

THE ST. JOHN NEWS

April 2020

April 6, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ at St. John Lutheran Church:

Grace to you and peace from God, our heavenly Father, and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The Lord is with you. He is always with you. He will never leave you or forsake you. Just before he would go to the cross and leave his disciples, Jesus said to them, “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God. Believe also in me” (John 14:1–2). That is easier said than done, I know. We all have different reactions to what is going on and so we need to continue to treat each other with mercy and love in the same way we wish to be treated.

Due to the recent update to the governor’s shelter-in-place mandate, extending now until April 30, our services, Bible classes, and meetings are all suspended until the mandate either expires or is lifted. In the meantime, please enjoy the resources that are available to you:

Recorded Services: The most recent recorded service, along with pre-service music and post-service music, and a printable bulletin, are available through our homepage at www.stjohn-lcms.org. DVD copies of the services are also available for pickup in the narthex of the church.

Bible Classes and Past Sermons: Under the “Bible Study” tab at the top of our webpage, you can find links to previously recorded Bible classes, including Sunday morning studies of Scriptures of the day, along with the Tuesday morning Bible classes from the past. Under the “Sermons” tab, you can find recordings of sermons going back several years.

I pray that all of you are doing well and remaining content through this difficult situation. I am attempting to be in contact with as many of you as I can through email. If you have not received an email from me, please send me an email. For those without email, I will continue to reach out to you with phone calls.

I eagerly look forward to the day when all of this is over and we can all be back in the house of our Lord together. I am encouraged by Solomon’s words in Ecclesiastes 1: “What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun. Is there a thing of which it is said, ‘See, this is new’? It has been already in the ages before us. There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of later things yet to be among those who come after” (1:9–11).

While Covid-19 has been given the descriptor as a “novel” coronavirus, and while the threat of this virus has caused massive upheaval around the world, such a situation is still not new. Our

country and our world has seen devastating plagues and disasters before. No one seeks to make light of them, but we do well to remember that mankind has recovered time and time again. This is truly God's own doing, not our own. We give him thanks for his continued presence in our lives and in this world. Without him, all would be far worse. Without God with us, all would be lost.

What will our lives look like when this pandemic is all said and done? No one knows, but God alone. And he is the best one to know. Continue in faith and trust in him. He will not let you down. God Almighty will guard and keep you through all things, and he will bring you safely to himself when Christ our Lord returns on the Last Day to raise us to new and everlasting life. And take comfort in that unchanging truth, that you are redeemed by Christ Jesus, all of your sins are forgiven, and you will live forever, free from illness and injury, pain and suffering, sin and death. Until then, "thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!" (1 Corinthians 15:57).

In Christ's love for you his people, precious in his sight,

Pastor Caithamer

Let Us Pray



For Peace and Comfort: Beth and family at the death of father Bob , Sherry and family at the death of sister Ronna, Herb & Virginia at the death of Virginia's brother Steve

Following Surgery: Cookie, Dave

For Healing and Recovery: Cindy, Gilbert, Chris, Jim, John, Opal, Hendricks -grandson of Dan & Joanie, Maria, Merv, Brett-cousin of the Kindts', Jessica-granddaughter of Bob & Joan, Jacob -great grandson of Bob & Joan, Joan -mother of Bill, Judy -mother of Rochelle, Rebecca-daughter of Marvin & Esther, Roy -father of Anne , Dan -brother of Bonnie, Todd -grandson of Harold

For Peace, Hope and Comfort: Stan -father of Lynn, Betty, Deb-sister of Pam, Philip -son of Starley ,

For Successful Treatments: Earl, Jayne, Linda, Roxy, Jeanette, Joan, Nancy

For our Military: Roberto, Adam, Joshua, Nick, Zachary, Taylor, Andy, Brandon, Suzzanna, Ben, Allyson

For our Missionaries: Pastor Randrianasolo Dembiniana Havanjanakary and the Madagascar Lutheran Seminary, Pastor Magnus Bengston and Lielsalaca Lutheran Church in Latvia, Pastor Obot Ite and the Lutheran Mission in Kingston, Jamaica

**VBS this Summer...
Rainforest Explorers:
Jesus Leads the Way!!**



Save the dates of Monday, June 22 through Friday, June 26 from 9:00am through 11:30am. Get the word out to your kids and grand-kids and neighbors' kids and all the kids you know! We welcome kids of ages 3 years old through completed 5th grade. Other youth and adults are welcome to volunteer. If you would like to help with our VBS, please contact Pastor Caithamer. Sign ups and registrations will be available soon!

Support the 6th and 7th grade St. John students and their trips to Washington, DC by purchasing Yankee Candle products. Orders can be placed online or order forms can be returned to the school office. All orders are due by Wednesday, April 8. Online orders can be placed through July 6.



Ram Rebate Gift Cards

Purchase gift cards for hundreds of stores and restaurants through Ram Rebate and a percentage will go towards your tuition or a school or church account of your choice. Stop by the school office or visit www.shopwithscrip.com or www.myscripwallet.com for details. In Stock cards are available during school office hours. Orders will be placed the first Monday of the month.

New Church Photo Directory Dates:

We have rescheduled the church photo directory for the following dates: August 4 and 5, 18, 19, and 20 and 31; September 1. More information will be shared in future bulletins and newsletters.

The Living Alternatives Walk is now virtual so we can walk wherever we are and get sponsors by May 15. So, it's not too late to register to be a walker! We will gather together for a celebration at a later date/time to be determined. Here is the link to Register, be sure to select St. John Lutheran Champaign as your team.

<https://secure.ministrysync.com/ministrysync/event/website/home/?e=19917>

You can also make a donation here: <https://secure.ministrysync.com/ministrysync/event/website/?m=4855535#1>

Living Alternatives still remains open now to help those in need and lead people to Christ! Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

**Prairie Gardens
Gift Cards**

Before you start your spring planting, get a \$10 gift card from St. John PTF.

Gifts cards can be used on any purchase at Prairie Gardens. The cards do not expire and will carry a balance if you spend less than \$10.

Gift cards are available in the school office.



Save the Date

The 2nd-5th grade performance of "Amerikids" is TBD. Ice Cream Social following performance

Mission Statement:

United in faith, we serve the Kingdom of God by building lives that are rooted in the Word, centered on Christ, and motivated by Grace; to reflect Christ's love and share His Gospel with all.

Dear Families and Friends,

**INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN UPCOMING
PHOTOGRAPHY EVENT**

To celebrate our church family and strengthen the bond within our congregation, we welcome you to be a part of our upcoming new directory. We need you to make our directory complete!

A new directory:

- Preserves this special time in the life our church
- Becomes a lasting record of our current membership
- Helps us connect faces with names

We are partnering with Lifetouch for this important project. Lifetouch is providing the directory at no cost to our church. Every family photographed receives a complimentary directory and an 8x10 portrait.

PHOTOGRAPHY Dates:

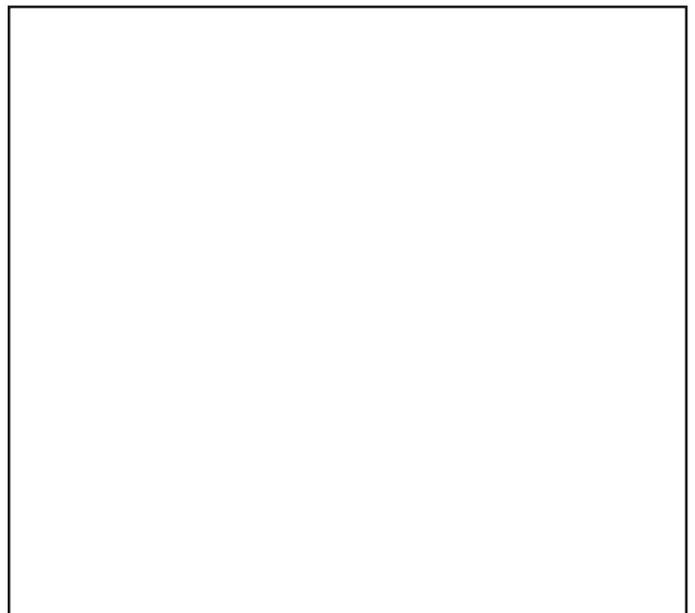
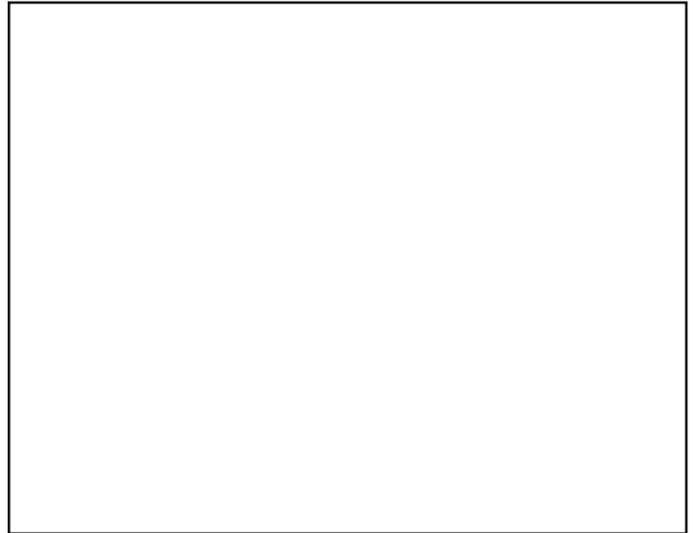
Tentative August

For your convenience, all photography and portrait viewing will take place at our church with no sitting fee. You will have a variety of poses taken and one pose will be selected for the directory. In addition to your complimentary 8x10, you will have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits on the day of your portrait session. Lifetouch's portrait price lists are available in the church office for those would like them prior to photography.

Be sure to take advantage of the opportunity to be professionally photographed. We are looking forward to seeing you in our directory.

The Evangelism Board

P.S. Lifetouch will give you a coupon for \$5 off your purchase of pictures if you bring in a food donation to your appointment to help stock our food pantry. Items the food pantry needs are: canned fruit, jelly, soups (no cream soups please), spaghetti sauce, straight spaghetti noodles.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 
- 1 A.J., Greg , Bob
 - 2 Mike, Mary, Larry
 - 4 Hannah, David, Bonnie Lynch, Preslee
 - 5 Lucas, Kate , John
 - 6 Brent, Gebres
 - 7 Jill, Jaclyn, Michele
 - 8 Dave, Judy , Elise , Tiernee
 - 9 Cissy, Angela, Katie ,
Allie
 - 10 Stephanie , Whitney
 - 11 Tish Cundiff, Jordan Lancaster
 - 12 Matthew , Nicole , Micah
 - 13 Maci
 - 14 Chris , Layla
 - 15 Douglas, Kathryn, Thomas
 - 16 Andrew , Jamie

- 17 Sophie, Tyler, Zach, Betty, Victoria
- 18 Julie, Alexis
- 19 Kurt, Emily, Brad, Virginia
- 20 Anne
- 21 Andrea
- 22 Colin, Kimberly, Monica, Blake
- 23 Marian, Maura, Jordan, Anita
- 24 Matthew, Paula, Lana, Jayne
- 25 Doug, Mike
- 26 Jeff, Ashley, Brandon, Curt , Noah, Nathan, Duane
- 27 Noelle , Liam
- 28 Andrea
- 29 Tom



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Gary & Dee (38)
- 5 Earl & Marlene (62)
- 13 Jim & Dot (68)
- 16 Elmer & Tami (26), Dan &
Karen (32), Randy & Anne (43)
- 20 Kendall & Brenda (18)
- 22 Philip & Donna (53), Bill & Kim (25)
- 24 Michael & Alice (49), Mark & Colleen (44)
- 25 Robert & Karen (11)
- 29 Tom & Nancy (25)



ATTENDANCE FIGURES FOR MARCH



Sundays	8:00	Comm	10:45	Comm
Mar 1	148	134	99	83
Mar 8	131	107	128	95
Mar 15	99	86	78	53
Mar 22				
Mar 29				
Wednesdays	3:30	Comm	7:15	Comm
Mar 4	101	85	45	38
Mar 11	83	65	28	24
Mar 18	29	19	n/a	n/a
Mar 25				



2020

Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day." Matthew 17:22-23

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																																																																									
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">March 2020</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	March 2020							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">May 2020</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	May 2020							S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31								<p>1</p> <p>Lenten Service Online</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
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<p>26 <i>3rd Sunday of Easter</i></p> <p>Service Online</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:00 Parish Ed 7:00 Youth Board</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p><i>Pastor Caithamer's day off: Fridays</i></p>	<p><i>Church Office 359-1123</i></p> <p><i>School Office 359-1714</i></p>																																																																																																									