

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

MONTGOMERY, MINNESOTA

Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861

SEPTEMBER 2016

How Awesome Is This Place!

Genesis 28:17

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters of St. John Lutheran,

It is very good to be here in this place – a place where the Crucified and Risen Christ lives and dwells and is fully present.

I think that Jacob in Genesis 28, as well as Peter in Luke 9, don't quite know what to do when they find themselves in the presence of God. Their response seems to be a positive, faith-filled one, but underlying their words is something that we often fail to notice – FEAR.

Wherever God and His word breaks into this world – our world, we are truly on Holy Ground. St. John Lutheran is new ground for myself and my family, but I hold on to God's word specifically spoken to Jacob, shared with Abraham and Isaac before him, but also given and received through faith to you and to me,

"And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac... Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place-- and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven (Genesis 28:13-17 NRSV)."

St. John Lutheran is familiar ground for you, the members of St. John and those of you associated with this church. Too often, we are grasping and searching here and there in order to get a hold on that elusive God that we want to see, hear, and touch. Just when we think that we've trapped God, we come to Jacob's aha moment, "Surely the LORD is in this place – and I did not know it!"

As we enter now into ministry together here in this place, may this ever be in front of us – God is here in this place. There will be those moments that awaken us to this realization while in the midst of our ministry – Oh, how awesome this will be. God has promised to be with us in the midst of our suffering here in this place for the sake of the gospel of Christ. But, God has also promised that He is fully present and active when His word is preached, when His forgiveness is given through the authority He has given us to use with our lives together, and when His sacraments are given and received in Baptism and in His Supper for the forgiveness of our sins through faith in His word for us to hear and to believe and to know it is true.

Peace of Christ,

Pr. Jason

September Worship Helpers

Readers

September 4 Greg Westerman
 September 11 Jessica Westerman
 September 18 Kathy Westerman
 September 25 Cindy Curtis

Head Usher

Kathy Peterson

Ushers / Greeters

September 4 Gerry & Dianna Smith
 Paul Vollmar
 Cindy Westerhouse
 September 11 David & Rhonda Solberg
 Phillip Solberg
 Kathy Westerman
 September 18 Berlyn & Garie Teig
 Rich & Liz Vlasak
 September 25 Greg & Jessica Westerman
 Ted & Colleen Wondra

Communion Assistants

September 11 Gary & Jacque Hartwig
 John Grimm
 September 25 John & Lori Helling
 Peggy Hentges

Acolytes

September 4 Gretchen Vlasak
 September 11 Madelyn Wehe
 September 18 Gretchen Vlasak
 September 25 Madelyn Wehe

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!*

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 September for the October newsletter.

Financial Corner General Fund - June

	June	Year to Date
Receipt	\$ 12,201.29	\$ 89,234.98
Expenses	\$ 13,742.37	\$ 91,480.39
Cash Flow	\$ (1,541.08)	\$ (2,245.41)

Remember in your Prayers...



Haven Peterson (Susie Trenda's grandson), Gail Embretson, Alex Lawson (Jake's son), Rev. Bob and Ardyce Boda, Mable Craig (Blanch Sorenson's sister), 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 Julie Moen and family upon the death of her mother Margaret Beise on July 29.

We extend our sympathy to Casey Farwell and family upon the death of his wife Holly on Friday, July 29.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Bev Horejsi who passed away Friday, August 26.

Baptism

Kylee Jean Krenik was baptized Saturday, July 10. Kylee was born March 30, 2016 to Scott and Jennifer Krenik. Her sponsors are Kimberly Stepka and Nadine Heilman. God's blessings to Kylee and her family.

Quinton Wad Hoefs was baptized Sunday, July 17. Quinton was born April 18, 2016 to Jim and Lisa Hoefs. His sponsors are Julie Hoefs and Joel Hoefs. God's blessings to Quinton and his family.

Gifts Received

Gift received in memory of Harold Walters for youth programs. Thank you.

Thank you

Thank you to Jim and Connie Cihak and sons for cleaning up the cemetery after a July storm and for filling the hole in the parking lot entrance.

Thank you to the 18 women who helped make and pack backpacks, put together baby bundles for Lutheran World Relief and Liberia, and personal health kits, 195 bundles total.

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.

St. John Church Council Minutes - Special Meeting June 28, 2016

Present: Kathy Peterson (1/17), Wendy Vargo (1/17), Dan Hardel (1/17), Liz Vlasak (1/18), Connie Cihak (1/18), Eric Schroeder (1/18), Pam Edel (1/19), Renee Sorenson (1/19), Pastor Mark Wilmes

Absent: Greg Westerman (1/19)

Guests: Call Committee members Emily Hoefs, Jim Cihak, and Dawn Anderson.

President Kathy Peterson called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m. and lead with prayer.

Dawn Anderson, head of the call committee, presented information on the candidate they would like to recommend as the new pastor of St. John. After hearing all information the council voted unanimously to offer Pastor Jason Pollington a call to begin September 1st.

A congregational meeting was set for July 17th at 10:00 a.m. to present information to the congregation and to vote on offering Pastor Jason Pollington a call.

Other items discussed were Pastor Mark's last Sunday as interim Pastor, which would be July 31st if the call was accepted by Pastor Jason Pollington. Also, the possible date of September 11th was discussed as installation of Pastor Pollington, which is also Rally Sunday.

Next meeting date was set for July 17th, following the congregational vote.

A motion was made by Kathy Peterson to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m. and seconded by Pam Edel. Motion carried. Council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

(Voting Tally - Liz Vlasak - yes, Renee Sorenson - yes, Pam Edel - yes, Wendy Vargo - yes, Eric Schroeder - yes, Connie Cihak - yes, Dan Hardel - yes, Kathy Peterson - yes.)

St. John Church Congregational Special Meeting July 17, 2016

President Kathy Peterson called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m. Agendas for the meeting and a biography of Pastor Jason Pollington were handed out. Kathy recognized call committee members and thanked them for their hard work. She introduced Dawn Anderson, head of the call committee, who presented information on Pastor Pollington and explained the reasons they chose to recommend him to the Council for a call for St. John.

Kathy took questions from the congregation and explained the rules of voting. The congregation proceeded to vote. Votes were counted. Yes - 106. No - 0.

Kathy explained the process and timeline of the call process. She again thanked the call committee and the congregation.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

St. John Church Council Minutes Special Meeting July 17, 2016

Present: Kathy Peterson (1/17), Wendy Vargo (1/17), Eric Schroeder (1/18), Liz Vlasak (1/18), Connie Cihak (1/18), Renee Sorenson (1/19), Pam Edel, (1/19), Greg Westerman (1/19), Pastor Mark Wilmes

Absent: Dan Hardel (1/17)

President Kathy Peterson called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m. and opened with prayer. Steps were put in place to call Pastor Pollington, with the hopes that he would accept and be able to start on September 1st, with installation to be on September 11th during Rally Sunday.

The parsonage tenants were contacted earlier and would be out of the parsonage by August 1st. A cleaning service will be hired to clean the parsonage. Mark Richter will do a few minor repairs.

After much discussion on the appliances, Renee Sorenson made a motion to replace the range, refrigerator and dish washer at a cost of no more than \$2,500. Pam Edel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

(Special Meeting cont.)

(Special Meeting cont.)

Pastor Mark's final weekend was discussed. Kathy Peterson will meet with him for an exit interview. A reception will be held on July 31st, which will be his final service.

Pulpit supply will be used during August, with Pastor Rendahl taking the 2 communion Sundays.

A donation was received to be used for a tangible project. Painting the downstairs, carpeting the fellowship hall/hallway and possibly the large Sunday school classroom were items discussed.

Kathy Peterson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:03 a.m. Pam Edel seconded the motion. Motion carried. Next Meeting is August 23rd at 6:30 p.m.

St. John Church Council Special Meeting August 13, 2016

Present: Kathy Peterson (1/17), Wendy Vargo (1,17), Liz Vlasak (1/18), Connie Cihak 1/18), Renee Sorenson (1/19), and Pam Edel (1/19). Voting by E-vote were Greg Westerman (1/19), Eric Schroeder (1/18), and Dan Hardel (1/17)

President Kathy Peterson called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. to discuss painting and carpeting plans. Connie Cihak made a motion to approve the bid by Plonsky Painters of no more than \$1,450 to paint the hall, entry to Sunday school and large Sunday school classroom. Kathy Peterson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Connie Cihak made a motion to go with the premium carpet as bid by Bisek Interiors. Renee Sorenson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:19 a.m.

St. John Church Council Minutes August 23, 2016

Present: Kathy Peterson (1/17), Wendy Vargo (1/17), Eric Schroeder (1/18), Connie Cihak (1/18), Pam Edel, (1/19)

Absent: Dan Hardel (1/17), Liz Vlasak (1/18), Greg Westerman (1/19), Renee Sorenson (1/19)

President Kathy Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. Kathy lead with prayer.

Pam Edel made a motion to approve the minutes from the June meeting. Eric Schroeder seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Eric Schroeder made a motion to approve the minutes from the congregational and special meeting. Pam Edel seconded. Motion carried.

Pam Edel made a motion to approve the choice of paint and carpet color. Connie Cihak seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pam Edel made a motion to approved the treasurer's report. Eric Schroeder seconded. Motion carried.

Kathy Peterson gave an update on the cleaning of Pastor's office. Set the date of August 26th to help Pastor Pollington move into the parsonage. Noted that we need to set a date to have a work day for lawn and shrub clean up around parsonage. Kathy also thanked everyone for their work on special meetings, etc. during the call process.

Head Ushers: Kathy Peterson will be head usher in September.

Feed My Sheep: \$400 will be given to a family in need.

Can Recycling: Next load will go for the confirmation retreat.
(Church Council cont.)

(Church Council (cont.)

Old Business: Rally Sunday was discussed to make sure all plans were in place.

New Business: Will be working on developing a plan that works for all staff on when the church doors will be unlocked with a staff member present.

Committee Reports:

Endowment: No report.

Women of the Church: No report.

Cemetery: No report.

Audit: No report.

Stewardship: Renee Sorenson: Absent.

Evangelism: Wendy Vargo: No report.

Education: Liz Vlasak: Absent.

Youth: Eric Schroeder: No report.

Facility: Greg Westerman: Absent.

Church in Society: Kathy Peterson: No report.

Communications: Dan Hardel: Absent.

Fellowship: Connie Cihak:

Gave report on Rally Sunday with the morning service held outside and the lunch at the Hill Top Hall.

Congregation is asked to bring a dish to pass.

Worship and Music: Pam Edel: No report.

Wendy Vargo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50. Connie Cihak seconded the motion. Motion carried. Kathy Peterson lead the council in the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting is set for September 20th, - 6:30 pm.

Vacation Bible School

A huge thank you to all the people who helped with Vacation Bible School, especially the Hoefs family for letting us come to their farm and the Gilbertson family who made the fabulous obstacle course! And thank you to the parents who "loaned" us their children for four nights....we hope they had fun and learned something about God's great love for all of us, plants, animals and people! We had over 50 children and a host of amazing Youth Helpers!!!

BeFriender Program

There will be a training session starting this fall for anyone interested in becoming a BeFriender. Talk to Kathy Heyda if you would like more details about this important ministry.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone for your expressions of love and farewell during our final weeks and days at St. John. Most of all, thanks for a wonderful year and a half of life together as friends and followers of Christ. We will never, ever forget how much we love you, and hope to see more of you in the future!

Sincerely,

Pastor Mark and Lynn Wilms

Thank You

We would like to thank you for the way that you have welcomed us into St. John Lutheran and into the community of Montgomery. We appreciate those of you who helped unload the trailer on August 26th along with the wonderful meal that was prepared to feed those who helped out. We are grateful to the Women of St. John Church for the gift card to Fred's Marketplace Food. It was put to good use during our first days here in Montgomery. The time, effort, and visioning of the Call Committee and the Council of St. John are very well noted, and it is important that we continue to build upon this as we move forward in ministry together.

**Much Appreciation,
Pr. Jason, Megan, Preston and Michael**

Grief Support Group Coming Up!

Grieving the loss of a loved one is not something we would choose for ourselves! If you are grieving the loss of a loved one that has died recently or in years past, St. John is offering a six week grief support group beginning Tuesday, October 4 at 7:00 p.m.

When you are grieving the loss of someone special no one knows what you are going thru and everyone's grief is unique. Past participants have stated the support group has helped them better understand their grief or as another participant stated, "I don't feel alone and am comforted by the other's support in group."

The group is free of charge, however, we ask that participants register to ensure enough materials are available. If you have any questions, you may call group facilitator, Brenda Peterson (701) 269-1439 or co-facilitator, Irene Jindra (952) 564-7172.



Pastor Jason

Things are moving forward with Pastor Jason Pollington and his family beginning his call at St. John. They moved into the parsonage on August 26, giving them a few days to get settled. His service with us begins on Sept. 1, so his first weekend here is Labor Day weekend. His installation will be Sept. 11 during our Sunday School Rally outdoor service.

Please welcome Pastor Jason and his family with open arms and warm hearts!

Busy, busy!

The council has been busy getting some things done before Pastor Jason arrives. The parsonage is having some repairs done, some new appliances installed and getting a good cleaning. The Pastor's office in the church is also getting a thorough going over.

We are also getting some painting done in the hallway and classroom downstairs. We hope to paint the social hall and front lobby next year. Thanks to a generous donation, new carpet is being ordered for most of the lower level. This will give us a clean updated look for our new chapter!

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 18. 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 singing, let me know.
- Bells of St. John** will start practice Wednesday, September 7 @ 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 at Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Easter.
- Women's Choir** will sing for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter services.

Our Rally Sunday Service this year will be held outdoors on September 11 starting at 9:00 a.m. in the back yard of our beautiful church property. Bring a lawn chair for the service and a dish to pass for the potluck afterwards.

Three BIG events will happen during this service:

- Installation of Sunday school teachers
- Installation of Pastor Jason Pollington
- Percussion Band

More about the Percussion Band.....I need the help of as many children in grades 1-6 as possible to play percussion instruments during the singing of three hymns during our Rally Sunday service. We will have a drummer and guitarist to assist. There will be percussion rehearsal on **Wednesday, September 7 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.** Please bring your child to church so he/she can pick a percussion instrument and practice the music. If your child/children cannot come to the rehearsal, please let me know if they would like to play an instrument on **Sunday, September 11**. I need to know how many instruments to have ready.

The following instruments will be available to play: Finger cymbals, Wood blocks, Wood sticks, Wind chimes, Tambourines, Triangles, Tom-tom drums, Bongo drums, Conga drums, Maracas, Washboard, Egg shakers, Sleigh bell, Body percussion (slap thighs, clap hands), Castanets, Cowbell, Metallophones and Boomwhackers.

Kathy Heyda
Music Director



Rally Sunday

Join us for Rally Sunday, September 11, outdoor worship service starting at 9:00 a.m. During the service we will have the installation of Sunday school teachers and installation of Pastor Jason Pollinton. Please bring a lawn chair for the service. At 10:00 a.m. all children report to Sanctuary for Sunday School opening as parents register their children for this year's Sunday School.

At 10:30 a.m. a potluck dinner will be held at the Hill Top. The church will provide Hot Turkey BBQ sandwiches, Taco in a Bag, plates, silverware, coffee and lemonade. Please bring a dish to pass.

ST. JOHN YOUTH

Junior and Senior League Fall Kick Off Event!

Open Gym at the American Ninja Warrior Training Gym in Eden Prairie Saturday, September 17th. Meet at Church at 4 PM. We will stop for a bite to eat on the way back and return to church about 8PM. Come Train and Play like an American Ninja Warrior!



Open Gyms run for 1 hour. A trainer will be on the floor to help assist when needed and observe all open gym participants. After we go over the rules, everyone has the hour to explore and train on the obstacles! Please go to <http://www.conquermn.com/rules-and-waiver/> to print and fill out waiver. All participants must have a signed waiver to use open gym.

Little League Fall Kick Off

Little League Fall Kick Off Event at Montgomery Orchard. Please meet us at the Montgomery Apple Orchard at 2 pm on Sunday, September 18th. 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, go through the corn maze and have a caramel apple. Please return to pick up your child at 4pm at the Orchard. Car pooling can be arranged if needed.



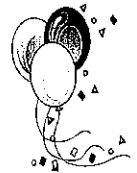
Adopt a Highway

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



Rally Sunday!

Sunday, September 11th at 9am
Outdoor service with installation of Pastor Jason and Sunday School teachers!
Potluck picnic in the backyard. Register for Sunday School.
Fun activities for the kids!



Youth League night is coming in October!

Little League will meet the 1st Wednesday of the month 3:15-4:15 PM in the youth room.

Junior League will meet 1st Wednesday of the month in the youth room. 6-7PM

Senior League will have Coffee House Night 2nd Saturday of the month at LaNette's coffee shop 7-8:30PM.

Senior League will meet 3rd Saturday in October

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.

