



The **St. Johns Servant**

**St. Johns
Lutheran Church**

Park Rapids, Minnesota

March, 2022

Our Lenten Focus is Facets of Forgiveness

Nothing sparkles quite the way a well cut diamond does. Add bright light coming through a stained glass window and that diamond will simply burst with color. And if you find someone looking at their dazzling diamond ring, it is often because it has been newly placed on her finger. Yes, a common way for marriage to start is as simple as it is dazzling, two people and a ring that says it all.



Forgiveness is our diamond of engagement with God. It is the heart of our relationship and the bond that creates our relationship. At the dedication of the temple Solomon summed it up well when he requested of God, "Listen to the plea of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. And listen in heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive" [1 Kings 8:30]. The gift of forgiveness earned for us by Jesus death and resurrection is the one hard rock on which our lives together with God is built.

But like a single diamond has many facets so also this diamond of forgiveness has many facets. The Bible speaks in different ways when delivering us the good news of forgiveness. Each of them bringing a fresh sparkle to fill us with delight and hope.

During this season of Lent we are going to look at six of the facets of this magnificent diamond of forgiveness. We're going to look at them as contrasting pairs. In God's forgiveness we are both **CLEAN** and **COVERED**. Our sins are spoken of as being **FIXED** to the cross and flung **FAR** away. Forgiveness is both a court judgement **PRONOUNCED** and a commercial debt **PAID**.

As we hold our diamond to the light this Lenten season we do so to appreciate all the more what a treasure forgiveness is. Join us for worship each Wednesday at noon or 5:30 p.m. The services will also be live streamed. The Ladies Aid will serve lunch following the noon service. A meal will be served at 5:00 p.m. before the evening service. Here's a look at our focus and preacher for each week.

- ♦ March 2 PRONOUNCED, Pastor Neubauer
- ♦ March 9 FAR, Pastor Davis, First English, Dorset
- ♦ March 16 PAID, Pastor Vrudny, Immanuel, Walker
- ♦ March 23 CLEAN, Pastor Walsh, Redeemer, Menahga and Christ, Wolf Lake
- ♦ March 30 CLOTHED, Pastor Newton
- ♦ April 6 FIXED, Pastor Neubauer



The Newtons are Staying

After prayerful consideration, Pastor Newton has declined the call to St. Salvator in Venedy, Illinois. We are thankful that he and Sarah will continue in ministry here. Please keep St. Salvator in your prayers as they continue their search for a pastor.



Join the Easter Choir!

Choir practices will be held Wednesdays following the Lenten services from approximately 6:45—7:20 p.m. Anyone who loves to sing is invited to join us. If you have questions, please contact Sarah Kaufenberg at 651-260-3350.

Missionary Presentation on March 13

Rachel Krause (Pastor Newton's cousin) is a missionary serving in Leipzig and Chemnitz, Germany. She works alongside a partner church of our LCMS, the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church in Germany. In her role as a refugee outreach missionary, she assists German congregations with their outreach to refugees and immigrants from the Middle East. This ministry includes catechetical instruction, German language instruction and other outreach activities that help build relationships with the refugees. On March 13, Rachel will present during Bible Class on what Jesus is doing in the Old Country.



Give Blood Here



St. Johns is hosting the March blood drive in Park Rapids. Have you ever donated blood? The process is easy, usually takes less than an hour and most donors find it a painless and heart-warming experience. There is a critical shortage right now and your donation is greatly needed. Take a few minutes to donate blood. Our blood drive will be **Monday, March 14, 11:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Tuesday, March 15, 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** To schedule an appointment, call Elayne Luiken at 255-4865 or go online to www.bloodhero.com, sponsor code: parkrapids. Please help us with this important, life-saving effort!

March is Food Share Month

March is the traditional month for the Minnesota Food Share Campaign. Donations received this month are important because they are used to calculate future allocations to our local Hubbard County food shelf. Total donations are measured by the pound so heavier items are good choices to donate this month. Think soups, peanut butter, canned vegetables, tuna, etc. rather than lighter items like noodles, cereals, etc.

Cash donations are also especially great this month since allocations are calculated on total cash raised.

You can bring in your non perishable food items to the church all this month. There's a cart in the back lobby for them. Drop off your cash donation at the office or into the offering plate. Make sure to add "Food Shelf" on the memo line. Thank you for your generous gifts to help those in our community who are struggling.





Trivia Night Returns!

Get your trivia team organized and psyched! The Board of Evangelism is sponsoring Trivia Night to be held on Sunday, March 20 at 5:00 p.m. Some new categories will appear. Intermission will once again be fun and engaging. The Board of Parish Fellowship will be offering a light supper at a reasonable cost. Free table treats and beverages will be available.



All proceeds from this event will go toward assisting the Mid South District of the LCMS with its Disaster Relief Fund. Communities and congregations in this district were devastated by the tornadoes in December.

Sign up sheets can be found near the church office. Cost is \$100 per table or \$15 for single participation. (We will create a team for you with other single participants.) If you would care to make a donation by sponsoring a table for this event rather than participating yourself, please feel free to do so. You may wish to attend and simply watch great minds agonize over lighthearted trivia.

Join us for a fun filled evening of fellowship on March 20!!

(Hint for one category: Study up your knowledge of the movie "It's a Wonderful Life".)

	Round								Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Table 1	8	5	9	7	5	4	6		44
Table 2	7	7	8	6	6	6	7		47
Table 3	7	7	4	7	8	9	8		50
Table 4	9	8	10	9	6	8	9		59
Table 5	8	8	9	5	6	10	8		54
Table 6	10	5	9	6	6	6	8		50
Table 7	10	7	10	9	7	7	9		59
Table 8	8	9	7	8	9	7	8		56
Table 9	4	5	8	5	3	3	3		31
Table 10									0
Table 11									0
Table 12									0





Stewardship Review—January

Avg. Sunday Worship Attendance: 158

Total Offerings: \$40,364	Total Offerings, January, 2021: \$29,105	Budget/Week \$10,345
Total Expenses: <u>\$38,280</u>	Total Expenses, January, 2021: <u>\$36,081</u>	Budget/Month \$44,827
Difference \$2,084	Difference - \$6,976	

Avg. Weekly Offerings \$8,073	CNB Checkbook Balance: \$94,689
Avg. Weekly Expenses <u>\$7,656</u>	Less Dedicated Accounts - <u>\$2,387</u>
Difference \$417	Difference \$92,302

Our Healthy Balance Goal \$74,000	Front Entry Payable \$50,073
Raised so far <u>\$55,560</u>	
Still need \$18,440	



Main Street Living Programs This Month



Main Street Living is broadcast Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. on KVRr Fargo-Moorhead. Here's the "North" programs for March

March 6: Rev. Sam Pitsch, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Moorhead, MN, presents the message: "Resistance is Not Futile," based on Luke 4:1-13. "This Is The Life" program: "The Now Crowd" - A soldier on leave helps his brother work through struggles in his life.

March 13: Rev. Bernie Worral, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND, presents the message: "The Urgency of Repentance," based on Luke 13:1-5. "This Is The Life" program: "The Poisoned Banquet" - Vicious rumors look to ruin a nurse's career and marriage.

March 20: Rev. Kent Borglum, St. John's Lutheran, Montevideo, MN, presents the message: "The Watchman of Israel," based on Ezekiel 33:7-20. "This Is The Life" program: "Smash Up" - A group of friends struggle with lingering guilt after an accident.

March 27: Rev. Christopher Waldvogel, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND, presents the message: "A New Identity," based on 2 Corinthians 5:16-21. "This Is The Life" program: "Awake with a Stranger" - A guilt-ridden man is confronted and haunted by a lapse in judgment.

If you don't get KVRr you can watch the Minnesota South District version of Main Street Living on WFTC Channel 29 at 9:00 a.m. You can also watch all of the archived programs at any time online. To reach the website for archived programs go to www.mainstreetliving.com and then click on "North (Fargo)" or "Twin Cities."





Million Dollar Life Match

The LCMS is offering \$1 million in matching grants to LCMS congregations, starting in 2022. Projects eligible for this grant include existing, expanding, or new projects that support the needs of families during the beginning-of-life stage of their children. Projects must be carried out in close proximity to the Word and Sacrament ministry of the congregation. The Board of Evangelism has decided to collaborate with the Park Rapids Pregnancy Resource Center to organize and facilitate a project utilizing this grant opportunity.

The PRC will be initiating a new program entitled “Bless A Mom.” Small gift bags will be assembled containing items to encourage and uplift women who are experiencing an unplanned pregnancy or who may be currently struggling with a difficult life situation while doing their best to nurture their young children. The Board of Evangelism has completed and submitted a grant in the amount of \$1,200 to the LCMS Million Dollar Life Match. This means that St. Johns would be required to show the ability to match that amount. If our grant application is approved, we would then have a total of \$2,400 to purchase items to fill small gift bags for women in the area who may benefit from an encouraging gift of compassion and a display of caring Christian concern. Our bags may include the following: a copy of “A Child’s Garden of Bible Stories” a small adult devotional book, a Christian tract on family life, a gift card to a downtown business or eatery, baby bottle, baby socks, personal “Mom” items, an index card with St. Johns times of worship.



How will we finance our portion of the “Bless A Mom” project? Congregational members will be asked to “sponsor a bag” at the amount of \$30. Through your sponsorship we will purchase the items needed to fill approximately 40 bags. In addition to your financial support, we ask that you write a brief note of encouragement and support to an anonymous recipient to be included in the bag. (If you choose not to write the note, we can solicit someone else to take care of this for you.) When all the bag items have been purchased and gathered by the board, we will set a date for the sponsors to meet at the church and fill their bag. The assembled bags will then be transported to the Pregnancy Resource Center for distribution to those who they know would benefit from them.



How does such a project relate to the Board of Evangelism’s goals and the St. Johns mission statement to “glorify God and seek to make disciples of all nations by bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people?” We are attempting, in a small way, to meet the physical and emotional needs of God’s people in our community in the hopes of creating a baseline starting point for spiritual outreach. We pray that the seeds of faith are planted and that through the Holy Spirit, hearts are touched with God’s grace and mercy. If you would like to participate in this project through sponsorship of a bag, please sign your name on the sheet provided by the church office. As God has so graciously blessed you, you have the opportunity to “Bless a Mom.”



The Youth are Making Soup—Dine In or Get It To Go

In addition to serving soup for the Lenten supper on March 9 (and something more child-friendly too), the youth will be offering soup-to-go since it was so popular last year. Order forms will be outside the office. Also, after worship, leftover soup from the supper will be available for a freewill donation. Proceeds will help fund the LCMS Youth Gathering trip to Houston this summer.



Three Bears Water Park Trip

All 5th-12th graders are invited to join us on Sunday, March 27 for a trip to Three Bears Water Park, noon-7:00 p.m. The cost is \$10/person, plus money for supper (we'll stop for fast food on the way home). Lunch will be provided. Sign up outside the office.

We Have New Shirts Available

If hoodies are your style, stop in and get one of these shirts. Sizes available for all ages—child to adult. Cost is \$30 for child sizes and \$40 for adults. Proceeds go to the National Youth Gathering trip. (Special deal pricing for those going to the National Youth Gathering. Check with Pastor Newton for details.)

What's On The Lutheran Hour

- 3/06 "One Thing Needful"
- 3/13 "No Room for Demons"
- 3/20 "Everything I Have Is Yours"
- 3/27 "TBD"

Listen to the Lutheran Hour every Sunday on KPRM 870 AM at 9:30 a.m. or KTIG 102.7 FM at 5:00 p.m. on Sundays. You can also listen on Sirius XM Family Talk Channel 133 on Sunday at 9:00 a.m. and any time on lhm.org/sentradio.

The Lutheran Laymen's League sponsors the program on KPRM each Sunday. If you would like to help sponsor the program your gift may be placed in the offering and earmarked "Local Lutheran Hour."





Sunday School News



Perfect Attendance—February

PK George Newton
 4th Clinton Koch, Sophia Neubauer
 5th Zachary Harju, Khloe May
 7th Maxwell Harju, Sawyer Harvey,
 Aiden May

Great job!

We're doing a fill the fish bowl coin challenge for our Sunday School offerings. Watch for the final total.



3/01 Cash Luther
 3/02 Hunter Schroeder
 3/5 Kryton Nilson
 3/13 Wyatt Goodwater
 3/15 Olivia Maier
 3/16 Walter Harrison III
 3/25 Ketch Luther

Baptismal Birthdays

3/09 Hailey Meier
 3/10 Eli Maves
 3/11 Emma Quinn
 3/20 Kelly Kimball
 3/22 Gavin Smith
 3/27 Gunar Clark



PUZZLE



A wondrous washing

David's prayer of repentance reveals a desire to be cleansed of his sin.

Directions: Unscramble the words on the left. Then match them with the correct phrases from Psalm 51 (NIV) on the right.

ETRCAE _ _ _ _ _	_____ out my transgressions (v. 1)
HS AW _ _ _ _	_____ away all my iniquity (v. 2)
RSEEROT _ _ _ _ _	_____ me with hyssop, and I will be clean (v. 7)
WNERE _ _ _ _ _	_____ me, and I will be whiter than snow (v. 7)
TLBO _ _ _ _	_____ your face from my sins (v. 9)
DIHE _ _ _ _	_____ out all my iniquity (v. 9)
NATRG _ _ _ _ _	_____ in me a pure heart (v. 10)
LNSECAE _ _ _ _ _	_____ a steadfast spirit within me (v. 10)
LBTO _ _ _ _	_____ to me the joy of your salvation (v. 12)
W HSA _ _ _ _	_____ me a willing spirit, to sustain me (v. 12)

Answer: blot, wash, cleanse, wash, hide, blot, create, renew, restore, grant

Lessons this Month

March 6 *A Walking Wonder*—Peter & John Heal a Lame Man
 March 13 *A Jail Bail*—Peter Escapes Prison
 March 20 *On Your Feet*—Paul, Barnabas, Lame Man
 March 27 *The Gentile Cause*—Jerusalem Council



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Lutheran Church**

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Pastor Joel Newton



The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod

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