

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church



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March 2015

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 Services

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten season, was February 18. St. John will continue to offer Mid-Week Lenten Services. The themes and service schedules are as follows:



Wednesday Morning Traditional Service at 10:30 am

We will be following the theme *The Parables of Lent* for these services. It will also be the theme for the Holy Week Services of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter.

Week 2, March 4

“Receive the Treasure: The Hidden Treasure and the Priceless Pearl” • Matthew 13:44-46
Two men give all that they have to buy objects of great worth. We who are priceless to Christ receive him who gave all that he had to call us his own.

Week 3, March 11

“Receive Mercy: The Good Samaritan” • Luke 10:25-37
A man beaten on the road gets help from an unlikely traveler. We who are often beaten down along the road of life encounter the healing of Christ through the cross.

Week 4, March 18

“Receive Grace: The Workers in the Vineyard” • Matthew 20:1-16
All workers in a vineyard

are given the same pay from the master, no matter how long they have labored. All who have been called by the Master are blessed by the same reward in Christ.

Week 5, March 25

“Receive Forgiveness: The Prodigal Son” • Luke 15:11-32
A wayward son returns to the forgiving embrace of his father, who welcomes him home. We who have strayed return again and again to the embrace of our Father, through the sacrifice of his Son.

Palm Sunday, March 29

“Receive Love: The Lost Sheep” • Luke 15:1-7
A shepherd leaves his 99 sheep to find the one who is lost. We who are lost in sin are found by our loving Shepherd, who heads into Jerusalem amid praise and palm branches.

Maundy Thursday, April 2

“Receive the Meal: The Great Banquet” • Luke 14:7-24
Those in low positions are invited to a place of honor by the host. We who are humbled by our sins and outcast by the world are welcomed by Christ to dine at his Holy Supper.

Good Friday, April 3

“Receive the Sacrifice: The Landowner and the Tenants” • Matthew 21:33-45
Tenants in a vineyard kill the son the master sent to gather the harvest. The Son of God is killed that we might receive the kingdom.

Easter Sunday, April 5

“Receive Eternal Life: The Wise and Foolish Builders” • Matthew 7:24-27 When a storm hits, the house built on the rock remains while one built on sand is washed away. We build our lives on Christ the Cornerstone.

Wednesday Evening Family Service at 6:30 pm

We will be following the theme *Questioned for Christ* for these services. Each service in the series focuses on figures from the story of the Passion of Christ who are questioned concerning their relationship to Jesus Christ.

The service for Week Two is called “A Question of Conviction” and includes a police interrogation of Nicodemus, the Pharisee who secretly conversed with Jesus by cover of night. “What are your convictions about Christ?”

The service for Week Three is called “A Question of Innocence” and includes a police interrogation of Mary Magdalene and another witness, who are accused of many things, but ultimately set free. “How are we declared innocent through Christ?”

The service for Week Four is called “A Question of Sacrifice” and includes a police interrogation of Barabbas, a criminal who was released by Pilate and replaced by Jesus. “How much did Christ sacrifice for us?”

The service for Week Five is called “A Question of Authority” and includes a police interrogation of John, the beloved disciple of Christ. “How does the ultimate authority of Christ affect our daily lives?”



Fellowship & Food

Quarterly throughout the coming year starting Sunday March 15. Potluck & Your Fellowship after the Sunday Service. A Dish to Pass & a Free Will Donation towards General Fund Church Expenses ~

Come Visit with your Church Family ~

Evangelism & Stewardship Committees



To The Generous Congregation of St. John

Thank you for your compassion during “Our 2014 Christmas for the Kids Program”. God Bless! Our congregation is a very generous and caring group of wonderful people! The response to our “Giving Tree” is a great example. The Human Care Board

150th Anniversary Committee Meeting: Change of meeting date

The Anniversary Committee will meet on Thursday, March 5th at 6:30 p.m. All sub-committees are asked to have a member present or a written report to update the full Committee on the progress of their portion of the celebration.



Scrip Scrap Corner

Despite the snow and cold outside it's not soon to shop the latest spring fashions for the entire family. Purchase Scrip and watch the rebates add up for St. John! With top brands for adults, teens and kids, you'll be ready in no time for Spring and Easter! Our profit total for February was \$165.45.



Lutheran Hour Broadcast

If you would like to sponsor the Lutheran Hour on WFHR 1320 AM at 9:00 AM please call the radio station at 715-424-1300 and ask for Bob or Chuck. Previously we had announced that WFHR would no longer be broadcasting the Lutheran Hour. As we become informed about the situation we will include updates.

The Lutheran Hour will be on the following radio stations on Sunday: WAXX 104.5 FM at 6:30 a.m.; WDLB 1450 AM at 8 a.m.; WDUX 92.7 FM at 8 a.m.; WSAU 99.9 FM at 8:30 a.m.; and WRVM 91.3 FM, 94.3 FM or 101.3 FM at 10 a.m.

March 1

"The True Author of Your Life Story"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz
When Christ's story becomes yours by faith, life changes. (2 Corinthians 7:10),

March 8

"Lifted Up"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz
When sinful pride lays us low, God's grace in Christ lifts us up again. (Psalm 103:8-12)

March 15

"The Power of God's Enduring Forgiveness and Grace"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz
Jesus offers reconciliation and restoration to those overcome by trouble and regret.
(John 16:33)

March 22

"No Regrets? Follow Jesus!"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz
In the end, forgiven sinners will not regret having followed Jesus. (Matthew 16:21-26)

March 29

"Show Me"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Ken Klaus
Jesus really did die and three days later He really did conquer death through His resurrection. (John 19:17-18)



Bethesda Thrift Shop

In March we begin our "end of the season" clearance sale with a Bag Sale from March 2 to 14. This sale includes all the clothing and/or shoes you can fit into a grocery bag for only \$8.00! On March 16, the store will be completely restocked with spring and summer clothing – so come in that week for the best selection of quality clothing. Getting a tax refund? We have a nice selection of NEW furniture and mattresses for your home. Stop in this month for some exciting shopping.



Spaghetti Supper Thank You

Despite the "cold" weather on Sunday, February 15, 2015 the annual Spaghetti Supper was a success. The Lord blessed us with a terrific turnout in the cold conditions. Thanks to all who contributed your time, provided delicious homemade desserts and to those who came to enjoy this Valentine dinner. A HUGE THANK YOU to the youth of our congregation, Kendra, Faith, Hope, Nathan, Mykenna, Josie and Carter who came and helped with serving desserts, busing tables, waitressing and helping out wherever they were needed. Also a special thank you to the men of the congregation who so generously help out each year with this event. The event would not be a success without the help of all of you who so willingly give of your time and talents! Thanks again for supporting the Evening Guild to make this event so enjoyable. We would also like to thank the local funeral homes who were so willing to sponsor our ads in the Daily Tribune: **Herman-Taylor Funeral Home and Ritchay Funeral Home.** A special thanks to the local businesses who generously donate their marquee advertising: **Country Tots Child Development Center, Bancroft State Bank-Kellner and Wisconsin Rapids Chamber of Commerce.—Ladies Evening Guild**



Immanuel Lutheran Celebration Auction

Immanuel Lutheran School's 9th Annual Celebration Auction will be held Saturday, March 14, at the Ridges Banquet Facility. The doors open at 4:30 PM, Dinner is Parmesan Crusted Chicken and Beef Medallions, price is \$25.00 per person. For more information or to make a reservation you may contact the Immanuel School office at 715-423-0272.

Lenten Devotionals and Coin Folders

The Lutheran Hour Ministries Lenten devotional booklets

"The Light Shines in the Darkness" and the Lenten Coin Folders are on the table in the narthex. Please return your Lenten Coin Folder to the drop off box in the narthex.



Ladies Aid Meeting

The Ladies Aid will be meeting on Thursday, March 5 at 1:00 PM. They are going to have a special guest speaker, Bev Dahn speaking on "Grief Share" It is a Bible based guide on dealing with grief of loss of someone to death, divorce, job loss or other loss. All members of the congregation are invited.—St. John Ladies Aid

Plain & Simply Pancakes Ash Wednesday Thank You

The Youth of St. John would like to thank all of their guests: Friends, Family and Congregation members for their great support of the Pancake Supper Hearts For Jesus Project. The youth collected \$351.41 to go towards a donation to Jeremiah's Crossing for an indoor arena, here locally in Babcock, WI. The youth hope to present this money to Jeremiah's Crossing at the close of their VBS week in June. Thank you for all of your support and in making it a great night of pancake eating. DQ Ice Cream Cake Winners for most guests turned into a tie: winners were Doescher & Pyburn Family.



Journey to the Cross

What is Journey to the Cross? You've never experienced Easter like this

Experience the road to Calvary and the path to the empty tomb in this experiential Easter event that deepens your appreciation for the Passion of Christ. Touch, taste, smell, see, hear and experience Bible events in real and memorable ways. Meet your Tour Guide and a small group of travelers at the Custom Station, get your Passport and check in. Go with your guide to Holy Land stations to meet people portraying Bible characters who describe Passion events. Your Passport will fill up with stamps creating a souvenir book that recalls Holy Week and this experience. Come visit us; been through it—tell others of it!

Journey to the Cross—Saturday, March 28 11:00 AM—2:00 PM Rain or Shine here at St. John Lutheran Church

So you might be gone on Saturday? Catch our Dress Rehearsal on Friday, March 27 at 6:00 PM. We will take a tour up to 15 people. Call church at 715-423-7788 to be put on first come basis list. Tour will leave approximately 6:10 PM. Need more information, contact Sue Helmuth at 715-423-8022 or Sandra Sweeney at 715-886-4864 or 715-572-5451.

