

First Sunday in Lent

February 20-21, 2021



While the Sundays in (not of) Lent are still celebrations of Christ's resurrection, the Old Testament Reading clearly points toward the sacrifice of Isaac and the lamb God would provide. Twice the angel of the Lord recounts how Abraham did not withhold his son, his only son, from the Lord (Gen 22:13, 16). In the Gospel from Mark 1, God speaks of the love He has for His Son in the same way He spoke of the love Abraham had for Isaac: "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased" (1:11). God was in the process of offering His Son, His only Son, as the all-sufficient sacrifice for all people. Yet the other Readings for this day suggest another emphasis in the text, that of God providing a test for Abraham (Gen 22:1). The Epistle draws a contrast between "the man who remains steadfast under trial" and the person who is "tempted" ("lured and enticed by his own desire") and sins (James 1:12-15). The Psalm, in turn, emphasizes that "all the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep the covenant and his testimonies" (Ps 25:10), that is, who remain faithful through testing. The Gospel contains the cryptic account of Jesus being tempted by Satan, but Mark prefaces the temptation description by stating, "The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness" (1:12)—a test also from God. Both themes come together in the Lamb provided by God. He remained faithful in all trials and temptations. He is the Lamb of God who provides forgiveness, including forgiveness following times of unfaithfulness on the part of God's people.

St. John's Lutheran Church and School

12809 State Route 736 Marysville, OH 43040

Office Phone: 937-644-5540

Church Website: www.stjohnsmarysville.org

School Website: www.sjsmarysville.org

Email: stjohns@stjohnsmarysville.org

Rev. Jack D. Heino, Sr. Pastor 937-240-3002

Mr. Rich Rausch, Principal 937-240-3003

Equipping the family of God to joyfully and boldly make disciples of Christ as we

KNOW Jesus and one another, **GROW** to be more like Him and

SOW His love in Word and deed.



Weekend Worship Services

Kevin Vollrath – Organist

“Even When Something Is Drastically Wrong, God Provides” - Genesis 22:1-18

Today we hear of God testing Abraham and of Satan tempting Jesus. James reminds us that God tempts no one. So, how can we know whether God is testing us or Satan is tempting us? James reminds us that “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change” (James 1:17). As we go through life, striving to live out our calling as God's people, we will hit obstacles and face tests to our faith and to how we live that faith. God can work through these tests to draw us closer to Him. On the other hand, Satan wants to lure and entice us away from the path God would have us walk.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Make a note on your worship folder that you can read & remember EVERY DAY in the coming week to bring you back to the place where you began to worship today.

WELCOME

A LITTLE LITURGY LESSON: Acts 2:42 (ESV)

The Epistle

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”

RINGING OF THE BELLS

As the Bell rings at the beginning of worship – take time to silently pray for the Holy Spirit to fill you as God TRULY arrives in His Word and Sacrament among us.

OPENING HYMN

“O Lord, throughout These Forty Days”

LSB 418 vs. 1-2

1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days You
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and You won; Your
prayed and kept the fast; In - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; Lend us Your nerve, Your
for our sin, And free us from our past.
skill and trust In God's e - ter - nal Word.

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INVOCATION

Take a moment when you first wake up to begin your day with the invocation and remember the grace of your baptism. End each day this week as soon as you go to bed in the same way.

CONFESSION

Romans 6:20, 22–23, adapted; Mark 1:15

Each day confess your “sin-fullness” before God and ask Him for His forgiveness and the Holy Spirit to use you and yours to His glory.

P: God's Word reminds us that when we were slaves of sin, we were free in regard to righteousness.

C: But now that we have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit we get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.

P: For the wages of sin is death,

C: but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

P: Let us confess our sins to God, who has brought us out of slavery and promises to lead us to the promised land of heaven.

A moment for silent confession.

P: Heavenly Father, we know we are blessed when we remain steadfast under trial, yet we fall prey to the devil's schemes and give in to temptation. We are lured and enticed by our own evil desires—desires that contradict your good and gracious will.

C: For Jesus' sake, forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

ABSOLUTION

Think of ways you can each day this week creatively show forth (Epiphany) your sense of rejoicing that your "sin-fullness" has been cleansed.

P: As Jesus began His ministry, He said, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." As you have repented of your sins, believe these words as if Jesus was standing here speaking them to you: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

INTROIT

Mark 14:38; 1 Peter 5:8; 1 Corinthians 10:12–13

If you wear a cross or have a cross hanging in your home, perhaps each day remember that cross is Not simple piece of jewelry nor a decoration on the wall but the focus and final authority in your daily life.

P: Jesus said, "Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

C: Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

P: Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man.

C: God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

KYRIE

James 1:18; Psalm 102:1, adapted

Instead of taking the name of the Lord in vain i.e. "Oh God" in the midst of a frustrating circumstance, turn those feelings into a prayer with the words of the Kyrie "Lord, Have Mercy"

P: Lord, have mercy.

C: Christ, have mercy.

P: Lord, have mercy.

C: Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

P: O LORD, hear our prayer.

C: And let our cry come to You!

SALUTATION

As you meet people throughout the coming week, pause for a moment and consider the greeting and the motivation of your heart and feelings towards the person you greet. What message do you want to send to the community around you today with your greetings?

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

PRAYER OF THE DAY

1) Address 2) basis for the petition 3) the petition 4) reason for the petition 5) conclusion of praise to God. Use these 5 parts of prayer for your table grace, morning or evening prayer each day this week.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Genesis 22:1-18*

Always read the Old Testament with Jesus and His ministry and mission as the key to understanding any Old Testament passage.

God tested Abraham in a way that none of us could probably imagine, but Abraham obeyed.

God rewarded Abraham's obedience and provided for him a sacrifice at the exact right time.

¹After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." ²He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." ³So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." ⁶And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here am I, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together. ⁹When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." ¹²He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." ¹³And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided." ¹⁵And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING: *James 1:12-18*

The Epistles are great for personal weekday devotional reading and study – pick a letter this week and read it, think on it and share it with a friend, family member or someone with whom you work or play.

When under fire and trial, which we will all face, those who stand firm to the end will receive the crown of life.

¹²Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. ¹³Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. ¹⁶Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VERSE

Ephesians 6:11

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

HOLY GOSPEL: *Mark 1:9-15*

After Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan, He was sent to the wilderness by the Spirit. For forty days, Jesus was in the desert where He was tempted by Satan. He endured the temptation never giving into sin and the angels attended Him. From there, empowered by the Spirit of God, Jesus proclaimed an urgent message calling our focus and attention to repent and believe in the Gospel.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." ¹²The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him. ¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON MESSAGE: "Even When Something Is Drastically Wrong, God Provides" - Gen. 22:1-18

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Psalm 25:4-6, adapted

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

OFFERINGS OF OUR TIME, TALENTS & TREASURES

"Lord, we are yours. This represents our heart, our attitude, our spirit, and our willingness to recognize and submit to you as our Lord.

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

WORDS OF OUR LORD

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

"O Lord, throughout These Forty Days"

LSB 418 vs. 3-4

3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet You prayed And
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, And
fixed Your mind a - bove; So teach us to de -
all our earth - ly days, That when the fi - nal
ny our - selves, Since we have known God's love.
Eas - ter dawns, We join in heav - en's praise.

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NOTES AND NEWS

Church Sanctuary Worship Service Guidelines

Special guidelines will be followed to help assure the safety of everyone attending church, but we know the coronavirus is still active among us. We know that God desires us all to be together in worship again, but we are also sure He wants us to use good judgement in protecting our health.

- We encourage elderly, at-risk, and symptomatic people to continue worshipping from home (the “live streaming” service on Face Book continues).
“At risk” conditions include: 65 years or older, chronic lung disease, moderate/severe asthma, serious heart conditions, compromised immune systems, severe obesity, diabetes, chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis and liver disease.
- **Wearing face masks inside the church/sanctuary is REQUIRED.** If you don’t have one, masks are available throughout the church, along with hand sanitizing stations. Pastor will wear a mask, except when preaching God’s Word.
- Services will be held at 6:00 pm on Saturdays, and 9:00 am & 11:00 am on Sundays. Doors will open 30 minutes prior to each service and secured during the services.
- To comply with 6’ social distancing guidelines, seating will be limited to every third pew (2 pews in between). Family groups and individuals will be separated by 6’ in each pew. Services will be limited to approximately 75 attendees. Overflow will be asked to listen to the service on FM 92.1 in their cars.
- Ushers and Elders will assist with entry and dismissal to maintain social distancing. Do not sit in the taped off pews and follow the Ushers/Elders directions. We will be seating front to back upon entry and dismissing from back to front.
- Ushers (wearing gloves & masks) will hand out bulletins with the service liturgy and hymns (please take these home; they can’t be reused). Hymnals, Bibles and attendance books have been removed from the pews.
- Offerings are collected at the sanctuary doorways while exiting the service. Exit the church promptly upon dismissal as the sanctuary, hallways, restrooms **MUST** be sanitized before the next service. Please socialize outside the church.

These guidelines are based on current Federal, State and County Health requirements and the recommendations of the LCMS to provide for your well-being. Although, we are taking steps to reduce the spread of Covid-19 or other infectious agents, the ultimate responsibility for preventative measures belongs to whomever comes to join us at St. Johns’. Thank you for your patience and understanding during these challenging time.

Additional Worship Service Information: (all 3 services are traditional worship services)

- By Radio - You can join our 9:00 a.m. service by tuning to WQTT1270 AM and 96.7 FM.
- Join us in the parking lot by tuning your car radio to 92.1 FM at any of our sanctuary services.
- Join us on Facebook at 11:00 a.m. for our “live streaming” service, or after on Sundays at:
<https://www.facebook.com/jack.heino>

Sacrament of the Holy Communion: We are offering the Sacrament of the Holy Communion on the first and third weekends of each month. **This will be given in the Marie Pfarr Room** as you leave and only individual cups will be offered. If you wish not to receive the Sacrament, you may exit out the front doors or wait in line and exit from the Marie Pfarr Room. Please follow social distancing and hand sanitizer is available. **If you choose to attend worship from the parking lot instead of the sanctuary,** as soon as the church has emptied, you will be invited to come in and receive communion at that time, or to avoid leaving your vehicle you can drive under the portico (Marie Pfarr Room side), stop and roll down your window to receive communion.

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

Welcome to St. John's. Thank you for choosing to worship with us today. We pray that you will encounter Christ, the Living Word, and in a new way experience His mercy and grace today. If you are a guest or visitor we hope we have the chance to say hello. If you would like to know more about our ministry, please call the church office at 937-644-5549.

The Lutheran Hour is on the radio Sunday mornings at **7:00am on WLW (700 AM)**. Log on to www.lhm.org for more information and channels. Jim Vandre, LHM Ambassador.

St. John's Radio Program airs Sunday mornings at **8:30am** on local channel **WQTT (1270 AM & 98.7 FM)**.

Altar Flowers: Flowers are placed on the altar today by **Tim and Theresa Alton** with praise and thankfulness to God for 25 years of marriage blessings.

THE LORD'S WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S FEBRUARY 21-28, 2021

We continue to review events based on the Covid-19 health protocol.

TODAY	9:00 am	Sanctuary Worship Service/Communion
02/21	10:00 am	Adult & Young Adult Bible Study/ Youth & Children Sunday School
	10:00 am	Youth Catechism Class/Classrooms
	11:00 am	Sanctuary Worship Service/Communion & "Live Streaming"
MONDAY	8:00 pm	Adult Open Gym Volleyball
TUESDAY	11:30 am	Ladies Aid Quilting
	7:00 pm	All Boards Meetings
WEDNESDAY	4:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship Service
	7:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship Service
THURSDAY	12:00 pm	Ladies Aid Quilting
SATURDAY	7:30 am	Ladies Morning Bible Study/Heritage House
	6:00 pm	Sanctuary Worship Service
SUNDAY	9:00 am	Sanctuary Worship Service
02/28	10:00 am	Adult & Young Adult Bible Study/ Youth & Children Sunday School
	10:00 am	Youth Catechism Class/Classrooms
	11:00 am	Sanctuary Worship Service & "Live Streaming"
	1:30 pm	Special Voter's Assembly Meeting/Gym
	3:00 pm	VBS Meeting/Gym

LENT

ALL AGES SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 - 11:00 am

3 Years-Kindergarten—Church Basement

3 Years-Kindergarten—Zoom: **Email Colleen Foster** at colleenearl11@yahoo.com for link and password

1st-6th Grades—Teacher Nichol Nicol's School Classroom

7th & 8th Grade Youth Catechism Class—Mrs. Bowsher & Mrs. Monroe's Classrooms

High School Youth "Cornerstone Discipleship"—Youth House

Women's Bible Study—School Loft

Adult Bible Study—School Cafeteria: **Topic—The Book of Genesis: Through this nine session study, you will deepen your understanding of God's plan of salvation through Jesus.**

If you have questions, please contact Sunday School Superintendent, Lisa Arnold at 937-205-1802 or arnoldlisa50@yahoo.com

Congregational Tithes Third Quarter Mission

Opportunities of Fiscal Year 2020-21

Ohio District LCMS - 50%, Hearts for Jesus - 10%, Youth Mission Outreach - 10%, L.A.M.P. - 10%, Kingdom Investments International - 10%, Food for the Poor - 10%



Weekly Church Attendance

6:00 p.m. Saturday, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. Sunday
2/13 & 2/14: 136

Mobile Version of Online Giving: St. John's offers a mobile version of our online giving page to make it easy for you to give by credit or debit card anytime from your smart phone. Simply scan the image you see here using your phone's Quick Response (QR) code reader! You may also go to stjohnsmarysville.org and click on the "Electronic Giving" button and follow the easy directions.



Weekly Worship Bible Readings

For those of you who would like to study the Word ahead of the next weekends worship services, we are listing here in the N&N the Bible readings that Pastor Jack will be using.

February 27-28, 2021

Old Testament Reading: *Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16*

Epistle Reading: *Romans 5:1-11*

Holy Gospel: *Mark 8:27-38*

NOTES & NEWS ITEMS



2021 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR DATES

Available dates for altar flowers in February through June are as follows:

February 28	April 18	June 6
March 21	April 25	June 20
April 11	May 2	

There are also many dates available for altar flowers throughout the remaining months. Please call Charlotte Blumenschein at (937) 644-4111 to reserve any special dates for flowers in church. Chancel flowers are available almost every weekend.

The Flower Committee thanks you for your continued support.

St. John's School Enrollment Now Open

School enrollment is open. Please view the school website for more information:

www.sjsmarysville.org

Special Voter's Assembly Meeting Scheduled

The Board of Administration has scheduled a Special Voter's Assembly Meeting on Sunday, February 28 at 1:30 p.m. in the gym.



Loss of a Spouse Event

Are you grieving the death of a Spouse? Or do you know

someone who is? Find encouragement, comfort, and hope at a special **Loss of a Spouse** event being held on **Sunday, March 14, from 2-4 pm** at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 7960 State Route 38, Milford Center, OH 43045.

Loss of a Spouse helps men and women grapple with the challenges of being widowed. The **FREE** seminar features an inspiring 35-minute video that's filled with moving stories, practical advice, and a variety of perspectives on spousal loss. After the video, you'll have the opportunity to discuss what you learned with other widows and widowers. You'll discover that you're not alone in your grief and what you're going through is normal. Plus, you'll receive a booklet to take home with over 30 short readings on how to rebuild your life. Please call or text **Deaconess Janet Nicol** at **614-561-7411** to register for this encouraging seminar.



Lutheran Women in Mission

Mark your calendars for the following LWML events:

June 24-27, 2021: The LWML Ohio District is helping host the 2021 National LWML convention in Lexington, KY. The theme is "Running the Race...Looking to Jesus."

June 17-18, 2022: The Ohio District LWML will host their first 'concise' convention at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Napoleon, OH. The theme will be "Lord of the Harvest."

June 22-25: The National LWML Convention will be in Milwaukee, WI.

Thrivent Choice Dollars



If you have a Thrivent policy, have you directed your free Choice Dollars for the year 2020? Choice Dollars for 2020 expire March 31.

You can direct your free Choice Dollars by calling **1-800-847-4836** and say "**Thrivent Choice**" at the prompt or go online to service.thrivent.com. Your free dollars can be directed to St. John's Church or to 40,000 other charitable organizations.

If you are not sure if you have Choice Dollars, give them a call and ask. Remember even small amounts make a difference.



Thank you to Pastor Jack for his prayer and to everyone for their beautiful cards for my birthday. May we all enjoy the Lenten season, reminding us of why Christ came to earth for us. Blessings, **Georgianna Alvarez**

Weekly Schedule - Please submit articles and announcements to

Regina Bullerman, Church Secretary, by calling directly at 937-240-3004, dropping them in the black lockbox outside the office doors, mailing or emailing them to rbullerman@sjsmarysville.org, by

NO LATER THAN TUESDAY, AT NOON. Thank you.

Soar on Wings God has Made for You

Golden Eagles

“Birth of a Song” . . . A true story.

“Back in 1932, I was 32 years old and a fairly new husband. My wife, Nettie and I were living in a little apartment on Chicago’s south side. One hot August afternoon, I had to go to St. Louis, where I was to be the featured soloist at a large revival meeting. I didn’t want to go. Nettie was in the last month of pregnancy with our first child. But a lot of people were expecting me in St. Louis. I kissed Nettie good-bye, clattered downstairs to our Model A, and in a fresh Lake Michigan breeze, chugged out of Chicago on Route 66.

However, just outside the city I discovered that, in my anxiety of leaving, I had forgotten my music case! I wheeled around and headed back. I found Nettie sleeping peacefully. I hesitated by her bed; something was strongly telling me to stay. But eager to get on my way and not wanting to disturb Nettie, I shrugged off the feeling and quietly slipped out of the room with my music.

The next night, in the steaming St. Louis heat, the crowd called on me to sing again and again. When I finally sat down, a messenger boy ran up with a Western Union telegram. I ripped open the envelope. Pasted on the yellow sheet were the words: “YOUR WIFE JUST DIED”. People were happily singing and clapping around me, but I could hardly keep from crying out in my grief! I rushed to a phone and called home. All I could hear on the other end was, “Nettie is dead! Nettie is dead!”

When I got back home, I learned that Nettie had given birth to a baby boy. I swung between grief and joy! And yet that night, the baby died! I buried Nettie and our little boy together in the same casket. Then I fell apart. For days I closeted myself away from everyone. I felt that God had done me an injustice! I didn’t want to serve Him any more or write gospel songs. I just wanted to go back to the jazz world I once knew so well.

But then, as I hunched alone in that dark apartment those first sad days, I thought back to the afternoon when I had turned around and went back to St. Louis. Something kept telling me to stay with Nettie. Was that something God? Oh, if I had paid more attention to Him that day... I would have stayed and been with Nettie when she died! From that moment on, I vowed to listen more closely to Him.

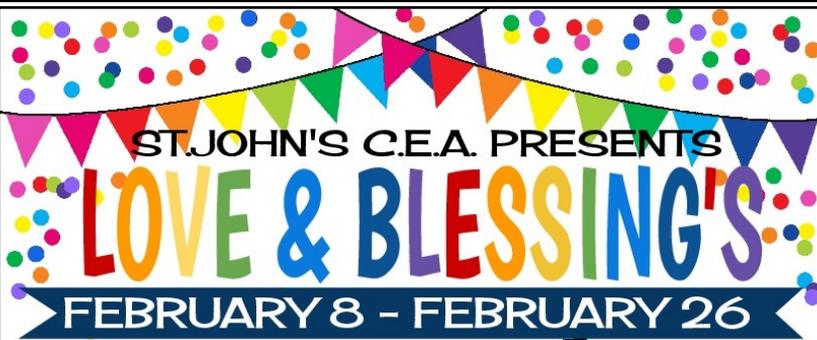
But still I was lost in grief. Everyone was kind to me, especially a friend, Professor Frye, who seemed to know what I needed. On the following Saturday evening he took me up to Madam Malone’s College, a neighborhood music school. It was quiet and the late evening sun crept through the curtained windows. I sat down at the piano, and my hands began to browse over the keys. Something happened to me, and suddenly I felt at peace. I felt as though I could reach out and touch God! I found myself playing a melody, one I’d never heard or played before, and the words in my head just seemed to fall into place:

“Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand!
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn...
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light,
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.”

It was the Lord who gave me those words and that melody! He also healed my spirit. I learned that when we are in our deepest grief, when we feel farthest from God, this is when He is closest... and when we are most open to His restoring power! And so I go on living for God, willingly and joyfully, until that day He comes... when He will take my hand and gently lead me home.”

Thomas A. Dorsey, Gospel Songwriter

NOTES & NEWS ITEMS



About! Blessing in a Backpack-Marysville will provide over 240+ children locally with packed bookbags filled with donated food and supplies. Ways to give towards this program: donating needed goods or providing a monetary donation - everything collected will go straight to this program and stay locally within the community.

WE ARE IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS, BACKPACKS, CANNED SOUP, PEANUT BUTTER, POP TARTS, CANNED FRUITS/VEGGIES, JUICE BOXES, CEREAL/ GRANOLA BARS, SCHOOL SUPPLIES

PLEASE HAVE STUDENTS DROPOFF DONATED GOODS IN THE HALLWAY BETWEEN GYM & CAFETERIA

be sure to follow on social media
Facebook

@blessingsinabackpackmarysville



please contact C.E.A. at cea@sjsmarysville.org for any questions or if your interested in volunteering delivering food



VBS 2021 NEEDS YOU!

We are getting started on the planning for this summer's VBS - and whether you've helped before or not, we would love to have you as part of our team! Please join us for our first meeting Sunday afternoon **February 28 from 3-4pm**. We will have a zoom link and also meet socially distantly in the gym.

Some of the areas we need help this year are games and snacks and possibly more! If you are interested in a specific area or type of work, feel free to reach out to Amanda at 937-243-7471 / vbs@sjsmarysville.org / AmandaDavisand2littles@gmail.com

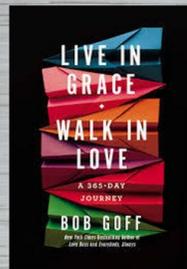
(This time would count as engagement scholarship hours.)

Christian Devotional Book Study

Led by Rich Rausch, Sundays at 10:00 a.m., March 7-May 2 in Classroom #6. Details below.



WHAT BETTER WAY TO CELEBRATE LOVE THAN A Christian Devotional Book Study



"He's not a pastor, nor a preacher, but he does encourage you to live a life reflective of Jesus' love. He's not selling anything, not calling you to repentance, but encouraging you to be brave enough to engage in life, throw caution to the wind, and be authentic in offering love towards others." -Goodreads Review

SUNDAYS @ ST. JOHN'S
10:00 AM

Please visit our school's website www.sjsmarysville.org and click on the book cover to sign up via Google Form!
Virtual & In-Person options will be available.
[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/PHRKOPA2HFN3NMGT6](https://forms.gle/PHRKOPA2HFN3NMGT6)

LED BY RICH RAUSCH
937.240.3003
RRAUSCH@SJSMARYSVILLE.ORG

PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. 1 Corinthians 11:27-29

The following is a summary of what we believe and teach as Missouri Synod Lutheran Christians. Because we care for you, we ask that you carefully review the following statements:

1. I have been baptized into the name of the one true God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:16-20*
2. I have been instructed concerning the meaning of Holy Communion, understand the importance of self-examination prior to coming to the Lord's Supper and have made my confirmation of faith. *1 Corinthians 11:27-29*
3. I confess that I am a sinner in need of forgiveness. I am sorry for my sins. *1 John 1:8-9*
4. I believe that Jesus Christ, God's Son, is my Savior from sin, death, and the power of the devil. *Romans 3:21-24*
5. I believe that the body and blood of Jesus Christ are really present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, and I desire to receive Christ's body and blood, given and shed for my forgiveness. *1 Corinthians 11:23-26*
6. If possible, so far as it depends on me, I seek to live peaceably with all. *Romans 12:17-19*
7. By the power of the Holy Spirit, I desire and intend to lead a more Godly and Christ-like life, trusting in God's promises and obeying His commands. *Galatians 5:22-24*

If you unreservedly agree with the seven points above, you are invited to come to the Lord's Supper. If you do not agree with one or more of the seven points, please refrain from participating in Holy Communion lest you sin against the body and blood of the Lord. If you agree with the seven points above but are not a member of St. John's, we welcome you to the Lord's Table and invite you to give prayerful consideration to joining our partnership in the Gospel. You are encouraged to speak with a pastor or elder prior to communing regarding any point(s) of disagreement and/or regarding the process of joining St. John's.

Gluten-Free Communion Wafers: A gluten-free communion wafer option is now available for those who are allergic. They are located in the brass cup in the middle of the communion plate.

Communion Wine: For those who have health related, or other issues with drinking alcohol, please take the purple individual communion cup. It contains all water with one drop of wine.

