1/17), Dan Hardel (1/17), John Helling (1/16), Eric Schroeder (1/18), Pastor Mark Wilmes

Absent: Liz Vlasak (1/18)

Kathy Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Pastor opened with a prayer.

Eric Schroeder moved and Dan Hardel seconded a motion to approve the August 2015 council meeting minutes. Motion carried.

On Going

Head Usher - October will be Maridan Nesmoie.

Feed My Sheep - Motion made by Dan Hardel to ratify the E-vote for a \$500 donation to a family. Maridan Nesmoie seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Motion made by Eric Schroeder to donate to a benefit. Seconded by Maridan Nesmoie. Motion carried. (Kathy Peterson abstained.)

Can Recycling - The next load will be used for the confirmation retreat in October at Gustavus as designated last month.

Old Business

Parsonage Rental Update - As of Sept. 1st the parsonage will be rented on a monthly basis.

ELCA Campaign - John Grimm - No Report

Call Committee - Interviews with possible candidates are scheduled to be starting at the end of this month. Committee went through a "mock" interview process with Pastor Mark.

New Business

Sunday School Numbers - Approximately 120 students registered.

Annual Meeting Date - Annual meeting set for January 24th, 2016

Nominating Committee - Will appoint one member from the council, preferably one going off, to head this committee. Will also need 2 more from the congregation.

Reports

President's Report: Review of employees will be done by a committee of Kathy Peterson, John Helling and Wendy Vargo. Discussed Christmas bonus' and SS end of the year gifts. This was tabled until next month.

Vice President: No report.

Secretary Report: See minutes from August.

Treasurer Report: Presented treasurer's report though August. Motion made by Eric Schroeder to approve the treasurer's report. Seconded by Dan Hardel. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report:

Working with 9th and 7th grade confirmation students according to the plan set by Pastor Kaul.

Will be attending a retreat on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 19th and 20th, at Gustavus with the 10th grade students. Renee Sorenson and John Helling will also be attending the retreat.

Pastor will be starting a new sermon series on the book of Esther.

3rd grade students will be receiving Bibles on Sunday, Sept. 27th.

Committee Reports:

Audit Report - Finished audit with no errors found. Dan will call Dave Scheffert for a more detailed report.

Endowment - Will have 3 investments due this fall so will meet on this.

WOTC - No report.

Cemetery - No report.

Stewardship Committee - Renee Sorenson - Will meet later to discuss a stewardship drive.

(Church Council Cont.)

(Church Council Cont.)

Evangelism Committee - Wendy Vargo - Soldier boxes will be set out for donations for those from our congregation serving in the military. We will also include Holy Redeemer with this project to include those from their congregation serving in the military.

Education: Liz Vlasak - absent - Report as per Pastor - Will be asking for high school students to help with a 15 - 20 min. devotion time for 5th - 8th grade students. He has one volunteer at this time.

Youth: Eric Schroeder - Motion was made by Eric Schroeder to offer the Youth Director position to Melissa Gregor. Kathy Peterson seconded the motion. Motion carried.
Colleen Wondra expressed an interest in serving on the Youth Board.

Facility Management – John Krautkremer -
Will bring in handicap signs as needed.

Sign Update - The sign company is behind in their installation work, but should be able to work on the sign in another week or two.

Tower Leaks - Will be in touch with a company in Owatonna on tuck pointing the brick.

Kitchen faucets - Will call in Jeff Franek to replace the faucets.

Entrance to parking lot - Was brought up about condition of the entrance to the parking lot. Will look into what can be done.

Repairs - Was suggested to designate Kay to call Ruhland Electric for electrical problems that arise, Franek Plumbing for plumbing problems, and Mark Richter for construction fixes.

Church and Society - Kathy Peterson - Will be meeting Sunday, Sept. 20th.

Communications - Dan Hardel - No report.

Fellowship - John Helling - Rally day was well attended.

Worship & Music Committee - Maridan Nesmoie - Will be meeting on Saturday, Sept. 26th.

Next meeting: Oct. 20, 2015 at 6:30 pm.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. by Wendy Vargo and seconded by Eric Schroeder. Motion carried. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Wendy Vargo, Church Council Secretary.

Call Committee Update

The call committee has been very busy preparing for interviews for our permanent pastor. Over the last several weeks, questions have been meticulously formed so the time with our candidates will provide us with the most information possible and help us to align the candidate's talents and gifts with the needs of our congregation. Earlier this month, Pastor Mark graciously allowed the committee to perform a mock interview using him as our candidate. This process really helped the committee to polish format and better define questions.

At this point in the process, the Synod has helped to arrange interviews with four candidates. These have all been scheduled now and initial meetings will be complete by the end of October. If a candidate seems to fit our congregation, a second meeting will be conducted.

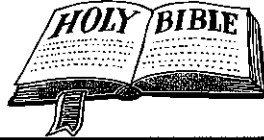
Although we want to make sure that the congregation is kept abreast of any new information that the Call Committee is able to share, please keep in mind that the process and candidates are confidential. The members of the Call Committee are not able to share specific information on any of our candidates until a candidate is presented to the council for a call. The committee is following guidelines from the synod by not sharing personal information.

We will keep you posted as we progress on this exciting journey. Please continue to keep the Call Committee and potential candidates in your prayers! This is an exciting time for St. John!!

Faith and Life Bible Study for October

We are working through the early centuries of the Christian Church, and coming soon to the amazing moment when the first Christian emperor, Constantine, declared our faith as legal in the Roman Empire. It was huge, and that emperor's interest in the church would have a lasting influence that is felt today.

Join us for Faith and Life Bible Study Mondays 6:30-8:00 PM, or Wednesdays 9:30-11:00 AM (same content at both). You can come as often as you want, and there are treats every week. See you there!



October Music Notes

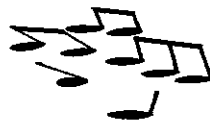
We are off to a great start in the singing department with the Sunday school children. I am teaching them a new song as we collect their offering during opening. They will sing during the October 11 service. N/P/K will sing "Father Abraham". Grades 1-4 will sing "Jacob's Ladder."

We have new faces in Rock'n the Church Choir. We started practice September 20 with 13 singers.....7 new members and 6 returning members. They will sing "Every Move I Make" during the October 18 service.

We welcome Anne Schroeder as a ringer with the Bells of St. John. Other members of our handbell choir include: Diane LaVine Schultz, Kathy Derhaag, Cindy Westerhouse, Maridan Nesmoie, Wendy Corona, Kay Busch, Carol Kiekow, Stephanie Picha and Jean Waugh. They will ring "Father Most Holy" on October 25.

The Bells of St. John will be ringing cymbells to use in our Music Ministry. What are cymbells? They are handbells mounted on a horizontal rack with their own stand and mallets. They use the familiar keyboard order to make them easy to play by any musician with keyboard experience. And they take less space than handbells. We will use them with hymn singing, for handbell solos and for moments in worship where a bell sound is needed as an accompaniment to a reading or to introduce a melody.

Kathy Heyda
Music Director
kathyheyda@gmail.com



Grief Support

A Grief Support Group is being offered by St. John Lutheran Church. The group is for anyone who is grieving the loss of someone important to them, whether the loss is recent or from years past. The group will meet at 7:00 p.m. at St. John Lutheran Church beginning on Tuesday, October 6th and will run for six weeks.

Dr. Alan Wolfelt (internationally recognized expert in the field of loss and grief) states, "You can benefit from a connectedness that comes from people who have also had a death in their lives. Support groups, where people come together and share the common bond of experience, can be invaluable in helping you and your grief and supporting your need to mourn long after the event of the death.

For more information or questions, please call Brenda Peterson at (701) 269-1439 or Marilyn Richter at (507) 744-2520.



Hope for Kris

Show your support for Kris Harpel (Simon) Huhner. A benefit will be held Saturday, October 10, 4-9 p.m. at the KC Hall in New Prague. Hot Beef and Roast Turkey Sandwiches, Silent Auction, Raffles and Games. To learn more about Kris's condition, see her CaringBridge www.caringbridge.org/visit/krishuhner

Quilting

The St. John Quilters will meet the second and fourth Mondays during October and November. No special skill is necessary. We work from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. so bring a lunch and join us for some fellowship and meet new friends.

ST. JOHN YOUTH

Halloween Party

Saturday, October 31 Pumpkin Decorating party Time Change!! Event will take place at **11am-1pm** instead of 1-3pm. Please bring your own pumpkin and carving tools. Stencils, decorations, snacks and refreshments will be provided. Wear your costume, prize for best costume and most creative pumpkin will be given to each age group! Event is for Little and Junior League (grades 3-8). Kids under 3rd grade may attend with an adult.



Little League Kick Off Apple Orchard Event

Please meet us at the Montgomery Apple Orchard at 1pm on Sunday, October 25th. Take Hwy 13 south, turn left on Hwy 99, the orchard is about 2 miles down the road on the right side. We will have a hayride tour, pick apples and make apple cider. This is a Little League Event (grades 3&4). Parents, please return for pick up at 3:30pm at the Orchard. Car pooling can be arranged if needed.



Ronald McDonald House

Sunday, October 18 Junior and Senior League community service event. We will meet at the church by **2:00 p.m.**, load our supplies and travel to Rochester. We will be serving dinner to the families staying at the house. We will be home by approximately **9:00 p.m.** Please **sign up by Sunday, October 4th** to make sure we have enough adult chaperons.

Coffee Sales

We have COFFEE! We have Breakfast Blend and Jamaica Me Crazy for \$9. You can purchase during coffee hour or at the church office during the week. All proceeds go to the youth league. Fall flavors will be coming in soon!



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.

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.

