

On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – February 2021

Growth

Pastor's Paragraphs

For the February 2020 newsletter I wrote about politics. For the February 2019 newsletter I wrote about... politics! Political things are again on our minds as we're transferring power in our federal government. However, let's take a break from it all. Let's recognize the upcoming season of Lent and its purpose of deepening our spirituality.

We calculate the beginning of Lent by backing up forty days from Easter (the Sundays aren't included in the count). Since Easter is April 4 this year that puts the beginning of Lent on Wednesday February 17.

Many people see Lent as a somber (maybe even depressing) season. I suppose there's good reason for that. We start it off with Ash Wednesday where we have ashes put on our foreheads and hear the haunting words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." But Lent is not supposed to be that way! Lent is actually a season of great hope, and even joy! The name Lent comes from the Old English word for "lengthen". It refers to the days getting longer – more daylight hours and more warmth. The season of Lent bridges across the end of winter and into the beginning of spring. In Lent we see the earth start coming back to life. It is a season of emerging life and hope.

This year Lent will also accompany the widening distribution of coronavirus vaccine. While none of the vaccines provide immediate immunity, I am confident we will see the beginning of the end of this pandemic. That's truly a message of Lenten hope!

We always add mid-week worship services to the Lenten season. We will do that again this year. They'll be a little different though. We're joining with several other Lutheran congregations in our conference and doing them jointly online. It'll be a great chance to see others in the conference, hear other pastors, and explore different forms of worship. (There's an article with more details in the Worship section on the next page.)

In the midst of our crazy world I really encourage you to embrace this year's season of Lent. Take on a spiritual discipline like additional prayer or Bible reading. Or take the traditional approach and give up some indulgence for Lent – chocolate or dessert being

the most common. It's only a forty-day season. And since the Sunday's don't count in the forty that means you get a break from your discipline once a week too! I think we can all manage something new for forty days. Blessings on your Lenten journey! May it truly bring you new life.

Pastor Jon

Christian Education

This is a largely a repeat of last month as a reminder:

Children's Sunday School

Children's Sunday school continues even though we aren't having in-person worship. Here's the plan:

- One Facebook Messenger call for all kids at 10 am
- Teacher for that week will read the associated bible verse for the lesson.
- Discuss the verse briefly.
- Ask kids some questions to spark some discussion
- Close the 30 minute maximum call with the prayer for the week.
- Each child will then work on the associated worksheet for that week on their own off of the call.

Worksheets for each child have been gathered through Christmas and put in envelopes. Parents are invited to pick them up at church. Please be in touch with Jen White if you have any questions.

Adult Sunday School

The adult Sunday school class is watching a mix of videos from the 1517 Academy. These videos usually take theological concepts and apply them to current day life. We use the same Zoom meeting used for worship at 9:30. Talk to Pastor Jon if you have any questions.

Confirmation Class

Confirmation class continues online. Confirmands will continue to receive a link for Zoom each week.

Men's Breakfast

Women's Bible Study

The weekly men's and women's Bible studies are continuing in person. Both groups will meet in the sanctuary since it is the only room we are keeping warm.

Worship

Sunday Worship

We have discontinued the 8:30 worship service because of the pandemic and the 10:30 service has returned to online only. The church council is going to review our worship situation on a month by month basis.

If you have a computer and internet connection:

The link to the service is emailed out. For security reasons it is no longer directly available on the website.

If you cannot connect with a computer:

You can still hear and participate in the service with any phone. Use the most appropriate phone number below and enter the meeting number when you are asked.

Dial by your location

- +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 834 9025 1842

Password: 778805



February Bible Readings for Worship

February 7 - Mark 6:30-8:26

February 14 (Transfiguration) – Mark 8:27-9:9

February 21 – Mark 9:9-10:16

February 28 – Mark 10:17-31



Ash Wednesday Worship

February 17, 7:00 pm by Zoom. The link and a bulletin will be emailed earlier in that week. For those who connect by phone, use the same number as listed above for Sunday worship. The meeting ID and passcode are different. They are:

Meeting ID: 817 5036 4633

Passcode: 566436



Mid-Week Lenten Worship

-Created for Community-

Wednesdays February 24-March 24

7:00 pm by Zoom

We are participating in a conference-wide Lenten series this year. Each week's service is being created by a team of pastors. From about 7:00 to 7:30 will be a fairly traditional worship experience with song, prayer, Bible reading, and preaching. Then at 7:30 the worshippers will be split into two groups. One group will have conversation about the topic. The other group will explore various prayer techniques. The themes are:

- February 24 – In Community with Creation
- March 3 – In Community with All the Saints
- March 10 – In Community with Our Neighbor
- March 17 – In Community with Those on the Margins
- March 24 – In Community with Christ

Service

Community Outreach Committee

A decision was made not to take part in the National "Souper Bowl" this year. Instead we suggest you contribute to any of the food cupboards/pantries in our local area or to World Hunger.

<https://community.elca.org/elcaworldhunger>



- Thank you to everyone who helped shovel and plow snow in January.
- Thank you to Bruce and Connie Stevenson for taking down the Christmas decorations.
- Thank you to everyone who made chrismons to decorate the Christmas tree in the sanctuary.
- Thank you to everyone who helped with the Victor Farmington Food Cupboard food distribution on December 18-19.
- Thank you to Cassie Ross and Tricia Kolczynski for their work on the Nomination Committee seeking people to stand for election on the church council.
- Thank you to everyone who helped read/lead worship online and all the musicians who are contributing to worship.
- Thank you to Tricia Kolczynski, Sara DeMuzio, and Kevin Christman for serving on church council.
- Thank you to Dave Bullwinkle, Rob Stroup, Bill Stimmel for their work on the 2021 budget proposal.



- The Rev. Matthew Nickoloff and the South Wedge Mission in Rochester.
- Rev. Karen Anderson for her missionary work in Chile.
- Gary Myers who is being treated for multiple myeloma.
- Linda Ellis whose cancer issues continue to worsen.
- Bob Stroup, Rob Stroup's dad, who has been suffering from dementia and other health problems.
- Knut Halvorson, who is living in Atria Nursing Home in Penfield.
- Eleanor Spawton, Jim Spawton's mother, who has a weakening heart valve.
- Blake Stevenson as he continues recovering from COVID.

Nuts and Bolts

January Council Highlights

Church council held its regular monthly meeting on - January 11th. Topics and decisions were:

- 2021 budget
- reviewed current church operations in light of the pandemic



2021 Annual Meeting

The 2021 annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday January 31st after the 10:30 worship service. It will take place via Zoom; being a continuation of the same link we used for worship. There will be the usual items on the agenda: review of reports, elections for church council, and the church budget. If you have any questions please talk to Pastor Jon before the meeting.

Fun



January Bible Trivia Answers

1. When Jesus casts an unclean spirit out of a man the crowds call it a new what? Answer: teaching (Mark 1:27)
2. In what river was Jesus "baptized" by John? Answer: Jordan (Mark 1:9)
3. What was the occupation of Andrew, Simon (Peter), James, and John? Answer: fishermen (Mark 1:16)
4. Jesus is amazed at the unbelief of the people of what town? Answer: Nazareth (Mark 6:6)

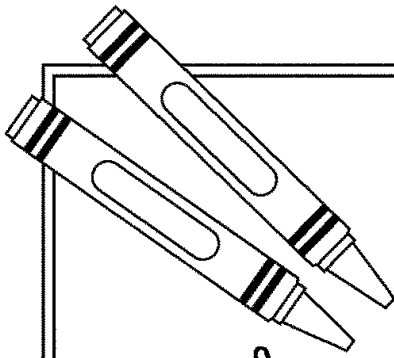
February Bible Trivia Questions

Hint: All the answers may be found in the Bible readings chosen for Sunday worship.

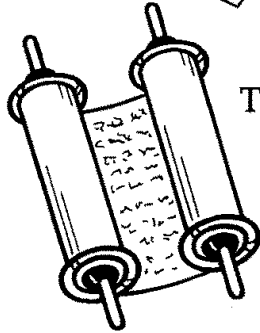
1. When the disciples see Jesus walking on the sea what do they think it is?
2. The Syrophenician woman who pesters Jesus was asking for healing for whom?
3. What three disciples witnessed the transfiguration?
4. What does Jesus tell the rich man he must do to receive eternal life?

FEBRUARY 2021

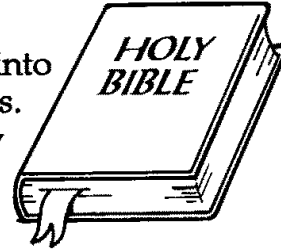
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:00 Boy Scouts	2 <u>Presentation of Our Lord</u>	3 Ansgar, Missionary to Denmark and Sweden, 865 8:30 Men's Breakfast 1:00 Women's Bible Study	4 The Martyrs of Japan 1597 7:00 Worship and Music Committee (Zoom)	5 3-8 Cello Lessons	6
7 <u>5th Sunday after Epiphany</u> 9:30 Sunday School (Online) 10:30 Worship (Online)	8 7:00 Boy Scouts	9	10 8:30 Men's Breakfast 1:00 Women's Bible Study	11	12 3-8 Cello Lessons	13
14 <u>Transfiguration Sunday</u> Cyril & Methodius, missionaries to the Slavs, 9 th century 9:30 Sunday School (Online) 10:30 Worship (Online)	15 7:00 Church Council (Zoom)	16	17 <u>Ash Wednesday</u> 8:30 Men's Breakfast 1:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Worship	18 Martin Luther, reformer, 1546	19 3-8 Cello Lessons	20
21 <u>1st Sunday in Lent</u> 9:30 Sunday School (Online) 10:30 Worship (Online)	22 7:00 Boy Scouts	23 Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, 156	24 8:30 Men's Breakfast 1:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Worship	25 Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, 1921	26 3-8 Cello Lessons	27
28 <u>2nd Sunday in Lent</u> 9:30 Sunday School (Online) 10:30 Worship (Online)						



Just for KIDS



The Bible we use is translated into English from other languages.
"Translate" the verse below using the code.



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 F _ _ _ W _ _ _ _
 ● ▲ + ☆ ● ☆ + ▼ □
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 ○ ▲ + > † ▼ ▲ †
 W _ _ _ _
 ☆ ▼ ☆ † → ☆
 U _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
 ▲ + † ▸ ☆ → ○ ▲ + ● ▲ ☆

-Proverbs 3:13

Code	E = †	L = ■	R = ▸
A = ○	G = ☆	M = □	S = ☆
B = ✕	H = ☆	N = ▲	SH = ♥
D = +	I = ●	O = ▼	T = →
	K = ○	P = ◆	TH = >



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Grace for Everyone
-Always-

*We are a community of faith
committed to living and sharing the love of God.*

St. John's Lutheran Church

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February Newsletter

February 17 – Ash Wednesday