

**The St. John Lutheran Church**  
**Volume 63 — Number 03**  
**March 2024 Jottings**

“We lift up Jesus Christ in our lives, our church, and our community.”



**Pastor Michael's Musings**

**March 2024**

“You are the salt of the earth. But if that salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty? It’s no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

--- Matthew 5: 13 – 16

Jesus is speaking with the above words from the Sermon on the Mount. If you have ever read that famous sermon, you would see that Jesus tackles all sorts of topics in a very short period of time (at least in so far as it takes you to read it.) One of those topics, which undergirds most all of the rest he says, is included above. Using salt and light as symbolic examples, Jesus is encouraging those listening to not tamp down the Spirit which lives within them. Salt and light are examples of the will of God that lives within us, that urge to do the right thing, to make a difference, and to stand up for that which is just and right instead of just rolling over and letting the ways of the world take their toll. Yes, even long ago, Jesus needed to prod the people into activity. He enjoined them to physically, mentally, and especially spiritually wake up and see what kind of day it was. Jesus’ messages included in the Semon on the Mount are hard to accept and follow if we are all caught up in the ways of the world, and even if we are

life-long Christians, there is a very sharp burn of challenge in what he preaches. Jesus takes topics like poverty, the Law, murder, forgiveness, adultery, divorce, oath-taking, revenge, loving your enemies, the right way to give and donate, prayer, fasting, the proper place of possessions in our lives, anxiety and worry, judging others, being deliberate towards God, hypocrisy, and the importance of a rock-solid foundation and puts all of these things in one sermon. I would never attempt such a thing! And then he takes those topics and heightens them to a level that seems almost impossible to succeed at.

Why?

What Jesus knows is the peculiar nature of human nature. Jesus knows that if we start out at a lackluster level in just about anything, the most we will be able to realize as an end-goal is a lack-luster result. Mediocrity rules the day when expectations are low. This has been shown over and over again in world history. Instead, Jesus aims high, almost impossibly high, so that we as his followers are challenged, inspired, piqued, and wondering why we are living at the current level of blandness that we are. The master is prodding us so that we can aspire to great heights so that even if, and when, we fail we will have fallen farther “up the ladder” than if we had never been challenged in the first place.

The next time you feel that life is too tough, the next time that you tell yourself that God isn’t fair and that things aren’t going satisfactorily to your liking, just remember the Sermon on the Mount. Life is full of challenges, to be sure, and God doesn’t promise us the “garden path” as we make our way through life’s pitfalls. But what we are promised is that the Master will guide and direct us, and give us the strength to pull through it all, when we go to him. After all, he holds the keys of eternal life which extends far beyond the bounds of this world.

Aim high and get close to the mark. It will be better than if you had never been challenged in the first place.

## March—In like a Lion, out like a Lamb

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I know we've all heard that tired old saying a gazillion times, but this year, even our Sunday scripture lessons substantiate that idiom. How's that, you say?

Well, on the first Sunday of March, we hear of God's lion-like traits in each reading.

In the 1st reading, we hear the declaration of the ten commandments, and hear that we are NOT to bow down to idols and we must have NO OTHER Gods before God. *"I am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of their parents."*

In the 2nd lesson, "The Lion" continues as we hear *"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and discernment of the discerning I will thwart."*

In the Gospel, we hear the story of Jesus entering the temple like a roaring lion as he angrily clear the temple of the money-changers by overturning their tables and driving them out with whips. When the Jews confronted him, he roared *"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."*

Yes, the "king of the beasts" lion comes out loud and clear as March comes in.

So, what changes that March goes "Out like a lamb"? Well, the last week of March is Holy Week, and March 31st is EASTER. In that final week, we *"Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world."* Christ, who died once for all our sins, gave up his life that we might live. He was the sacrificial lamb of atonement for us.



## Holy Week Services

Holy Week starts on March 24 with **Palm Sunday** as we join in remembering our Lord's triumphant entrance into Jerusalem.

This year, we will once again offer **Maundy Thursday services at 10:30 am and 7 pm on March 28th**. This will allow those who work night shifts or don't like night-driving the opportunity to attend this historic and meaningful service where we remember Jesus first instituting Holy Communion for his closest followers. The two services are identical, except the choir will sing at the evening service. Come, share the experience leading to Jesus's arrest and trial for which he was crucified on Good Friday.

Then, be sure to come **Good Friday night at 7 pm** for the service of darkness.

Of course, March 31st is **Easter Sunday** as we joyfully celebrate the resurrection of our Lord at 10:30 am!

## Midweek Lenten Services

It's not too late to start attending the mid-week Lenten Services at 7 pm each Wednesday until Holy Week. This year, we are learning what it means to be a community. Each week Pastor leads us to help understand how we are to care for each other, creation, those outside our immediate view, and of course, Jesus.

These meaningful and entertaining services come to life as Pastor Jones assumes the persona of a Biblical character for his "sermon" of the night. These are not communion services and they usually last 45-50 minutes.

Come early and enjoy fellowship with the community of believers as we share a simple meal starting at 5:45 pm each Wednesday.

### Until Next Month...

Martin Luther once made this insightful comment which still today, is very appropriate  
***Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.***

Martin Luther

*Soli Deo Gloria* (To God alone be the Glory)

*Donald L. Bauer* Director of Music

# **Look what is happening in Sunday School.**

**3 years old-PreK  
Kindergarten-3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
4<sup>th</sup> grade  
Middle School**

**Kathy Ellis/Becca Smith  
Becky & Shannon Sanders  
Patti Riley  
Fred Rosenbohm**

Starting Sunday, February 18th and throughout the late winter/spring months, our lessons will follow the Year B Lectionary to connect with Pastor's sermons.

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>  
March 10<sup>th</sup>  
March 17<sup>th</sup>  
March 24<sup>th</sup>  
March 31<sup>st</sup>  
April 7<sup>th</sup>  
April 14<sup>th</sup>  
April 21<sup>st</sup>  
April 28<sup>th</sup>  
May 5<sup>th</sup>  
May 12<sup>th</sup>  
May 19<sup>th</sup>  
May 26<sup>th</sup>**

**The Ten Commandments  
The Light of the World  
Serve and Follow  
Holy Week  
The Empty Tomb  
Doubting Thomas  
The Great Commission  
The Good Shepherd  
Philip and the Ethiopian  
The Holy Spirit Came Down  
Matthias the Apostle  
The Holy Spirit  
Isaiah's Call**

As always, all Sunday School age children are welcome. If interested, please contact me to register your child.

**John Wetterauer  
christian.reichert@att.net  
691-0434-home  
678-1736-cell**

## Homebound List (as of January 19, 2024)

Jim & Nadine Bartell	2705 S. Hilton Ln. Bartonville, Il. 61607	Pat Janssen	12615 Lancaster Rd. Hanna City, Il. 61536
Jay Baumgardner	Swan Special Care Center 109 Kenwood Champaign, Il. 61824	Joyce Jones	Villas of Holly Brook 5301 W. Dirksen Pkwy. Apt. 24 Peoria, Il. 61607
Art Campen % Carrie Campen	4169 King St. Denver, Co. 80211	Debra Look	Timber Ridge 2125 Veterans Rd. Morton, Il. 61550
Jeffrey Campen	Lennox Guest Home 2875 W. 33 <sup>rd</sup> Ave. Denver, Co. 80211	Russ & Jane Look	Hearts Village Peoria 8201 N. Il. Route 91 Peoria, Il. 61615
Millie Carlson	Villas of Holly Brook 5301 W. Dirksen Pkwy. Apt. 48 Peoria, Il. 61607	Don Norvill	Independence Village 1201 N. Northmoor Rd. Rm. 222 Peoria, Il. 61614
Sally Catterall	Villas of Holly Brook 5301 W. Dirksen Pkwy. Apt. 28 Peoria, Il. 61607	Jerry Pitzer	Independence Village 1201 N. Northmoor Rd. Rm. 242 Peoria, Il. 61614
Evelyn Cool	Lutheran Hillside Village 6901 N. Galena Rd. Acorn Way Apt. A1 Peoria, Il. 61614	Sharon Resler	River Crossing 1500 W. Northmoor Room 415 Peoria, Il. 61614
Barb Dickerson	2422 S. Daycor Divide Bartonville, Il. 61607		
Thelma Hartseil	Snyder Village 1200 E. Partridge St. Rm. 404 Metamora, Il. 61548		

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Update on Calendar:** Leisure Group will NOT be meeting the month of March. They will start meeting again on Wednesday, April 17th at 12pm.

**End of Year Statements:** The End of Year Statements are in the Library and ready for pick-up.

**Easter Lilies:** The Altar Guild is selling memorial Easter lilies to decorate the church at Easter. They will be taking orders in the church library on the Sunday mornings of March 10th and 17th before 8am service and between 1st and 2nd services. The cost is \$18 each. If you will not be to attend church, you can call Carol Super (309) 712-3914 or Jodi Miller (309) 678-0852 to order one.

**Updated Picture Church Directory:** The updated Picture Church Directory list is located in the back of the church on the table where the bulletins are kept.

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## **Readers for March:**

**Mar 03**    **8:00am**    Jim Rindfleisch  
              **10:30am**    Jim Rindfleisch

**Mar 10**    **8:00am**    Jane Rosenbohm  
              **10:30am**    Jane Rosenbohm

**Mar 17**    **8:00am**    Sally McGrew  
              **10:30am**    Sally McGrew

**Mar 24**    **8:00am**    Deb Sammis  
              **10:30am**    Deb Sammis

**Mar 31**    **8:00am**    Sue Rosenak  
              **10:30am**    Sue Rosenak

## **Ushers for March:**

**Mar 03**    **8:00am**       Teri Sammis  
              **10:30am**       Josh Harken

### **Lenten Week 3 (03/06):**

**7pm**       Jodi Miller

**Mar 10**    **8:00am**       Deb & Dan Sammis  
              **10:30am**       Roger Shafer

### **Lenten Week 4 (03/13):**

**7pm**    Deb & Dan Sammis

**Mar 17**    **8:00am**    Lonnie Catterall  
              **10:30am**    Jodi Miller

### **Lenten Week 5 (03/20):**

**7pm**    Deb & Dan Sammis

**Mar 24**    **(Palm Sunday)**  
              **8:00am**    Deb & Dan Sammis  
              **10:30am**    Shirley Schmitt

### **Maundy Thursday (03/28):**

**10:30am**    Pepper Bauer

**7pm**         Tim Sammis

### **Good Friday (03/29):**

**7pm**         Jodi Miller

**Mar 31**    **(Easter Sunday)**  
              **8:00am**    John Grafelman  
              **10:30am**    Open



# **Lenten Season & Holy Week is Upon Us:**

Please make it a point to attend these worship services as part of your Lenten discipline. We will have Lenten Meals starting at 5:45pm with Lenten Worship Service starting at 7:00pm.

**Lenten Week 3:** March 6th

“In Community with Our Neighbor”

Character: The Paralytic

**Lenten Week 4:** March 13th

“In Community with Those on the Margins”

Character: The Man of the Tombs

**Lenten Week 5:** March 20th

“In Community with Christ”

Character: James

**Palm Sunday:** March 24th

8:00am & 10:30am

**Maundy**

**Thursday:** March 28th

10:30am & 7:00pm

**Good Friday:** March 29th

7:00 pm

**Easter Sunday:** March 31st

8:00am & 10:30am

## **Important Phone Numbers:**

### **Officiating Minister:**

**Pastor Michael Jones**

Office: (309) 697-1440

Call & Text: (309) 357-3864

### **Email Prayer Chain:**

**Sheryl Bruninga**

Cell Phone: (309) 231-7946

Email: [sabruninga@aol.com](mailto:sabruninga@aol.com)

### **Cemetery Sexton:**

**Ed Tinnon**

Office: (309) 657-0494

Email: [stjohncemetery@yahoo.com](mailto:stjohncemetery@yahoo.com)

### **Funeral Committee:**

**Patti Thornton** (309) 264-2303

**Carol Alwood** (309) 697-5453

**Sandy Behrends** (309) 369-0131

**Lori Jones**

**Pepper Bauer** (309) 697-5762

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**Year Round Worship Schedule :**

8:00 a.m.    Worship With Holy Communion  
9:15 a.m.    Sunday School for All Ages  
10:30 a.m.    Worship with Holy Communion

**UPCOMING EVENTS THIS MONTH**

Sunday morning Service - 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. with Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.

The Lent services are on Wednesday evenings at 7pm, with a Lenten Meal before the service at 5:45pm. There is a full break down towards the back of the bulletin.

Every Thursday morning at 9:00am, the sewing group meets. Come and sew or cut patterns with them.