

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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St. John Lutheran Church

Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

THE HERALD

Volume 117, Issue 3

Community in Christ: Christ in Community

March 2017



March 1, 2017

Worship: 6:30pm

Lenten Supper: 5:30-6:30pm

Join us on Ash Wednesday for worship with **mass choirs!**

Following St. John tradition please remember to wear black to this worship service!

Lenten suppers served from 5:30-6:30 pm  
Wednesdays: March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5

### A Note From the Pastor, Are We There Yet?

What parent hasn't heard those words? The planned outing may be minutes or hours away, but the question is the same. The logical, planned, detailed time table has been gone over a multitude of times, but still the question comes. Anxiety overcomes rationality, "Are we there yet?"

While this question is more oft associated with kids, older kids (meaning adults) have been asking it of late here in our congregation. The question varies a bit for it does not involve a destination, but rather an accomplishment: "Are we interviewing yet?", "Aren't we done with the process yet?" or "Are we ever going to call our next pastor?"

The Call Committee has finished its paperwork (called the Ministry Site Profile, or MSP), the Church Council has given its endorsement and Bishop Brandt has signed them. We are even further along because the potential pastor profile papers (try saying that fast 3x!) have already been sent to our Call Committee.

While there are more steps involved before the congregation votes on a potential pastor (prayer, interview, background checks, visit(s), discussion, more prayer, etc.), the time could – with the right candidate – move very quickly. It is not something that we, as anxious as we are, want to rush either. Partly that is why my contract was extended. We want to take the right time to get the right pastor for our congregation.

"Are we there yet?" No, not yet. Be patient. Your next pastor will be here soon. TGBG – *Pastor Paul*

Father, help me to see this holy season of Lent as a time of spiritual renewal, rather than a time of deprivation. Motivate me to reach a new level of experiencing your grace.

### Contact Us

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1710 5th St. S., Fargo, ND 58103  
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The Ministry Team of St. John: All the People of God, along with  
Rev. Brian Hansen, Pastor  
Rev. Paul Balaban, Interim Pastor  
Dawn Papenfuss, Director of Music/Organist  
Jackie Jabens, Finance/Office Manager  
Carly Cox, Secretary Randy Shone, Custodian  
Jeremy Maahs, Youth Programming Director  
Jana Bruhschwein, Preschool Director  
Kellie Knodel, Cheryl Dietz, Katie Olson, Preschool Teachers  
Peggy Hammerling, Recorders Jessica Westgard Larson, Handbells  
Editor: Carly Cox, Articles accepted before 1 pm March 20th for the April'17 Herald.



### Good News!

Four Stephen Ministers were commissioned Sunday, February 26th 2017 during worship service. They are Cathy Chatelain, Sue Erikson, Sandy Hasbrouck, Gaylan Westhoff. They have completed 50 hours of training in Christian Care. Praise the Lord. Sadly, Stephen Leader, Amy Reinhart, will be leaving Stephen Ministry. We thank her for so many roles: one of the referral coordinator, supervision chair, scheduler, tech queen, A-1 problem solver. The nursing profession will now get her full attention.

Stephen Ministry Leaders

## Hide It Under a Bushel? No!

Diane and I had been members of St. John for about 20 years when our young adult son Jesse told us he is gay. Our initial reaction included some anxiety, about painful experiences that he might have had in the past, and about rejection that he might encounter in the future. Also, we worried about whether to tell other family members. Some of our family belong to quite conservative congregations. But we believed and found that our friends at St. John were very supportive. Jesse had grown up in St. John, and we are very thankful that his experiences at St. John were positive ones—not the judgmental or unwelcoming reactions that so many gay people still experience. This is one of the remarkable, wonderful characteristics of St. John—that it is already supportive of LGBT members and their families.

This touches on the two goals of the RIC Committee: (1) Have a statement that welcomes all (already approved by the St. John council, and supported by 93% of members in a recent survey), and (2) Help non-member LGBT people and their families who seek such a congregation, by allowing our congregation to be included on the Reconciling Works website. RIC does not seek to change St. John, but is nudging St. John to stand up and acknowledge what it is and has been for many years. *Hide it under a bushel? No!* Let our light shine for all others who yearn for such a faith community.

Dennis Wiesenborn

## Community in Christ: Christ in Community Capital Campaign News: Faith Active in Love

As we begin the Lenten season, we are reminded of the great gift God gave us in sending his son to suffer and die for our sins. In response to that gift, we are asked to be generous with our lives and our abilities in service to others. So, it is fitting that during Lent we will move into a second phase of a capital campaign that will continue to reduce our debt, help with facility needs, and enhance our mission to serve our church and our community.

In conjunction with the campaign, we are encouraging you to join us in a devotional study titled *40 Days of Community*. This resource will be used in personal devotion, small groups, adult forums and sermons during Lent and is designed to promote our own spiritual growth in conjunction with the campaign. We invite you to pick up a copy at church.

In March you will be receiving information about the campaign. Building on the results of our congregational survey and community listening session, the campaign materials will include the goals of this second phase and an appeal for your financial support for the ministries of St. John. We look forward to continuing the progress of our last appeal and setting the stage for the leadership of our next lead pastor. May God continue to bless your lives and the ministries of St. John.

Larry Papenfuss

Capital Appeal Team  
St. John Council Member

**The property board** is continuing to work on small to medium-sized projects around the building. A couple of upcoming major projects have been identified, notably some roof issues. Finding a solution to the roof problems is continuing work. The bill for fixing the water line break in January arrived and thankfully it was much lower than expected.



## 40 Days of Community Devotional Bible Study

**Community in Christ, Christ in Community ACTIVE IN LOVE!** is the theme for our new capital campaign to pay down debt and enhance our ministries together, and central to this is for everyone to join in a forty day journey of study, devotion, small group ministry and service.

1. To help guide our Lenten discipline this year we would like each of you to consider joining us in daily devotion. Therefore, every member (or couple, if you'd like to share) will be provided with the devotional book "40 days of Community" to read daily as we enter into Lent. (books can be picked up in the church office)
2. As you grab your devotional book we hope you will consider signing up to be a part of one of the many small groups that will be meeting in homes, or here at St. John on various days during the week to deeper engage in how God calls us to be ACTIVE IN LOVE through community. These small groups will meet once a week during Lent for roughly an hour and a half to explore how God calls us to be a Community for the sake of the world. This small group ministry will conclude with an opportunity for service during or sometime after the week following Easter. This is an especially great time to join a small group if you never have before. These groups will be non-threatening, easy to participate in at your own pace and comfort-level, and yet very meaningful and important to your faith.
3. Finally we hope you will consider joining us on Sunday mornings during the month of March for our Adult forums which will explore our calling to be Community in Christ, Christ in Community ACTIVE IN LOVE!

Thank you for being a part of this Community of Christ here at St. John we hope you will join us on this journey of faith and fellowship as we seek to share Christ in our Community, ACTIVE IN LOVE! Remember to get your 40 Days Devotional book and to check out one of our Small Groups!

### **Small Groups (Those in bold print are kid friendly Bible Studies!)**

Mondays 9:45am-11:00am-(One Oak Place, 1 block North of Kmart);

Mondays 1:00pm-2:30 (Joel Kangus);

Mondays 6:00-7:30pm (Charlie & Linda Axness's home 3516 7th St S. Moorhead);

Tuesday 6:30pm-7:45pm (Elwood Rieke, St. John);

**Wednesday 5:30-6:30pm (St. John);**

Thursdays 6:45am-7:45am (Kate Severson, St. John);

Thursday 10:00-11:15am (Audrey LePore, Touchmark);

**Fridays 6:00pm-7:30pm (Pastor Brian's Home in S. Fargo)**

Saturdays 11:00am-12:15 (Larry and Dawn Papenfuss, St. John)

**Sundays 6:30pm-8:00pm (Dean and Erin Frosie, N. Moorhead)**

Sundays 6:30pm-8:00pm (Diane Wiesenborn St. John)

## Youth and Family

### MUSIC NOTES by Dawn Papenfuss

**Wednesday March 1 (Ash Wednesday)**

No choir rehearsals but a warm up before 6:30 worship service. St. John choir will meet at 6pm in the sanctuary. Mass choirs at 6:10pm. **MUST WEAR ALL BLACK!**

Mass choirs will sing "The First Song of Isaiah".

**Sunday, March 5** Guest organist, Peggy Johnson from Concordia College

**Sunday, March 12** Worship Band

**Sunday, March 19** 8:30 Handbells 10:45 St. John Choir

**Sunday March 26** 8:30 St. John Choir 10:45 Children's Choir



#### Future reminders:

**Palm Sunday, April 9** Crosswalk kids & children's choir sing at the start of both services. Children's Handbells play at 10:45 service.

**Maundy Thursday, April 13** Worship at 7pm RE ENACTMENT OF THE LAST SUPPER and First Communion

**Good Friday: April 14** at 7pm. Tennebrae Service

**Easter Sunday: April 16** Brass Quintet and St. John Choir at both worship services.

Worship & Music Committee met Feb. 7. We reviewed January worship, particularly Our Epiphany Celebration with the Kings and the St. John Players drama about Luther. We also reviewed the Children's musical from Feb. 5. We talked about Lent & the themes and the 2nd Phase of our Capitol Campaign. We also discussed "Hilarity Sunday" which is scheduled for April 23. This is a new addition to worship & includes lots of laughter & jokes & joy! We also discussed the desire to have a member stand in the entryway every week from 5-10 minutes before worship until 10 minutes into the service in case visitors come late and need direction.

### "We are all Beggars" The Reform of Martin Luther A lecture by Dr. Roy Hammerling

Interpreters of Martin Luther's legacy have often had difficulty reconciling an apparent sharp divide between the early, gaunt, stern Augustinian friar and the older, well-fed, fiery Protestant Reformer. Luther's view that all people are beggars before God, suggests that Luther, one of history's most controversial figures, was more consistent in his thought that has been previously acknowledged.

March 21, 2017, 7:30, Concordia College, Knutson Center, Room: Jones A / B

### "Happy Feet" St. John Foot Care Clinic

We have volunteers to pamper your feet and trained personnel to trim your nails. All while you enjoy coffee and visit with friends. Most helpful to those with foot health issues. Future dates Tues. Mar. 21 and Tues. April 18 in the Parlor. Schedule an appointment by calling Cathy Chatelain 293-6772 or 261-2707. Cost is \$16 paid to Sanford Home Health

### For the "Young At Heart"

*We are mature in years, but young in Spirit*  
Please join us for Christian fellowship, coffee, and treats in the Parlor. Future meetings, Thurs. March 9 at 10:00 AM and Thurs. April 13 10:00 AM. Program to be announced. Questions, call Mavis Lura 238-4147, Donna Enstad 701-840-0348 or Cathy Chatelain 261-2707

**Women and Wine** will meet Thursday, March 16 at Peggy Hammerling's home, 112 Prairiewood Drive, Fargo, from 6:30pm until 9. All women of St. John are welcomed to this time of fun and fellowship. You may bring food or beverage to share, but if that's not convenient, come anyway!

**Church Women United World Day of Prayer**, sponsored by Church Women United will be celebrated Friday March 3rd, p:30am at Plymouth Congregational Church 401 Broadway N. Fargo WDP's motto is "Informed prayer leads to powerful action. The women of the Philippians share their personal story under the theme "Am I being unfair to you"-based on the Parable of the labors in the vineyard. Come and Worship and Learn. Everyone Welcome!

## YOUTH Be a Handbell Ninja



### It's not as hard as it looks!

Rehearsals Wednesdays, Approx 5:00-5:30

Regular rehearsals will resume weekly March 8<sup>th</sup>

Handbell or handchime ringing experience not required.

Participants should know the basics of reading music.

(2 years+ of piano lessons ideal)

Ages flexible, but current participants are 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade.

Contact Jessica at [JLWestgard@hotmail.com](mailto:JLWestgard@hotmail.com) or 701-371-8094 if you'd like to join us! Please

RSVP so music for the right skills & number of kids can be prepared.

## CROSS+WALK

Sundays: 9:45-10:35 am



Sunday, March 5: Dude, Where's My Sheep Luke 15:1-11

March 12 Dude, Where's my Son-Luke 15:11-14

March 19 Dude, Where's your Brother -Luke 15:21-32

March 26 Dude, Where's your Forgiveness-Matthew 18:21-35

We are looking for families to help tell the Bible story at the beginning of Cross+Walk. This is a great way to get involved and grow in faith. The stories and "scripts" are very simple and easy to follow. If this is something you feel called to do please contact the church office at 701-232-8521, or [office@stjohnfargo.com](mailto:office@stjohnfargo.com)

## VBS 2017!

Save the Date!

**June 10-June 14**

Let's Fetch Some  
Faith-Filled Fun!

Kids are crazy for critters with whiskers, tails, feathers, or scales! That's why kids will think this VBS is the cat's meow. During the four short days at Pets Unleashed VBS, we will introduce kids to Jesus, God's Son who lovingly cares for us.

