

THE ST. JOHN NEWS

March 2022

You Meant It for Evil, but God Meant It for Good

Lenten Sermon Series and Reflection

The Proper Preface for the season of Lent, which is prayed before the singing of the Sanctus in the Divine Service, begins with these words: “It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth.”

That last statement marks the purpose of the season of Lent, made possible by the life and death of Jesus Christ: “That with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth.” Lent is a forty-day season of preparation for the remembrance of Jesus’ suffering and death. This preparation is to be “joyful” even though it anticipates the crucifixion and death of Jesus. We are called upon to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. “Paschal” means “passion”, focusing us on the suffering of our Lord. The concepts and themes promoted by the Preface and by the season of Lent seem so contradictory. The suffering, torture, crucifixion, and death of Jesus Christ is to be celebrated by us Christians joyfully in sincerity and truth. Why this call for joy in the midst of tragedy? How can the Friday upon which Jesus was crucified, died, and buried be called “Good”?

Our sermon series for Lent will thoroughly explore this fascinating concept by walking through the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the Gospel of St. Luke, his 22nd chapter through the beginning of his 24th chapter. Our study of these sacred texts will be guided by the prolific statement made by the patriarch Joseph. He had been sold into slavery by his brothers who hated him. They lied to their father about Joseph’s death. By God’s grace and intervention, Joseph rose to power in Egypt and had ample opportunity to mete out his revenge against his brothers, especially once their father, Jacob, died. Joseph’s brothers expected this. Learning of their expectation, the mighty Joseph wept and spoke the words that will direct our Lenten meditations: “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today” (Genesis 50:19–20).

“You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good.” Those words resonate with later words from St. Paul: “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose...If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:28, 31). This priceless truth is most beautifully exposed by Jesus with his suffering and death on the cross. The greatest of all injustices—God’s holy Son dying at the hands of wicked men—actually works salvation for us by winning for us the forgiveness of sins.

We will further explore this glorious work of God’s salvation this season of Lent, growing in our appreciation of the sacrifice of Jesus and treasuring the tension of celebrating the passion of the Christ. With joyful hearts, we prepare for the joyless death of Jesus, who for the joy set before him, endured the cross and suffered its shame (Hebrews 12:2). So much beauty rising from the greatest ugliness. So much life bursting forth from the greatest of deaths.

The Lord bless you with his grace this Lententide as you are drawn once more to the passion of Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. In his suffering, dying, and death, you have forgiveness, life, and salvation. That is God’s great work for you, his treasured possession.

In Christ’s service,

Pastor Caithamer

You're Invited...To join us for our Lenten midweek services starting with Ash Wednesday on March 2, 2022. We will have services at 3:30pm and 7:15pm, which include the Lord's Supper.

2022 Lenten Midweek Sermon Series

You Meant It for Evil, but God Meant It for Good

Created by Rev. Dr. Jeff Gibbs

Ash Wednesday	March 2	<i>You Meant It for Evil, but God Meant It for Good</i> Luke 22:1-13
Lenten Midweek 1	March 9	<i>He Was Numbered among the Transgressors</i> Luke 22:14, 24-38
Lenten Midweek 2	March 16	<i>The Real Battle</i> Luke 22:39-62
Lenten Midweek 3	March 23	<i>When You See Such Blind Ignorance, What Do You Think?</i> Luke 22:63-23:1
Lenten Midweek 4	March 30	<i>Faith for a Complicated World</i> Luke 23:1-25
Lenten Midweek 5	April 6	<i>That Day, and Today</i> Luke 23:26-43

Let Us Pray

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

For Peace and Comfort: Jonathan & Jaylyn and family at the death of Jaylyn's father Arnold, Merv and family at the death of Merv's sister Myra, Sara McPike and family at the death of her grandmother Sharon, Jim & Jennifer and family at the death of Jennifer's grandmother Connie,

Following Surgery: Benny

For Healing and Recovery: Lindsey, Lindermann, Lola, Judy, Jim, Roger -father of Stephanie, Jim, Brian, Larry, Teresa-godchild of Bob & Joan, Barbara - family friend of Bob & Joan, Maelynn -granddaughter of Rick and Rita, Karla, Whitney-wife of Ellie's grandson, Barbara -friend of the congregation, John, Tom, Hendricks - grandson of Dan & Joanie, Maria, Merv, Judy-mother of Rochelle, Rebecca-daughter of Marvin & Esther, Roy - father of Anne, Dan- brother of Bonnie, Todd-grandson of Harold, Brett -cousin of the Kindts'

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

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



LWML meeting Tuesday, March 15th includes election of the officers for Treasure and Human Care plus selecting members to lead devotions or a Bible study at our September, November, January, March, and May meetings. Continue planning for the Salad Supper on April 23 and the Hosting of the September 14th LWML CID Champaign Zone Fall Rally. Update on the WML CID Convention March 29-30 in Springfield. All St. John of women are welcome to come and join in the fellowship. **Note:** The fiscal year for mites (Mission Grants) ends in March. Please bring your mite box or mites to the meeting or if can't attend please put your mites in the Big Mite box in the Narthex or in the LWML Box in the Church Office. The mites will be sent to CID March 16 so all 2021-2022 LWML CID Mission Grants can be funded. Questions, please contact Linda K or Linda T



March Music Notes



Our Alleluia Ringers have resumed Wednesday evening rehearsals, at 6:00 in church balcony. They will be ringing on March 6, Maundy Thursday (April 14) and Easter (April 17). We invite you to join us. Please note there will be no Handbell rehearsal on Wednesday, March 16.

Mixed and Men's Choirs, take note! We are getting ready to resume operations, singing the Lord's praises and adding our voices to our worship from the balcony. Initially, rehearsals will be taking place between Sunday morning services. Please be in touch with Keith to indicate your (renewed or new) interest and availability.

We are also gathering instrumentalists to again enhance our music making in worship. If you play an instrument – strings, winds, brass, percussion- please be in touch to let me know.

We have had seven weeks of the season of Epiphany. Now with Ash Wednesday we once again begin our Lenten pilgrimage, through Lent towards Holy Week and the glorious celebration of Easter Day. While all Sundays are a "min-Easter" celebration of Christ's resurrection, we modify our Lenten observance slightly in observance of the penitential nature of the season. We do not sing Alleluia before or after the Gospel, and largely eliminate hymns with the word in their text. We do not sing the canticle *Gloria in excelsis Deo at the beginning of the Divine Service*. As our post-communion canticle we will be singing Hymn 422 "On my heart imprint Your image."

You may observe that this hymn uses the same tune as the one adjacent to it in our hymnal - #421 "Jesus, grant that balm and healing." There are a number of hymn tunes in the LSB that are used with more than one text. Five of them appear with four different texts. Of these five, only one of them is used with a Lenten text – "Southwell" to which we sing "O Christ, you walked the road" as #424.

*O Christ, You walked the road our wandering feet must go.
You faced with us temptation's power and fought our ancient foe.
No bread of earth alone can fill our hungering hearts.
Lord, help us seek Your living Word, the food Your grace imparts.*

Do you know how to use the indexes in the LSB to find this kind of information? Do you know that our library contains the wonderful "Hymnal Companion" to the LSB which has a wealth of information about both the music and the texts of everything in it? It is kept up in the balcony where I refer to it often, but you are always welcome to borrow it.

Soli Deo Gloria, Keith



A very heartfelt thank you to all who sponsored, helped with, or participated in the St. John School Trivia Night on February 5. It was a fun evening filled with trivia, snacks, friends, and lots of laughs. In the midst of this, \$10,190 was raised for the Parent Teacher Fellowship of the school! Thanks be to God for the generosity and kindness of so many.

The March E.A.T. Night will be at Billy Barooz on
Monday, March 7, ALL DAY!

Billy Barooz is giving back 10% of our dine-in and gift card purchases!
(Carryout and alcohol not included.)

Tell your friends, family, co-workers – spread the word!



Want to support St. John Lutheran School and Little Lamb Preschool?

Our teachers have created wishlists on Amazon. Visit the school website, www.stjohnls.com, to see each list. See the bulletin board by the fellowship hall for other donation requests. For other donation and giving opportunities, contact the school office.



Mary Martha will meet March 10th at 1:30pm in the overflow. All ladies are welcome to attend.

Vacation Bible School— The time for VBS planning has arrived. The theme for this year is "Friends of Luther", and it will be held June 20-24. We will be having a meeting on Saturday, March 26 at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone who is interested is welcome to help us get our plans underway.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Esther | 25 Roger |
| 2 Roger | 26 Bill |
| 3 Megan | 27 Audrey , Alex |
| 4 John , Judy , Aimee , Tara | 28 Chuck , Fionna , Amelia , Isabelle , Jake , Teri |
| 5 Sheree , David , Rollin | 29 Caitlyn , Jaxon , Judy , Shirley |
| 7 Nick , David , Cole , Maxine | 30 Chris , Jed |
| 8 Zachary , Lauren , Dale , Dan , Bryan , Zach | 31 Kevin , Bob , Lois , Gale , Angi |
| 9 Lucas , Kathy , Tracy , Vicky | |
| 10 Nick | |
| 12 Anna , David , Rick | |
| 13 Richard , Kristina , Beverly | |
| 14 Don , Nancy , Jackie , Zachariah | |
| 15 Jesse , Clinton , Rod , David | |
| 16 Ruth , Kathy | |
| 17 Adam , Daniel | |
| 18 Oscar | |
| 19 Scott , David , Michael , Arnold , Susan | |
| 20 Will | |
| 21 Olivia , Rachel | |
| 22 Dan , Kendall , Pam , Isaac | |
| 23 Kathy , Keelyn | |

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 2 Larry & Marilyn (48) | 25 Lon & Betty (27) |
| 3 David & Anthea (10) | 29 Brian & Donna (19) |
| 4 Greg & Sue (45) | |
| 11 Craig & Shirley (22); Roger & Karen (45) | |
| 23 Taylor & Christina (9) | |

PLEASE notify the church office (churchoffice—at—stjohn-lcms.org or 359-1123) if your birthday or anniversary is missing or incorrect.

Chapel Offerings: Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry is a national human-care ministry embracing the unique, calming nature and skills of purebred Golden Retrievers. The LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs are a bridge for compassionate ministry, opening doors for conversation about faith and creating opportunities to share the mercy, compassion, presence and proclamation of Jesus Christ.

Chapel Offering for the 1st Wednesday of each month will be food items for Lutheran Child and Family Services.

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.



...looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2

2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																																																																		
<table border="1"> <tr><th colspan="7">February 2022</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> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	February 2022							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						<table border="1"> <tr><th colspan="7">April 2022</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> <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> </table>	April 2022							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	<p>1</p> <p>10:00 Adult Bible Class 5:15 Fellowship Board 6:00 Trustees, Evangelism 6:30 School Board</p>	<p>2 Ash Wednesday</p> <p>8:10 Chapel 3:30 Holy Communion 5:45 Midweek School, Lifelight 6:00 Handbells 7:15 Holy Communion</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:00 Lifelight 6:00 Lifelight</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
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