

THE ST. JOHN NEWS

February 2023

Valentine's Day Then and Now

One of the things we are pretty good at as Americans is transforming special days into extravaganzas. The birth of our Lord is a big deal in the Christian Church, and rightly so. It started with a minor celebration included in the feast of the Epiphany. False teachings arose in the early church and motivated the Church to recognize the Nativity of Our Lord as its own holy day. St. Nicholas of Myra got attached to the celebration of Christmas, a saint who was known for giving money and gifts to the poor and children. Over time, this connection grew and Christmas became a highly celebrated holiday in Europe. When it really caught on in the United States, it morphed into the day we know so well today for Santa Claus, Christmas trees, Christmas lights, presents, cookies, caroling, feasting, and revelry. It has become such an American celebration that it is celebrated just as much by unbelievers as by Christians.

Another such example is the Resurrection of Our Lord. This high holy day was of utmost importance in the early Church. It had its own celebration early on and had its own day attached to the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after March 21. Many symbols became attached to the Lord's resurrection, the day that has become known as Easter. Butterflies, Easter lilies, and eggs are some of those symbols highlighting the concept of new life that comes with Jesus' raising from death to life. With life bursting forth in the spring months, rabbits were soon seen as a part of the festivities. Now, it is the Easter bunny who makes clandestine visits to children's homes to initiate a hunt for Easter eggs. Chocolate candies and baskets filled with treats and gifts are now commonplace throughout American families.

It is no surprise that this has occurred with Valentine's Day as well. As you might suspect, Valentine's Day was not always known for hearts and flowers and romantic displays of emotion. This day too has its roots in the early Christian Church. February 14 has long marked the day on the Church year calendar that commemorates St. Valentine. There is not much that is definitively known about Valentine, but there is quite a bit that is historically attached to this individual.

Some historical documents appear to mention at least two distinct men named Valentine. These men were said to live in the 3rd century and to have died under the rule of Emperor Claudius II. One of these Valentines was said to have been a bold proclaimer of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and was imprisoned by the emperor for not showing proper loyalty to the empire. Some sources say that Valentine's jailer had a daughter who was sick and was miraculously healed by Valentine. As familiarity grew between Valentine and the girl, Valentine would send her notes of encouragement as she struggled with her illness, before her healing. This has been said to be the origin of note-giving on Valentine's Day.

Another Valentine was said to be in direct violation of Emperor Claudius's demand regarding the marrying of young men. Claudius had declared that the young men were more valuable as soldiers and so he had forbidden these potential warriors from marrying. Valentine was known for secretly marrying these men to the women they loved. Valentine was subsequently executed once this secret practice was discovered.

Greetings have been given on February 14 going back as far as the Middle Ages. The tradition has continued and has grown, especially in the United States. Now, Valentine's Day is known for seeing a plethora of reds and pinks, along with the buying and giving of flowers, candy, cards, jewelry, and other such gifts. The name Valentine is most closely connected to that special someone in a person's life.

Hidden in the past is the real history of Valentine's Day, the story of at least one faithful Christian who bore that name. Whether two different men, or one who has a variety of stories attached to his name, Valentine was a devout Christian who would not give up the faith. He shared the love of Christ with others, including those who many would not consider their neighbors. For Valentine, all were in need of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and he was all too happy to share the love of Christ with others. He was even willing to give up his life for the sake of Christ and his kingdom.

We remember St. Valentine on the 14th of February as a faithful Christian who was executed for the Christian faith. And we give thanks to God for his faithfulness to his people through all time. Through his faithful servants, the Lord God has delivered the Gospel through time here to us. We share the same faith as those treasured saints who have gone before us, including St. Valentine.

The Lord bless your remembrance of St. Valentine and your celebration of your cherished loved ones.

In Christ's service,

Pastor Caithamer

You're Invited... To join us for our Lenten midweek services starting with Ash Wednesday on February 22, 2023. We will have services at 3:30pm and 7:15pm, which include the Lord's Supper. A Lenten theme will be announced soon!

Let Us Pray

For Healing and Recovery: Greg -brother of Joyce , Mike , Mimi , David -grandfather of Sara and Ryan, Linda, Bentley -great grandson of Bob & Joan, Herb, Charlene, Karla, Gary, Judy, Brian, Larry, Teresa -godchild of Bob & Joan, Barbara -family friend of Bob & Joan, John, Hendricks -grandson of Dan & Joanie, Maria, Merv, Rebecca -daughter of Marvin & Esther, Roy - father of Anne, Todd -grandson of Harold, Brett -cousin of the Kindts'

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

For Successful Treatments: Dan, Nancy, Barb, Luke, Earl, Linda, Joan, Jeanette, Nancy

For our Military: Nick, Andy, Brandon, Zachary, David



New Member Class – New Member Class is starting Sunday, February 5th at 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. This class is intended for those who would like to know more about Lutheranism and are interested in becoming members of St. John. All of our current members are invited and encouraged to attend this class as a refresher course in the Lutheran faith. It also is a blessing to new members to get to meet and know current members. Please email Pastor Caithamer with any questions.

Fellowship Board will have a meeting on February 7th at 5:15pm.

Young Adults Group will be meeting February 10th and 24th in the Fellowship Hall starting at 6:00pm. There will be a devotion and games. You are welcome to bring food to share. Anyone between the ages of 18-35 are welcome to join. If you have any questions, please contact Sara.

The Ladies of St. John are invited to a salad luncheon on Tuesday, February 14th at noon in the overflow. Please bring a salad to share. There is a sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board by the Fellowship Hall so that we can plan accordingly. Questions? Cindy

Vacation Bible School—
The time for VBS planning has arrived. The theme for this year is "God's Living Water", and it will be held June 19-23. We will be having a meeting on Saturday, February 18 at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone who is interested is welcome to help us get our plans underway.

February E.A.T. Night
@ Panera
Monday, February 13, 4-8pm
Panera is giving back 20% of our purchases!
Bring in the flyer or show it on your phone to make sure that the proceeds will be donated to St. John Lutheran School.
Don't forget to get your \$25 Panera Gift Card from Ram Rebate in the school office.



Save the Date!
Show Me the Dough
Fundraiser
Begins:
Tuesday, February 21st
Orders Due:
Monday, March 6th
Dough-livery Date:
Wednesday, March 22nd
*forms will be on the
narthex table*

Stewardship Corner—Matthew 4:20 – "Immediately they left their nets and followed him." Discipleship cost Peter and Andrew everything they had. They left their trade, their hometown, their families, and they followed Jesus. God has called us to the same discipleship, the same devotion, though the exact details of how that is lived out will vary. The important thing is this: we know that all we have is the Lord's, to be used for His purpose. We are His disciples and are ready to follow where He leads.



February Music Notes



It is a snowy day in January as I look ahead to next month. The Epiphany season will come to its end on February 19, when we observe the Transfiguration of our Lord. After that we “put away” our Alleluias until Easter, and prepare for Lent’s beginning on Ash Wednesday.

Schedule for February-

Sunday	February 5	5 th Sunday p. Epiphany	Alleluia Ringers
Sunday	February 12	6 th Sunday p. Epiphany	Men’s or Mixed Choir t.b.d.
Sunday	February 19	Transfiguration	Brass and other instruments
Wednesday	February 22	Ash Wednesday	
Sunday	February 26	Lent 1	Men’s or Mixed Choir t.b.d.
Sunday	March 5	Lent 2	Alleluia Ringers

One of the hymns that we regularly sing for the Transfiguration is “O wondrous type” (LSB 413). The original Latin text dates from the 15th century. The tune “Deo Gracias” (or “Agincourt Carol”) also dates back to the 15th century. The original text of the Agincourt Carol celebrated the defeat in 1415 of the French forces led by King Charles VI by the English army led by Henry V. This is another prime example of taking a secular tune and fitting to it a stirring hymn text!

*O wondrous type! O vision fair of glory that the Church may share,
which Christ upon the mountain shows, where brighter than the sun he glows!*

*With Moses and Elijah nigh the incarnate Lord holds converse high;
and from the cloud, the Holy One bears record to the only Son.*

*With shining face and bright array, Christ deigns to manifest today
what glory shall be theirs above who joy in God with perfect love.*

*And faithful hearts are raised on high by this great vision’s mystery;
for which in joyful strains we raise the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.*

*O Father, with th’ eternal Son, and Holy Spirit, ever One,
vouchsafe to bring us by thy grace to see thy glory face to face.*

I am interested in hearing from you who have favorite hymns that are not in our LSB. Perhaps we could do a pre-service hymn sing including some of these. Let me know what you think!

Soli Deo Gloria,
Keith

St. John Lutheran School & Little Lamb Preschool Open House

Tuesday, February 28, 5-7pm

Invite friends, neighbors, family members, and anyone else to come meet our teachers, see our classrooms and ask questions about our school. Enrollment for 2023-2024 begins March 1st.



Ice Skating Party

Saturday February 11, 6-8pm

UI Ice Arena - Free Event -
Everyone is welcome!

Whether you are a skating pro or a beginner,
come out for a great night of fun and
fellowship!

Admission and skate rental included.



Pasta Dinner & Talent Show

Thanks to everyone who came out last week to enjoy a delicious meal, bid on delectable desserts, and watch all of the talented performers! The 6th & 7th grade families appreciate your support of their class trip fundraiser. The total funds raised was over \$2800!!

St. John’s School Art Class is seeking donations for used Legos (regular sized) for their end of year Art Show in April/May. Please drop off donations to the church or school office. Thank you.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Faith, Kris | 20 Laura, Sherry, Lisa |
| 2 Glen, Morgan, Kelsey | 21 Dominic, Riane, Joyce |
| 3 Elise, David, Chris, Cindy, Nancy, Wesley | 22 Jonathan, Brad, Hannah, Travis |
| 4 Erica, Andy, Lois, Bill, Derek | 23 Emily, Mark |
| 5 Dan, Alex, Justin, Ben, Jay | 24 Bob, Gered, Jonathan, Fiona |
| 6 Elizabeth | 26 Christopher |
| 7 Sara, Eunice, Dee, Don, Henry | 27 Ella, Chris |
| 8 Blake, Nicki | 28 Louis |
| 9 Jill, Paul | |
| 10 Lynn, Ellen | |
| 12 Emily | |
| 13 Anne, Caitlin | |
| 14 Alicia | |
| 15 Mar, Payton, Peter, Carol | |
| 16 Amanda, Dan, Yvonne, Julie | |
| 17 Allie, Beth | |
| 18 Brice, Ralph | |
| 19 Linda, Jessica, Jenna, Paulos, Kelly, Emma | |

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Pat & Cindy (34)
- 8 Larry & Gale (43)
- 10 Dave & Michelle (22)
- 11 Scott & Katie (17)
- 13 Marvin & Esther (66)
- 14 Brad & Sarah (12)
- 15 Gary & Tricia (10)
- 16 Tony & Jill (43); Doug & Christy (49)
- 20 Terry & Janice (57)
- 21 Glen & Diane (64)
- 25 Gary & Ronda (45)

The Church Office email is
Churchoffice—at—stjohn-lcms.church
Thank You.

St. John Athletics

Boys Basketball—Home Games

Thursday, 2/2 HOME vs. Our Savior's, 6p

*Last home game of the season

Girls Volleyball—Home Matches

Monday, 2/6 HOME vs. Thomasboro, 6p

Tuesday, 2/7 HOME vs. Trinity, Danville 6p

Monday, 2/13 HOME vs. Next Generation, 6p

*Last home game of the season

GO RAMS!

PLEASE notify the church office (359-1123) if your
birthday or anniversary is missing or incorrect.

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.



FEBRUARY

Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.
1 Corinthians 12:3

2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																																																																		
<p><i>Church Office</i> 359-1123</p> <p><i>School Office</i> 359-1714</p>	<p><i>Pastor Caithamer's</i> <i>day off: Fridays</i></p>		<p>1 8:10 Chapel 5:45 Midweek School, Lifelight 6:00 Handbells 7:15 Holy Communion</p>	<p>2 9:30 Lifelight 6:00 Mixed & Men's Choirs</p>	3	4																																																																																																		
<p>5 <i>5th Sunday after Epiphany</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion 1:00 New Member Class</p>	6	<p>7 10:00 Adult Bible Class 5:15 Fellowship Board 5:30 Evangelism 6:00 Trustees, School Board</p>	<p>8 8:10 Chapel 5:45 Midweek School, Lifelight 6:00 Handbells 7:15 Holy Communion</p>	<p>9 7:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast @ Sammy's 9:30 Lifelight 6:00 Mixed & Men's Choirs</p>	<p>10 6:00 Young Adults Group</p>	<p>11 6:00 Ice Skating Party @ U of I Ice Arena</p>																																																																																																		
<p>12 <i>6th Sunday after Epiphany</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion 1:00 New Member Class</p>	<p>13 4:00 E.A.T. Night @ Panera 5:30 Finance Board</p>	<p>14  12:00 Women's Luncheon 6:00 Elders</p>	<p>15 8:10 Chapel 10:00 Adult Bible Class 5:45 Midweek School, Lifelight 6:00 Handbells 7:15 Holy Communion</p>	<p>16 9:30 Lifelight 6:00 Mixed & Men's Choirs</p>	<p>17 <i>No School</i> <i>Newsletter Deadline</i></p>	<p>18 9:00 VBS Meeting</p>																																																																																																		
<p>19 <i>Transfiguration</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion 1:00 New Member Class</p>	<p>20 <i>No School</i> </p>	<p>21 10:00 Adult Bible Class 6:00 Council</p>	<p>22 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 8:10 Chapel 3:30 Holy Communion 5:45 Midweek School, Lifelight 6:00 Handbells 7:15 Holy Communion</p>	<p>23 9:30 Lifelight 6:00 Mixed & Men's Choirs</p>	<p>24 6:00 Young Adults Group</p>	25																																																																																																		
<p>26 <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion 1:00 Voter's Meeting</p>	27	<p>28 10:00 Adult Bible Class 5:00 School Open House</p>			<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">January 2023</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>	January 2023							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"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">March 2023</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>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	March 2023							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
January 2023																																																																																																								
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																																																																																																						
March 2023																																																																																																								
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																																																																																																		