



March Newsletter

224 Mary Ave, Springfield, MN 56087 • Phone: (507) 723-5397 • www.sjclmc.org • Office Hours: Tue - Fri 9am - 2pm CST

As you read this, we find ourselves already a week into the 2023 Lenten season. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which fell on February 22 this year, and lasts 40 days (not including Sundays) before Easter. What is the deal with Lent, and why do we place ash on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday? Let's take a moment to look at where this church tradition originated, and how it can still be a valuable part of our Christian walk.

"LENT is an English word (stemming from an Anglo-Saxon word for "spring" and related to the English word "lengthen") that refers to the penitential period preceding Easter. Early Christians felt that the magnitude of the Easter celebration called for special preparation. As early as the second century, many Christians observed several days of fasting as part of that preparation. Over the next few centuries, perhaps in remembrance of Jesus' fasting for 40 days in the wilderness (Matt. 4:1-2), 40 days became the accepted length of the Lenten season. Since, from the earliest years of Christianity, it had been considered inappropriate to fast on the day of the resurrection, Sundays were not counted in the 40 days. Thus, the Wednesday 46 days before Easter came to be regarded as the beginning of Lent.

In the early centuries, the season before Easter was also the usual period of intense training for new Christians. During this period, the catechumens (those learning what it meant to be Christians) went through the final stages of preparation for baptism, which usually occurred at dawn on Easter Sunday. As the practice of infant baptism increased, the emphasis on Lent as a training period decreased."¹

Today's church traditions for Lent vary from abstaining or "fasting" from meat on Fridays in Lent to giving up a vice (sweets, fatty foods, social media, foul language, etc.) for 40 days. This, of course, reminds us of the New Year resolutions that are so popular in the Western part of the world. But for the Christian, fasting

is a well-known part of Lent and is inspired by the fast of Jesus spending 40 days in the wilderness. (Matt 4:1-4) Christians partake in fasting to increase their self-control over worldly desires.

Another church tradition that is common today is giving of oneself, or almsgiving. Instead of "fasting from something," a person may make a point to give money, goods, or time during Lent. Regardless, the hope is that the Christian becomes penitent and remembers why Easter is important in the first place. After all, Easter is the goal that we are looking forward to in Lent. The sacrifice of Christ on the cross along with His resurrection over death three days later. One thing to keep in mind is that we cannot make sacrifices for our salvation. Lent isn't about you or I giving up something to make ourselves more holy, or less if we fail to perform our Lenten duties correctly.

So, what is the best use for Lent today? I suggest that we use this time to explore our faith intentionally. To turn from something that takes time every day in our routines and turn that time into learning about Christ and His love for us. For this season of Lent, begin each day with a 5-minute devotion and prayer. Take 10 minutes in the evening to read a bible passage. Instead of watching anything else on your device or tv, check out a resource on the Right Now media, or watch an episode of The Chosen. Remember, this season is not for us to perform a religious duty to try to impress God. It can be a time for us to grow closer in our walk with Him.

In Christ's service,

Denton L Bennet Jr.

Denton L. Bennet Jr.

Pastor

¹Fred A. Grissom, "Lent," ed. Chad Brand et al., Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003), 1025.

**Mar 1, Wednesday**

5:45 L.L. Supper
7 pm Worship
8 p.m. Choir

Mar 2, Thursday

9:00AM Bible Study
5:30-6:30PM The Kitchen Table - Meal

Mar 5, Sunday - Holy Communion

9:00AM Worship
10:00AM Coffee & fellowship
10:15AM Sunday Sch./ Bible Study
6:00PM Forward in Faith
7:00PM Book Study

Mar 6, Monday

Easter Flower Order Deadline

Mar 7, Tuesday

9:00AM Quilting
3 - 5:00PM Pro-Kinship for Kids
5:30PM Prayer time

Mar 8, Wednesday

5:45PM L.L. Supper free will donation accepted
7:00PM Worship Service
8:00PM Choir
8:00PM Church Council

Mar 9, Thursday

9:00AM Bible Study
5:30PM The Kitchen Table Meal

Mar 12, Sunday

9:00AM Worship & Special Mtg
10:00AM Coffee & fellowship
10:15AM Sunday Sch./ Bible Study
7:00PM Book Study

Mar 14, Tuesday

9:00AM Quilting
5:30PM Prayer time

Mar 15, Wednesday

5:45PM L.L. Supper free will donation accepted
7:00PM Worship Service
8:00PM Choir

Mar 16, Thursday

Newsletter Deadline!

9:00AM Bible Study
5:30PM The Kitchen Table Meal
6:30PM Women of St. Johns

Mar 17, Friday

Pastor & Youth @ Youth Quake (17th - 19th)
2 p.m. Bingo @ St. Johns Home

Mar 19, Sunday - Holy Communion

Pastor & Youth @ Youth Quake
9:00AM Worship
10:00AM Coffee & fellowship
10:15AM Sunday Sch./ Bible Study
7:00PM Book Study

Mar 21, Tuesday

9:00AM Quilting
3 - 5:00PM Pro-Kinship for Kids
5:30PM Prayer time

Mar 22, Wednesday

5:45PM L.L. Supper free will donation accepted
7:00PM Worship Service
8:00PM Choir

Mar 23, Thursday

9:00AM Bible Study
5:30PM The Kitchen Table Meal

Mar 26, Sunday - Noisy Offering

9:00AM Worship
10:00AM Coffee & fellowship
10:15AM Sunday Sch./Bible Study
7:00PM Book Study

Mar 28, Tuesday

9:00AM Quilting
5:30PM Prayer Time

Mar 29, Wednesday

5:45PM L.L. Supper free will donation accepted
7:00PM Worship Service
8:00PM Choir

Mar 30, Thursday

9:00AM Bible Study
5:30PM The Kitchen Table Meal



May God bless you all with good health, good fortune and lots of love on your special day!

Mar 1

Leah Swazee (Hoyt)

Mar 16

Carli Menigoz (Arnoldi)

Mar 2

Sawyer Hesse

Mar 17

Kay Pingeon
Adam Wenisch

Mar 3

Jim Lindeman
James Streich
Kelly Pierson

Mar 18

Justin Kieper
DJ Hedstrom

Mar 4

Lisa Streich

Mar 19

Jenni Runck
Dorothy Almer

Mar 5

Delbert Pingeon
Andy Scholtz

Mar 20

Wendy Anderson
Abby Moe

Mar 7

Liam Eberhard

Mar 24

Jenny Thoreson

Mar 9

Linda Anderson
Tom Honl

Mar 26

Hallie Meyer

Mar 11

Scott Johnson
Richard Pierson
Ben Hauger
Erika Wells
Britani Strei

Mar 27

Jeremy Pierson

Mar 28

Kelsea Cummins
Dan Eberhard

Mar 12

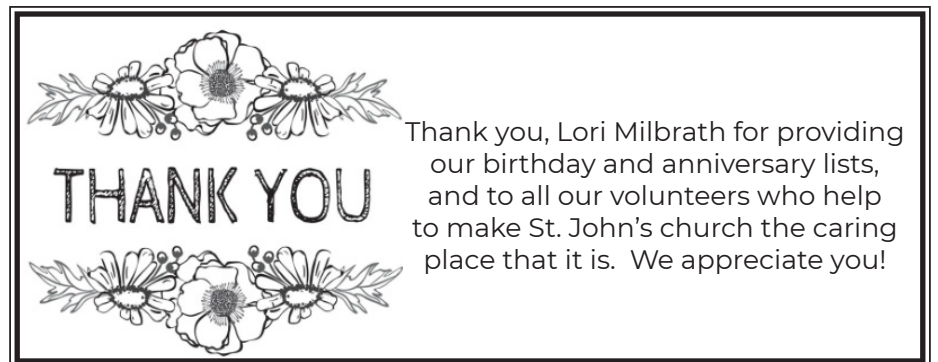
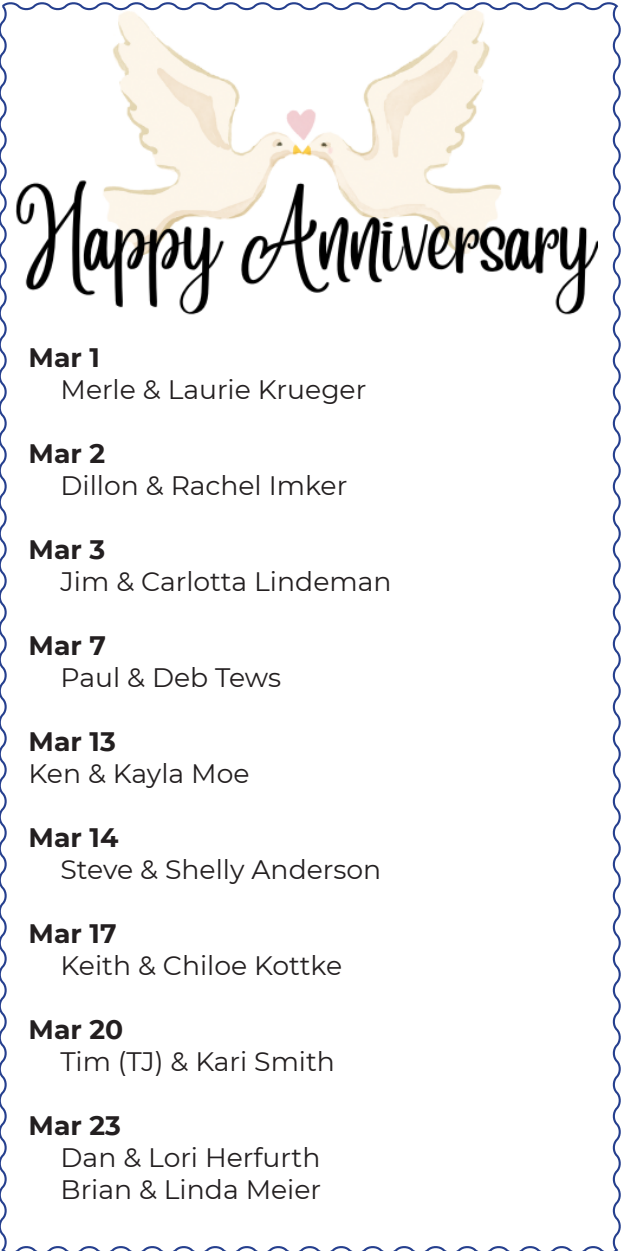
Natalie Ahlness

Mar 31

Gladys Jones
Ashley Keck

Mar 13

Adam Hesse
Harley Smith



WORSHIP HELPERS

Mar 5 (Holy Communion)

Lay Reader TJ Smith
Com. Ast Blaine Anderson & Brady Anderson
Acolytes..... Jaden Hornick & Olivia Milbrath
BD Reader Blaine Anderson

Mar 19 (Holy Communion)

Lay Reader: Paul Arnold
Com. Ast Sarah Kottke & Emma Hauger
Acolytes..... Katie Thram & Jalyn Louwagie
BD Reader Sarah Kottke

Mar 12

Lay Reader: Marian Thorston
Acolytes..... Grady Korkemeier & Preston Anderson
BD Reader Grady Korkemeier

Mar 26 (Noisy Offering)

Lay Reader: Carlotta Lindeman
Acolytes..... Amaira Brown & Thomas Beers
BD Reader Ethan Louwagie

MARCH USHERS

Merle Krueger, Frank Schnobrich & Andrew Hauger

2023 Easter Flower Order Form

Deadline to Order is March 5, 2023

Easter Lily qty _____ x \$17.00 = _____

Daffodil 6" Pot qty _____ x \$11.95 = _____

Hydrangea 8" Pot qty _____ x \$28.95 = _____

Hydrangea color: Pink Blue
(circle desired color(s) please)

6" Mums qty _____ x \$15.95 = _____

Mum color: Lavendar White Yellow
(circle desired color(s) please)

Begonia qty _____ x \$16.00 = _____

6" Kalanchoe qty _____ x \$16.00 = _____

Check Total _____

Order Instructions

Please stop at the church to fill out a form indicating your choice of flower(s) and payment envelope which can all be found in the fellowship hall by the offices. Checks need to be made out to Springfield Floral and placed in Diane Thram's church mailbox. (not the church office, please).

Lay readers can start signing up for April, May and June!



A SEASON OF HOPE LENT

This Lent, we're putting God's love into action by making Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits. Across the world, families have been suffering from compounding crises such as war, violence, natural disasters, disease and extreme weather. We want to announce to the world that Christ makes a new season possible: A Season of HOPE! We're excited to engage in the project as a community during our Lenten journey this year. By assembling LWR Personal Care Kits, we help share God's love, and create a Season of Hope for our neighbors around the world.

HERE'S THE COLLECTION ITEMS NEEDED:

Towel X 1



One light-weight bath-size towel (between 20"×40" & 52"×27"), dark color recommended

Bar Soap X 2



Two bath-size (4 to 5 oz.) bars of soap, any brand, in original packaging.

Comb X 1

One **sturdy** comb



Toothbrush X 1



One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging.

Clipper X 1



One metal nail clippers (attached file optional)



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

DIRECTIONS: Please drop-off these items to the bin labeled **CARE KIT ITEMS** located in the Fellowship Hall. There is a display board put up by the stewardship committee on Feb 26 for additional information. For questions, please contact Lisa Arnoldi (507) 227-8423 or Joy Wells (507) 276-3827.

**The Stewardship Committee thanks you in advance
for your support and participation in this important mission project!**

Unclaimed Items

We have unclaimed serving containers in the fellowship hall that need to be claimed. Items left there at the end of March will be given a new home.

RE:IGNITE

2 Corinthians 5:17

March 17 - 19
Pastor & Youth are at retreat

KAREN SCHUDER, EDD, MDIV, MAM

Resilient
and
Sustainable
CARING



Your Guide to Thrive While Helping Others

Several Copies of *Resilient and Sustainable Caring: Your Guide to Thrive While Helping Others*: by Karen Schuder are available in the church library. Thank you to the Holles Family for sharing these books with us.



Nursing Home Bingo is the 3rd Friday of every month. Volunteers can sign up on the lists by the offices.

REMINDER

Please check your mailbox...



There are many unclaimed items.

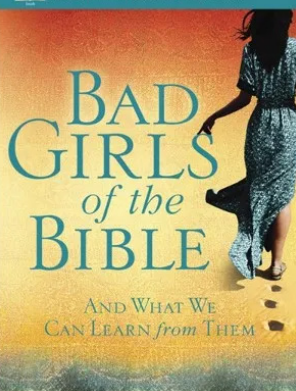


St Johns Council has decided to continue providing RIGHT NOW MEDIA resource library/ videos to our congregation. Have you checked it out? Need a link? Call or email Pastor Bennet or the church.

We will send an email to create your free account, and start browsing. Pastor's Email is: pastordlbennet@gmail.com
Church email: sjlcspRINGfieldmn@gmail.com

LIZ CURTIS HIGGS

One Million Sold in the Series!



Women of St Johns Meeting & Bible Study

March 16, 2023

All women are invited to attend. Currently studying "Bad Girls of the Bible" using the Right Now Media Videos.

2023 Church Leadership & Committee's

Board of Deacons

(Pastor) Adam Beers, Sue Anderson, Todd Wells, Rod Smith, Brenda Krieger

Board of Trustees

Andrew Hauger, Chris Petersen, Brian Meier, Dave Milbrath, Chad Thram

Board of Ed.

* (Pastor) –April Beyer (Superintendent), Brenda (Mrs.Nick) Anderson, Kari Smith, Jenni Runck, Brenda Anderson

Treasurer

Kari Scholtz

Financial Secretary

Lynn Hansen & Nancy Anderson

Auditors J

ulie Smith, Darcy Hoyt

Mission Endowment

* (Pastor), Curt Fredin, Charles Tews, Gilbert Anderson, Lynn Hansen, Paul Arnoldi

Stewardship

Kay Pingeon, Lisa Arnoldi, Michelle Anderson, Katie Beers, Joy Wells, Jane Thram

Worship Planning

* (Pastor) - Jodi Dalsgaard, Peggy Martius, Jen Eberhard, Janelle Tews, Marian Thorston, Linda Meier

Nominating

James Anderson, Arliss Petersen, Diane Thram

LL Advisors

Brenda (Mrs Nick) Anderson

Augustana District LCMC Delegate

1) Jodi Dalsgaard 2) Marian Thorston

LCMC Annual Gathering Delegates

1) _____ 2) _____

St. Johns NH Delegates

Darvin Voge (board member -3 yr. term) Arliss Petersen (Auxiliary Rep), Darlene Trapp, Sandy Runck, Paul Tews, additional volunteers – Angie Ames

Flower Committee

Lorie Frederiksen, Sandy Hesse, Carlotta Lindeman, Becky Peters, Kay Pingeon, Sandy Runck, Crystal Augustin, Marian Thorston, Diane Thram, Kristi Yokiel

Altar Committee

Arliss Petersen, Darlene Trapp, Lisa Arnoldi, Mae Wenner, Melanie Cook

SAFE Board

Jan Anderson, Marian Thorston – congregational representative.

Librarian

Lori Milbrath, Melanie Cook

Church Secretary

Tracie Berg (assistants – Laurie Krueger/Kayla Moe)

Head Ushers

Ben Luense, Curt Frederiksen, Andrew Hauger, Josh Anderson

Organists

Jodi Dalsgaard, Peggy Martius

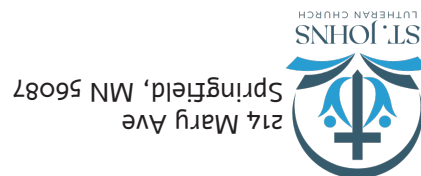
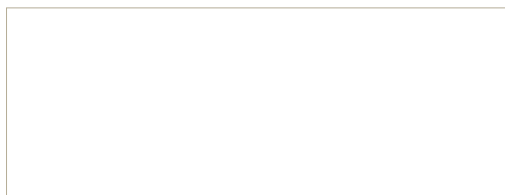
Choir Director

Jen Eberhard

Elected and installed as new officers and committee members: Council President- Andrew Hauger, VP -Rod Smith, Sec -Adam Beers, and Treasurer- Kari Scholtz

February 8, 2023
Council Minutes
were not available
for summary.

place
POSTAGE
Here



NEEDED FOOD SHELF ITEMS

Items that are needed at the food shelf are Apple, cranberry combinations, and grape juice in 64 oz. containers, baking products such as brown sugar, frosting, cake/cookie mixes and any other baking items. Breakfast bars, variety of spaghetti sauces, small cans of coffee, instant oatmeal variety packs, fruit snacks for kids, fruit cups for kids and adults, toothpaste, cereals. Anything we receive we will use in the food shelf as long as the expiration date is OK.

Feel free to contact or call Shari Koll at 507-227-0386 if you have questions. You may also contact Dave Carruthers with questions at 507-276-6679. You may also leave a message on the food shelf phone 507-723-3663, and we will call you back.

If you prefer to make a monetary donation instead of donating food item then drop in an envelope. Send to:

Springfield Area Food Shelf
PO Box 15
Springfield, MN 56087

A heart felt thank You to all who support the local food shelf. Clients really do appreciate all the groceries they receive. We couldn't do this without your generosity.

