

# St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church



## March 2012

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**Mission Statement:** We are called by God to be the light of the world. We are to go forth and show Jesus' love and forgiveness through loving care for all God's creation.

### Lenten Mid-Week Services

Mid-Week Lenten Services will continue through March on Wednesdays at 10:30 AM and 6:30 PM. We will continue to rotate pastors from St. Paul Lutheran Church – Stevens Point and Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church – Plover. This year's theme: Words of Life from the Cross, focus on Jesus final words as he suffers on the cross of Calvary for our salvation.

**Mar. 07, Midweek 3:** The Promising Word  
"Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise." (Luke 23:43)  
Pastor Thomas Petersen

**Mar. 14, Midweek 4:** The Compassionate Word  
"Woman, behold, your son!" . . . "Behold, your mother!" (John 19:26–27)  
Pastor Kevin Ader

**Mar. 21, Midweek 5:** The Dying Word  
"Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit!" (Luke 23:46)  
Pastor David Ficken

**Mar. 28, Midweek 6:** The Suffering Word  
"I thirst." (John 19:28)  
Pastor Thomas Petersen

### The Trials of Jesus

Join us during our weekend services throughout the Lenten season as we encounter the Trials of Jesus. Like a courtroom drama, a series of witnesses comes forward to give testimony about their experiences with the accused—Jesus Christ. Through their accounts we come to know the truth, that Jesus came to take our place in the defendant's chair.

Mar. 04 ~ The Second Sunday in Lent  
"The Voice of Judas" • Mark 14:16, 32-42  
Jesus' betrayer defends his actions.

Mar. 11 ~ The Third Sunday in Lent  
"The Voice of Annas" • John 18:12-24  
A chief priest discusses Jesus' arrest.  
*or*  
"The Voice of Caiaphas" • Matthew 26:57-68  
The high priest faces off with the Son of God.

Mar. 18 ~ The Fourth Sunday in Lent  
"The Voice of Peter" • Luke 22:54-62  
Jesus' bold disciple speaks of his weak faith.

Mar. 25 ~ The Fifth Sunday in Lent  
"The Voice of Herod" • Luke 23:1-12  
One king of the Jews testifies against another.

Apr. 01 ~ Palm Sunday  
"Voices in the Temple" • Mark 11

Apr. 05 ~ Maundy Thursday  
"The Voice of Pilate" • John 18:28—19:16

Apr. 06 ~ Good Friday  
"The Voice of Innocence" • Seven Last Words

Apr. 08 ~ Easter Sunday  
"The Voice of the Tomb" • Luke 24:1-12

### Costume Fitting Night



Thursday, March 1 at 6:30 PM  
those having reading parts in "Journey to the Cross" should meet in the church basement to become organized and fitted. Tour guides attire is khaki pants and red St. John T-shirt/polo or "plain" red shirt.

## LLL at St. John-Kellner

Lutheran Laymen's League will meet on Friday, March 9 at 6:00 PM here at St. John-Kellner. Dinner will be Corned Beef and Cabbage. Program will be Pastor Ken Klaus' "The Baloney Shop" video from Lutheran Hour Ministries featuring a blend of humor and Christ-centered good sense messages. Cost is \$7.50. For reservations call Duane Steinke at 715-423-2716 by Tuesday, March 6.

## SWEPS

The Human Care Board will be collecting nonperishable food items through the month of April. Baskets are provided in the narthex.

## Community Days (Younkers) Coupon Booklets

The Human Care Board (and anyone else interested) will be selling the coupon booklets after the church services starting with the weekend of March 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> through April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The price is still \$5.00 per booklet. The entire \$5.00 from each coupon booklet sold, stays here for our church. We have received very generous bonus money in the past. This is a great fundraiser for our church, so please help by purchasing a booklet or two. If anyone is interested in selling some outside of church, please let us know and we will get a supply of books for you. As in the past, the proceeds raised will be used towards the loan principal for the Kester home.



### COUPON BOOKLET SELLING FEATURES

- (1) Coupon worth \$10 off on a \$10 or more item.
- (1) Tiered shopping pass for 20%/15%/10% off each regular or sale priced item.
- (1) 30% Early bird coupon, valid 7am-10am on Saturday, April 28.
- (12) Merchandise offers: Customers must have the coupon to receive the special pricing on these offers.
- (2) Web Exclusive Offers

## Church Library Contest

Our library contest continues. The age groups for March include: 2nd through 4th grade.

We have a wide variety of Arch Books on all the classic Bible stories and with Easter just around the corner children may also enjoy the following books: Jesus Rides into Jerusalem, The Very First Lord's Supper, The Man Who Carried the Cross for Jesus, The Easter Women and He's Risen! He's Alive! We have lots of videos and DVD's. The Legend of the Three Trees is a new one. This animated DVD presents the story of three trees and it teaches both children and adults the importance of their role in God's plan for the world and that God has a special purpose for each of us.



When checking out library items sign and date card found in item pocket and place card in library card file box. When you are finished place book in "return basket."

Remember, to receive credit record your name and item title on the contest sheet.

Winners for February will be announced in an upcoming weekend bulletin.

## Evangelism

"Do not be discouraged by the difficulty of keeping your focus on Me. I know that your heart's desire is to be aware of My Presence continually. This is a lofty goal; you aim toward it but never fully achieve it in this life. Don't let feelings of failure weigh you down. Instead try to see yourself as I see you. First of all, I am delighted by your deep desire to walk closely with Me through your life. I am pleased each time you initiate communication with Me. In addition, I notice the progress you have made since you first resolved to live in My presence."

"When you realize that your mind has wandered away from Me, don't be alarmed or surprised. You live in a world that has been rigged to distract you. Each time you plow through the massive distractions to communicate with Me, you achieve a victory. Rejoice in these tiny triumphs, and they will increasingly light up your days."

"Who will bring a charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us."

Romans 8:33-34

## Knit & Crochet Group



On Saturday February 4 approximately twenty women came together to knit or crochet hats, scarves and mittens for Hope's Door in Wisconsin Rapids.

Many brought completed projects.

Susan came from Wausau, bringing a large supply of yarn, her knitting machine and her desire to help. Jeanie from Care Wear (a charity knitting group) joined us also.

Everyone had a great time and we were able to teach, share ideas and make items. All went home with a project. We have a large assortment of knit ware to present to Hope's Door.

We have decided to continue meeting the first Saturday of every month from 10 AM until 3 PM. Stop in and check us out--we have the supplies--we can get you started on a project. Please...join us.

Thank you again to all who contributed yarn...it will be wisely used. Thanks to all who came. See you on March 3rd--bring sack lunch--beverages, goodies provided!

## Compassionate Friends



The Compassionate Friends Group is now up and running! As of now we have been blessed with eleven friends who will be visiting twelve members of our congregation

either in their homes, nursing homes, or assisted living.

Our friends began their visits in February, bringing their connection with the Lord along with devotional materials, church news, prayer and their compassion.

The needs of our Compassionate Friends are always changing and we welcome all who would care to join us and all who need our help.

We need and welcome your prayers to help give us confidence so we are able to show our loving concern and God's love to all.

### Compassionate Friends

**Available & willing to visit all in need**

**Contact: Church office, fill out pew card or call Lois Ver Voort  
715-421-2787**



## Spaghetti Supper Thank You

The annual Spaghetti Supper at St. John was another huge success. Thanks to all who contributed your time and provided delicious home-made desserts, and to those who just came to enjoy this Valentine's dinner!

The Ladies Evening Guild organizes this tasty event and would like to thank everyone who helped in any way. This annual dinner is a delightful meal and well received by the community. It would not be possible without the help of all of you who so willingly give of your time! Thank you again for supporting the Guild to make this supper so enjoyable.

We would also like to publicly thank our local funeral homes for so willingly sponsoring our ads in The

Daily Tribune. They are:

Higgins Funeral Home

Ritchay Funeral Home

Taylor Vollert & Jennings Funeral Home

A special thanks also goes to our local establishments that donated the marquee advertising:

Bancroft State Bank – Kellner

Country Tots Child Development Center

Mailboxes & Parcel Depot

Wisconsin Rapids Chamber of Commerce



## Bethesda Thrift Shop

Bethesda Thrift Shop in the Rapids Mall will be having clearance sales the early part of March. From Feb. 27 to March 3 we will have 50% off of all clothing and shoes. From March 5 through 17 we will have Bag Sales - all the clothing and shoes you can get into a grocery bag for one low price. On March 15 we will celebrate our 8th anniversary as a store with special sales that day as well. On March 19 the store will be completely stocked with our spring and summer clothing. Come early for best selection. Don't forget, we have NEW furniture and mattresses and many Easter items. Come in and support the folks at Bethesda.

## Letter From The Gideons

Dear Pastor Ader:

It was a great blessing to be a part of the worship service on February 12, 2012. The warm and gracious reception on the part of the membership at St. John Lutheran Church was genuinely felt and appreciated.

Your congregation's love for the Word is obvious. The offering of \$229.00 that was given is evidence of what we consider to be a partnership between the church and The Gideons International in providing God's Word to a lost world. This amount will purchase 46 Bibles that in their normal life time in a hotel can expose over 100,000 people to the Word of God.

Please know that these funds will be used in their entirety to provide Scriptures in the traffic lanes of life. All expenses to run The Gideons International are covered by the members themselves. Certainly we can pray for searching hearts to be touched--and for souls to be saved--by way of these Scriptures.

Thank you especially for your gracious hospitality in allowing us to participate in the worship service and your prayerful support of the Gideon work.

Sincerely Yours in Christ--  
Tom Walther, Gideon Presenter

## Invest in Ministry

Through the grace of God, Lutheran Church Extension Fund continues to provide low-cost loans and services to LCMS ministries across the country in ways that further His Kingdom. This is accomplished through LCEF's unique ministry-through-investment program. LCEF investors earn competitive interest rates, while ministries borrow at cost-effective loan rates. Contact LCEF for the latest information on investment interest rates at 1-800-843-5233 or visit [www.lcef.org](http://www.lcef.org).



## Christ in the Passover



Jesus' Last Supper was actually a Jewish Passover. Peter Blitshteyn of Jews for Jesus will re-create the traditional Passover service and explain how it foreshadowed Jesus' death and resurrection in a presentation called, "Christ in the Passover" at Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, 990 3rd Street, Port Edwards, WI, on Thursday, March 22, 2012 at 7 pm.

Peter Blitshteyn will set a table with items traditionally used at the Passover meal and detail their spiritual significance. Peter will also explain the connection between the events of the first Passover in Egypt and the redemption that Jesus accomplished, as well as the deep bond between the ancient Passover feast and the Christian communion celebration today.

Jews for Jesus has presented "Christ in the Passover" at over 38,000 churches. It has been enthusiastically received by Christians who appreciate learning more about the Jewish backgrounds of their faith.

Mr. Blitshteyn will be happy to answer any of your questions after his presentation. Call Trinity at 715-887-3021 for more information. The presentation is free to all who attend.

## Live Your Faith Live!

Titus 2:14-14 calls us to live godly lives in the present age. Join us **Sunday April 15<sup>th</sup>** from 2-5 pm at the Performing Arts Center of Wisconsin Rapids for an afternoon of live music by the **Tammy Borden Band**, an inspiring talk by **Micah Parker** of Trust guy Ministries and the incredible gifts of the **Jesus Painter**. You will be strengthened and encouraged in your faith, and be challenged to trust in God fully and to live upright, God pleasing lives in the here and now. **Tickets are \$5 each or \$20 per family and will go on sale March 15<sup>th</sup>**. To purchase tickets please contact Pastor Tim Ritter at 715-423-3260 or email [liveyourfaithlive@gmail.com](mailto:liveyourfaithlive@gmail.com)

**An Easter learning experience**



# **Journey to the Cross**



**Smell, taste, touch, hear, see, and experience Holy Week in new ways. Grab your passport and travel through sites Jesus visited from Palm Sunday through Easter.**

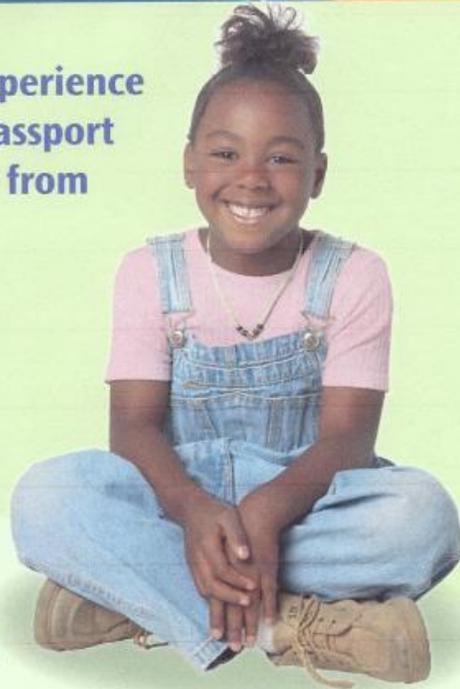
**Date:** Saturday March 31st 2012

**Time:** 10 am - 3 pm

**Place:** St John Lutheran - Kellner

**Rain or Shine**

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A family event for all ages!

An old spiritual song asks this question: "Were you there when they crucified my Lord?" In all honesty, we have to say no, but soon our church could have a different answer to that question.

St John Lutheran- Kellner will be hosting *Journey to the Cross*, an Easter learning experience on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

As a traveler, you have the opportunity to walk in Jesus' footsteps during Holy Week. Smell the aroma of anointing perfume, taste Passover food, feel a crown of thorns, and so much more. You will hear about Jesus from Bible witnesses and be a part of the Passion experience.

Please save March 31<sup>st</sup> on your calendar from 10 am to 3 pm. Come join us rain or shine at 8020 South Park Rd Wisconsin Rapids. For more information please call the church office at 715-423-7788.

There is no charge for this family event.

Please pray for all those involved—volunteers and journeyers—so that the Holy Spirit may truly bless our experience together.