



St. John Lutheran Church ELCA

Montgomery, Minnesota

Summer 2019

What is the Gospel that we live out?

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

***I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting
the one who called you in the grace of Christ
and are turning to a different gospel--
not that there is another gospel,
but there are some who are confusing you
and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.
Galatians 1:6-7***

Continuing to walk through the Mission Statement of St. John Lutheran, this month we move forward to “living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ.” Before we move to the various ways that we live out this gospel over the next few months, we must clarify, “What is the gospel of Christ?”

The gospel of Christ is that very thing through which the Holy Spirit has called us. The gospel of Christ is the very thing through which we have come to believe. As we enter into this time of Pentecost, Holy Trinity Sunday, and the Season after Pentecost, we turn once again to the Apostles’ Creed; specifically, in the living out of the Gospel of Christ, we must first turn to how it is we are called, empowered, and kept. The explanation of the 3rd Article of the Apostles’ Creed centers us and sends us out:

I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith. Daily in this Christian church the Holy Spirit abundantly forgives all sins – mine and those of all believers. On the last day the Holy Spirit will raise me and all the dead and will give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.

This isn’t just any old gospel, this isn’t just a way of salvation, but it **is** our salvation – the gospel of Christ that has been revealed to us and the very gospel which has claimed us.

***But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.
Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood,
will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.
For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son,
much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.
But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have now received reconciliation. Romans 5:8-11***

It is out of this identity that we have been given and this grace poured out upon us that we live. In our daily lives, we do this through the words we use, the vocations (daily work) we are called into, and this grace that we have been sent out to share in Christ’s name.

Peace of Christ,

Pr. Jason

May 2019 St John Council Meeting

President Carol called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, May 21, 2019.

Present: Carol Kiekow (2022), Kathy Peterson (2020), Liz Krocak (2022) Connie Cihak (2021), Mike Lundquist (2022), Steve Schroeder (2020), Dave Winge (2021), Liz Vlasak (2021), Wendy Vargo (2020), and Pastor Jason.

Pastor opened with devotions.

Motion was made by Kathy, seconded by Liz K. to approve the Secretary's report from the April 2019 meeting. Motion carried. A motion was made by Connie, 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 June: June 2nd - Mike. June 9th – Kathy. June 16th – Carol. June 23rd – Kathy. June 30th – Carol.

Next load of cans from recycling will be donated to VBS.

Kathy will check into our current assisted hearing devices to see if they need to be updated or repaired.

Liz K. noted that the church sign on Hwy. 13 needs to be repainted so will check with the city.

Will check into removing a short back pew to allow for handicap seating.

Minutes from the Endowment Committee and the Worship and Music Committee were read.

June 9th will be the next New Member Sunday.

"First Sunday Forum" is planned for June 2nd where an update on the bell tower will be given.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, June 18th, at 6:30 pm.

Motion was made by Liz K. to adjourn at 7:35 pm and seconded by Dave. Motion carried. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Wendy Vargo

Worship & Music Notes for Summer

Worship is a powerful way for us to remember what God has done for us. When we worship, we increasingly know the Lord more.

On June 2nd, we will change liturgy for our worship services to Setting Three. This is a familiar setting that was used in the Lutheran Book of Worship (green) hymnal. After the Confession and Forgiveness on page 94-95 and after the Gathering Song we will continue the service on page 138 with the Kyrie and the Canticle of Praise ("Glory to God" or "This is the feast"). The Gospel Acclamation is on page 142 and the Great Thanksgiving is on page 144. Our Offertory hymn will change to "Give Thanks".

The Day of Pentecost is June 9th. Pentecost is a day of promises fulfilled. The promised Spirit of God is poured out. The baptized have become "children of God" and "joint heirs with Christ". By the power of the Spirit we have seen the face of the Father in his only begotten Son and been saved by him. Members of the congregation are encouraged to wear red on June 8/June 9 when we celebrate Pentecost. Along with Christmas and Easter, Pentecost is one of the three most important and celebratory days of the church year. On the fiftieth day of Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as the power of God among us. In the reading from Acts, images of wind and fire describe the Spirit poured out on disciples of all nations. Think fire, think God. Therefore, red is the energetic color for this day.

Trinity Sunday is June 16th. On this day we celebrate the name of God. There is no other day quite like this one in the church's year. The opening Confession and Forgiveness begins in the name of the Trinity. The greeting with which we begin the liturgy each week proclaims the Trinity. Each week we recite the Creed in which we profess our belief in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Our worship concludes with a Trinitarian blessing.....Praise Father, Son and Holy Spirit! Special music during the Sunday service will include a piano/organ duet entitled "Holy, Holy, Holy".

Kathy Heyda

Music Director



IMPORTANT DATES

New Weekly Daily Discipleship Bible Study

Come join us on Wednesday mornings for our Daily Discipleship Bible Study 10AM at St. John.

This Bible study will be 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.

It is open to all members of our congregation and community who are able to join us.

A Larger Variety of Music Coming Our Way

We know that there is a rich variety of Christian music today. In order to blend some of these songs with our wealth of traditional hymns in our worship services, we have purchased a CCLI Copyright License and will be accessing a catalog of songs through SongSelect. SongSelect is a music catalog with over 10,000 songs. It takes a lot of time and effort to bring new music into the life of our services, so we start small. We can download 200 songs complete with a variety of music sheets for our printed use in services. Starting May 4th, we will be using at least one of these new songs in each of our services. With the excitement of new music, there is also the challenge of learning how to sing new songs, so bear with us as we grow into this together.

Return Your Estimate of Giving Sheet

The Stewardship Committee of St. John Lutheran would like you to review and turn in your estimate of giving sheets by **June 9th**.

You can drop them in the offering plate, put them in the box outside the office door, email them, or send them through the mail.

We thank you for your time and consideration as you complete these. If you have not received an estimate of giving sheet, please contact the church office and we will get one out to you.

Keep your eye out for information from Dave Scheffert who will be working together with a subcommittee that will be focused on designated pledging to the bell tower restoration.

Up-coming Confirmation Events

7th and 8th Grade Confirmation

Thank you to you members who attended the meals and classes this year. Your questions raised, energy lived out, and faith shared help one another live out your baptismal promises.

Thank you to the Anderson, Birdsell, Brahs, Cihak, Engstrom, Gjerstad, Hoefs, Horejsi, Kerkow, Korbitz, G. Kuball, V & R. Kuball, Larson, Schroeder, Schulte, Skluzacek, Smith, & Stasney families for providing meals and being helpers for the 7th and 8th Grade Confirmation dinners and classes.

Those entering 7th and 8th (and your parents) will be receiving letters in August to prepare for the kickoff of our 2019-2020 confirmation year.

Those entering 9th Grade take the time to select your mentors who you will be sharing your faith with next year. Please have them selected and let Pr. Jason know in the month of August.

Those entering 10th Grade continue working with your mentors on your projects and conversations. We will be planning a Stole Making Night in August for you to work on your stoles for confirmation day. In September, we will also be having a Mentor Dinner to recognize the time you've shared and those mentors who have helped along the way.

New Member Sunday

Come join us on Sunday June 9th during the 9AM Service, as we welcome the new members to St. John Lutheran since last Fall.

These new members are Tereasa Breuer, Shari Claire, Donna Mangan, Dennis Smith & Laurie Smith.

We are blessed to have them join us together in ministry.

We welcome their gifts and talents, as we offer ours to them in Christ's name.

We will be having a reception for them following the service in the Fellowship Hall.

Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers to the family and friends of Dorothy Denzer. She died in her home on Monday, May 20th surrounded by her family.

Our thoughts and prayers to the family and friends of Nancy Vollmar. Nancy passed away on Wednesday, May 8th.

Our thoughts and prayers to the family and friends of Darlene Collier. Darlene passed away on Monday, April 29th.

Our thoughts and prayers to the family and friends of Mary Kerkow. Mary passed away on Monday, April 29th.

Thank you

Thank you for the donations to the Bell Tower, Mission Trip and Music Fund.

Thank you for the donations made in memory of Dorothy Denzer, Darlene Collier, Mary Kerkow and Nancy Vollmar.

Thank you to all of our Sunday School teachers for their dedication to our Children's Education this year. Pre-k - Rachele Kuball & Sarah Krocak, K - Karen Vlasak & Candy Kadriik, 1-2 - Maggie Grimm & Liz Krocak, 3-4 - Emily Hoefs, Madelyn Wehe & Amy Grunow, 5-6 - Colleen Wondra & Dawn Meier, 7-9 - Mark Wehe, Music - Anne Schroeder & Hailey Kadriik

Weddings

Congratulations to Brandon Van Houdt and Danielle Roemhildt to who were married here at St John on Saturday, May 25th.

1st Communion

Isabelle Adamek (May 26th) and Stella Gregor (May 19th) received the Sacrament of Holy Communion during our worship services. Isabelle and Stella met with Pr. Jason in April and May to have discussions on this sacrament. We give thanks for this gift given and shed by Christ Himself for us to receive as often as we need it for the forgiveness of sins.

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 stjohneica@frontier.com to be put on the newsletter email list!

Remember in your Prayers. Elmer Kukacka, Shari Claire, Clark Kaisershot, Lloyd Svoboda, Walter Procenko, Adeline Tiede (niece of Billi Larson), Emil & Theresa Knish, Jean Hartman (Aunt of Bruce Smith), Ken Meyer, Katie Lockrem, Jean Waugh, Jessi, Betty Jindra, Dianne Schultz, Scott Petersen, Gerry Smith, Tom McClune, Betty Braun, Rycky Kes, Glenn Kerkow, Cathy Herrmann, Tom Trenda, Greg Vlasak, Rev. Bob Boda, Phyllis Swidorski, Amy Korthuis (Judy Ferguson's sister-in-law), and Nancy Creger.

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



Have an announcement for the bulletin or newsletter?

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

- ♦ **Wednesday** for the bulletin.
- ♦ The **26th of August** for the **September 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.

April Income	\$	17,876.60
April Expense	\$	(15,629.56)
	\$	2,247.04
YTD Income	\$	59,390.00
YTD Expense	\$	(64,188.86)
	\$	(4,798.86)

Bell Tower Donations

Balance 12-2018	\$	10,681.35
Donations 2019	\$	4,937.22
Balance 5-21-2019	\$	15,618.57

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

10 Ways to Support St. John This Summer and All Year Long

1. Attend Regularly
2. Give Generously
3. Love Radically
4. Bring Others Consistently
5. Volunteer Joyfully
6. Share Jesus Willingly
7. Fellowship Purposely
8. Show Up Energetically
9. Pray Fervently
10. Encourage Faithfully

Summer Is the Time for Growing

Summer is the time for growing! If you don't think so, just try fitting your kids in the same clothes that they had during this past school year at the end of August. If you don't think so, just try to keep your grass from growing or those weeds from popping up. Growth is good. From plants and flowers in your garden to corn and soybeans in the field, we welcome growth. From this growth, we receive the harvest throughout the growing time and bring it in at the end of the season.

So, why are all these things any different than our faith?

Summer isn't a stagnant time for growth in the church, but it is a time of much activity. Funerals to Weddings, Bible Studies to Vacation Bible School, Worship to Fellowship, Visiting friends you haven't seen for a while to Visiting those who are sick, our faith is always active. The fruits of the Spirit at work in you and in the world are busy producing life and good works in Christ's name. Enjoy the trips you take, the camps you attend, the sports that you play, and the rest that you find, but also know that Summer is a time for growing. We are glad that you are here. We are blessed to be joined in the ongoing ministry of St. John. Come often and give generously for you are a part of our continuous growth here at St. John and throughout the world we've been sent into. We are called to prepare the soil, scatter seeds, tend to what's in our care, and bring in the harvest, knowing and trusting that it is God through Christ that brings the growth.

For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

1 Corinthians 3:9

Have a great summer as God continues to bring our growth,

Pr. Jason

Worship Helpers Ushers / Greeters

June 2 Jessie & Gail Skluzacek
Daryl & Cindy Curtis
June 9 Kathy Derhaag
Richard Milinkovich
Karen & Doug Thompson
June 16 Cindy Westerhouse
Greg & Jessica Westerman
Myrna Terwedo
June 23 Deb & Lynden Jelinek
John & Lori Helling
June 30 Mike & Maridan Nesmoe
Kathy Westerman
Jeanne Anderson

Communion Assistants

Jun 2 Carol Kiekow
Erin Krautkremer
Jun 9 Dawn Anderson
Lauren Houn
Jun 16 Gary & Jacquelyn Hartwig
Jun 23 Cindy Westerhouse
Tammie Pan
Jun 30 Steve & Ann Schroeder

The Worship Helper schedule for July/August/September will be created soon! 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, June 23rd. The form can be mailed in or dropped in the church office drop box. Thank you!

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.

June 2 Jean Waugh
June 9 Cindy Westerhouse
June 16 Carol Kiekow
June 23 Doris Hendrickson
June 30 Marilyn Richter

Acolytes

Jun 2 Austin Testerman
Jun 9 Riley Skluzacek
Jun 16 Riley Skluzacek
Jun 23 Alexis Hoefs
Jun 30 April Engstrom

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.*

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

<http://bit.ly/donateStJohn>

Newly Elected Bishop of the SE MN Synod

Rev. Regina Hassanally was elected June 1st to serve a six-year term as bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The election took place during the synod assembly, held May 31st - June 1st in Rochester, MN. Hassanally was elected on the fifth ballot, with 237 votes. She currently serves as pastor of St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Goodhue.

If you would like more information Bishop-Elect Hassanally and the process, you can check out the semnsynod.org website, through this link <http://semnsynod.org/assembly2019/> or this article https://www.postbulletin.com/news/local/goodhue-pastor-elected-bishop-of-elca-synod/article_77766f8a-84a3-11e9-a46f-f723a31d014a.html

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.*

Worship Helper Sign Up

July/August/September 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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Summer Newsletter

St. John Lutheran Church

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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.– Sum-

Pastor Jason's Office Hours

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

Summer Office/ Youth Director Hours

Tuesday 9:15 AM–4:30 PM
Thursday 9:15 AM-2:30 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.