

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

MONTGOMERY, MINNESOTA

Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861

OCTOBER 2016

PASTOR'S LETTER

A WORD TO "THE ONE WHO STUMBLES"

&

A WORD TO "THE ONE WHO TRIPS UP OTHERS"

Jesus said to his disciples,
"Occasions for stumbling are bound to come,
but woe to anyone by whom they come!
It would be better for you if a millstone
were hung around your neck
and you were thrown into the sea
than for you to cause one of these little ones to stumble.
Luke 17:1-2

Whether it be on the up-coming decision on our political landscape or, much, much closer to home, within our daily lives with our friends and our families, two words come to us from Jesus that challenge us and the world we live in.

First, in a world which tells us that "we shouldn't fall down" or that "if we do fall down, we should have the power and fortitude to just get back up," Jesus sends His word to "the one who stumbles, "Occasions for stumbling are bound to come!" This is more than losing the big game. It deals with faith – our faith. When these challenges come drawing us away from God's word of promise for us through Christ and instead to another way, we are called to repent. Repentance is turning our minds back around to the word which really sustains and gives us life. Then based on this word alone, we are called to believe it.

These "occasions for stumbling" are different for you and for me. They are not something that you can prepare for nor can you prevent. They come at you out of the blue. But, when they come, we know it. Our strength is in the Lord and in his promise for us. This is how we get back up. We turn to Him and His grace comes to us once again, often coming through a brother or sister in Christ stooping down and speaking this word, this promise, this forgiveness to us once again.

But, that other word - "the word to the one who trips up" "the one who stumbles," - is one that the world nor ourselves wants to hear when we are guilty of causing another to stumble – turning away from the word that was their very own.

A stumbling block of a word that replaces Christ with a promise to return to a past place or time or status which can never be reached again – but, we are dealing with the here and now.

A stumbling block of a word that replaces Christ with a promise to go beyond to a future place or time or status which will please everyone if we just imagine it – but, we are dealing with the here and now.

A stumbling block of a word that replaces Christ with an altered, conditional forgiveness which preaches conditions to be reached in order prove that "the stumbling one" has changed and is deemed worthy of forgiveness.

Jesus' word is a good word. In the midst of suffering, Jesus is the one who will trip up the tripper.

Political leaders, church leaders, parents, all of us are called here to know that our words and deeds do matter. They do have power. They can cause another to be "one who stumbles."

Within our world, our communities, and our homes, we are to use these words of Christ to rebuke, to repent, to forgive, and then live into this newness of life. Repeating and repenting as often as necessary, when we find ourselves as those who have fallen down.

Peace of Christ,

Pastor Jason

October Worship Helpers

Readers

October 2	Diane DeWitte
October 9	Brenda Peterson
October 16	Lisa Hoefs
October 23	Deb Jelinek
October 30	Confirmand

Head Usher

Greg Westerman

Ushers / Greeters

October 2	Mark & Mary Brahs Jeanne Anderson Paul Busch
October 9	Rhonda Berg Jim Blum Kathy Derhaag Kay Busch
October 16	Daryl & Cindy Curtis Tom & JoAnn Dawson
October 23	Rich & Gwen Hanzlik John & Lori Helling
October 30	Myron & Peggy Hentges Ralph Hendrickson Jim Heyda

Communion Assistants

October 9	Dallas Horejsi Lynden Jelinek Deb Jelinek
October 23	Candyce Kadrlik Carol Kiekow Erin Krautkremer

Acolytes

October 2	Madison Gilbertson
October 9	James Krautkremer
October 16	Nick Novotny
October 23	James Krautkremer
October 30	Nick Novotny

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...



Milton Bauer, Haven Peterson (Susie Trender's grandson), Gail Embretson, Rev. Bob and Ardyce Boda, Phyllis Swidorski, Amy Korthuis (Judy Ferguson's sister-in-law), Nancy Creger, Reinhold West (Carol Kiekow's father), and Kris Huhner (Kathy Peterson's sister).

Remember those serving our country...

Travis Ferguson, Colin Hulke, Shane Morris, Matthew Astorino, Adam Vlasak, and Matt Nelson.



Our Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Myron and Peggy Hentges and family upon the death of Peggy's mother Patricia Morrill on Monday, October 3.

Baptism

Gavin Norbert Hoefs was baptized Sunday, October 2. Gavin was born September 6, 2016 to Jason and Emily Hoefs. His sponsors are Joel Hoefs and Jodie Olson. God's blessings to Gavin and his family.

Gifts Received

Gift received in memory of Leonard Duffney for the Feed My Sheep program. Thank you.

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who donated aluminum cans. The cans brought \$124.80 which will go towards the upcoming confirmation retreat. Thank you to Paul Busch for taking the cans to Mankato.

We Need Help!

The Council has been busy checking out what needs to be done around the church and parsonage. They have found the grounds need bushes pulled, trees trimmed and misc. landscaping jobs. If anyone can pitch in please call Greg Westerman at 612 756-4679.

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 25th of October for the November newsletter.

Financial Corner General Fund - July

	July	Year to Date
Receipt	\$ 14,496.01	\$ 103,730.99
Expenses	\$ 14,817.60	\$ 106,297.99
Cash Flow	\$ (321.59)	\$ (2,567.00)

Financial Corner General Fund - August

	August	Year to Date
Receipt	\$ 10,693.25	\$ 114,424.24
Expenses	\$ 13,897.99	\$ 120,195.98
Cash Flow	\$ (3,204.74)	\$ (5,771.74)

St. John Church Council Minutes September 20, 2016

Present: Kathy Peterson (1/17), Eric Schroeder (1/18), Connie Cihak (1/18), Pam Edel (1/19) Dan Hardel (1/17), Liz Vlasak (1/18) Pastor Jason

Absent: Wendy Vargo (1/17), Greg Westerman (1/19), Renee Sorenson (1/19)

President Kathy Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Pastor Jason opened with prayer.

Dan Hardel/Eric Schroeder moved to approve the minutes from the August meeting. Motion carried.

Dan Hardel/Liz Vlasak moved to approve the treasurer's reports from July and August. Motion carried.

Dan presented a final report from parsonage rental.

Pastor's Update: Pastor Jason gave a detailed report of his first weeks and has some new views and questions of things we do. Need to be aware of statistics for Trend Report.

Head Ushers: Discussed.

Feed My Sheep: No new family was identified this month.

A pastor that used to be in Lonsdale recently passed away. Dan will get Wendy an address to send a card.

Can Recycling: Next load will go for the confirmation retreat. Then Operation Christmas Child.

Old Business

Painting and carpeting should both be started by the end of the month.

Rally Sunday was reviewed. All was wonderful and successful.

New Business

Pastor and Kay should post hours on door and website

Outdoor updating - Several of us did a walk around and came up with a list of many things to be done around the building. Much is with plants but also some repair. Greg and the facility committee will work on this for fall. Some items may be left till spring.

Sunday school numbers: 97 kids signed up compared to 79 last year. Good slate of teachers and subs also.

Discussed Annual Meeting- Tentatively set of January 22 but will verify in October.

Nominating committee must be established. Dan Hardel will be going off and will be serving on nominating committee.

Staff Christmas bonuses were discussed.

Pastor gave information on music copyright information and some restrictions. There will be more discussion with the Worship and Music committee.

Long discussion on water issues. Part of ceiling collapsed. See much water damage. Kathy will work on things tomorrow to get things cleaned up and find another company to work on a better solution. Council needs to be watching for updates and emails. This is a pressing issue.

Committee Reports:

Endowment: No report.

Women of the Church: No report.

Cemetery: No report.

Audit: Dan will talk to Cindy Westerhouse to set goals.

Stewardship: Renee Sorenson: Absent. Renee gave a nice talk to get money for Feed My Sheep.

Evangelism: Wendy Vargo: Working with Pam Edel to get soldier names and addresses. More will be done in November and mailing in December.

Education: Liz Vlasak: Report was in Sunday School information.

Youth: Eric Schroeder: All going well

Facility: Greg Westerman: Absent.

Church in Society: Kathy Peterson: Just received info on Operation Christmas Child. Mary Brahs will chair again.

Communications: Dan Hardel: Discussed how many hits on website. High numbers!! Worth keeping up to date. It is used a lot.

Fellowship: Connie Cihak: Looking at an inspirational speaker.
(Church Council cont.)

(Church Council cont.)

Worship and Music: Pam Edel: Some discussion on how much work planning ahead and tying into readings.

Eric/Liz made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35. Motion carried.

Pastor Jason lead the council in the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting is set for September Oct 18, 6:30 pm

Council Update

The painting in the downstairs classroom and hallway is complete. The carpeting will be completed in early October.

We again are having major water issues and are working hard to get to the bottom of the issue. We have the company that did our roof coming in and 2 other companies looking over the situation and giving us advice. It is heartbreaking and frustrating to see all this damage again. We will keep you posted as we do our best to figure things out.

Soldier Packages

Again this year we will be sending gift filled boxes to soldiers in our congregation and community. There are boxes in Fellowship Hall for donations of cards, magazines, puzzle books, hard candy, gum, toiletries, anything not perishable, t-shirts, socks, etc. Be creative. Handwritten notes are very welcomed by the soldiers. Monetary gifts 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 in mid November so they can be received by Christmas.

ADDRESSES NEEDED: Family and friends, please submit your soldiers address to the church office to ensure they receive a package.



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

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.
Thank you for your cooperation.*

NEW TO YOU & REFRESHER ADULT CATECHISM

If you haven't had an opportunity to learn about Luther's Small Catechism or if you are interested in a refresher, we are going to be offering a class for you starting this October. The sessions will be held on **Mondays at 6 PM and second offering to join us on Wednesdays at 8:30 AM** at St. John Lutheran Church. The sessions will be as follows:

Ten Commandments - Oct 10th/Oct 12th

The Apostles' Creed - Oct 17th/19th

The Lord's Prayer - Oct 24th/Oct 26th

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism - Nov 14th/16th

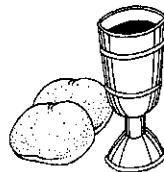
The Sacrament of Holy Communion - Nov 21st/Nov 23rd

The Marks of the Church - Nov 28th/Nov 30th

If you are interested in participating, you may contact Pr. Jason at the office **507-364-5002** or send him an e-mail at prjasonpollington@gmail.com or at pastor@montgomerymelcalutherans.org.

1ST COMMUNION

Members of St. John Lutheran interested in receiving 1st Communion education, we will be holding **three classes on October 12th, October 26th, & November 9th** for members who are in the 5th Grade as a continuation of the confirmation process. We will be meeting at St. John Lutheran Church in the education room across from the youth room at **4-5 PM**. If you or your child has questions about 1st Communion, please contact the office or Pr. Jason. 1st Communion will be held on **Sunday, November 19th at the 9 AM Service**. And, if your child is younger than the 5th Grade and has asked about Communion, Pr. Jason is available to visit with these young members and their families to talk about it together.



10th Grade Confirmation Class

The 10th grade confirmation class will attend a Confirmation Retreat at Gustavus Adolphus College on October 15th-16th, completing their confirmation requirements. They will then be confirmed on Reformation Sunday, October 30 at the 9:00 a.m. worship service. Those being confirmed are Alexys Boyd, Miranda Crosby, Gunner Domine, Alan Eotvos, Kayla Horejsi, Anton Nelson, Jackson Nesmoe, Madeline Novotny, Jorgia Pumper and Maggie Trnka. Please keep these young adults in your prayers as they prepare to become confirmed members of the congregation.



9th Grade Confirmation Class

The ninth grade confirmation class will meet 6 Wednesdays, November 2—December 19 (not meeting November 23) at 6:30 p.m. in the downstairs Sunday School room. Then during 2017 each confirmand will continue working on the confirmation requirements and will choose a mentor to work with them during the year preparing for their confirmation in October of 2017.

Music Notes

Children's choir rehearsals have begun. On Sunday mornings I work with children in Nursery, Preschool and Kindergarten (around 15 kids), children in grades 1 through 4 (around 40 kids) and children in Rock'n the Church Choir (around 20 kids). We are a huge family that loves Jesus.

Women's Choir will start rehearsals from 6:30 –7:00 p.m. on November 2, November 9 and November 16 to prepare for the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the Church of St. Patrick in Shieldsville. More singers are welcome to join us.

When we sing:

1. We obey God's command. We're doing what God asks of us.
2. We dig deep roots in the Word. We are promised that the Word of Christ will dwell in us richly – which is what we should crave as believers!
3. We build up others. When we sing together as a church family, we are hearing testimonies of faith all around us.
4. We make war against Satan. A heart that sings and makes melody to the Lord will not easily give in to temptation or sin.
5. We are spiritually strengthened for trial. Singing strengthens us. Even in suffering, we should SING!
6. We walk a God-designed pathway to joy. Joy and singing are bound together. If you struggle for joy – SING. If you are joyful, SING. Sing like it's your birthday every day and you want everyone to know. We bring our heart, soul, mind and strength together to focus entirely and completely on God to glorify Him.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Percussion Band on Sunday, September 11. Remind me to do this again next year on Rally Sunday.

Kathy Heyda
Music Director

Special Music for October

October 2 – Quartet sings "*Love Grows Here*"

October 9 – N/P/K sings "*We Go to Church*" & Grades 1-4 sings "*I Am A Promise*"

October 16 – Rock'n the Church sings "*Amazing Grace*" and "*Let's Get a Little Crazy*"

October 30 – Soloist sings "*The Blessing Song*" & Bells of St. John ring "*A Mighty Fortress*"



Mission Trip

There is a group going to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation from June 24 to the 30th (driving) to work there on a Native American Reservation. For more information about this mission, go to www.re-member.org. We have 15 spots reserved and have 12 signed up to go. We estimate the total cost to be about \$800 a person. There will be fund raising opportunities to help pay for this trip. If you have questions or are interested in going, please contact to Missy Gregor or Kathy Westerman.

Online Giving Option!!!

You can now manage your giving online! Giving online is easy and allows you to set up one time giving or automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account or processed using your credit or debit card. Just visit our website at www.montgomerymnelcalutherans.org and click on donate button, then follow the onscreen instructions.

Women of the Church Fall Fundraiser

- WHO:** Women of the Church (WOTC) - All women members of St. John Lutheran Church are members of WOTC and are asked to participate in 2 fundraisers a year.
- WHAT:** WOTC Fall Fundraiser - Egg Bake Breakfast, Bake Sale, Craft Sale.
- WHEN:** **Sunday, November 13, 7:30 - 11:30 a.m.**
- WHERE:** St. John Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall
- WHY:** WOTC raise funds each year through 2 fundraisers and money from our Sunday coffee hour. These funds are used to pay for the kitchen expenses, replenish the coffee supply, commercially clean carpet in Fellowship Hall, buy supplies for Lutheran World Relief layette sets, personal care kits and sewing kits, quilting supplies (quilts are given to Lutheran World Relief, Peace Center, other as needed), and other charitable gifts.
- HOW:**
1. We have decided to purchase ingredients for the egg bakes and fruit but need to have women bring rolls/pastries to be served with breakfast.
 2. We need baked goods and crafts for the sale. Please have baked goods labeled because some breads and pies are hard to distinguish what kind they are. Homemade pies and breads are the best sellers. If you are bringing crafts, please have them priced.
 3. Workers are needed for 3 different shifts.
 - Saturday 9:00 a.m. - Noon (approximately)
 - Set up Fellowship Hall for craft and bake sale items.
 - Price baked goods.
 - Make egg bakes.
 - Sunday: 6:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
 - 9:30 a.m. - clean up
 4. Or give \$20.

**Please have baked goods and crafts to the church by 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 12.
Please complete form below and return to the church office by Sunday, October 30.**

Thank you for making our fundraiser a success.

I will bring: _____ Baked Goods
_____ Crafts
_____ Rolls/pastries for breakfast

I will work _____ Saturday - 9:00 a.m. - Noon
_____ Sunday - 6:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
_____ Sunday - 9:30 a.m. - Clean Up
_____ Can't work an entire shift but will work _____

_____ I will donate \$20.

Name: _____

ST. JOHN YOUTH

T-shirts for Sale!

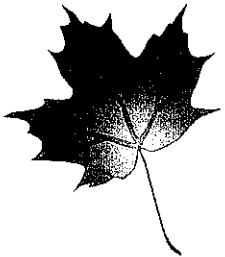
Youth sizes M & L Adult sizes XS-2XL

\$10

Will be for sale after church on October 9th also available through Kay in church office or Missy in youth office



Adopt-A-Highway



It's time to clean our adopt a highway ditch. Please meet at the church after school on Tuesday, October 11th at 1:30 PM. We are looking for the participation of all confirmation students, 5th-10th grade. 11th & 12th graders that would like to earn a community service point may also attend. We clean a portion of Hwy 13 that is south of town, start at the St John sign and head south for 2 miles toward the Hwy 13 and Hwy 99 intersections. We need adult help for this event, please contact Missy if available. mgregor@montgomerymnelcalutherans.org

Youth League Night!

Little League will meet Wednesday, October 5th at 3:15-4:15 PM
in the youth room.

Junior League Wednesday, October 5th at 6-7 PM

Senior League will have Coffee House Night on Saturday, October 22nd
at LaNette's coffee shop on Main Street 7-8:30PM.

Pumpkin Decorating Party

Please join us for a pumpkin decorating party! Party will take place in fellowship hall on
Saturday, October 29th 1-3 PM

Please bring your own pumpkin.

Stencils, carving tools 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 league (grades 3&4) Kids under 3rd grade may attend with an adult.
Senior and Junior league and adults may attend to help with the carving!



Coffee Sales

We have COFFEE from European Roasterie! We have Breakfast Brew, Jamaican Me Crazy, Toasted Marshmallow, Turtle Nut, Cherry Devils food cake, Banana bread, Blueberry swirl and Irish Cream .

\$9 for a 12 ounce bag. You can purchase during coffee hour or at the church office during the week. We take special orders if we don't have the flavor you want, whole bean also available by special order. All proceeds go to the youth league.

