

The Beacon

February, 2023

LENTEN SIGNALS



Why should we observe Lent? This 40-day season of repentance and reflection that begins on Ash Wednesday has three important purposes. Lent helps us STOP, LOOK and LISTEN.

We observe Lent because it tells us to STOP and rest awhile — and to stop sinning. Lent tells us to LOOK inward for an honest self-examination, to look upward to see the cross of Jesus with healing and love, and to look forward to the hope of the Resurrection. And we observe Lent because it tells us to LISTEN — to the voice of God, the words of Christ and the movement of the Holy Spirit.

STOP, LOOK and LISTEN! These commands that are so crucial for travel safety are also important for our journey through Lent.

St. John's Lutheran Church—Sherburn, Minnesota

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From the
Pastor



Love For One Another

**“Love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your strength
and with all your mind;
and, Love your neighbor as yourself.”**

Luke 10:27

Did you know that the religious leaders of Jesus’ day had more than six hundred man-made laws they were required to obey? The people couldn’t keep all those laws; it was impossible. Yet the rulers believed that those laws had to be obeyed in order to win God’s favor.

But Jesus summed up God’s law with only two commands: **“Love the Lord your God” and “Love your neighbor”**. And He used a special all-encompassing word for love, a word that includes everyone. Jesus is using the Greek word *agape* which means a love that knows no limits or boundaries. We are to love our neighbors, He said, even though they may have a different color skin, ethnic background, or language; even though they look different, walk differently, or act differently. We are also to help our neighbors who are in need.

The Greek word for love that Jesus used implies action. It is not a passive word; it is an action word. We are to love by our actions. On Maundy Thursday (the night before Jesus died) He told His disciples **“My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. A new command I give you, so you must love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love another”**. (John 13:33-35)

In these three verses Jesus is telling us to love one another three times. It is more than just saying I love you, but it is to act upon that love.

We, in Martin County live in an area of the country where people know each other and care about each other. We see it most often when our neighbor is in need and how the neighborhood comes together in love and support of them. In the parable of the Good Samaritan Jesus helps us to identify who our neighbor sometimes is. It could be those who we do not even know that are in need. According to Jesus these are your neighbors. And that neighbor could very well be you that is in need and it is our neighborhood that surrounds you with love and support. When one truly gives of themselves unto others one receives 10 times more back in return

For our congregation to grow in faith and in number we need to reach outside of ourselves and the opportunities God gives us to love our neighbor by sharing the love of Jesus and ourselves with them. **“Little children, let us not love in word or speech, but in deed and in truth”**. (1 John 3:18). The advancement of the Gospel sometimes has more to do with deeds and actions than by the spoken word. The Season of Epiphany is about the Word (Jesus) taking upon Himself human flesh and dwelling with us here on earth. He came to live with us in word and deed. We are to take the written word of the Scriptures and to apply it in our lives. To live the Gospel in our homes, church, and neighborhood.

Let us love one another for love comes from God!

~Pastor Steve

LOVE
YOUR neighbor
AS YOURSELF.
Mark 12:31



PROMISED TREASURES



LENT 2023

PROMISED TREASURES

MATTHEW 13:52

Once again this year, Pastor Wilson, Pastor Reimers, and Pastor-Elect Jeff Hagen will be rotating between St. John's, St.

Paul's Wilbert and Our Savior's Ceylon. Services here at St. John's will be Wednesdays at 6:00 pm with supper following the service.

This Lenten season, we have a fresh opportunity to embrace God's amazing love for us, His baptized children, in new ways. St. Paul clearly says that "faith comes from hearing" (Romans 10:17), but the Gospel is also communicated through the physical senses of sight, smell, touch, and taste. Jesus mentions that a good teacher not only brings out new treasures but reminds people of old and rich treasures as well (see Matthew 13:52). So each Wednesday in Lent, starting on Ash Wednesday, February 22, we will take a weekly journey to concretely see, smell, touch, and taste a number of biblical elements. Our Lenten series is called *Promised Treasures*. Just as Israel wandered through the wilderness under Moses for forty years, awaiting the Promised Land, we await heaven in the wilderness of this life. Life as exiles in the wilderness of this world is not easy and pain-free. In this vale of tears, we await our real home, the new promised land of heaven. Until we enter our eternal promised land, however, the Lord calls us to be His light in this dark world (see Colossians 3; Ephesians 4). All the beautiful Old and New Testament elements will remind you of God's eternal love in Christ, fill you with renewed hope, and increase your joy, knowing that because we are His baptized children, God is near to us now more than ever.

Ash Wednesday February 22 Theme: **Sitting in Dust and Ashes**

Supper: Youth—Potato Bake

March 1 Theme: **Salt – The Gift That Sweetens and Preserves**

Supper: Elders—Chicken from Pizza Ranch

March 8 Theme: **Water Gives You Life**

Supper: Education—Pork Chop on a Stick

March 15 Theme: **Light Shining in the Darkness**

Supper: Trustees & Stewards—Chicken Pizza Ranch

March 22: Theme: **Bread of Life**

Supper: Youth—Soup & BBQ's

March 29: Theme: **Palms and Victory**

Supper: Parish Service—BBQ's & Cheesy Potatoes





Preparing for Lent

I'm sure some of you when you saw the title of my column this month thought, "Lent! WHAT?? We just celebrated Christmas!" I thought of that myself as I was mulling over what to write about this month, but then I thought, "Let's grab everyone's attention and talk about Lent."

After all, Wednesday, February 22 is Ash Wednesday, which begins our season of Lent this year and we observe Lent for 40 days after that until we celebrate His resurrection at Easter, Sunday, April 6. We celebrate Lent each year in the church, but do you really know all about this season that leads up to Easter?

During Lent, the Church's worship assumes a more penitential character. The color for the season is purple, a color often associated with penitence, or repentance. The "Hymn of Praise" is omitted from the liturgy. The word "Alleluia" is usually omitted as well. By not using the alleluia—a joyful expression meaning "Praise the Lord"—until Easter, the Lenten season is clearly set apart as a distinct time from the rest of the year. Additionally, it forms a powerful contrast with the festive celebration of Jesus' resurrection at Easter, when our alleluias ring loud and clear.

Finally, the penitential character of Lent is not its single purpose. In the ancient Church, the weeks leading up to Easter were a time of intensive preparation of the candidates who were to be baptized at the Easter vigil on Holy Saturday. This time in the Church's calendar was seen as an especially appropriate time for Baptism because of the relationship between Christ's death and resurrection and our own in Holy Baptism (see Romans 6:1-11). This focus would suggest that the season of Lent serves not only as a time to meditate on the suffering that Christ endured on our behalf but also as an opportunity to reflect upon our own Baptism and what it means to live as a child of God.

Sometimes the question is asked: "*Do Lutherans have to give up something for Lent as some other denominations require?*"

From the perspective of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, "giving something up for Lent" is entirely a matter of Christian freedom. It would be wrong, from our perspective, for the church to make some sort of "law" requiring its members to "give something up for Lent," since the Scriptures themselves do not require this. If, on the other hand, a Christian wants to give something up for Lent as a way of remembering and personalizing the great sacrifice that Christ made on the cross for our sins, then that Christian is certainly free to do so—as long as he or she does not "judge" or "look down on" other Christians who do not choose to do this.

Lent is a special period for extra prayer, both private and public. Lent calls for spending extra time in personal prayer. Lent means scheduling additional services during the weeks of Lent. Through these prayerful times, a person is to have a closer walk with God and a dearer company with Jesus. By the end of Lent, a person should be built up in his faith. He should be more fully dedicated to God's work and more consecrated to Jesus. In this way, Lent can be a time for renewal in the church.

Lent today can be used to teach people through doctrinal sermons and Bible Study, both in groups and as individuals. Lent lends itself to a program of daily Bible reading and daily devotions in the home for the entire family. Lent is a time for growth in the knowledge of the Lord, which is greatly needed in a world of Biblical illiteracy.

During Lent especially, the cross is uplifted. Jesus says, "And I, if I be lifted up, will draw all people to me." Jesus dies for the sins of all people. During Lent we witness to the cross and its meaning of redemption for all people. This naturally leads to an outreach to those not active in the church and to the unchurched in our community.

As we approach the season of Lent this month, May God bless you, watch over you, protect you, and guide you as we come together in our church home to worship, pray confidently and often, and focus on our Lord Jesus Christ.

Vicar Jeff



Praise Team

Practices for February will be on Wednesdays February 1 and 15 at 6:30 pm. Blended worship service for February is on the 26th at both services.



Video Series & Discussion



We continue to watch episodes from "The Chosen". Join us Wednesday mornings in February at 10:00 or Sunday evenings February 5 & 19 at 6:00 pm.

Thank you Connie Markquart and Erin Meyers for leading these discussions.

Pastoral Visits

Due to the privacy act, if you are hospitalized and would like a visit from the pastor or to be included in the prayers, you or a family member need to contact Pastor Wilson, Vicar Jeff, or the church office.

Friendship Club

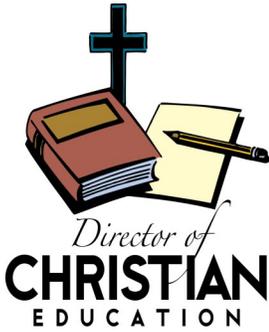
St. John's Friendship Club will once again meet at the Pizza Ranch in Fairmont on Monday, February 6 at 11:30 am. The back room is reserved for us. Hope to see you there.



We are looking into forming a Tuesday evening Bible study with a time of fellowship at 6:00 pm starting on February 28. This is open to everyone. Topic will be on the events of Passion Week.

Ushers Needed

Men, Women & Youth we need ushers! Sign up on sheet in front entry or contact the church office !



When I was in elementary school, I usually enjoyed the holiday parties. There was one that filled me with a little bit of dread. Valentine's Day always made me a little nervous. How can I use these chalky candies to express how I feel about all of the people in my class? Which Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle Valentine Card can I use to convey the right message? We had to give a Valentine to everyone including my friends, my bullies, girls in general, the girls I didn't want to think I liked them and the girls I liked but didn't want to make it too obvious. This put a lot of pressure on Michelangelo, Donatello, Leonardo, Raphael, and third grade Andrew. Perhaps this is why I remain single.

I walked through Walmart in early January and saw they already have their Valentine's Day displays up. We will be inundated with commercials telling us what romantic gift to get for the one we love. Restaurants will offer meal specials for couples. We will be bombarded by images of love until the 14th. Love is a great thing, in fact 1 John 4:8 tells us "God is love." Does the world's celebration of Valentine's Day reflect the love God tells us we should have for Him and for others?

What does it mean to love? How does God show his love to us? 1 John 4:10 tells us "In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." Romans 5:8 is even more clear, "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." And of course the most famous of verses, John 3:16, "For God so loved the world,^[a] that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." God loves us and he shows his love for us by sending Jesus in the flesh to die for the whole world. That love is for the whole world. With Jesus' death on the cross, God gives the whole world the equivalent of a chalky heart that instead of saying "Be Mine" says "You are Mine." Unfortunately, much like my third grade crushes, many in the world throw that gift away.



But what about us? What about those whom God has chosen, and who believe in Jesus as our Savior and the only way to heaven? How do we then show our love to the world? We are not called to love the world in the same way that God did. We are not called to sacrifice our only sons (which relieves this only son). We are called to love others through our various vocations. Are you married? Love your spouse. Are you a parent? Love your children. Are you a child? Love your parents. Are you someone who provides a service? Love your customers. Are you a boss? Love your workers. The way in which you show this love will vary as it should. We are called to love spouses, children, parents, customers, and workers in different way, but the love we have for them finds its roots in the one who gives us the ability to love. "We love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:18). Stay committed to your spouse, because that is how you show them God's love. Discipline and raise up your children in the faith because that is how you show them God's love. Respect your parents because that is how you show them God's love. Price things fairly for your customer because that is how you show them God's love. Pay your employees a just wage because that is how you show them God's love. In all and various ways share God's love with those he has put in your path, because they are there for a reason.

It is draining to love everyone. You need to be charged. You need a place to hear that you are loved. In the noise of the world, we can look in all the wrong places for that place. Go to where God has promised to be. Come into His sanctuary and hear that you are loved, chosen and forgiven. Come hear His Word and taste His true body and true blood. Come experience Jesus' Valentine for you every Sunday.

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine." Isaiah 43:1b

~Andy

- ◆ Junior High FFF will meet on February 1 at 5 pm.



- ◆ Junior High Tubing on Sunday, February 26. Cost \$10. We will have a quick lunch after the second service and then head to Horseshoe Bend Tubing in Iowa.



- ◆ Senior High FFF will meet on Wednesday, February 8 and on Wednesday, February 22 after the Ash Wednesday Service and meal.

- ◆ Kids Against Hunger Pack will take place on Saturday, February 18. We have two teams one at 8:30 am and one at 9 am. Space is still available both time slots.



- ◆ 3rd – 6th Grade Youth Group will meet Sunday, February 5 at 4:00 pm. We will learn about the local food shelf and purchase food items to donate. We will end at church with a game and meal. Parents will be needed to help drive the kids to Dollar General.



- ◆ Mark your calendars: Preschool and kindergarten VBS June 19-23



- ◆ Congratulations to the 1st and 2nd grade classrooms for winning the reading challenge for the first half of the year. They were rewarded with an ice cream party.

- ◆ As we approach the end of the year we have some great programs planned and will be practicing parts/music/performances during the Sunday school hour over the next few months. Please try to attend as much as possible!

- ◆ The Sunday school offering for the second half of the year will be given to Chloe Bears. An organization that provides stuffed bears to kids battling cancer at the Children's Hospital in Minneapolis.



Church Events Cancellations

Please listen to the following radio stations and also check your emails for cancellations of church events

Fairmont KSUM 1370 AM and 106.5 Lakes FM

Blue Earth KJLY 104.5 FM

Jackson KKOJ 1190 AM and KRAQ 105.7 FM

You can also check the church website & Facebookwebsite:

sjlsherburn.com

[Facebook@stjohnslutheransherburnmn](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnslutheransherburnmn)



The LWML thanks you for bringing in your receipts as we work toward the \$150,000.00 goal. Please continue to drop off your Fairmont Fareway and Fairmont HyVee grocery receipts. Fairmont HyVee prescription and gas receipts are also accepted.

	HyVee Goal	FareWay Goal
150,000		
140,000		
130,000		
120,000		
110,000		
100,000		
90,000		
80,000		
70,000		
60,000		
50,000		
40,000		
30,000		
20,000		
10,000	\$12,532.70	
0		\$7,935.82

January Minutes of LWML Meeting

St. John's LWML met on Wednesday, January 11 with 14 members and 1 guest attending.

President Lynne Mulso called the meeting to order. Vicar Jeff Hagen led us in devotion "Our Treasures" based on Matthew 6:19.

The minutes of our November meeting were read and approved. Many items of correspondence were read. The financial report was given and filed.

Diane Nelson reported on our grocery receipts and a thank you goes out to the congregation for the great support of this project.

In unfinished business our guest day and 2023 booklet were discussed.

New business was as follows:

- ◆ Standing Rules and Bylaws are to be updated at the February meeting.
- ◆ We will serve voters' meeting on January 22.

Judy Hybbert updated us on the national mite project in the International District in Albuquerque, New Mexico for \$98,000.

Announcements were as follows:

- ⇒ Yearly dues are to be paid to the treasurer (\$10).
- ⇒ Blue Earth Zone Spring Rally at St. Paul's, Truman is in April.
- ⇒ National Convention is June 22-25, 2023 at Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The Birthday song was sung for Norma Brolsma and Pastor Wilson. The LWML Pledge and table prayer were said.

Meeting adjourned. Lois Ziemer served a delicious lunch.

Next Meeting
Wednesday, February 8
2:00 pm

February Birthdays

- 1 Emily Hansen
Alex Schliesmann
- 2 Darren Bettin
Caden Korte
Joyce Reigel
Brock Stauffer
Jeff Zender
- 4 Kenna Krahmer
Sharon Moeller
Shane Rowen
Brian Skogerboe
Chris Stenson
- 6 Dayton Hartung
Lennyx Rosenberg
- 7 Marlene Gettler
Tim Holm
Deb Olson
- 8 Henry Hartung
Opal Schwager
- 9 Tyson Cooley
Brian Rienhardt
Jessica Streeter
Brenna Thate
- 10 Chad Kosbab
Paul Markquart
Melissa Rowen
Bradyn Schubert
John Weseman
Pat Winter
- 11 Troy Ringnell
Nicole Runkle

- 12 Gertie Brolsma
Mike Hemiller
Kathy Hendricksen
Matt Klima
Emmet Olson
- 13 Jake Hannegrefs
Kirsten Steuber
- 14 Tammy Hand
Leah Hartung
- 15 Cindy Bettin
Kane Wohlhuter
- 16 Jeff Hagen
Maggi Anderson
Gary Janssen
Sebastian Lingle
- 18 Charlotte Cordes
Kristin Diekmann
- 19 Stefani Cain
- 20 Kurt Jans
Kelly Stenson
Caleb Stibbe
- 21 Don Laue
- 22 Audrey Diekmann
Bryce Freking
Betty Nordhausen
- 23 Danielle Cummings
Rielle McNicol
- 24 Colby Kuehl
Cheryl Oelkers
Savannah Whitehead
- 25 Brittany Anderson
Matt Bliesmer
Amanda Larson
- 27 Brian Brolsma
Randy Grill
Maddox Hecker
Tiara Kennedy
Trent Kennedy
Ella Meyers
Stephanie Truesdell
Jayne Weseman
- 28 Leah Amborn
Kaleb Chingren



February Anniversaries

- 3 Ken & Mavis Morris
Martin & Beulah Rosenberg
- 5 Bruce & Nancy Schwager
- 9 Pat & Nichole Chase
- 10 Larry & Verna Bliesmer
- 13 Ron & Lori Bettin



Attendance

Sunday, January 1: 71

Sunday, January 8: 200

Sunday, January 15: 186

Sunday, January 22: 182

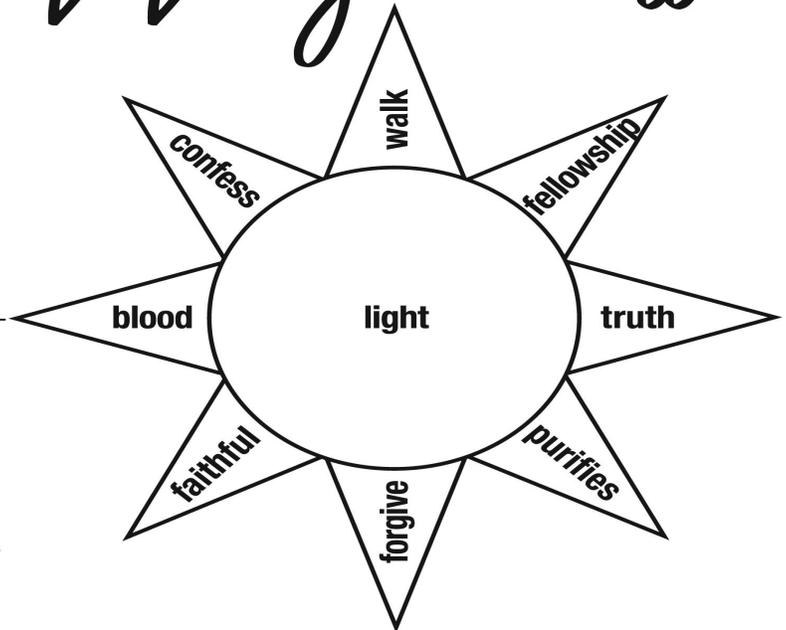
February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>29</p> <p>8am Worship 9:15am Sunday School/BC/SALT 10:30am Worship Elders: Brian/Ryan</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p> <p>10am Chosen Study 3:45pm Confirmation 5pm Jr. High FFF 6:30pm Praise Team</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p> <p>8am Communion Service 9:15am Sunday School/BC/SALT 10:30am Communion 6pm Chosen Study Brad/Jamie</p>	<p>6</p> <p>11:30am Friendship Club</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10am Chosen Study 2pm LWML 3:45pm Confirmation 6pm Sr. High FFF</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p> <p>8am Worship 9:15am Sunday School/BC/SALT 10:30am Worship 4pm 3rd-6th Youth Event Clint/Ryan</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10am Temp Lake Ridge Service</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10am Chosen Study 6:30pm Praise Team No Confirmation</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Circuit Pastors</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:30am & 9:00am, Kids Against Hunger Pack</p>
<p>19</p> <p>8am Communion Service 9:15am Sunday School/BC/SALT 10:30am Communion 6pm Chosen Study Brian/Guy</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10am Chosen Study 3:45 Confirmation 6pm Ash Wed. Service 6:45pm Potato Bake - Youth 7pm Sr. High FFF</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p>8am Blended Service 9:15am Sunday School/BC/SALT 10:30am Blended Service Dennis/Jamie</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6pm Bible Study</p>				



The light of forgiveness

The Lord is full of mercy and light. What happens when we confess our sins to God?



Directions:

Use the coded shapes to fill in the blanks and complete 1 John 1:7-9, NIV.

But if we _____ in the _____, as he is in the _____,
 we have _____ with one another, and the _____
 of Jesus, his Son, _____ us from all sin. If we claim to be
 without sin, we deceive ourselves and the _____ is not in us.
 If we _____ our sins, he is _____ and just and will
 _____ us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 JOHN 1:7-9, NIV

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The Lutheran Hour

Radio Broadcast: KSUM, Fairmont 1370 AM—Sundays @ 11:00 a.m.

February 5 "**Your Time to Shine**" Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. John Nunes
Light is necessary for life; God's light, even more so. (Matthew 5:14-16)

February 12 "**Shine Like Stars**" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
A social media star with a million followers can't possibly know all one million of them. However, there is one really famous Person with billions of followers Who knows--and loves--each one.
(1 Corinthians 3:6-7)

February 19 "**Table Manners**" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
(Exodus 24:11)

February 26 "**It Begins with Who I Am**" Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy
Our identity defines us. Every decision we make, every action we take, and every temptation we face begins with who we are. In Christ we receive an identity uncompromised and secure.
(Matthew 4:1-11)