



St. John Lutheran Church ELCA

Montgomery, Minnesota

September 2019

Faith Active through Love - Worship

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

As we continue to walk through the Mission Statement of St. John Lutheran, this month we move forward to “living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ through worship.” Each time we gather to worship, we are invited into God’s rest, (His Sabbath), to hear of the work of what He has done for our sake through the sending of His Son, in Jesus death and resurrection, we are saved and redeemed by God’s grace and love, not through any work of our own. We are gathered. We sing songs telling of God’s grace and work. We confess our sin. We hear of His forgiveness through absolution. We hear of His deeds through scripture read. We hear the word preached. We lift up prayers which our Father promises to hear. We receive life and forgiveness through Holy Communion. We are sent out to share this good news, the gospel of Christ, to those who need to hear this word, this life, this invitation to come.

In Luther’s Small Catechism, we ponder and struggle with Martin Luther’s explanation of the 3rd Commandment, “We are to fear and love God, so that we do not despise preaching or God’s word, but instead keep that word holy and gladly hear and learn it.”

In worship, we are invited into a Physical and Spiritual time of celebration and rest; Physical celebrating and resting: “We stop our handiwork and our labor in order to assemble in church, be present at Mass (Holy Communion), listen to God’s word, and pray in union with others (Treatise on Good Works, p79).”

Spiritual celebration: “This entails not only laying down our work, but also letting God alone work in us without applying any power of our own...Humankind, damaged by sin, has an inordinate love and predilection for all things sinful...in all that we do or leave undone, we seek our own will, advantage, and honor more than that of God and our neighbors. All our works, words, and thoughts even our entire lives, are baleful and not godly. If God is to work and live in us, all those vices and corruption must be choked back and extirpated – placing all our works, words, thoughts, and lives on hold, so that...“not we, but Christ may live, be active, and speak in us (Treatise on Good Works, p 80).”

It is in this that we are invited into good works, not those of our flesh, but works that come to us in an alien way in our faith active through love. “The first work, faith, is to have a good heart and trust in God, which springs forth the second good work, praising God’s name, acknowledging God’s grace, and giving honor to God. After that comes the third work: worshiping by praying, attending to the sermon, and meditating on God’s blessing castigating (rebuking) and subjugating (overpowering) the flesh (Treatise on Good Works, pp. 87-88).”

Here at St. John, may you be gathered, find your rest, receive His promise, and be sent out, living the Gospel through worship in Jesus name.

Peace of Christ,

Pr. Jason

Worship & Music Notes for September

We have been singing new music from SongSelect since the beginning of May. We hope you have enjoyed the new music and the powerful words in the lyrics. The more you sing this music, the more you will fix them in your minds and hearts. Generations have argued (and will continue to do so) about what is “good music”. If music isn’t presented in the style and sound which we have grown comfortable with over the years, we do not know what to think of it and may be scared to accept it. However, we may hear His voice when we stop a moment to consider the substance of what is being presented.



Rally Day is Sunday, September 8, 2019. On that day, we will have an outdoor service in the backyard. We will sing some classic Sunday School songs that kids of all ages love to sing. Bring your lawn chairs. This is the day we kick-off our school year and install our Sunday School teachers. A church potluck will follow the outdoor service. Choir rehearsals begin in September. Mark your calendars!

Sunday School children rehearse their songs during Sunday School opening. The children will sing during the church service on October 13th, December 15th, December 24th (3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service), February 9th, March 15th and April 5th.

Rock’n the Church Choir will start rehearsals on Sunday, September 15. This choir is open to children in grade 3 through grade 6. We practice after Sunday School from 11:00 – 11:30 AM in the church sanctuary. Rock’n the Church will sing during the church service on October 20th, November 17th, December 15th, December 24th (5:00 PM Christmas Eve service), February 16th, March 22nd, April 19th and May 3rd.

Bells of St. John will start rehearsals on Wednesday, September 11 at 7:00 PM. We usually ring the last Sunday of the month.

The Voices of St. John will sing for Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday services. They will rehearse Wednesday nights before each of these services. For the Thanksgiving Service – rehearsals are October 30th, November 6th, November 13th and November 20th. For the 10:00 PM. Christmas Eve Service – rehearsals are December 4th, December 11th and December 18th.

For Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020 – rehearsals are March 4th, March 18th, April 1st and April 8th.

Kathy Heyda

Music Director

Fall Grief Support Group

6:30 PM, (Tuesdays) September 10th - October 15th

“Grieving the death of a loved one is one of the most difficult emotional experiences everyone eventually has to go through.” July 2019, Journeys Newsletter, (Patti Anewalt)

Losing someone we love, we find our lives are forever changed. You cannot - nor should you try to do this alone. Friends and family members may form the core of your support system and are certainly helpful, but unless they have experienced a close personal loss, they most likely don’t fully “get it”. That is where support groups can become a valuable resource for those who are also, living life after loss.

A support group gives participants a safe and confidential place to interact with others who may be experiencing similar feelings without being judged. It is also reassuring to learn that what they are going through is normal!

The six-week group will meet at the church and is open to anyone in the community. The group is free of charge, however, participants are asked to register to ensure that enough materials are available. For more information or to register, call facilitator, Brenda Peterson at (701) 269-1439 or co-facilitator, Kay Busch, (952) 261-9755.

COMMITTEE NEWS

IMPORTANT DATES

Weekly Daily Discipleship Bible Study

We've been gathering together for the past 3 months over the Summer, but if you haven't had an opportunity yet to make it - No worries! Come join us on Wednesday mornings for our Daily Discipleship Bible Study 10 AM at St. John. This Bible study is a lectionary based which means that we will be discussing the up-coming reading that we will use in our services.

One great thing about this Bible Study is that you can join in at any time, even if you happen to miss a week. This is a great way to be gathered around scripture, share in faith and enjoy fellowship. It is open to all members of our congregation and community who are able to join us.

WOTC

We will be hosting Coffee Hour after church on Sunday, September 29th. We plan to serve cinnamon rolls and if you are able to help in anyway, please contact Kathy Derhaag or Renee Pribyl.

The WOTC Fall Fundraiser is right around the corner (November 10th), there will be a WOTC meeting on Sunday, September 29th during coffee hour to discuss the Fall Fundraiser. Renee will provide a financial update and we need to have a discussion about our funds and how we want to assign them this year. Thank you!

10th Grade and Mentor Dinner

As the 10th Graders continue to get closer to their confirmation, we will be having a special dinner for them and their Mentors who have worked with them over this past year. This will be held for them on Wednesday, September 11th at 6:30PM. During this dinner, we will be taking the time to thank the Mentors and sharing a little bit about your time together. A Thrivent Action Team card will be covering all of the expenses for this dinner.

SEPTEMBER CONFIRMATION EVENTS

MENTOR DINNER WITH 10TH GRADERS & MENTORS
SEPT. 11TH @ 6:30 PM

MEETING WITH THE 7TH & 8TH GRADERS AND THEIR
PARENTS SEPT. 18TH @ 6:30 PM

3RD GRADERS WILL RECEIVE THEIR BIBLES SEPT. 15TH

COMMISSIONING OF 9TH GRADERS AND MENTORS
SEPT. 22ND (MEETING FOLLOWING THE SERVICE IN
THE YOUTH ROOM @ 10 AM)

CONFIRMATION FOR 7TH AND 8TH GRADERS
WEDNESDAYS STARTING ON SEPT. 25TH
DINNER 6:00 - 6:30 PM & CLASS FROM 6:30 - 7:30 PM

CONFIRMATION RETREAT WITH THE 10TH GRADERS
AT GUSTAVUS COLLEGE
SEPT. 28TH – 29TH (SATURDAY 1 PM – SUNDAY 1 PM)

Confirmation Retreat

Coming up September 28th through 29th, the 10th Graders will be gathering with Pr. Jason and two chaperones at Gustavus Adolphus College. This is a great opportunity to have intentional time apart to focus on what their confirmation means and all that they get to look forward to in continuing to walk in their Christian faith. We will be leaving at 1PM on Saturday and returning around 1PM on Sunday. We need 1 Adult Male and 1 Adult Female Chaperone for this event. If you are interested in helping, please contact Pr. Jason.

A Request Worth Accepting

9th Grades will be working together with a mentor throughout the year in faith formation. Each 9th Grader chooses a mentor from the congregation. "A mentor is preferably someone who is a non-related member of St. John that they see as an example of living the faith. Although this is preferred, it does not exclude a member of the congregation who is their baptismal sponsor or an extended relative desiring to take this opportunity to grow in faith together living into their baptismal promise to this child." One aspect of this time will be when the 9th Grader and their Mentor get together four times using discussion guides concerning "Faith and Worship," "Faith and Family," "Faith and School/Social Life," and "Faith and Vocation." (Further process description for 9th Grade Class can be found in the information section of our website.)

Remember those serving our country...

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

Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of those who have passed away during the summer. Blanche Sorenson, Colter Perry (the 2 1/2 year old son of Steve and Cierra and great-nephew of Pr. Jason and Megan), George Korbel, (father of Dale Korbel), Walter Procenko, Shawn Anderson (the brother of Dave Anderson), Charlotte Hardel (mother of Dan Hardel) and Betty Brown.

Thank you

Thank you for the donations to the Bell Tower. Thank you for the donations to Feed My Sheep. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the blankets collection for the Smiles network! We received a total of 46 blankets and are very appreciative of everyone who participated. Kayla Horejsi and Aliviya Boyd.

Weddings

Luis Ingram & Becky Barrington were married at St. John Lutheran on Saturday, July 20th.

TOP 10 WAYS OF HELPING WITH CONFIRMATION

Pray for Them

Talk to Them

Listen to Them

Learn from Them

Get to Know Who They Are

Consider Being a 9th Grade Mentor*

Consider Being a Chaperone for the Confirmation Retreat (1 Male and 1 Female)*

Be a Helper during Class Time (open to high school members and adult members)*

Provide a Meal for the Wednesday Night Classes*

Grow in Faith Together with Them

Please Contact Pr. Jason – Sign-up Sheets are available

Do you receive the mail? Would in receiving it via Newsletters that



your newsletter in you be interested email instead? are received by

email get to you 2-3 days faster than in the mail.

Help us go green and email stjohndelca@frontier.com to be put on the newsletter email list!

Remember in your Prayers..

Matthew Koschade, Lynda McIlwain (niece of Marilyn Richter), Patty Tiede, Bill Kiekow, 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.



Have an announcement for the bulletin or newsletter?

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

- ♦ **Wednesday** for the bulletin.
- ♦ The **23rd of September** for the **October newsletter**.

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.

July Income	\$	15,666.65
July Expense	\$	(15,907.44)
	\$	(240.79)
YTD Income	\$	88,645.80
YTD Expense	\$	(94,638.43)
	\$	(5,992.63)

Bell Tower Donations

Balance 12-2018	\$	10,681.35
Donations 2019	\$	57,075.80
Balance 6-18-2019	\$	67,757.15

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

August 2019 Council Minutes

President Carol called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm on Tuesday, August 20, 2019.

Present: Carol Kiekow (2022), Liz Krocak (2022) Connie Cihak (2021), Steve Schroeder (2020), Dave Winge (2021), Liz Vlasak (2021), Kathy Peterson (2020), Wendy Vargo - arrived about 7 pm (2020), and Pastor Jason.

Absent: Mike Lundquist (2022)

Pastor opened with devotions.

Motion was made by Kathy, seconded by Liz K. to approve the Secretary's report from the June 2019 meeting. Motion carried. A motion was made by Kathy, seconded by Steve to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

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

Head Ushers for Sept is Steve, except for the 15th- Mike

Next load of cans from recycling will be donated to the Confirmation retreat. Last load will balance out VBS with rest to general fund.

Feed my Sheep will do a noisy offering on Rally Sunday

Directory: Will continue planning with Lifetouch. Need to emphasize that the directory is the goal and no pressure to buy other photos. Pastor and Missy working on contact list for project chairs Abby Brockway and Erin Krautkremer. Info should be out on rally Sunday.

Bell Tower update: Company behind due to weather. Should be here yet this season. We are currently looking for a contractor to work on inside of church once outside of tower is completed.

Handicap Parking: Signs up and curb soon will be painted.

First Sunday Forum: Sept 1 Bell tower, List of outdoor projects for congregation. Oct will be volunteering for worship.

Rally Sunday: Sept 8th. Discussed plans. Lunch again at Hilltop.

Portico: Liz V explained what all in included. Will be updated in fall. Nomination committee: Kathy and Wendy have fulfilled their terms. Steve will not run again. Must find at least 3 to run. Need to ask for committee members and council reps.

Fall Cleanup: Steve and Connie will work on a list. Congregation will be encouraged to work on small projects as time allows. Share this on First Sunday Forum in Sept.

Committees:

Education: Kathy Westerman is retiring after many years serving on and chairing this committee. We appreciate her years of service. The other members will look for members as needed.

Stewardship: Will meet on Sunday the 25. Received 60 estimates of giving. Looking into a few new ways to give through Vanco to make it easier.

Bell Tower committee is planning several events.

Next meeting will be Sunday, Sept 22 at 11 am. Motion was made by Dave. to adjourn at 8:10 pm and seconded by Wendy. Motion carried. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Peterson

Worship Helpers
Ushers / Greeters

Sept 1 Kathy Derhaag
Ralph Hendrickson
Kim Washa
Charles Richter & Devin
Filter
Sept 8 Volunteers needed
Jesse & Gail Skluzacek
Sept 15 Kathy Westerman
Lynn Schuknecht
James Blum
John Krautkremer
Sept 22 Mike & Maridan Nesmoe
John & Lori Helling
Sept 29 Cindy Westerhouse
Jeanne Anderson
Steve & Ann Schroeder

Communion Assistants

Sept 1 Steve & Ann Schroeder
Sept 8 Carol Kiekow
Erin Krautkremer
Sept 15 Marc & Kathy Peterson
Sept 22 Kathy Derhaag
Candyce Kadrlik

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.

Sept 1 Lisa Schroeder
Sept 8 Steve Pan
Sept 15 Carol Kiekow
Sept 22 Lisa Hoefs
Sept 29 Diane DeWitte

Acolytes

Sept 1 Konnor Korbitz
Sept 8 Rhia Krautkremer
Sept 15 Kaia Krocak
Sept 22 Travis Napper
Sept 29 Kaia Krocak

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.*

**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.
Thank you for your cooperation.*

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

<http://bit.ly/donateStJohn>

The Worship Helper schedule for Oct/Nov/Dec will be created soon! We know that fall can be a very busy time. If you are a Worship Helper and have a preferred date (s) that you would like to help please fill out the form below and return to church by Sunday, September 21st. The form can be mailed in or dropped in the church office drop box. Thank you!

Worship Helper Sign Up

Oct/Nov/Dec 2019

Feel free to fill in as many date spaces as you would like.

Name (s): _____

I am a (circle one) **Usher/Greeter** **Reader** **Communion Assistant**

I would like to help on Sunday, _____

I am a (circle one) **Usher/Greeter** **Reader** **Communion Assistant**

I would like to help on Sunday, _____

I am a (circle one) **Usher/Greeter** **Reader** **Communion Assistant**

I would like to help on Sunday, _____

Thank you for your willingness to serve our congregation!



St. John Lutheran Church Elca

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September 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

September 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.