

St. John Lutheran Church  
1710 5th Street South  
Fargo, ND 58103

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

THE HERALD

March 2016  
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**St. John Office Hours:**  
Monday-Thursday: 9 am-4:30 pm  
Friday: 9 am-2 pm

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St. John Lutheran Church

Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

THE HERALD

Volume 116, Issue 3

Community in Christ: Christ in Community

March 2016

## Wednesday Lenten Worship at 6:30pm

We will continue our "Ship Wrecked" Lent series : March 2nd-Sail Boat March 9 Fishing Boat  
March 16 Life Raft.

Lenten Suppers will be served from 5:30-6:30 pm on March 2,9, and 16.



**March 20**– Palm Sunday-Worship at 8:30 and 10:45 am

**March 24**-Maundy Thursday-Worship and First Communion Milestone at 7:00 pm

**March 25**-Good Friday Worship at 7:00 pm

**March 28**-He is Risen! Easter Sunday. Worship at 8:30 and 10:45 am. Breakfast will be served 9:30-10:30 am

### Sunday of Palms and Passion (March 20) Worship at 8:30 & 10:45 am

The **Cross+Walk** children begin each service with palms and songs. Then we move into the Passion Story with the St. John Choir's presentation of the cantata, "Upon this Rock". Experience Peter's feelings on the days before Jesus' crucifixion.

### Maundy Thursday (March 24) Worship and First Communion at 7:00 pm

Centered around Holy Communion as our Communion Milestone youth share in God's supper. Music, scripture, prayers and sermon point to the reality of God's presence in the bread and wine. As we move into Good Friday, the service ends with the traditional stripping of the altar.

### Good Friday (March 25) Worship at 7:00pm

The Stations of the Cross is a liturgical way for us to acknowledge as people of faith that we do not live in the triumph of Easter Sunday. We sometimes struggle on the journey, trying to understand the inequities of life large and small. Sometimes we are misjudged and misunderstood by others. We suffer physical and emotional pain as part of being human. All too often we experience painful endings. Marriages fail. Children make destructive decisions. Friends betray us. Loved ones die. Sometimes the world becomes dark and hopeless, like the world of Good Friday as Jesus journeyed to the Cross.

As we journey to the Cross with our Lord, we begin to understand that in Jesus' sufferings we see our own journey mirrored in his. In Jesus' journey to the Cross on Good Friday, we see faithfulness in the midst of Passion (from the Greek word for "suffering"), perseverance in the midst of endings, and courage in the midst of hopelessness. As we trace Jesus' journey we take up our own cross, the symbol of our own passion, and bear the imprint of his cross in our own. But in accompanying Jesus on his way to the Cross, we also gain courage from his commitment to the Father in that journey, from his courage to face what comes, and finally from the realization of the truth that with God endings become the building blocks of new beginnings. The Stations of the Cross allows us to identify with Jesus as he identifies with us.

### Easter Sunday: March 28

Festival Worship & Communion Worship at 8:30 & 10:45 am

It's time to celebrate the Risen Christ! Special music by the Handbells, Brass, St. John Choir, and Bethany Grahn!

### Easter Breakfast: 9:30-10:30 am

St. John youth and families will be serving warm breakfast along with juice and coffee. All proceeds will help the youth on future mission trips and gatherings.

**The St. John Foundation** will meet on **Tue., March 1st at 5:45 pm.** Any funding requests from the congregation for projects/missions within the scope of the mission statement of the St. John Foundation will be reviewed. *Request forms can be obtained from the church office or from the Foundation mail slot in the parlor hallway.*

*(Requests for this meeting are due by 4:30pm on Monday, February 29th.)*

**NEW MEMBER GATHERINGS** are scheduled for *April 10th and 17th beginning at 9:35 am* in the Preschool room. If you, or someone you know are interested in joining St. John, or if you are interested in receiving more information about St. John, call the church office, 232-8521 or email [office@stjohnfargo.com](mailto:office@stjohnfargo.com)

## Contact Us

St. John Lutheran Church  
1710 5th St. S., Fargo, ND 58103  
701-232-8521 e-mail: [office@stjohnfargo.com](mailto:office@stjohnfargo.com);  
[www.stjohnfargo.com](http://www.stjohnfargo.com)

The Ministry Team of St. John: All the People of God, along with  
Rev. Nathan Keith, Rev. Brian Hansen, Pastors  
Dawn Papenfuss, Director of Music/Organist  
Rachel Coen-Tuff, Director of Youth & Family Ministries  
Jackie Jabens, Finance/Office Manager  
Carly Rogne, Secretary Randy Shone, Custodian  
Jana Bruhschwein, Preschool Director  
Kellie Knodel, Cheryl Dietz, Katie Olson, Preschool Teachers  
Peggy Hammerling, Recorders Jessica Westgard, Handbells  
Editor: Carly Rogne, Articles accepted before  
1 pm Friday, March 11th for the April 16' Herald.

# A Note From the Pastor,

This year during our Lenten journey together we are focusing on stories where water and boats are significant parts of the biblical story. Just last week we covered one of my absolute favorite bible stories (the story of Jonah and the big fish). This story is often a favorite for both kids and adults because let's face it, how often do you hear a story about a person being swallowed by a big fish.

The story of Jonah begins with God's call to Jonah to take a strong message of, "*Straighten out or else...*" to the people of Nineveh. Now Jonah did not like the people of Nineveh. Nineveh was the capital city of the ancient Assyrian Empire and this empire had conquered, plundered and taken into exile many of the people of Israel. As far as Jonah was concerned, the people of Nineveh were murders and thieves who deserved all the fire and brimstone God could heap upon their heads. Jonah wanted want God to destroy them not invite them to repent.

Therefore, instead of saying, "O.K. God I'll go to them and invite them to turn from their wicked ways," Jonah says NO and heads in the complete opposite direction. Rather than traveling west to Nineveh he books passage on a boat and heads to Joppa, which is east in Spain. He literally ran away from God's call and you know the rest of the story. God pursued Jonah on the waters and caused a massive storm to threaten the lives of the sailors. In desperation the sailors came to Jonah to ask him to pray for them and Jonah suggests that for the storm to stop they must toss him over board into the sea. Then begrudgingly he walks to Nineveh and preaches one of the shortest stories in all of scripture. "Repent or in 40 days God will destroy Nineveh."

Jonah is my kind of missionary. Reluctant, withdrawn, stubborn. Never quite ready to go to Nineveh. Jonah makes sense to me because often I too would prefer to hold grudges and watch those I dislike get what (I believe) they've got coming. Maybe I like Jonah because in many ways I am Jonah, I can relate to his feelings of resentment, I can relate to that sense of moral righteousness. I know (as perhaps do you) what it's like to hold others faults before them and feel the pleasure of knowing that I'm right and their wrong.

But God's call to Jonah to go to Niniveh is like God's calling to each of us to go to that person who has wronged us, or to that someone who is responsible for the deepest pain in our lives and to offer them forgiveness. To mend brokenness not so that the one who has wronged us can move on but instead so that we can. In reality it seems completely contrary to all of our human inclinations, for we feel that if someone has wronged us then it is their responsibility to come to us and ask for forgiveness. But God's call is for us to do the opposite. We (the ones who have been hurt) are the ones who are called to go and forgive.

As the book of Jonah ends we see God in a strange kind of way inviting Jonah to reconsider his (or perhaps it's our) disposition. The book of Jonah doesn't end with Jonah seeing the light, nor does it end with assurance that God's words were enough to persuade Jonah to forgive, instead it ends with God's call to Jonah to consider changing the posture of his heart. God is inviting Jonah to forgive and in forgiving God is inviting Jonah to find life abundantly.

I wonder if perhaps the story of Jonah is a story that invites us to let go of hate, anger, clinging to a sense of betrayal, these are the things that poison our souls and they lead only to bitterness, resentment and eventually depression. Jonah's call is our call, we like Jonah are being challenged by God to put aside our anger, our hate and our brokenness so that we can live in healthy loving ways. For when we find the courage to forgive even those who have hurt us most deeply, then we find richness and wholeness in life.

In Christ,  
Pastor Brian Hansen

**DURING OUR ANNUAL MEETING** held on **January 24, 2016**, we elected these St. John members for the positions shown. We give thanks to God for those willing to serve St. John in these capacities and for those who have finished their terms!

*Church Council, newly elected to a 2 year term:*

Rachel Rude, Shawn Vasichuk, Larry Papenfuss, Dean Froslie, Janis Keller

*Nominating Committee:* Trevor Christianson, Carroll Gjovik, Darrin Hawley, Sadie Thompson, Karen Thompson

*Voting members to Fargo Conference & Eastern North Dakota Synod*

*Assembly* (1 year term): Bonnie Ames, Robert Ames, Carroll Gjovik

*St. John Foundation:* Heidi Twedt, James Botnen

*Lutheran Social Services:* Joel Kangas

*Churches United for the Homeless:* Allan Peterson

*Council Members ending their present term:*

Sadie Thompson, Carroll Gjovik, Heidi Twedt, Trevor Christianson, Darrin Hawley

*Voting members to Synod Assembly ending their present term:* Dennis Dunlop, Lynn Wolff, Gail Reierson

## Look what's happening with small groups at St. John this month!

**YAH (Young at Heart)** For those of a 'certain age', join us for Christian fellowship, coffee & refreshments. Cathy Chatelain, 261-2707 **Next Meeting: March 10, 10am**

**Deuteronomy28Men Men's Ministry** Meet at St. John before going to work, 6:45-7:30 am. Coffee is on at 6:30 am. **Next meeting: Thursday, March 24** Contact: Keith Burck, kburck@alerusmail.com or 232-3800.

**Ruth Circle** Meets the third Monday of the month at 7:30 pm from September-May, and is hosted by a circle member in her home or in the church parlor. **Next Meeting March 21 Location TBA**

**Rachel Circle** Meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 9:30am in the conference room at St. John. **Next Meeting March 16**

**Bible Study with Pastor Brian** Pastor Brian Hansen will lead a bible study every Wednesday at 11:00am in the St. John Parlor. All Are Welcome!

**MUGG: (Men Under God's Guidance)** 2nd Monday of the month, 5:30 p.m. at the Loft at Ushers (Moorhead) For all men, we will gather after work for food and fellowship. **Next meeting: March 14**

**Reconciling In Christ:** This is a group working toward St. John being more welcoming of the LGBT community and becoming a Reconciled in Christ congregation. Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm at St. John. **Next meeting: March 8** Contact: Stephanie Christeson 701-478-4145

**Women & Wine Fellowship** Women of St. John are invited for fun and good conversation; in the evening hours. **Next meeting will be held at Pepper's Sports Café immediately following Maundy Thursday service.** Contact: Diane Wiesenborn, 701-866-5623

**Foot Care Clinic** Our Foot Care Clinic provides fellowship and foot care performed by volunteers and trained health personnel. Call Cathy Chatelain at 261-2707 to schedule an appointment. Cost is \$16 paid to Sanford Home Health Care-Fargo. Donations appreciated and go to support this ministry. **Next clinics: Tue. March 15**

**Yoga Mondays at 10 am in the Parlor.** Free yoga class to stretch your mind, body and spirit. Yoga literally translated means to join, attach, or unite. The intention of Christian based Yoga is to integrate and balance all the layers of our life so that our body, mind, heart, intellect and spirit flow in harmony. Yoga strengthens, tones, increases flexibility, reduces the likelihood of injury and helps ease the symptoms of stress. Join us! Wear comfortable clothes. (Any money given at the end of the year will go to the Lutheran Global Health). Contact: Gini Duval, 701-306-3454, **Schedule: Mar. 21 Apr. 4,11,18,25. May 2,9.**

## Memorials & Honorariums:

### Churches United for the Homeless:

*In Memory of Cheryl Urbach:*

Ruth Kautzman

### General Memorial Fund:

*In Memory of Cheryl Urbach:*

Joan Bachman, LaVonne Rustad, Linda & Rick Fugleberg, James & Kathryn Kain, Bradley & Patricia Schwab, Pamela Costello, Cathy & John Chatelain, Peter & AnnaLea Locken, Allan & Judy Peterson, Catherine Urbach

### Good Samaritan Committee Fund-for Foot Care:

*In Memory of Cheryl Urbach:*

Jane Nissen, Mavis Lura

*In Memory of Beatrice Mensing:*

Jane Nissen

### Special Music Fund:

*In Memory of Cheryl Urbach:*

Carroll & Aanen Gjovik, Irvin Rustad

### Stephen Ministry Fund:

*In Memory of Cheryl Urbach:*

Dave & Gini Duval

### Youth Fund:

*In Memory of Cheryl Urbach:*

Jeff & Kathy Botnen

### St. John Foundation:

*In Memory of Cheryl Urbach:*

Bev Hagen, Gail Reierson & Lynn Wolff, Adelle Salvesson, Joyce & Gary Schepp, Carolyn & Scott Trana

**St. John received \$2,227 in charitable outreach funds from the Thrivent Choice program during 2015. If you are a Thrivent Financial member and recommended St. John to receive Choice Dollars, we are grateful. Thank you!**

# Children, Youth and Family Ministry

Rachel Coen-Tuff, Director of Youth and Family Ministry 701-232-8521, Rachel@stjohnfargo.com

## Music Notes by Dawn Papenfuss

March 6 Worship Band

March 13 8:30 & 10:45 St. John Choir

March 20 Children in Crosswalk & choirs: beginning of both services;

PALM SUNDAY CANTATA by St. John choir; last half of each service

### EASTER SUNDAY, March 27

8:30 Handbells & St. John choir

10:45 Handbells & SJ choir & Children's choir (possibly)



Dear St. John families,  
Your thoughtful gift was a lovely surprise!

We have tasted the chocolate already! Delicious!

The wine glass is washed and ready for the luscious wine.

You all must have known what we would like to enjoy after this big production.

We appreciate you support.

We couldn't have done this without you.

Thank you so much.

Jeanne Janssen

Marcia Stubstad, and Dawn Papenfuss also thank the families who contributed to the gift baskets.

## HOLY WEEK OPPORTUNITY

March 22-March 28

Throughout Holy Week, we will be offering you a time of peace and reflection.

Starting Tuesday March 22nd, there will be a horizontal cross and candles in the sanctuary for you to come, listen, and be in God's presence. So often we only talk to God, so you are invited to come during Holy week, to center your life, faith, and hope in the one who will be crucified and raised.

Please take time during Holy Week to find rest and renewal around the cross.



## Elwood's Personal Journey

A lot has changed for me in the past three years. Yes, I had looked at the LGBT issue, I had over my years as a pastor occasional conversations with parishioners but, in all honestly, I had not wrestled with it. It was in early 2013 when, along with Stephanie Christeson and Scott Pryor from our St. John congregation, that the three of us were introduced to an outline and a step-by-step process how we might walk with our congregation's membership in a grace-filled approach. We formed a Reconciling in Christ Committee numbering some 10-12 members and we have attempted through Adult Forums, showing a few documentaries, and reading some books (Including the Bible) to make this ministry one that supports All people.

In studying and reflecting as to what the Scriptures have to say about walking in the steps of our Lord, I have come to see more how it is essential that we be welcoming of all people, regardless of their sexual orientation. When our Lord died on the cross and then was raised from the dead, did he not do this for all people? How can I exclude anyone from that precious gift? In looking back through the pages of church history, I am saddened by those times when the church has excluded people, often times using a Scriptural interpretation that has been rigid and not very expressive of grace. "Might we today be a congregation that is willing actively to listen to the hurts and needs of every person, a congregation where others will be able to say, see how they love one another."

Elwood Rieke

## Stephen Ministry

So, you have a friend from church and she/he complains a lot about the same issue, or is droopy and emotionally drained...

You could encourage your friend to seek a Stephen Minister who would "walk" with them towards wholeness. They could contact Pastor Brian or Amy Reinhart

Stephen Leader, Gini Duval

## Why Are Mission Trips Important?

My first mission trip was to Duluth, Minnesota when I was thirteen years old. We had a week in a beautiful city, five hours from home, and learning about people in the community in which we served. While we were in Duluth we worked at a children's day center and painting homes for people in need. My first experience doing mission work was full of fun, tears, and memories that would last a life time. I was put in a community other than my own filled with people who were eager to get to know me, and I was eager to learn more about them.

I participated in every mission trip or youth gathering every summer for six years. As a youth director I want the youth to have the opportunity to have the chance to experience God outside of Fargo, and outside of the church. God is active and alive all around the United States and the world, and my hope is for every youth to have these faith filling and faith forming opportunities.

As we prepare for summer trips for our middle school students to Minneapolis, Minnesota and for the high school students to Seattle, Washington please keep these young people in your prayers as they embark in a faith filled journey. Learning about themselves, about God and about the power of service in our world.

God Bless,  
Rachel Coen-Tuff

## Youth Group: God @ The Movies

Sunday, March 6th, 4:00-6:00 Middle School 7:00-9:00 High School  
The Middle School Youth Group & High School Youth Group will be watching clips from the movie "Inside Out" on Sunday, March 6th in the Youth Room. Snacks, and discussion will be provided. If you would be willing to help volunteer with this event, it would be much appreciated!

## Upcoming Milestone Ministry:

**Holy Communion:** Wednesdays March 9<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm.  
If your child is asking about Communion and wants to participate they are likely ready! God says ALL are welcome and this definitely includes our children. These sessions will help children learn what this sacrament is all about. We suggest children participate in this milestone before 5<sup>th</sup> grade, but older children are welcome.  
***They will be receiving their 1st Communion in worship on Monday Thursday March 24th at 7pm.***

## Easter Festival

Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> 9:45-10:30 during Cross+Walk session.  
Come and make your own resurrection egg devotional to learn about the story of Easter at home with your family!

## Easter Breakfast

Sunday, March 27 9:30-10:30am. The youth will be serving Easter Breakfast to support our mission trip to Seattle, Washington! Please come hungry and enjoy the wonderful Easter morning with our community of faith, and all the while supporting our youth!

## \*Preschool News\*

The preschool halls are buzzing with excitement about extended Wednesdays, Escuela (Spanish class), and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) class. We are so proud to offer these extra experiences. They allow children explore new interests and extend learning in new and creative ways. These three programs are options families may add on to the preschool day. Children bring a lunch and spend an hour or two learning in small groups.

We are looking to expand our preschool program to the afternoons so that we may serve more children in our community. We are looking for staff and children to fill a session from 12:30-3:00 pm on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursdays. This program will be modeled after our MWF morning program. If you or anyone you know would like to share their faith with preschoolers please contact Jana at 701-261-9920. God has grown this ministry in such amazing ways. We currently serve 62 children and have 60 registered for next fall.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**St John Talent Show and Auction:**  
Sunday, March 13th, 12-2pm  
\*\*\*\*\*  
The talent show and silent/live auction is one of our biggest fundraisers supporting our youth.  
\*New this year-We will also have lunch available to purchase!  
\*If you have talent (or a lack of talent) to share, please contact Rachel Coen-Tuff at Rachel@stjohnfargo.com, sign up on the Tower of Service, or leave a message in the church office(232-8521)!  
\*We are currently seeking items for the auction. If you happen to have a business or business contact that would be willing to donate items please contact Shelly Hawley at 299-5762 or hawleyx5@live.com. We appreciate donations of new or in very good condition for the silent auction, gift cards or certificates are always a hit as well. We encourage these items to be dropped off in the church office by arrive by March 9th. Please include your name as the donor and the value of the donation.  
Thank you for supporting our youth!  
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