

# ST. JOHN'S MESSENGER

March 2019

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
821 Denver Street Schuyler, Nebraska 68661  
402-352-3550

office.stjohns821@gmail.com

**Our Mission: to witness and serve in the name of Jesus Christ**

**Ministers: the People**

**Pastor: Day Hefner**

**St. John's Reservation Book** If you have received approval to utilize the Church/Social Hall/Classrooms from the St. John's Church Council, please utilize the Blue Day Planner in the Church Office to block out your date and times.

## March Assignment

Greeters:  
Head Communion Assistant: Bob Svoboda  
Lector:  
Green Team: Jalaine Vavricek

## March

### Birthdays

3 Barbara Thompson  
9 Jake Wagner  
18 Dean Vavricek  
20 Tynlee Pickhinke  
28 Dan Plummer  
30 Evan Fickle  
31 Laverne Schmale

### Anniversaries.....

None



*Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.*

Joel 2:12-13

The prophet Joel wrote these words to an agricultural people whose lands had been devastated by drought and locusts, and whose relationship with God has a long, rocky history. In the midst of their struggles, Joel urges his people to lamentation and repentance.

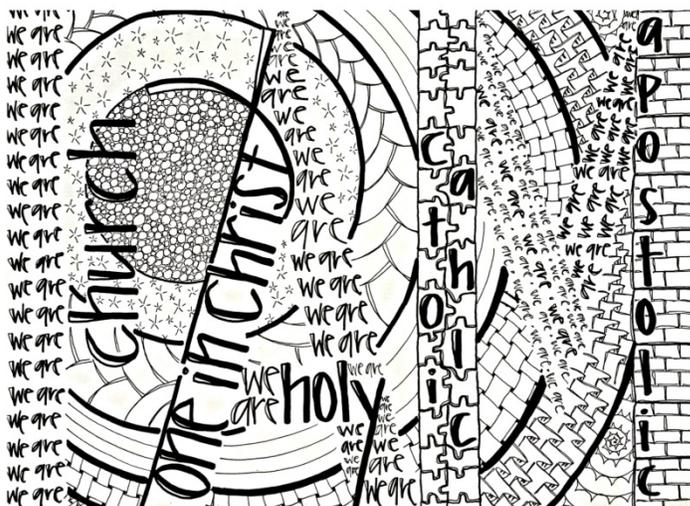
Joel's words remind the church on Ash Wednesday that we are likewise called to lamentation and repentance. In my experience, at least, this has traditionally been interpreted as giving up stuff that we like so that we will remember to feel bad for being terrible, "rotgut sinners," to quote my Luther professor from seminary. But the point of Lent isn't making ourselves feel bad. The point of Lent is to do what God begs the people to do through the words of Joel: to return to God with all our heart.

Lent is turning and returning – turning back to God. In Lent, we turn again to remember who we really are, who we were created to be. This, in itself, can be painful. Turning back to God confronts us with the reality of the good that we have failed to do and the potential that we have failed to live into as God's children. And like Joel's people, we are filled with lamentation for a world that has been shaped and scarred by human brokenness. But *through* repentance and lamentation, we are grounded once more in hope, reminded that God is gracious and merciful and abounding in steadfast love, reminded that God's love will have the last word, and not our human limitation. We are reminded that the healing of the world and the healing of ourselves doesn't depend on us alone, but that we are called to be part of God's mission of renewal and redemption.

This Lent, to help us remember who we are, we will be using a wonderful resource created by Nebraska Synod staff folks and volunteers that focuses on who we are as church. This resource takes its inspiration from the Nicene Creed, in which we confess our belief in "one holy, catholic, and apostolic church." In our midweek prayer services, we will explore what it means to be church, to be one, to be holy, catholic, and apostolic. We'll do this through contemplative prayer, healing prayer, and some hands-on prayer activities.

There will be lots of opportunities to engage in the journey of Lent, and I think we have some really meaningful, engaging things planned. I hope you will join us. Bring your heart.

Faithfully,  
Pr. Day



Vonda Drees 2016 - vonda.drees@gmail.com - vondadrees.wordpress.com - https://www.pinterest.com/vondadrees

# WORSHIP IN MARCH:

**All Services at 9:30 a.m. unless otherwise indicated.**

Color is white for first Sunday, all other services will be purple.

## **Sunday, March 3- Transfiguration Sunday**

Exodus 34:29-35, Psalm 99, 2 Corinthians 3:12--4:2, Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]

## **Wednesday, March 6- Ash Wednesday**

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Isaiah 58:1-12, Psalm 51:1-17, 2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

## **Sunday, March 10- First Sunday in Lent**

Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16, Romans 10:8b-13, Luke 4:1-13

## **Sunday, March 17- Second Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18, Psalm 27, Philippians 3:17--4:1, Luke 13:31-35

## **Sunday, March 24- Third Sunday in Lent**

Isaiah 55:1-9, Psalm 63:1-8, 1 Corinthians 10:1-13, Luke 13:1-9

## **Sunday, March 31- Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Joshua 5:9-12, Psalm 32, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Lent and tentative Holy Week worship schedule:

- Ash Wednesday worship – March 6 at 7pm
- Sundays in Lent – Sundays at 9:30am
- Midweek services – Wednesdays at 7pm (preceded by snacks... if you bring snacks!)
- Palm Sunday – April 14 at 9:30am
- Maundy Thursday – April 18 at 7pm
- Good Friday – April 19 at 7pm
- Easter Vigil – April 20 at 7pm

*Year C focuses on the Gospel of Luke. The semi-continuous Old Testament readings are of prophetic proclamation chosen in chronological order and highlighting Jeremiah. The second, New Testament, readings are chosen mainly from Galatians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Timothy and 2 Thessalonians.*



*St. John's Women of the ELCA "Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ."*

*All women of St. John's are invited to participate in the activities of the Women of the E.L.C.A. WELCA embraces all kinds of ministries that support our mission of mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. There is a place for you in Women of the ELCA at St. John's. We're a community of women where fellowship, friendship, study, service and advocacy are nurtured.*

### **St. John's Women of the ELCA**

**"Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ."**

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

March 1 World Day of Prayer. 11:00 @ St. Mary's Social Hall with lunch

March 12 1:30 General Meeting and Bible Study in church library

March 16 National Quilting Day

March 24 Serve Coffee fellowship

March 26: 1:30 Quilting

## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF QUILTING

### Quilting March 26. 1:30

Lutheran World Relief mission quilts are a valuable tool to show God's love and compassion around the world. Help us help others. No experience is necessary. Quilts are ready to tie or there is fabric to be cut. If you would like to sew at home, we will provide the materials.

## Other news.....

Evangelism and Social Ministry Committee will meet after coffee fellowship on March 31  
Also the Evangelism and Social Ministry Committee will host coffee fellowship on March 31

Need a ride on Sunday morning? If the roads are looking bad or you're not feeling up to driving but still want to be at church, please give one of these folks a call by 9am on Sunday morning:

- Lori Benesch — 402-615-0414
- Diane Fendrick — 402-615-0516
- Vicky Folken — 402-615-1504
- Jalaine Vavricek — 402-615-1485

**Other messages for St. John's bulletins, newsletters, etc. Please use the email:**  
[office.stjohns821@gmail.com](mailto:office.stjohns821@gmail.com) OR call the Secretary's office to leave messages.

### ATTENTION THRIVENT MEMBERS

Those of you who own Thrivent products may have earned Choice Dollars throughout 2018. You have a choice of where you wish those Choice Dollars to go, such as to St. John's or over 35,000 organizations that participate in Choice Dollars. The monies your products earned in 2018 can be directed until March 1, 2019. If you directed dollars earned in 2018 before January 4, 2019, you probably have more dollars to direct.

The Choice Dollars can be directed by—

- (1) Phone call: 1-800-847-4836; when prompted, say: "Choice Dollars" and someone should come on to assist you. You may have to have your membership number, which is on your Thrivent card; or
- (2) Online: at [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com) select "My Thrivent" and then select "Direct Choice Dollars" from the drop down menu; proceed to direct your dollars; or
- (3) Paper form. Contact Sharon Schurman and she can get one for you.

The phone call and online site are very quick, simple and easy. Contact Sharon Schurman if you need assistance.

REMEMBER THESE ARE YOUR DOLLARS, earned by the Thrivent products you own, so be pro-active and choose the charity or organization YOU wish to have benefit from those dollars. Remember when making your choice, St. John's can be the recipient.