



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

MONTGOMERY, MINNESOTA

*Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861*

SEPTEMBER 2015

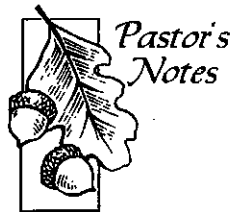
**A Word or Two...by Pastor Mark**

What is God doing in your life? I'll bet you have asked yourself that question many times, maybe especially now. Good and bad things happen, great sea changes take place in your days, and you might look at God's promise that all things work together for good to those who love Him and wonder what that means for you.

One of the great books of the Bible that speaks to that is Esther. It's not one we read often, and maybe you don't remember what it's about. That's why I'm planning a sermon series on it from September 26/27 through October 17/18. I don't want to give it all away, but I will tell you that it involves a humble girl who won a beauty contest in ancient Persia, and was catapulted into becoming queen of that land. When she risked all of that, and her own life, by bravely approaching the king to save her people, her relative point out that "you may have come to this position for just such a time as this." Esther has suspense, action, pathos, and humor.

I think you will enjoy hearing the story, and also will be able to apply it to your own life. We don't know exactly what the Lord is doing in any given situation, but let me assure you completely from God's Word that He knows you, your story, and what your life can be if you respond to Him in faith. Your life may look like chaos. Or it may seem all together and going fine. But, as Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "The dice of God are always loaded." He calls the shots, and He is truly involved in leading you. The deeper question to ask yourself is not what is He telling you, but are you listening!

Join me this fall as we ask those questions, and are strengthened by God's word in answering them with the help of the Book of Esther.



## September Worship Helpers

### Readers

Sept. 6 Diane DeWitte  
 Sept. 13 Doris Hendrickson  
 Sept. 20 Haley Dietz  
 Sept. 27 Allie Hardel

### Head Usher Kathy Peterson

### Ushers / Greeters

Sept. 6 Tom & JoAnn Dawson  
 Rick & Gwen Hanzlik  
 Sept. 13 Ted & Colleen Wondra  
 Ralph Hendrickson  
 Jim Heyda  
 Sept. 20 John & Lori Helling  
 Dallas Horejsi  
 Irene Jindra  
 Sept. 27 Lynden & Deb Jelinek  
 Roman Jindra  
 Carol Kiekow

### Communion Assistants

Sept. 13 Mike Nesmoe  
 Charles Richter  
 Cheryl Schulte  
 Sept. 27 Rhonda Solberg  
 Garie Teig  
 Myrna Terwedo

### Acolytes

Sept. 6 Jackson Nesmoe  
 Anton Nelson  
 Sept. 13 Miranda Crosby  
 Maddie Novotny  
 Sept. 20 Kayla Horejsi  
 Jackson Nesmoe  
 Sept. 27 Miranda Crosby  
 Gunner Domine

### Altar Guild

Kathy Peterson  
 Doreen Marcussen

*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), Don Holms, Amber Athey, Charlene Washa, Nancy Creger, Lyle Terwedo, Agnes Tuma, Kris Huhner (Kathy Peterson's sister), Ken Meyer, Reinhold West (Carol Kiekow's father), Roy Berg, 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 Hazel Holms. Her funeral was held Friday, July 24.*

*We extend our sympathy to the family of Lucille Baldwin who passed away September 5.*

## *Gifts*

*Gifts received in memory of Hazel Holms. Thank you.*

## **Baptisms**

Danyka Lauryn Sprenger was baptized Saturday, July 11. Daynka was born April 8, 2015 to Dan and Kathy Sprenger. Her sponsors are Christopher and Rebecca Sprenger.

Maeve Edith Hartwig was baptized Sunday, July 19. Maeve was born June 25, 2015 to Cassandra Hartwig. Her sponsors are Andria Burkstrand and Kyle Larson.

Cooper B Athey was baptized Saturday, August 15. Cooper was born May 19, 2015 to Damon and Sara Athey. Cooper's sponsors are Amber Athey and Darin Arndt.

God's blessings to Danyka, Maeve, Cooper and their families.

## **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 - June**

	June	Year to Date
Receipt	\$ 11,951.25	\$ 87,787.93
Expenses	\$ 13,377.32	\$ 83,162.01
Cash Flow	\$ (1,426.07)	\$ 4,625.92

### **Financial Corner General Fund - July**

	July	Year to Date
Receipt	\$ 10,720.10	\$ 98,508.03
Expenses	\$ 14,818.78	\$ 97,980.79
Cash Flow	\$ (4,098.68)	\$ 527.24

**Church Council Meeting**  
**Special Meeting**  
**July 21, 2015 - 6:30 pm**

**Present:** Maridan Nesmoe (1/16), Wendy Vargo (1/17), Kathy Peterson (1/17), Dan Hardel (1/17), John Helling (1/16), Liz Vlasak (1/18), Renee Sorenson (1/16) Pastor Mark Wilmes,

**Absent:** John Krautkramer (1/16) , Eric Schroeder (1/18)

Kathy Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:33pm. Pastor lead with a prayer.

Maridan Nesmoe moved and Renee Sorenson seconded a motion to approve the June 2015 council meeting minutes. Motion carried.

**Special Meeting Agenda**

Read through the Ministry Site Profile. Council made changes as they felt necessary.

Announced call committee: Mary Brahs, Dawn Anderson, Jim Cihak, Kevin Krohn, Emily Hoefs, Ashlea Pan, Mark Wehe.

Parsonage is rented through August. Will check into leasing it on a month-to-month basis.

No applicants for the Youth Director at this time. Will advertise outside of the church.

Next meeting will be August 18 at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 and closed with the Lord's prayer.

Submitted by Wendy Vargo, Church Council Secretary

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**Church Council Meeting**  
**August 18, 2015 - 6:30 pm**

**Present:** John Krautkremer (1/16), Renee Sorenson (1/16), Maridan Nesmoe (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, Guest Kathy Westerman

**Absent:** Liz Vlasak (1/18)

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

Dan Hardel moved and John Helling seconded a motion to approve the July 2015 council meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Kathy Westerman talked about the concerns of the education committee to get 7-12 grade students involved and more active in the church. The council will concentrate on league advisors and activities.

**On Going**

**Head Usher** - September will be Kathy Peterson.

**Feed My Sheep** - No one identified at this time.

**Can Recycling** - The last load brought in \$117.00 and was used for VBS. The next load will be used for the confirmation retreat in October at Gustavos.

**Old Business**

**Parsonage Rental Update** - As of Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> the parsonage will be rented on a monthly basis.

**ELCA Campaign** - John Grimm - No Report

**Youth Committee** - Still searching for a new director. Discussion to reorganize and start fresh with a new youth board. Dan Hardel made a motion to dissolve the current youth board with our thanks and appreciation for years of service. Seconded by Eric Schroeder. Motion carried.

(Church Council Cont.)

(Church Council Cont.)

Motion made by Renee Sorenson to begin recruiting for new youth board positions as per guidelines set forth and defined by previous board action. Seconded by Eric Schroeder. Motion carried.

Motion made by Dan Hardel to designate Kay Busch signatory for youth league finances. Seconded by Maridan Nesmoe. Motion carried.

**Sign Update** - Should be installed by Labor Day.

**Tower Leaks** - Still working on this.

## **New Business**

**Call committee** - Motion made by Eric Schroeder and seconded by John Krautkremer to ratify the committee as stated in the July minutes.

**Congregational Profile** - Motion made by Kathy Peterson to ratify the August 7<sup>th</sup> email vote to approve the congregational profile. Seconded by Wendy Vargo. Motion carried.

Next call committee meeting will be August 25 with a Synod rep. A subcommittee will be needed for the financial part of the negotiations. The officers will be on this committee.

**Sunday School** - Rally Sunday will be Sept 13<sup>th</sup> in the back yard. The Fellowship committee will serve hamburgers and hot dogs with congregation members asked to bring a dish to pass. Painting was done in the Sunday School classrooms. Teachers are in place for the upcoming year.

**President's Report:** Outdated strategic plan needs to be updated but will wait to include the new pastor.

**Vice President's Report:** No report.

**Secretary Report:** See minutes from July.

**Treasurer Report:** Presented treasurer's report though July. Motion made by Wendy Vargo to approve the treasurer's report. Seconded by John Helling. Motion carried.

**Pastor's Report:** Currently getting confirmation together for fall and working with 4<sup>th</sup> graders going into 5<sup>th</sup> grade. 1<sup>st</sup> communion will be held on the second Sunday in November. Planning sermons for fall. Bible study is still going strong. Visits each homebound household once a month. Wishes to thank Emily Hoefs for painting the Sunday School rooms.

## **Committee Reports:**

**Audit Report** - No report.

**Endowment** - No report.

**WOTC** - No report.

**Cemetery** - No report.

**Stewardship Committee:** Renee Sorenson - Will look for ways to encourage more stewardship.

**Evangelism Committee:** Wendy Vargo - New member Sunday was held on July 19<sup>th</sup> with 11 new members joining St John Church. They were Paul Busch, Cassandra Hartwig and daughter Maeve, Duane and Bev Horejsi, Brandon Horejsi, Richard Milinkovich, Steve and Anne Schroeder, Ted and Colleen Wondra. A reception was held in their honor in the fellowship hall with cake and coffee being served by Cindy Zahrathka, Joslyn Vargo, Madelyn Wehe, Rich and Wendy Vargo.

**Education:** Liz Vlasak - absent - No report.

**Youth:** Eric Schroeder - See youth committee.

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

**Church and Society:** Kathy Peterson - No report.

(Church Council Cont.)

(Church Council Cont.)

**Communications:** Dan Hardel - No report.

**Fellowship:** John Helling - Twins game was attended by 14 people on the 16<sup>th</sup> of July. See "Sunday School" under New Business.

**Worship & Music Committee:** Maridan Nesmoe - Working on Rally Sunday service. Kathy is currently working with 3 soloists. Ordered music for kid's choirs, bell choirs, and adult choirs. Ordered cymbells for bell choir. (Coffee hour money helped pay). Bell choir rehearsal will begin on Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Kathy will be gone on August 29/30 and Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>. Diane DeWitte will fill in. Next meeting will be Saturday, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm at church.

Next meeting: Sept. 15, 2016, 6:30 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm and closed with "The Lord's Prayer"

Submitted by Wendy Vargo, Church Council Secretary

### **Faith and Life Bible Study for September**

In our midweek Bible study for adults, we have finished the Gospel of John, and now turn to the history of the Church in Bible study form. The Bible's history ended with John's Revelation, written about 95 A.D. What did Jesus' followers do after that? What was their worship like and what were their biggest issues? We will look into the fascinating earliest years of the Church after Christ ascended.

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!



### **Sermon Series on the Book of Esther**

Pastor Mark will be preaching a sermon series on the Book of Esther September 26/27, and October 3/4, 10/11, and 17/18. You will hear the exciting story of a young Jewish girl who won a beauty contest in Persia and was catapulted to the position of Queen. The tension builds as she puts her life on the line to save her people, but there is also humor and interesting background facts. Come and experience the Book of Esther in September and October!

### **Stewardship Note**

A reminder that we now head into the home stretch of 2015, and your financial support is badly needed to end the year on a healthy note. As usual, summer has left us falling behind. Please remember the church in your giving. And THANK YOU TO ALL WHO GIVE ANY AMOUNT!

### **The Southeastern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization Convention**

The convention will be held Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> in Preston, MN – there are still copies of the registration form for the convention as well as the scholarship available for anyone who is interested. They are providing free child care. Please contact Carol Kiekow, via email: [ckiekow@frontiernet.net](mailto:ckiekow@frontiernet.net), home phone #507-364-7967, or cell phone #952-457-4613, for the registration form and/or scholarship form, if interested.

## Music Notes

I'm excited about starting choir rehearsals this fall. I have lots of music for our children's choirs, handbell choir and women's choir. Our music ministry seeks to proclaim His word with the best possible offering to God. Rehearsals begin in September. Mark your calendars!

-**Sunday School** children practice their songs during Sunday school opening. The children usually sing during the church service on the second Sunday of the month. They will also sing at the 3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

-**Rock'n the Church Choir** will start practice Sunday, September 20. This choir is open to children in grade 3 through grade 6. We practice after Sunday school from 11:00 – 11:30 a.m. in the church sanctuary. Rock'n the Church Choir usually sings during the church service on the third Sunday of the month. They will also sing at the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. If your child is interested in joining, let me know.

-**Bells of St. John** will start practice Wednesday, September 9 @ 7:00 p.m. Our handbell choir is made up of 10 ringers. We usually ring during the church service on the last Sunday of the month and for special services like Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Easter.

-**Women's Choir** will sing for Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Easter services.

September 13 is Rally Sunday. There will be an Outdoor Worship Service starting at 9:00 a.m. in the backyard of our beautiful church property. There will be a special prayer for all the kids and teachers as they begin their journey together with Christ for the 2015 - 2016 school year. Please bring a blanket or chair to sit on. A potluck will be served after the service.

Kathy Heyda  
Music Director  
kathyheyda@gmail.com



### Let's Open Our Bibles

The Worship & Music Committee wants to encourage the congregation to use the red NRSV Bibles hanging in the pew racks. One way to do this is to ask you some Bible trivia questions. If you don't already know the answers to these questions, you have the option of looking up the answers using the references given. Bible trivia is a fun and interesting way to learn more about God's Word. Starting the weekend of September 19/20, questions will be printed in the bulletin. Let us encourage one another and grow in the knowledge of our God and give Him the glory!

### Call Process

The transition committee finished its job of putting together the congregational profile. It took many meetings and some very spirited discussions to reflect the findings of all the surveys. We want to extend a special thank you to: Dave Scheffert, Mary Brahs, Dawn Anderson, Wade Young, Allie Hardel, Josh Kuchinka and Erin Krautkremer.

Our next step is the Call Committee who will work with the congregational profile and the synod. They are committing to the process of interviews, visits and negotiations. We look forward to hearing from the members that will take us through the process: Dawn Anderson, Mary Brahs, Jim Cihak, Emily Hoefs, Kevin Krohn, Ashlea Pan and Mark Wehe. Please pray for them and support them as they work on this committee.

### Pastoral Candidate Nomination Forms

As part of the call process, the Synod has provided us with a Pastoral Candidate Nomination Form. Congregation members may use this form to submit a name of a Pastor they would like the call committee to consider. The form is now available in the church office. Completed forms must be turned into the church office no later than Sunday, September 20th.

### Women's Bible Study

We are looking for women (ages 16 and up) to participate in a small group Bible Study starting Saturday, October 3 at 9:00 a.m. and running for 8 weeks. This Bible Study series is call Restless by Jennie Allen. Please contact Missy Gregor, 612 756-2566 or [missygregor@gmail.com](mailto:missygregor@gmail.com) if interested.

## **Thank You!!**

Thank you to everyone who donated aluminum cans. The cans brought \$117.10 which will help offset VBS cost. Thank you to John Helling and Paul Busch for taking the cans to Mankato.

Thank you to all who helped put together 48 school bags for LWR. Thanks to Women of the Church for buying the supplies to put in them. Also Jan Cotton, Yvonne Embretson, Nicole Schweitzer and the children and parents who helped fill the bags on that Sunday morning after church.

Thanks everyone - Doris

Renovation of our 4 bathrooms is complete. Thank you Val Nelson for painting all of these bathrooms.

Thank you to Emily Hoefs for painting the upstairs Sunday school area and Doug Gjerstad for donating and installing the wood trim. The room is now ready for the new Sunday school year.

## **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.



## **Sunday School Program**

The Education Committee is trying something new at Sunday School for our older students (grades 5-9). From 10:40 to 11:00 a.m. they will go to the sanctuary for a short closing program. The program will include contemporary music and selected readings. Pastor will choose appropriate passages which will highlight times in the Bible when youth struggled to follow God's plan. We will be asking older students to read a selected verse one Sunday and then comment on the passage. Pastor Mark has also offered to help the students collect their thoughts. These will be very short presentations and then there can be open discussion. The 5-6th and 7-9th grade teachers, Eric Schroeder and Mark Wehe, will be present.

We are trying to create a forum that will be appealing to our older youth and give them an opportunity to participate in a youth oriented setting. The first Closing will be September 27 and they will continue until Thanksgiving when we will re-evaluate.

We are excited about trying this. It might be a stretch at first, but we know we have youth who are capable. Last year's amazing Mission Trip group and the fabulous group of helpers at VBS show that St. John Youth are ready.

## **Youth Ministry Director**

St. John Lutheran Church is seeking to enhance its youth ministry through increased participation in a variety of faith based youth league activities. As part of our Youth League Program we are seeking a Director that has a passion for youth ministry and an appreciation for Lutheran Theology. Specific qualifications include:

- Demonstrated leadership and organizational skills.
- Ability to identify and foster leadership in youth and adults.
- Strong personal aptitude for spiritual and social wellness.
- Energetic with the ability to remain flexible.

This is a part time, paid position, averaging approximately 10 hours per week. Interested applicants may inquire at the Church Office or by contacting Eric Schroeder, [eschroeder@tcu2905.us](mailto:eschroeder@tcu2905.us). This position will remain posted and open until filled.

# ST. JOHN YOUTH

## **Sunday School**

Sunday School begins September 13. Join us for worship at 9:00 and Sunday School registration and meet your teacher at 10:00 a.m. Then at 11:00 a.m. lunch will be served. The Sunday School staff is looking forward to the upcoming year. See you September 13.



## **Rock'n the Church Choir**

Rock'n the Church Choir will be starting soon. It is open to children in grade 3 through grade 6. Our first practice will be Sunday, September 20 after Sunday school from 11:00 – 11:30 a.m. in the church sanctuary. Rock'n the Church Choir usually sings during the church service on the third Sunday of the month. They will also sing at the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Let Kathy Heyda know if your child will be joining us this year. Call me at 952-758-2707 or e-mail me at [kathyheyda@gmail.com](mailto:kathyheyda@gmail.com) so I can prepare the music.

## **Apple Orchard Event**

Hayride, apple picking and cider making at Montgomery Apple Orchard. Well be on a Sunday afternoon late September or early October. Please check the bulletin board for details.



## **Ronald McDonald House**

Junior/Senior League - Serve dinner at the Ronald McDonald house in Rochester on Sunday, October 18. Good way to get community service hours for confirmation youth.

## **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.



## **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.