

The Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

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February 2024

FROM PASTOR BREWER:

Where did January go? I can't believe that Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent are almost upon us. Gentlemen, just a gentle reminder that Valentines Day is the same day as Ash Wednesday this year, February 14. To that end I want to talk to you about one of the most common themes of Lent, Stricken, Smitten and Afflicted. Please understand that I am making no correlation between Valentines Day and this theme, only the season of Lent.

But seriously this theme of Stricken, Smitten and Afflicted comes to us from Isaiah 53 where it says concerning the Son of Man:

"Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

2 For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.

3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

Worship With Us!

St. John Lutheran Church
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Worship Schedule

LIFE Hour

Sunday 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.

Worship Services

Sunday at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Monday at 7:30 p.m.

Holy Communion is served each week

The live stream of the 8am service can be found on the St John Lutheran Church Facebook page.

⁶ *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

Each year during the season of Lent we ponder the suffering and sacrifice of our Savior to see not only the depth of His love and mercy toward His creation, but also to be reminded of our absolute need for Him for salvation.

Seeing the **Stricken, Smitten and Afflicted** Savior also serves to remind us of what Jesus says in Matthew 16:24-25, *“²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.’”*

What does it mean to “Take up our cross?” The apostle Paul describes it this way in Philippians 2:19-21, *“¹⁹ For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹ I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.”*



This Lenten season I want to bring home to you what I have been preaching for the last almost 15 years with you as your pastor, that we have been called to serve Christ and not ourselves. What does that look like as both a congregation and as individuals? As a congregation it means that our purpose and mission is not to serve ourselves. As individuals it is a reminders that we are servants of Christ called to make disciples of the nations first and foremost, not last and the least in our busy lives.

One of the most concerning habits that I have seen taking hold of our congregation is that for the vast majority of the members of our church, the church has become that last thing on their mind. Gone is the spirit of cooperation and service that existed when you all built our current facility. We are struggling to get people to not only serve as leaders on boards, but even to help out with service opportunities. I hear more and more complaining about how people like this or don't like that. My question for you is do you care enough to do something about what you don't like to volunteer to help with it? Or are you just complaining to me expecting me to change it?

This Lenten season can be a great time for us to explore the ways that Jesus is calling us to be His servants and messengers in this place together. Instead of focusing on what someone else can be doing, how about we start by asking ourselves what we can do for Jesus today?

✝ In Christ, Pastor Brewer



Congratulations to all newly elected 2024 Church Council Members, also a special thank you to all outgoing council members. Please continue to keep all council members in your prayers. Council members include:
(*Newly elected council members)
(★Outgoing council members)

President

Ed Trembl

Council Secretary

Brenda Reckelberg

Treasurer

Robert Funk

Financial Secretary

Jenny DeGrave

Elders

Chris Pamperin*

Nick Miesler*

Zac Lensmire

Rich Wienke

David Buntman

Marv Perleberg

Kevin Piesler

Gus Schmoll★

Matt Kinnard★

Trustees

Jason DeBauche*

Greg Savage

Dennis Dalebroux

Kevin VandenBush★

Stewardship

Sandy Stein*

Wendy Stauber*

Deb Heling

Janice Haen

Dana Engelking★

Gail Trembl★

Board of Education

Jodi Pamperin*

Brandi Kollross*

Marissa Byrne

Jennifer DeBauche

Madison Jadin

Autumn Lensmire

Janice Krueger★

Evangelism Committee:

Kayla Bosman*

Abby Hanmann

Heather Derenne

Miriam Hemp★

Lenten Worship and Soup Suppers

Lenten Services & Suppers begin on Ash Wednesday, Feb.14 Services

- **Regular Wednesday evening Lenten services will take place at 7pm.** St. John will be participating in a "Round Robin" series with several area congregations. From Ash Wednesday (February 14) to the Wednesday before Holy Week, Pastor Brewer and Pastor VanPay along with the Pastors of Hope (De Pere), Pilgrim and Redeemer (Green Bay), St. John (Pulaski), Zion (Oneida) and Zion (Wayside) will travel to each other's church to present sermons. The overall theme for the 2024 Lenten sermons is "Be Gracious to Me".
- **Family/Early Lenten Services will take place on Wednesday evenings at 5:30pm.** This is a service geared toward families with young children, but all are welcome.

Lenten Meals: Meals will be served before each Midweek Lenten Service on Wednesday evenings from 5pm – 6:45pm. There are sign-up sheets in the narthex for soup, sandwich, dessert, and clean-up help.

New Members Class: If you are considering becoming a member of St. John and interested in learning more about the beliefs and teachings of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, join us for a New Members Class on Sunday, February 25, 1pm-3pm. Current members looking to refresh their knowledge on the teachings of the church are also welcome. Please contact Pastor Brewer to register.

Wednesday Youth Nights / Open to post Confirmation (7th & 8th) & High School Youth have been canceled during Lent (February and March). Youth nights will resume on April 10th. Questions? Feel free to call, text, or email Pastor Craig VanPay with any questions Ph: (920) 255-3267 / Email:





Welcome Gibbons Family!

Originally from Illinois, the Gibbons family moved to Green Bay in 2014 after Allison accepted a call to teach at NEW Lutheran High School.

Doug is a foreman at Forest Construction and enjoys fishing, camping, and woodworking.

Allison teaches English at NEW Lutheran High School and enjoys crocheting, sewing, and reading.

Liam (10), Naddlay (7) and Harper (6) all attend Green Bay Trinity and love being outside, playing games and watching movies.

The Gibbons family is excited to join St. John's and to make more connections in the Green Bay area!



Welcome Mark & Lisa Kanz!

Mark works at Energy Harbor in Toledo, Ohio. He comes home every other weekend.

Lisa works at Bellin Health Home Care in Green Bay.

They have 3 children: Chelsea (Dave) Hammock, Chicago; Evan (Alaina) Kanz, Chicago; Spencer Kanz, Luxemburg. One grandchild, Ivey Hammock. They also have a dog named Sully and a cat named Cosmo.

Please welcome Mark & Lisa the next time you see them.



Welcome Hannah Simonar!

Hannah is the daughter of Rick and Paula Simonar. Paula is also a member here.

She likes working with kids and is currently working at Day by Day Discoveries in New Franken. Hannah also enjoys puzzles and diamond art.

Please welcome Hannah the next time you see her!



Welcome Eric Thiry & MacKenzie Deprey!

Eric works on the Meisler Farm and has for many years.

Eric is MacKenzie's fiancé' and they are getting married in August.

MacKenzie also works on the Meisler Farm, that is where they met. Her hobbies are hunting, fishing, and spending her free time with family and friends.

Please welcome Eric & MacKenzie the next time you see them.