



St. John Lutheran Church ELCA

Montgomery, Minnesota

Proudly Serving One Master Since 1861

June, July, August 2018

The Bold Step Beyond Social Media

...the members may have the same care for one another.

If one member suffers, all suffer together with it;

if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

1 Corinthians 12:25b-26

“What’s on your mind?” is the question that serves as your invitation to share on Facebook. With the increase of the digital age and our ability to connect on social media, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, and Facebook offer a variety of ways for us to share some of the events of our lives. The easy posts are about the positive events of our lives; the deeper posts name the challenges that we face.

The great thing about this use of social media is the fact that it breaks the silence and puts a crack in the stigma that we shouldn’t let people see our scars or our weakness – our vulnerability or our tears. It takes a lot to share. It is important, because it moves us away from independence and isolation to interdependence and community.

These posts allow for those seeing them to respond – out of empathy through words or emojis that we share our response of “like,” “love,” “laughter,” “surprise,” “sadness,” or “anger” to their pain or out of sympathy through words of compassion that can only come from someone who has shared a similar experience.

All of these are great for connecting with one another and they even have their benefits for engaging in mutual care and concern within ministry, but they cannot be the only means of connecting us. Within our onslaught of information through visual, audio, and digital overload, we can become desensitized to the lives and events that are very real around us. They are a very sanitized way of communicating with one another, because they keep us from entering into the messiness of one another’s worlds. We have a gospel through Christ that invites us into the messiness and a word to share in the face of death whether that be an unexpected transition we face, the death of unrealized dreams, or our impending death which declares God’s eternal life and work of bringing us from death to life on account of Christ.

A. Trevor Sutton, in his book *Being Lutheran*, invites us into the bold step beyond social media:

Posting Proclamation: Social media offers numerous opportunities to be bold in your faith.

Rather than posting a picture of the awesome dinner you made, post a picture of your home group meeting together for Bible study. Instead of sharing mindless dribble about some reality television show, share a Bible verse. Rather than just “liking” a post about a friend mourning a death in the family, go talk with your friend over a cup of coffee. Boldly bear the color of Jesus as you engage in social media. (Being Lutheran, CPH, 2016)”

So, in Christ, you have been invited to take a bold step into the messiness beyond social media. May God continue to bring you near one another filled with His grace, love, and compassion, as you sit together in silence – when you hurt and when you cry – when you laugh and when you rejoice – **TOGETHER.**

Peace of Christ,

Pr. Jason

Summer Music Notes

Music Notes for June-July-August 2018



Special Music

On June 3 we are honoring our high school graduates. Special music during the Sunday service will include "The Blessing Song".

Liturgy

We will change liturgy for our worship services to Setting Four starting the weekend of June 2nd/June 3rd. This liturgy starts on page 147 in our ELW hymnal. Our Offertory hymn will change to #885 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow".

Bells of St. John

The Bells of St. John will be taking a break during the months of June and July. I hope to get a small group of ringers together during the month of August to rehearse some solo/duet/quartet hand bell music. The entire group of ringers will begin rehearsal in the fall on Wednesday, September 12th.

Music Workshops

I am planning to attend some music workshops this summer. The St. Olaf Conference on Worship, Theology and the Arts offers professional development, spiritual nourishment, and networking opportunities for persons engaged in congregational ministry. Pastors, church musicians, and lay leaders from many denominations and congregations of varying sizes participate in the conference. The conference offers ideas and practices that participants can readily incorporate into worship in their own congregations. This conference is held July 16th-20th at St. Olaf College in Northfield.

The Augsburg Music Clinic will be held at Roseville Lutheran Church on July 23rd-24th. These gatherings introduce music leaders to new organ music, new handbill music, and new children's and adult choir music.

Rally Sunday September 9, 2018

The Worship and Music Committee invited the St. Wenceslaus Polka Music Group to play for our outdoor service on Rally Sunday, September 9, 2018. The group is composed of 5 musicians from New Prague who play guitars, drums, and trumpet.

We are asking for donations from the congregation to help pay their fee of \$500. They will play prelude, offertory and postlude music plus congregational responses and hymns. They are a talented group of men who use music to give honor to God. Mark your calendars!

Kathy Heyda

Music Director

May Church Council Meeting

Eric called the meeting to order at 10:10; asking minutes to reflect Carol Kiekow (2019), Wendy Vargo (2020), Liz Vlasak (2021), Renee Sorenson (2019) absent; Eric Schroeder (2021), Steve Schroeder (2020), Kathy Peterson (2020), Erin Krautkremer (2019), Connie Cihak (2021) present.

Pastor Jason led us in devotion on 'What is the activity of the Holy Spirit?' - very much still active, reveals who the Father and Son is; and showing us what the Holy Spirit's will is for us. Kathy made a motion to accept the minutes of the April meeting, Steve seconded motion carried. Pastor Jason went over his activities of the past month. No recipient noted for Feed My Sheep. Steve will take recycling when it is full. \$194. Was collected last time and will go to the VBS program. The next proceeds will go towards the Polka Service on Rally Sunday.

June 3rd we will honor our graduating high school seniors during fellowship hour with a reception. A work day is needed and will be scheduled for various projects at the church.

Next meeting **JUNE 24th** following worship service.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer, motion by Connie second by Kathy to adjourn, motion carried.

Submitted respectfully, Connie Cihak

NEW ST. JOHN SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

On behalf of our Church Council, the Education Committee, and all of the members of St. John Lutheran, we would like to thank all of those who expressed an interest in this position opening within the life of our congregation. We appreciate the time and discernment taken to submit your applications and join through this interview process. We are very blessed to have members of our congregation who have a variety of gifts to continue to share in this ministry together in Christ's name.

After much consideration, our Church Council has extended the offer for this position to Sara Kuchinka, and Sara has accepted the offer to serve as the new Sunday School Superintendent. Sara is the wife of Josh and mother of Emily and Levi. We ask for your prayers and support for Sara, as she steps into her new role of working together with the members, teachers, parents, and children of our congregation to continue in our focus on Christian education here at St. John.

Save the Date for Vacation Bible School!

August 6th-9th, 6-8 PM.

Registration forms are on the Sunday School bulletin board (upstairs). Payment and completed forms can be placed in the black youth drop box (downstairs hallway).

WANT TO HELP OUT?

As a part of the confirmation programming, we continue meeting on Wednesday Nights with the 7th and 8th Graders throughout the school year. There will be many ways that you can lend a hand to help facilitate 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation. We will be having a meal from 6-6:30 PM and we will be gathering for our sessions from 6:30-7:30 PM.

WE NEED:

2-3 adult/high school helpers

Parents/Volunteers to prepare meals for 25-28 Confirmands & Helpers

Parents will be asked to participate, and we will open this up to members of the congregation if you are interested in helping out, as well.

The 10th Graders will be having their Confirmation Retreat at Gustavus Adolphus College September 29th- 30th. We will be going over Saturday afternoon and returning Sunday afternoon.

WE NEED:

1 Male Adult Chaperone and 1 Female Adult Chaperone

We ask that the Mentors and other members of the congregation to consider helping as these 10th Graders have an intentional time to focus and prepare for their Confirmation on Sunday, October 28th.

Mentor Dinner with 10th Graders & Mentors

As the 10th Graders confirmation approaches, we would like to take time to recognize and thank the Mentors who have come alongside these members during their 9th grade year. They have both shared and received faith together. We will be having a dinner for the 10th Graders and their Mentors on September 5th. During this time together, we will discuss some of the challenges and highlights as they worked on service projects, assisted with services, and discuss what walking and growing in faith together means.

Congratulations to

Katie Brokl
Chase Derhaag
Cassidy Gilbertson
Kassidy Korbitz
Matthew Koschade
Emily Krautkremer
Tyler Nesmoe
Audrey Peterson
Abigail Schleis
Cody Studnicka

Senior Sunday

We will celebrate our graduating Seniors during our Worship Service on **Sunday, June 3rd**. Please join us afterwards for a reception in their honor in the Fellowship Hall.

Why Are Community Service Hours a Part of the Confirmation Process?

Not so that we can just get credit for it, although, by including them on your scholarship applications, you may receive a scholarship.

But, for the sake of the neighbor who needs you to come alongside of them and who is in need of your time, care, and love!

Surprise: In our attempt to love and serve your neighbor, you will be surprised by how God's love is reciprocated in good and healthy ways for you to live within the relationships that God blesses us with. This is never with the intent that as we give, so will we get back, but instead, we give and live as those who have received a priceless gift exactly when we were undeserving of it.

The gift that we have received isn't a commodity that can be used and exchanged for our own benefit only, but instead, a part of the new life that we have received on account of God's love and grace shown to us through Jesus Christ.

Women of the Church

WOTC will be having election of officers at our next meeting on Sunday, September 16th at 10:15. We are in need of several officers, the current officers terms will be done. Please consider becoming involved in the WOTC by coming to our next meeting. Also, to be discussed at this meeting will be the annual fundraiser. We are considering changing from the egg bake to something else, please come share your thoughts and ideas. A few ideas: salad luncheon, sell tickets in advance with entertainment, a mother/daughter or grandmother/granddaughter tea, sell Christmas goodies, no fundraiser at all (just ask for a \$25.00 donation or some fee from all women of the church. Please come and share your ideas and consider becoming an officer.

Do you receive your newsletter in the mail? Would you be interested in receiving it via email instead? Newsletters that are received by email get to you 2-3 days faster than in the mail. Help us go green and email stjohnelca@frontier.com to be put on the newsletter email list!



Pastor Jason's Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
9:00 AM-12:00 PM & 1:00-5:00 PM

**Pastor Jason Pollington's New Cell
Phone Number:
507-667-9000**

M

Missy's Summer Office Hours

Tuesday-9 AM -2:30 PM
Thursday- 9 AM-2:30 PM

June, July, August Worship Helpers

Readers

| | |
|---------|-------------------|
| June 3 | Graduates |
| June 10 | Cindy Westerhouse |
| June 17 | Teddy Wondra |
| June 24 | Megan Pratola |
| July 1 | Lisa Hoefs |
| July 8 | Volunteer needed |
| July 15 | Jean Waugh |
| July 22 | Jessica Westerman |
| July 29 | Volunteer needed |
| Aug 5 | Cindy Westerhouse |
| Aug 12 | Doreen Marcussen |
| Aug 19 | Dianne DeWitte |
| Aug 26 | Doris Hendrickson |

Ushers / Greeters

| | |
|---------|--|
| June 3 | Rick & Gwen Hanzlik Mike & Maridan Nesmoe |
| June 10 | Carol Kiekow James Blum Todd & Kayla David |
| June 17 | Kathy Derhaag Daryl & Cindy Curtis Jim Heyda |
| June 24 | Cindy Westerhouse Lynden & Debra Jelinek Irene Jindra |
| July 1 | Kathy Derhaag Roman Jindra Orville & Marilyn Richter |
| July 8 | Cindy Westerhouse Dick Milinkovich David & Dorothy Scheffert |
| July 15 | Jesse & Gail Skluzacek Berlyn & Garie Teig |
| July 22 | Kelle Schleis Rich & Liz Vlasak Paul Vollmar |
| July 29 | Kim Washa Paul & Kay Busch Ralph Hendrickson |
| Aug 5 | Ted & Colleen Wondra Thomas & JoAnne Dawson |
| Aug 12 | LaNette Kuelper Don Marcussen Tammie & Steve Pan |
| Aug 19 | Eric Schroeder Lynn Schuknecht David & Rhonda Solberg |
| Aug 26 | Philip Solberg Doug & Karen Thompson Jeanne Anderson |

Communion Assistants

| | |
|---------|--|
| June 3 | Cindy Westerhouse Kathy Derhaag Stella Gregor |
| June 10 | Gary & Jacquelyn Hartwig Youth Volunteer |
| June 17 | Ted & Colleen Wondra Kathy Derhaag |
| June 24 | John Grimm Candyce Kadrliek Youth volunteer |
| July 1 | Carol Kiekow Kathy Derhaag Youth Volunteer |
| July 8 | John & Lori Helling Youth Volunteer |
| July 15 | Ted & Colleen Wondra Youth Volunteer |
| July 22 | Cindy Westerhouse Ruth Kukacka Youth Volunteer |
| July 29 | Steve & Anne Schroeder Youth Volunteer |
| Aug 5 | Don Marcussen Brenda Peterson Youth Volunteer |
| Aug 12 | Renee Pribyl Myrna Terwedo Youth Volunteer |
| Aug 19 | Gerald & Dianne Smith Youth Volunteer |
| Aug 26 | Peggy Hentges Karen Vlasak |

Acolytes

| | |
|---------|------------------------|
| June 3 | Austin Testerman |
| June 10 | Aubrey Filter |
| June 17 | Youth Volunteer needed |
| June 24 | Devin Filter |
| July 1 | Lauren Houn |
| July 8 | Devin Filter |
| July 15 | Lauren Houn |
| July 22 | Hailey Kadrliek |
| July 29 | Aliviya Boyd |
| Aug 5 | Hailey Kadrliek |
| Aug 12 | Aliviya Boyd |
| Aug 19 | Youth Volunteer needed |
| Aug 26 | Gabrielle Davidson |

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.

If you are unable to help on the day you are listed please call or email the church office no later than

Thursday of that week. 507-364-5002 or

stjohnelca@frontier.com.

Thank you for your help!

Baptisms

Theo Michael Peterson received the sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, May 27th. Theo was born on February 17, 2018 to Michael and Amy Peterson. Theo's sponsors are Jeremy & Jennifer Vorland.

Bentley Byron Ingram received the sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, June 3rd. Bentley was born on March 8, 2018 to Luis Ingram and Rebecca Barrington. Bentley's sponsors are Lily & Bill Bronk and Shelly & Pedro Mendiola.

Head Usher

| | |
|--------|---|
| June | 6/3– Connie Cihak 6/10-Kathy Petersen 6/17– Eric Schroeder 6/24– Steve Schroeder |
| July | To be determined |
| August | To be determined |

Altar Guild

| | |
|--------|------------------------------|
| June | Kathy Derhaag & Carol Kiekow |
| July | To be determined |
| August | To be determined |

Weddings

Wedding of Nathan Bastyr and Kimberly Deutsch on Saturday, June 23rd.

Wedding of Joseph Dee and Molly Larsen on Saturday, August 25th.

Remember in your Prayers... Eyleen Schmidt (cousin of Megan Pratola), Cathy Herrmann, Scott Petersen, Eileen Segna, Diane Schultz, Ellen Flicek, Nancy Vollmar, Gretchen Vlasak, Tom Trenda, Dale Benson, Greg Vlasak, Rev. Bob Boda, Phyllis Swidorski, Amy Korthuis (Judy Ferguson's sister-in-law) Nancy Creger and Kris Huhner (Kathy Peterson's sister).

Remember those serving our country... Matthew Astorino, Travis Ferguson, Colin Hulke, Shane Morris, Adam Vlasak and Sam Westerhouse.

Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Isla Bortnem (Cindy Curtis's mother).

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Jim Panning (brother of Amy Hardel).

Thank You

Thank you for the donation made in memory of Isla Bortnem

Coffee servers are needed for Sunday coffee hour! Please consider signing up on the calendar in the Fellowship Hall.

Have an announcement for the bulletin or newsletter?

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

- ◆ **Wednesday** for the bulletin.
- ◆ The **25th of August** for the **September newsletter**.

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.



St. John Lutheran Church Elca

105 Spruce Avenue • P.O. Box 25
Montgomery, Mn 56069-1068

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June, July, August Newsletter

St. John Lutheran Church

(507) 364-5002 or 364-8787

E-mail: stjohnelca@frontier.com

Pastor Jason Pollington: pastor@montgomerymnelcalutherans.org

Website: www.montgomerymnelcalutherans.org

St. John's Worship Schedule

5:00 p.m. Saturday Worship

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

10:00 a.m. Sunday School (Sept.– May)

Distribution of the Lord's Supper
is celebrated at every weekend service.
Fellowship/Coffee Hour follows Sunday's
worship service.

St. John's Staff

Jason Pollington, Pastor (c) 507-667-9000

(h) 507-953-0079

Eric Schroeder, Congregation President

Kathy Heyda, Music Director & Organist

Melissa Gregor, Secretary & Youth Ministry Director

Roman Jindra, Custodian

Jessica Westerman, Sunday School Superintendent

Diane DeWitte, Organist

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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