

*Pew News*  
*February 2020*  
*St John's Lutheran Church*

*Stunning Service II*

*"You are my Servant, Israel, in whom I am glorified." Isaiah 49:3*

*Stunning service be it good or bad leaves a lasting impression. You have lots of examples. Examples where the your food was terrible and the staff didn't seem to care. I still remember a waiter serving my wife a milkshake that was only 2/3 full with a straight face! But we also have examples where the staff went out of their way to take care of you. You remember.*

*God's kingdom is all about service. First and foremost it's about the Son of God, Jesus, coming to serve you. Jesus says, "the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve." (Matthew 20:28). This is mind blowing kind of stuff! This is the King of kings and Lord of lords. This is the God who created everything seen and unseen.*

*It's easy to understand why someone might feel uncomfortable with that. The apostle Peter was. When Jesus got down on his hands and knees to serve his disciples by washing their feet Peter said no. There was no way that he was going to let the King of kings wash his feet. Not his filthy feet that had been traipsing through the dust and dirt all day long. It was embarrassing. It just didn't feel right. To be served by the King of kings and Lord of lords doesn't feel right to us either. I'm the sinful human being. I need to serve him. Like Peter we're quick to say that we don't want anything from Jesus. We want to serve the Lord by being good, going to church, and giving him our offerings.*

*That's why we need to listen very closely to Jesus' response to Peter. "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." (John 13:8). There is no participation in the kingdom of God unless you have been served by Jesus. Not for the Pharisees and Sadducees and not for us. If you will not let Jesus die for your sins you have no share in the kingdom of heaven. None.*

*Jesus came to serve you by dying upon the cross and rising victorious over sin, death and the devil. The King doesn't send an ambassador. The King of kings comes himself to die in your place so that you can be forgiven and live as a child of God. But that's easily forgotten in the midst of trial and tribulation. So the Lord of lords comes to you daily to remind you of his promise to you at your baptism. That he always forgives. So the King of the universe comes to you through the written Word to forgive you and equip you. So the Prince of Peace gives you his body and blood for the forgiveness of your sins.*

*The King of kings and Lord of lords RICHLY and DAILY forgives all my sins. It's a mind blowing kind of service. Listen to Isaiah describe the Lord's Supper. "On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined." (Isaiah 25:6). There is NOTHING we can offer to God that compares to His gifts to us. His service to us is life changing and stunning.*

*When we are richly and daily served by the King of kings and Lord of lords we can't help but serve our neighbor because we share from the wealth that He has given us. We celebrate and remember stunning service. That's why we leave a tip. That's why we tell all our friends and neighbors. Christians remember Jesus' stunning service by telling friends and neighbors and inviting them to join them.*

*I hope you'll join me in worship and Bible study so that you can experience the King of kings and Lord of lords stunning service!*

*Your servant in Christ, Pastor Matt Sorenson*

### ***Mission of the Month***

*This month all of our MOM donations will pay for scholarships for Rockbridge. Rockbridge is a summer camp for college students that have participated in InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. It is one week of having fun in the outdoors and learning more about Jesus Christ. If you have been to any of the events we've hosted with InterVarsity then you've heard the students talking about the*

*impact that Rockbridge has had on building up and strengthening their faith. The cost is \$350 per student. Scholarships are used for student who are unable to pay the entire cost.*

*If you would like to enable more Longwood students to be able to attend camp this summer grab one of the MOM envelopes in the hallway and put your check in it and then in the offering plate.*

### ***Applying Bible Principles***

*What comes to mind when someone mentions “work”? Is your initial tendency to moan and groan, wishing you could avoid work?*

*It might surprise you to learn that God described His creative acts as “work” and that He brought “work” into being shortly after He created man. Adam worked in the Garden before and after his fall due to his sin. Cain worked by raising vegetables. Abel worked by tending sheep. Throughout Scripture, people worked. Even the Lord Jesus worked while He was on earth, and He described God the Father as having worked. Work has always been part of God’s nature and eternal plan for mankind.*

*Wait a minute — If God created and owns everything, why should we His children have to work? Couldn’t He just provide for us in some supernatural way that would enable us not to have to work? Surely, God could do that, but He doesn’t do so. According to the admonition in 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12, one of the primary benefits from working and providing for our needs is to be able to lead lives marked by integrity and a healthy self respect. And God’s plan is that we are best able to accomplish these worthy goals by working.*

*God also knows that by utilizing our talents and abilities through work, He will be able to minister to others through us in an effective way. Work, then, is one of the primary avenues by which we can demonstrate our Christian faith, particularly as we do our tasks to God’s glory. Work is also the primary way through which we obtain money to give to God.*

*What should be the Christian’s response to work? First, thank God for work and for the ability to work. As Solomon observed, this is a “gift of God.” Second,*

*view your work as a means of bringing glory to God. Third, whatever you do — no matter what your vocation or occupation — do it “with all your might,” as unto the Lord. And finally, remember that by providing work for us to do, God enables us to give to Him and to His ministry at St. John’s Lutheran Church.*

## ***CHANGE OF LOCATION AND TIME FOR THE NEXT LWML MEETING***

*Bonnie Arney has invited the LWML to have our next meeting and lunch at her house instead of at church on Tuesday, February 11th. We have also changed the starting time for this meeting to 9:30. Pick up a Lutheran Woman’s Quarterly, Winter 2019 by the mailboxes in the kitchen to find the Bible study for the day which will be led by Ginny Dixon. Ginny chose the one entitled “Beautiful Savior” found on page 16. Please join us.*

## ***PRAYER SERVICE***

*The Psalmist shouts “Out of the depths I cry to you O Lord” (Psalm 130:1). Have you been crying out to the Lord for help in your time of need? Why don’t you join us for a time of prayer on **Wednesday evening, February 12th at 7:00 P.M.***

*The theme of the service will be God’s desire to forgive us. In Word and song we will talk to God. If you need a private time of prayer, there will be time at the close of the service.*

### ***Introducing our Series for Lent - "Eyes on Jesus"***

*O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*

*(Gradual for Lent, based on Hebrews 12:2)*

*When the characters in the Passion narrative look at Jesus, what do they see? In most cases, people misunderstood who He is and what He was doing. In some cases, by faith, people recognized Him aright. Our Lenten series this year, Eyes on Jesus is based on Passion according to St. Mark. We will examine how the various people around Jesus viewed Him - and how we should view*

*Him. We will “fix our eyes” on what Jesus has done to save us from our sins by His holy, precious blood and innocent sufferings and death, and celebrate what God sees on account of His work: our justification for His sake.*

*With Eyes on Jesus as our theme this Lent, we will continuously focus on Jesus Christ and Him crucified, buried, and risen for our justification. This is a vision that will never disappoint, for by trusting in Jesus, He promises that we will gaze upon His beautiful face now by faith and forever in heaven! Plan on joining us on February 26th at 7 pm for our Ash Wednesday service and the following Wednesdays for our Lenten Series. Each service begins at 7 pm.*

### ***Treasurer's Year-End Report***

#### ***2019 Year Total***

<b><i>Total Collection &amp; Savings</i></b>	<b><i>\$297,167.44</i></b>
<b><i>Total Expenses</i></b>	<b><i>\$276,934.34</i></b>
<b><i>Difference</i></b>	<b><i>\$20,233.10</i></b>
<b><i>Stained Glass Window fund</i></b>	<b><i>\$17,500</i></b>
<b><i>Special Designations</i></b>	<b><i>\$2,472.94</i></b>
<b><i>Actual difference</i></b>	<b><i>\$260.16</i></b>
<b><i>Total Savings Used</i></b>	<b><i>\$ 22,800.00</i></b>
<b><i>MOM Mission Match</i></b>	<b><i>\$212.80</i></b>

<i>Security</i>	<i>\$ 615.94</i>
<i>Feeding Farmville</i>	<i>\$ 1557.00</i>
<i>Signage</i>	<i>\$ 300.00</i>

***Want to help pay down the mortgage?***

*If you wish to make a gift to help reduce the mortgage, simply enclose a note with your gift or mark it on the memo line.*

***Thrivent Choice Dollars?***

*Have an account with Thrivent Financial? Check to see if you have any choice dollars from 2019. You may designate those choice dollars to the charity of your choice. St John's would appreciate being the beneficiary of your gift.*