

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 Vasichek, 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!**

