



The Good News!
is also available at
www.stjohns-annandale.org.

Good News!

FROM PASTOR DAVE.....

Season of Lent Continues

We will offer our last Midweek Lenten Soup Supper and Wednesday Worship Service on Wednesday, April 5th! I want to express my sincere words of thanks to Dave Boie, Erin Lappen, Morgan Diers and Dan Berg for sharing at our first four Lenten Services. We look forward to hearing from Carrie Pilgrim on April 5th! We will then move into Holy Week, the very heart of our faith as Christians! The Holy Week services are some of the most visual services of the year. As I look back over my own childhood, it is the Holy Week services that stand out to me as my most memorable worship experiences. I certainly hope and pray that you will make every effort to participate in these services – and if you are parents of children and youth, that you will make it a priority to share these worship experiences with your children.

Easter

On Sunday, April 16th, we will gather to celebrate, with Christians around the world, the resurrection of our crucified Savior, Jesus the Christ. We will share the ancient greeting: “Christ is risen!” To which others will respond, “Christ is risen, indeed!” We will again speak the “Alleluia” and we will raise our voices in joyous songs of praise! For Easter means that God has vindicated Jesus, that in raising Jesus from the tomb, God has put God’s stamp of approval on the life that Jesus lived – and the life that Jesus called us to live! The life of service and love, the life of justice and peace, the life of forgiveness and grace is the life abundant that Jesus promised --- and it’s God’s dream for God’s world! Easter reminds us that we are “Easter people” --- we are people who, by God’s grace, have been raised to new life – so that we might be God’s transformative people in our world! So join us as we gather to celebrate anew the good news of Easter on April 16th. But please remember that Easter is not just a day --- it’s a season (running from April 16th through May 3rd) --- and not only is it a season, but we worship on Sundays because every Sunday is to be a celebration of Easter – throughout the entire year!!!!

This year, as was decided by our Worship and Music Team, we will be celebrating Holy Communion on EACH Sunday throughout the Easter season!

Food for Kidz

Enclosed in this month’s newsletter is a special offering envelope. I am asking you to consider a gift, above and beyond your regular giving, to help pay for the food that we will package with Food for Kidz on April 26th! This has been a congregational ministry effort (lead by our youth) for many years – long before I arrived. It’s a great “hands-on” opportunity for youth and adults of St. John’s to DO SOMETHING to care for the hungry in our community (some of the food will be given to our food shelf), within our country, and around the world! But

here’s the thing – we can only package what we can pay for – so we need your generosity! The D-Way youth have been giving an offering every Wednesday towards this end – but they need your GENEROUS HELP! It costs .15 per meal. So that means a gift of \$20 would provide over 133 meals, a gift of \$50 would provide over 333 meals, a gift of \$100 would provide over 566 meals, and a gift of \$1000 would provide over 5666 meals. Just think of the difference such means will make in feeding the hungry children and adults of our world! Please give so that others might live! And come and join in the fun of working together to package these meals!

Administrative Professionals Day

Wednesday, April 26th, is set aside as “Administrative Professionals Day”. It’s a day to recognize all the “behind the scenes” work that administrative professionals do that is so vital to the operations of organizations, businesses, and yes, even churches! Please make sure, that day (but every day) to say thank you to those who serve in such vital ways! And if you are one of those people --- please know that you, and your work, your ministry, is MUCH appreciated and valued!!!

I hope that you would join me in saying thank-you to Bonnie, Lisa and Becky who have served us so faithfully this past year! They do so many things that allow this ministry to function well!!! Please let them know that their work and service has been, and continues to be, greatly appreciated!!!!

The Convenings

I am excited about an event that will be held on Tuesday, April 18th, at St. John’s University (additional information is included in this newsletter). I had a chance to be part of a preliminary event that was held for area clergy – and I was deeply impressed by the goal of this statewide effort! Its purpose is to encourage good conversations about living and dying well! Having these conversations is not always easy – but such conversations are so vitally important to the well-being of families and couples! There will be stories and music and resources to help you begin, or further, those conversations. I deeply encourage you to make the trek over to St. John’s and to participate in this event!

Coffee and Conversation

Again, during April, I will be at the local McDonalds every Thursday from 2-4pm (except April 13th because that is Maundy Thursday). I invite you to stop by and chat about anything and everything - it can be about something at church, or what God is up to in your life, or anything at all. I am grateful for those who have stopped and chatted since I began this practice in January – I am truly grateful for the rich conversations that we have shared.

CYF Director Update

As reflected in the Council minutes, the Council has decided to post the CYF Director position, and to

begin the process of calling a new Director(s). As the minutes reflect, we will be posting this externally as a "full-time" position, but we will also, at the same time, be posting it locally as either a full or part-time position. The reasoning behind this is that we want to be open to the possibility that there might be 2 or 3 people in our area who are looking for a part-time position who would be willing to oversee one part of the CYF program (e.g. elementary ministries, or middle school ministries, or high school ministries, or some other combination). The direction we would take would be determined by the applications received, and by what helps us to best move our CYF Ministries forward. Please share the word, and keep this process in your prayers

Synod Assembly

This year's SW MN Synod Assembly will be held Friday, June 9th and Saturday, June 10th at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter. I WOULD LOVE TO SHARE THIS EXPERIENCE WITH FIVE MEMBERS OF ST. JOHN'S! Yes, in addition to us as pastors, we can bring five voting members! This is a great opportunity to get a sense of our larger church, what we are doing together, and what God is up to in our world! If you are interested, or would like more information, please give me a call. We would like to register BEFORE May 19th so that we get in on the early-bird discount! The theme of the assembly this year is "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" based on Matthew 28:20! I guarantee that you will come away from the gathering feeling proud to be part of the ELCA and the work that we are doing together in Jesus' name!

Learning about the World

Recently, while watching a video, I was convicted by the comments of a woman from Tunisia – a country in northern Africa. In the video she shared a whole list of things that she knew about our country and then challenged us to use the internet more productively and to learn about her country and others. I was convicted of the fact that I know very little about the rest of the world. So, I have begun learning something about one country each and every day. There are 195 countries in our world (196 if you include Taiwan) – so it should take me a little over half a year to accomplish. At the time of my writing this article – I am three days into my challenge. So far, this is a little of what I have learned:

- **Afghanistan:** It is one of the poorest countries in our world – 42% of the people live on less than \$1 a day. As a result, the average life expectancy of both men and women is 60 years.
- **Albania:** Located to the north of Greece. The home country of Mother Theresa. 50% of their population is under 30 years old. It was the home of one of the 1st universities in Europe. On average, 300 days a year are SUNNY!

Algeria: Located in North Africa – it is the largest country (land size) in Africa – four times the size of Texas; but the Sahara Desert covers 80% of its land. Algeria is the home country of St. Augustine of Hippo who lived 354-430 and was a very influential voice in the Christian faith. Women in Algeria have more independence than women in other Islamic countries. In Algeria, women often make the larger portion of household income. Women comprise 60% of all judges, 70% of all lawyers, and 60% of the student population.

Don't worry, next month's newsletter will not include 30-40 countries! But I share this with you, first, to encourage you to join me in learning about our global neighbors – and for praying for them – praying for the "healing of the nations." But I also share it with you so that you will hold me accountable to my challenge to learn something about a different country each and every day! Next up: Andorra!!!!

In Christ,
Pastor Dave

SPRING CLEAN UP DAY The Property Team requests your assistance as we spruce things up – both inside and out – on Saturday, April 22nd. What a great way to observe Earth Day! There will be things to do for everyone who shows up!

ST. JOHN'S CANTATA SUNDAY Members and friends of St. John's will be sharing the cantata: "The Feast of Life: Stories from the Gospel of Luke" on Sunday, April 30th at both of our worship services. The cantata was written by Marty Haugen, and includes wonderful songs and lyrics that tell the story of Luke's Gospel. Remaining rehearsals: Sundays, April 2nd & 9th at 11:40am, Wednesdays, April 12th, 19th and 26th at 6pm, and Saturday April 29th - 3pm setup, 3:30pm rehearsal. Please contact Mark Nelson if you are interested in participating!



Visit the St. John's Booth at the **Annandale Expo** - April 8th-8am-1pm at AHS

GRADUATE RECOGNITION We will be recognizing our Senior High Graduates on Sunday, April 30th at our 10:30am service. We hope that you will join us in recognizing the following youth: Alyssa Anderson, Teagan Hood Beckman, Brittney Manthie, Samantha Borders, Morgan Diers, Celeste Froehlich, Laikyn Gates, Claire Hagstrom, Nickolas Jacobson, Anthony Kotila, Kody Lamb, Blake Lewison, Austin Mealey, Ian Molldrem, Cooper Patch, Skylar Polston, Alex Steffen, Bailey Veches, Jakob Wadman & Zachary Wrobbel.

From Pastor Tom's Desk...

Dear Friends,

On our vacation we spent a few days at the Golden Nugget in Las Vegas. Each day we would snake our way through the smoky Casino to the Buffet line (the cheapest food). I am convinced that if they took every gambling machine in Las Vegas and set it end-to-end, it would reach all the way to Annandale.

Fortunately, I find the casino an unattractive way to spend my time or money. I found the street and its assortment of people quite more interesting. I couldn't help but think about "gambler" God who hurled his son, like a pair of dice, for our redemption. That great preacher, Studdert-Kennedy, has written a verse:

And sitting down they watched Him there—the soldiers did.
There as they played with dice, He made His sacrifice
And died upon the Cross to rid God's world of sin.
He was a gambler, too, my Christ!
He took His life and threw it for a world redeemed,

You, my friends, are God's "Jackpot"! Let us continue to gather this Holy Season to gratefully celebrate God's incredible love, patience and the victory that is ours.

Yours in Christ,

Pr. Tom
INDNJC

SUNDAY AND HOLY WEEK WORSHIP READINGS

April 2 – Luke 18:31-19:10

April 9 – Luke 19:29-44 and the Passion Story According to Luke

April 13 – Maundy Thursday – Luke 22:1-27

April 24 – Good Friday – Luke 23:32-47

April 16 – Easter Sunday – Luke 24:1-16

April 23 – Luke 24:13-35

April 30 - Choir Cantata: "The Feast of Life: Stories from the Gospel of Luke"



Food for Kidz

FOOD FOR KIDZ

food packaging
will take place on
Wednesday,

April 26th. A special offering envelope is included with this newsletter to raise the money needed to purchase the meal ingredients—at \$.15/meal we will need about \$4000.00 to achieve our goal of packaging at least 25,000 meals. Please consider a donation to this cause, and joining us for one of the following packaging shifts:

- Set-up: 1-2pm (need 6 volunteers)
- Packaging: 2:15-3:30pm (up to 20 volunteers)
- 4th D-Way: 3:30-4:30 packaging food
- Packaging: 4:15-5:15pm (up to 20 volunteers)
- 5th-6th D-Way: 5:00-6:15pm packaging food
- 7th-9th D-Way: 5:40-7:30pm packaging food
- Cleanup: 7-7:30pm (up to 5 volunteers)

PALM SUNDAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST! Sunday, April 9th, breakfast served from 8:30am-12noon. Join us for delicious pancakes (Lions preparing), scrambled eggs, sausage and juice. *All supplies were donated or paid for with a Thrivent grant - freewill offering taken will go directly to Precious Gifts Preschool. (Coffee will be available for those not attending the breakfast)*

IMPORTANT 9TH GRADER MEETING FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

On April 26th, at 7:30pm, there will be an important "What's Next?" meeting for all ninth grade youth and their parents. At this meeting you will receive important information regarding the "next steps" leading up to Confirmation Sunday on October 29, 2017. It's vitally important that all ninth graders and at least one parent attend this meeting.



J.O.L.T. (JOY OF LEARNING TOGETHER)

Our Adult Education classes meet in the Library from 9:30am to 10:15am. All are welcome!

"The Shack" movie - based on the best-selling novel – a modern-day fictional parable that explores the nature of God, God's goodness and love, the power of forgiveness and the problem of pain – is presently in local theatres. Our first two J.O.L.T. classes in April will continue our study of various themes – using brief video

clips from the film and group discussion. One doesn't need to have read the book or seen the movie to participate.

April 2: "How Can I Know the Heart of the Father?"

April 9: "So You Just Let Him Get Away with It?"

April 16 – NO CLASS

April 23 – Invest in the Kingdom: Gathered in Christ...Scattered to Serve. We will discuss our new three year campaign, our new byline, and where we are and what we need to continue paying down the mortgage on our building.

April 30 - Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota Refugee Services - Through means of a PowerPoint provided by LSS of Minnesota, we will learn how they are involved in refugee resettlement and how we might help.

You are invited to gather with us in the Library at 9:30am for some good discussion about matters of faith and life. All are welcome!

MANY THANKS

- To Dave Boie, Erin Lappen, Morgan Diers, Dan Berg and Carrie Pilgrim for sharing their stories of how they live out their faith in their daily life and work.
- To all who have provided soups and stuff for our Lenten Soup Suppers, for the youth and parents who have served them, and to all who have participated and who have financially supported our Mission Trip Youth.
- To Mark Nelson, Vicki Greene, Diane Barkley, and Kara Lampi for assisting with the Imposition of Ashes on Ash Wednesday.
- To Diane Nelson and Christy Kuefler for preparing our sanctuary for the Season of Lent.
- To Maria and Lloyd Johnson for working with the 9th Graders to lead in the Good Friday "Stations of the Cross" Service.
- To Linda Dircks for agreeing to "chair" our new Invest in the Kingdom Campaign, and for those who have agreed to be part of her team: Sandy Niklaus, Diane Barkley, Sue Hadler, Trish Townsend, Mary and Dave Holmgren --- and others who will assist as called upon.
- To Ardis Nelson for her work in preparing Baptismal resources for families at the time of baptism.
- To Joyce Wadman and Diane Barkley for lovingly taking care of our church kitchen... it looks great!

IK UPDATE

"Invest in the Kingdom: Rooted in Faith, A Story to Tell" has been the name of our current three-year capital campaign that ends at the end of April, 2017. Our current campaign received 115 members/families pledges totaling \$281,820. As of March 23, 2017 we have received \$265,859 of that pledged amount. We have also received \$58,157 from 86 members/families who did not make a pledge during this campaign.

We are **extremely** thankful for all of your generous contribution and ongoing support as we begin our new 2017-2020 capital campaign:

Invest in the Kingdom: Gathered in Christ, Scattered to Serve

We will begin our new three-year campaign, with pledge Sunday on May 7th. Watch for more information in the Good News Weekly and in your mail.

It is our hope that you will continue to support this important mission. If you have not made a pledge previously, we encourage you to faithfully pray about participating this year.

Respectfully,

Linda Dircks, Campaign Team Leader
Trish Townsend

Sue Hadler
Dave and Mary Holmgren

Sandy Niklaus
Diane Barkley



Tenth Triennial Gathering is July 13-16, 2017 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Registration is now open!

Busing available through Rustad Bus Co. from Kerkhoven to Minneapolis with stops at Willmar & Cokato - \$50.00 roundtrip for 4-days, \$25.00 roundtrip for Saturday, July 15th only. Must be pre-registered for the

Gathering and have made a reservation for bus fare by May 27th deadline. Interested? Give your name, phone and/or email to Bev Sorensen at 274-8271.



2017-2018 Preschool Registration is now open!
Your child ages 3 through 5 is invited to Precious Gifts Preschool
Enrolling for Fall 2017 Excellent kindergarten readiness program!
 We have learning to do, stories to tell and fun, fun, fun!

[www.stjohns-annandale.org/Precious Gifts Preschool](http://www.stjohns-annandale.org/Precious%20Gifts%20Preschool) Call 320-274-9722 or 612-730-0158

All Registrations received by April 1st, 2017 are only \$20.00 (1/2 price)

Precious Gifts
 Preschool Butter
 Braid Pickup -
 April 2nd

ANNUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL EGG HUNT will take place on Palm Sunday, April 9th, during normal Sunday School hours. Please have children bring baskets/bags to take their goodies home in, as we will recollect the eggs to use in future years. We are scheduled to sing at the 10:30 service that day as well, so we will escort them over to the church with their baskets/bags between Sunday School and the second service.



CELEBRATION OF GIFTS SUNDAY We once again will be encouraging people to bring to church examples of their "hidden – or not so hidden – talents" with us on Sunday, May 21st. This gives you time to finish up that quilt, that painting, that latest wood-working project, that poem, that dress, that metal project...whatever... so that you can share it with us on May 21st!!!

CONGRATULATIONS

- Coach Skip Dolan, Trenton Peterson, Cameron Howard, and Jack Howard (manager) for reaching State in Boy's Basketball.
- Celeste Froehlich for being named "Most Valuable" on this year's Annandale Dance Line Team
- To the Middle School youth who did a GREAT job on the school play: The Wonderful Wizard of Oz including: Max Wiles, Jillian Kulm, Madisyn Jacobson, Faith Mader, and Elizabeth Hoeft; with help from: Josie Burd and Parker Kulm



FIRST COMMUNION Our First Communion class will be held on Saturday, April 1st from 9am-11am. This class is for all youth who have been working through the book: "A Place for You" in preparation for this class. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

THANK YOU Dear St. John's Lutheran Church, Thank you for your gift of \$500.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response...Your gift to Lutheran Disaster Response is surely a manifestation of your faith in God's grace and mercy and a witness to the light that shines brightly through Christ to all the nations. Thank you for accompanying companion churches and trusted partners as they work together to provide healing and hope to those facing the aftermath of disaster. Thank you for your gifts that make possible food and safety, housing and healthcare, water and sanitation – whatever is needed for long-term recovery. With gratefulness, and in the light and life of Christ, Daniel Rift, Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

VBS ANNOUNCEMENT We're looking for a St. John's member who is interested in the VBS Director role. If you are interested, have questions, or would like to see a description of what's involved, please contact Michelle Wang.

D-WAY STUDENTS (5-9TH GRADERS)

April 5 - All D-Way students are expected to attend our midweek Lenten service

April 12 – No Class – Holy Week (D-Way students are strongly encouraged to attend Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter services that week)

April 19 – Regular D-Way Schedule

April 26 - Food for Kidz (Final D-Way of this School Year)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

April 2 - Sunday School

April 9 - Palm Sunday Egg Hunt, kids sing at 10:30 service

April 16 - Easter Sunday - NO Sunday School

April 23 - Sunday School

April 30 - Sunday School



MAY MEALS ON WHEELS St. John's will be delivering Meals on Wheels for the month of May - please sign up at the Welcome Center for these important deliveries!

CALLING ALL LADIES - SPRING GATHERING - April 29, 2017 at Gethsemane Lutheran in Dassel, with speaker "Martin Luther" - celebrating 500 years of Lutheranism! See the bulletin board for details!

<u>General Fund</u> <u>(1)</u>	<u>February</u> <u>2017</u>	\$36,070.15	\$29,950.40	\$45,878.61
	<u>2016</u> <u>Monthly</u> <u>Average</u>	\$35,808.85	\$34,651.80	
<u>Building Fund</u> <u>(2)</u>			<u>Monthly Mortgage</u>	<u>Building Balance</u>
		\$7,605.34	\$9,587.00	\$7,255.58
<u>Precious Gifts</u> <u>Preschool</u> <u>(3)</u>		\$2,337.25	<u>PG Expense</u>	<u>PG Balance</u>
			\$1,731.33	\$5,806.85

Notes:

1. The first two months of 2017 have had positive results and the General Fund Balance has grown. (GOOD!!!!)
2. We still maintain a positive balance; our next mortgage payment will be \$9,587.00.
3. Precious Gifts Preschool balance is still positive.

**Remember our mission at St. John's is supported by your talents and generous gifts.
THANK YOU!**

IN NEED OF PRAYER?

People at St. John's are ready to pray for and with you -- in times of joy, and in times of need. To activate this prayer ministry please contact the church office. Only the information you choose to share will be passed on to the Prayer Ministry participants. But please understand that if you are calling on behalf of another person, in order to respect the right of privacy, and for the sake of confidentiality, you must have that individual's permission before we can activate the prayer ministry and pray for them by name. Also, please know that our prayer ministry is ALWAYS open to additional participants. If you would like to be included in either the Prayer Chain (where you would receive a telephone contact) or the email prayer group -- please contact the church office.

Death is Dead!

VIA DE CRISTO

Adults interested in a weekend experience that is sure to bring a new added depth to your faith are encouraged to consider attending one of the upcoming Via de Cristo weekends. For upcoming weekend dates and places, and additional information concerning Via de Cristo weekends, please check out the website at www.mnviadecristo.org or talk with Ardis Nelson or Pastor Dave.

EMAIL If you would like to receive the newsletter and/or weekly bulletin and announcements as an e-mail just let the office know at ldietrich-blocker@stjohns-annandale.org. It works great and is very cost-effective!

CHANGING ADDRESS: MOVING AWAY??

For every piece of returned mail or updated address we are charged a .57 fee from the post office. In addition, for those who will be moving and are leaving the area permanently, please notify the office at 274-8827. Thank you.

FIRST FRIDAY COMMUNION SERVICE AT ANNANDALE

CARE CENTER Our monthly service of Holy Communion will be April 7th at 1:30pm. While this worship service is intended for all St. John's members who are residents at the Care Center and Centennial Villa apartments, it is open to ALL (both residents and family and friends).

PASTORAL VISITS

Please call the church office and let us know if you desire a pastoral visit -- especially if you are going to be hospitalized. If it is an emergency feel free to call Pastor Dave at home.

MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISERS: ALUMINUM CANS/POINTS: There is a collection area for bagged aluminum cans (no used aluminum foil please) in the outdoor garbage area. We also collect COBORNS/CASH WISE points throughout the year--there is a collection bucket located outside of the office.

COMING UP...

- Invest in the Kingdom: Gathered in Christ, Scattered to Service Pledge Sunday -- May 7th
- Annandale High School Graduation -- May 19th
- Celebration of Gifts Sunday -- May 21st
- Invest in the Kingdom "Make-up" Pledge Sunday -- May 21st
- St. John's Leads Worship at Annandale Care Center -- May 21st
- Final Day of Annandale Schools -- May 25th
- Annandale Chamber of Commerce "Chili" Cook-off -- May 27th
- Summer Worship Schedule Begins -- May 28th (8:30am and 10am)
- Pentecost Sunday -- June 4th (Wear Red!)
- Southwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly at Gustavus, St. Peter -- June 9 and 10.

UPCOMING
EVENTS

PRESENT: Pastor Dave Nelson, Kris Nelson, Denny Abernathy, Bill Berry, Dave Hadler, Peggy Bodell, Shelly Mikel, Mary Iverson and Michelle Wang **Absent:** Lonnie Baack, Abby Mikel, Matt Honsey & Matt Treichler

Topic	Discussion	Action
Faith Talk:	Pastor Dave	N/A
Scripture and Prayer	Pastor Dave	N/A
Approval of Agenda	Motion: Approve March Council Agenda	M/S/P Exec/Peggy
Secretary's Report	Motion: Approval of January Council Minutes	M/S/P Exec/ Denny
Treasurer's Report	Motion: Approval of Treasurer's Report: January and February Motion: To pay our First Quarter Mission Support	M/S/P Exec/Denny M/S/P Exec/ Council
Executive Committee Actions:	We have received two applications for our custodial position, and five applications for our Worship Support Specialist position. Will be conducting interviews the week of 3/27/17.	N/A
Pastor Dave's Report	Highlighted Topics: <u>Capital Campaign:</u> Linda Dircks agreed to serve as chairperson for the new 3-year capital campaign. Pledge Sunday will be 5-7-17. <u>Deeper Conversations:</u> Will be adding topics to our monthly agenda which will focus on What is the Church, Why do we do what we do, God's dream, etc. <u>Internet – CYF Building:</u> Both buildings are totally internet accessible now. <u>Endowment Appointments:</u> Need to appoint people for this committee-pass names along to P. Dave <u>ArkivDigital:</u> Swedish company requesting to copy church records (only prior to 1947) for their genealogical research. P. Dave will see what other churches in our conference are doing & update us at April meeting. <u>Crow River Assembly:</u> Our conference voted to give \$1000 to our South African Companion Synod to support the work of battling HIV/Aids and also \$1000 to House of Hope, our newest congregation in Montrose, and \$1000 to Paz y Esperanza in Willmar. <u>Mt. Hermon Meeting:</u> Will gather people from both congregations to discuss future options tentatively 5-17or 5-18-2017 with Linda Pederson of our Synod staff.	
Unfinished Business:	Appoint Executive Committee for 2017 President: Kris Nelson Vice President: Denny Abernathy Secretary: Shelly Mikel <u>At-Large: Matt Treichler and Denny Abernathy & Michelle Wang</u> Council/Ministry Liaisons – Members signed up for specific ministries CYF Position – Moving Forward: Position will be posted for FT at Christian Colleges & FT/PT Position will be posted locally. Bonnie will begin to set the salary aside each month. (\$3738/month)	M/S/P <u>Shelly/Bill</u>
New Business	Motion to approve the purchase and installation of an audio speaker for the Nursery through AVE at an estimated cost of \$554.58 (Final project total <u>expected to be plus or minus 5-10% of proposal</u>). Motion to approve recommendation from our Memorial Committee that we spend up to \$700 for a piano dolly for Fellowship Hall piano, and up to \$70 per chair, for six oak chairs for Library. Current Memorial balance is \$8718.00	M/S/P <u>Exec/Council</u> M/S/P Exec/Council
Ministry Updates	Property Committee reported storm damage to shingles – will need to be replaced. Continue to investigate the sanctuary issue.	N/A
Council Reminders:	Faith Talk in April - Shelly Offering Duties – Be diligent in checking the schedule & signing up	N/A
Mark your calendar:	SW MN Synod Assembly at Gustavus – June 9-10. Encourage council members to attend!	
Upcoming Agenda Items:	Denny will bring a policy proposal re: how we will handle requests from ELCA church colleges for names and addresses of our high school students.	
Adjournment	8:30 p.m.	M/S/P Denny/Bill
Announcements/ Prayer	Pastor Dave	

Council members contact your Missions – What are you currently working on. Is there anything else you would like to share with the board. Please let your mission know to send minutes of each meeting to Bonnie as soon as possible after the meeting.

2017 GUSTAVUS FAITH CONFERENCE

This year's Faith Conference will be held Saturday, April 22nd. This year's theme "Faith, Science and the Freedom to Serve" will explore the creative alliances being built between religion and science in order to address the world's most pressing challenges. The day begins with a worship service in Christ Chapel at 9:30am. Worship will feature Gustavus musicians and special guest, Sarah Herzer, Kantor at the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. Pastor Dan Poffenberger, senior pastor at Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran in Prior Lake, MN. and chair of the Gustavus Board of Trustees will deliver the homily. Immediately following worship we will hear from our featured speakers. Dr. Philip Clayton, professor of theology at the Claremont School of Theology, will present: *Emergent Universe, Emergent Faith*. The Rev. Siri Erickson, college chaplain at Gustavus, will present: *Faith, Science and Emerging Adults: The Reformation Continues*. This Faith Conference is free and open to all but pre-registration is required. Register at gustavus.edu/faithconference. If you are unable to attend in person, the Faith Conference (featured speakers only) will be live-streamed on the day of the event starting promptly at 10:30am. For information and instruction on accessing the live stream feed, please contact church-relations@gustavus.edu or visit Gustavus' website (gustavus.edu/faithconference) in advance.

GUSTAVUS ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS

The annual meeting of the Association will be held on Saturday, April 22, from 12:30-2:30pm at Alumni Hall. This annual meeting will gather delegates from Association members (like St. John's) for an afternoon luncheon meeting on the day of the Faith Conference. **If you have a heart for our Church Colleges – or for Gustavus in particular – and you would like to represent St. John's at this Association Meeting – please contact Pastor Dave as soon as possible.**

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE NEWS We are grateful for each and every gift given to the St. John's Endowment – no matter the size. And we would encourage you to include the St. John's Endowment in your estate planning. Please know that any gift given to the Endowment is a gift that will keep on giving! Such gifts allow us to support worthwhile ministries within and beyond our congregation!



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

Palm/Passion Sunday – April 9th - Pancake Breakfast served 8:30-12pm, Easter Egg Hunt between services, Sunday School sings at 10:30 worship service

Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion – April 13th at 7pm

Good Friday – April 14th - Ecumenical Service at St. John's – noon;
Good Friday "Stations of the Cross" Service led by our 9th Graders – 7pm

Easter Sunday Services With Holy Communion– April 16th at 8:15 & 10:30 am

2018 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives. In 2018 the Gathering will be held in Houston, Texas from June 27-July 1st. The theme of the 2018 gathering is "This Changes Everything" based on Ephesians 2:8, "By grace you have been saved..."



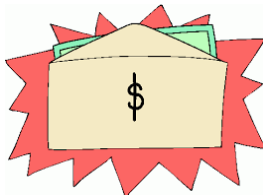
Registration opens this coming September! ALL youth who will be a part of the graduating classes of 2018-2022, that's all current 7th-11th graders – are eligible to attend. Please contact Pastor Dave if you are interested in going, or are interested in receiving more information. We will begin fundraising this summer!

THE COVENINGS: REAL FAMILIES, REAL CHOICES, REAL LIFE

The Covenings is based on a series of remarkable broadcast conversations Minnesota Public Radio's Cathy Wurzer had with St. Thomas Dean Bruce Kramer and their book "We Know How This Ends: Living While Dying." Bruce Kramer died in 2015 after living with ALS. Join Cathy and special guests for an evening of music, storytelling, and meaningful conversation about living and dying well. This is a free event and open to the public. April 18th from 6:30pm-8:00pm at the Stephen B. Humphrey Theatre at St. John's University in Collegeville, MN. For more information go to: www.honoringchoices.org/the-convenings

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS AND 100 ENVELOPE CHALLENGE

Four students are attending this summer's mission trip to Kansas City, Kansas. They will continue to serve soup suppers during the Season of Lent. Thank you for supporting our fundraising efforts with soup, bar, cookie or cash donations! The 100 Envelope Challenge will be available during the Soup Suppers. Simply pick one of 100 envelopes marked with a number of 1-100 to donate that amount (\$1-\$100) to the mission trip. If donating cash, please include your name if you would like a receipt for tax donation purposes. The four senior girls that are attending this year are Sam Borders, Kali Braun, Morgan Diers and Celeste Froehlich.



April 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9:00am First Communion Class 2-5pm Gladys Johnson's 90th Birthday Party
2 Butter Braid Pickup 8:15am Traditional Worship w/ Communion 9:30am JOLT! / Sunday School 10:30am Contemporary Worship w/ Communion 11:40am Cantata Rehearsal	3 Precious Gifts Preschool 8:30-12noon 6:00pm Boy Scouts	4 8:00am Men's Bible Study 10:00am Women's Bible Study 1:30pm Staff Meeting	5 Precious Gifts Preschool 8:30-12 1:00pm Bible Study 1:30pm Mary Circle 5:30pm Lenten Soup Supper 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Lenten Worship Service 7:30pm AA Meeting-Ed. Bldg.	6 9:15am Annandale Improvement Club 2:00pm Annandale Christian Women's Supper Setup; Supper at 6:30pm 6:00pm Girl Scouts-Ed. Bldg.	7 Precious Gifts Preschool 8:30-12noon 1:30pm Care Center Communion Service	8 8:00am-1pm Annandale Expo at AHS 2pm Pancake Breakfast Setup
9 Palm/Passion Sunday Pancake Breakfast 8:30a-12:00p Egg Hunt Sunday School Singing at 10:30svc 8:15a Traditional Worship w/ Communion 9:30am JOLT! / Sunday School 10:30am Contemporary Worship w/ Communion 11:40am Cantata Rh.	10 Precious Gifts Preschool 8:30-12noon 9:30am Hands for Hope 2:00pm Ruth Circle 6:00pm Boy Scouts 8:00pm Boy Scouts-Venture - Library/Nursery	11 8:00am Men's Bible Study 10:00am Women's Bible Study 1:30pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm Ministry of Support & Stewardship 7:30pm Executive Committee Mtg.	12 Precious Gifts Preschool 8:30-12noon 9:30am Rachel Circle 3:00pm NO D-Way Class 6:00pm Cantata Rehearsal 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm AA Meeting-Ed. Bldg.	13 Maundy Thursday 9:30am Annandale Christian Women Exec Board Mtg. 6:00pm Girl Scouts-Ed Bldg 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service	14 Good Friday NO Precious Gifts Preschool 12noon Good Friday Ecumenical Service at St. John's 7:00pm Good Friday Evening Service	15
16 Easter Sunday 8:15am Traditional Worship w/ Communion 9:30am NO JOLT! / NO Sunday School 10:30am Contemporary Worship w/ Communion	17 Precious Gifts Preschool 8:30-12noon 6:00pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Ministry of Outreach 7:00pm Church Council 8:00pm Boy Scouts-Venture	18 8:00am Men's Bible Study 10:00am Women's Bible Study 1:30pm Staff Meeting 6:30-8pm The Convenings at St. John's in Collegeville, MN	19 Precious Gifts Preschool 8:30-12 3:00pm 4th Grade D-Way 5:00pm D-Way Meal 5:20pm 5th-6th D-Way 6:00pm 7th-9th D-Way 7:00pm Cantata Rehearsal 7:30pm AA Meeting-Ed. Bldg.	20 9:00am Ministerial Mtg. 10:00am Newsletter Deadline 6:00pm Girl Scouts - Ed. Bldg.	21 Precious Gifts Preschool 8:30-12noon	22 Spring Clean-Up Day 12:30-2:30pm Gustavus Association of Congregations Meeting
23 8:15am Traditional Worship w/ Communion 9:30am JOLT! / Sunday School 10:30am Contemporary Worship w/ Communion	24 Precious Gifts Preschool 8:30-12noon 9:30am Hands for Hope	25 8:00am Men's Bible Study 10:00am Women's Bible Study 1:30pm Staff Meeting 5:00pm Property Team Meeting	26 Precious Gifts Preschool 8:30-12 1:00pm Food For Kidz Congregation Setup & Packaging Begins 3:00pm 4th Grade D-Way-Food for Kidz 5:20pm 5th-6th D-Way-Food For Kidz 6:00pm 7th-9th D-Way-Food for Kidz 7:00pm Cantata Rehearsal 7:30pm 9th Grade Confirmation Mtg. 7:30pm AA Meeting	27 1:00pm Writing Group	28 Precious Gifts Preschool 8:30-12noon	29 9:00am Cemetery Committee Mtg. 3:00pm Setup for Choir Cantata 3:30pm Cantata Dress Rehearsal
30 Choir Cantata Presented at Both Services Healing Prayers 8:15am Traditional Worship w/ Communion 9:30am JOLT! / Sunday School Graduate Recognition at 10:30 service 10:30am Contemporary Worship w/ Communion	Coming Up . . . Invest in the Kingdom: Gathered in Christ, Scattered to Service Pledge Sunday – May 7 th ; Annandale High School Graduation – May 19 th ; Celebration of Gifts Sunday – May 21 st ; Invest in the Kingdom “Make-up” Pledge Sunday – May 21 st ; St. John's Leads Worship at Annandale Care Center – May 21 st ; Final Day of Annandale Schools – May 25 th ; Annandale Chamber of Commerce “Chili” Cook-off – May 27 th ; Summer Worship Schedule Begins – May 28 th (8:30am and 10am); Pentecost Sunday – June 4 th (Wear Red!); Southwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly at Gustavus, St. Peter – June 9 and 10.					

April	Greeters/ Welcome Center	Readers	Acolytes	Coffee/Treats Servers	Audio/Video Techs
April 2 8:15am	Bryan & Lucy Ekholm Family	Diane Barkley	Brock Campbell Brooke Bianchi	Kevin & Donna Koecher	A: Jim Hallstrom V: Jim Peterson
April 2 10:30am	Kris & Mike Nelson	Peggy Bodell	Hale Davidson Jack Nelson	Steve & Vicki Hoien	A: Arthur Kjaer V:
April 5 7:00 pm	Lenten Worship	_____	Maddie Jacobson	_____	A: Jim Hallstrom V: Jim Peterson
April 9 8:15am	Palm Sunday	Palm/Passion Sunday Readers	Brooke Bianchi Ethan Olson	Pancake Breakfast	A: Mike Miller V: Steve Niklaus
April 9 10:30am	Palm Sunday	Palm/Passion Sunday Readers	Maddie Jacobson Hale Davidson	Pancake Breakfast	A: Arthur Kjaer V: Michelle Wang
April 13 7pm	Maundy Thursday	_____	Hale Davidson Brock Campbell	_____	A: V:
April 14 12noon	Good Friday Ecumenical Svc	_____	_____	_____	A: V:
April 14 7pm	Good Friday Worship Service	_____	_____	_____	A: V:
April 16 8:15am	Happy Easter!	Jo Heyd	Mason Boos Josie Jerpseth Allison Benjamin		A: V:
April 16 10:30am	Happy Easter!	Peggy Bodell	Carson Wiles Carson Cooper Anna McClelland		A: Shelly Mikel V: Luke Mikel
April 23 8:15am	Mike & Kathy Miller		Josie Jerpseth Brock Campbell	Tony & Rachelle Hoelt Family	A: Jim Framstad V: Phyllis Framstad
April 23 10:30am	Maynard & Betty Nilson	Mary Iverson	Alison Treichler Jack Nelson	Kristy Greene Family	A: V: Michelle Wang
April 30 8:15am	Jim & Marilyn Hallstrom	Diane Barkley	Josie Jerpseth Halle Jensen	Penny & Dave Hoberg	A: V: Steve Niklaus
April 30 10:30am	Mile & Meredith Froehlich		Alison Treichler Isaak Rust	Steve & Angela Hagstrom Family	A: Arthur Kjaer V: Michelle Wang

Ushers

8:15 Service

Dylan & Jillian Sprague
Bruce Bartels
Ron Remington
Larry Fieldseth

10:30 Service

Bill Berry, Janelle Nilson &
Austin Berry
Maynard Nilson

Altar Guild

Tina Honsey
Shelly Mikel

WELCA Circles:

Sarah Circle:

Hostess:

Bible Study Leader:

Rachel Circle: Wednesday, April 12th, 9:30am

Hostess: Shirley Diskrud

Bible Study Leader: JoAnne Heyd

Mary Circle: Wednesday, April 5th, 1:30 pm

Bible Study Leader:

Ruth Circle: Monday, April 10th at 2pm

Hostess:

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA
experience, live and share the love of Jesus Christ

331 W Harrison St, Annandale, MN 55302

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Annandale, MN
Permit No. 1**

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

331 W. Harrison St.
Annandale, MN 55302
Office Phone: 320-274-8827
Office Fax: 320-274-7283

Precious Gifts Preschool:
320-274-9722

Email: Idietrich-blocker@stjohns-annandale.org

Web site: www.stjohns-annandale.org
Office Hours:
Monday—Friday, 8:00 am—3:00 pm

**Sunday Worship & Christian
Education Schedule**

**8:15 am Traditional
9:30 Sunday School/JOLT!
10:30 am Contemporary**



St. John's Staff

Dave Nelson, Lead Pastor

dnelson@stjohns-annandale.org

Tom Heyd, Pastor tjheyd@gmail.com

Bonnie Schmidt, Financial Administrator
bschmidt@stjohns-annandale.org

Lisa Dietrich-Blocker, Administrative Asst.
ldietrich-blocker@stjohns-annandale.org

Becky Unger, Worship Support Specialist
bunger@stjohns-annandale.org

Orma Lou Jacobsma, Organist

Ardis Nelson, Contemporary Worship Leader
studionelson.ardis@gmail.com

Samantha Duret, Custodian
sduret@lakedalelink.net

Robin Jacobson, Precious Gifts Director/
Teacher robin@jacobsonfarm.com

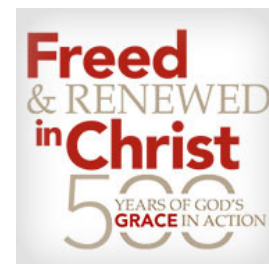
Trisha Woods, Precious Gifts Teacher Assistant

Nichole Abernathy, Wedding Coordinator
nichole.abernathy@yahoo.com

Mark Nelson, Chancel Choir Director
music2Xnelson@gmail.com

Sunday School Superintendents:

Nichole Abernathy &
Laura Eastling



Ministry Chairpersons:

Children, Youth & Family

Outreach:

Marilyn Hallstrom
Marilyn.hallstrom@hallstromconsulting.com

Worship and Music:

Support and Stewardship:
Tina Honsey

ELCA Missionary
Terry Jensen