



The Voice

St. John's Lutheran Church Serving the Lord for 114 years

March 2019

Giving up in the Season of Lent Matthew Chapter Six

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. (*Matthew 6: 1*)

In the season of Lent, many of us may have had or overheard a similar version of the following conversation.

Bob: (*Loud exaggerated yawn!*) I sure am tired and it is only 9 in the morning.

Jeff: Boy Bob, you sure have been struggling to stay awake the past few weeks.

Bob: You are right, Jeff! The reason I am so tired and seem to be in a slump the past few weeks is because I gave up caffeine, my favorite fast food restaurant and stopped watching my favorite TV show on Tuesday nights for the season of Lent. I am just trying to do my part to be a good Christian.

Jeff: Knowing you Bob you need all the help you can get...

Bob: Your right... That's what Jesus would do. Plus if I keep up my good behaviors the wife says I may get an extra box of Peeps in my Easter basket this year!

We may not have heard the exact version of this conversation. But many of us are guilty of this mind set when handling the season of lent. We have good intentions when giving things up for the season of Lent. But too often it leads false righteousness and humility.

Matthew chapter 6 provides us with wonderful instructions from the mouth of Jesus that provide us with helpful instructions to keep in mind during the season Lent. Fasting is not a bad thing when it is done with the proper frame of mind. The use of fasting on Ash Wednesday and throughout Lent first and foremost is a tool which helps us to see



how weak our sinful flesh is. Because in only a few hours past a normally scheduled meal our body gives us the growls of a hungry stomach that warns us of death that may occur if we wait too long to refill our body with nutrients it need to keep running. Fasting or cutting caffeine out of our diets is not a work that insures us that we will go to heaven. This mind frame tramples on the works of Christ on the cross and seeks to find a loop hole in the true Gospel, making the forgiveness of

your sins into a status to be earned, rather than as a free gift to you from Christ alone. Leading only to feelings of anxiety, doubt and stress in your Christian walk.

Fasting, prayer and generosity can be useful additions to our Christian walk and teach us self-control, discipline and lead to a fruitful devotional life that help us to further rely on Christ throughout our lives. If we change anything about our habits or behaviors during the season of Lent, let it be habits that will lead you to a Christ centered way of life, free of anxiety, doubt and fear. Which begins by repenting of our daily sins, praying for the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us in our lives. Praying also for our family, friends and especially our enemies. Finally, by cleaning to the abundant grace we have in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior by being in His Word and receiving His Holy Supper regularly. May you in this season of Lent give up the silly practices of man and cling to the grace and mercy of Christ Jesus.

Sincerely, *Pastor Ben Hollingsead*

ESTIMATE OF GIVING AND SERVICE:

Sheets are on the table in the narthex. If you did not receive your sheets in the mail, please take the sheets, fill them out, put them in the attached envelope, and return to church as soon as possible.



Lent Services: Starting Wednesday March 6th:

March 6th: Ash Wednesday: 11AM & 7PM

March 13th: 11AM & 7PM

March 20th: 11AM & 7PM

March 27th: 11AM & 7PM

Brothers, Breakfast and Bible

Calling men of St. John's! Our next morning men's breakfast will be March 18th at 7:00AM. It will be a great opportunity to share in fellowship while eating breakfast together at the Village Inn in Wyoming, MN. We will have a devotion to reflect on as a group. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Ben 651-323-3293.



March/April Choir Schedule:

March 3rd, 1st service practice 7:30AM

March 24th, 2nd service practice 8:45AM

April 7th, 1st service practice 7:30AM

April 14th, Palm Sunday, 1st service practice 7:30AM

April 21st, Easter, 2nd service practice 8:45AM

April 28th, 2nd service practice 8:45AM

Mission Event Updates:

Red Cross Blood Drive was held at St. John's Lutheran on February 12th. In spite of the poor weather the blood drive was very successful. Thirty-four (34) pints of blood were donated at the drive. Every pint of blood can save up to three lives, so with the Red Cross collection of 34 pints up to 102 patients in need can be helped. Sixteen (16) of the 31 presenting donors have past or current ties to St. John's Lutheran. Thank you. You made a difference.

Mn Adult and Teen Challenge choir visited St. John's Lutheran on February 17th, and at both services filled our hearts with song and testimony. Thank you very much for making them feel so welcome, for preparing and serving lunch to them following the 9:30 service, and for your generous "Love Offering" of \$915.

Upcoming Mission Events:

Minnesota Food Share (Pack the Pews) food drive will be held from March 17 – March 31 and will help support Family Pathways food shelf in North Branch.

Options for Women (baby bottle fundraiser) in April will kick-off on April 7th. Start saving your coins and help support this wonderful local organization.

Please look for additional information for each of these events at the Mission's display in the narthex, in upcoming issues of the Voice, and in future Sunday bulletins. Contact Harvey Berg at 651-462-1168 if you would like more information at this time.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS! Spring ahead an hour on March 10th.

**St. John's Lutheran Church
Financial Report January 2019**

Budget Offerings (5 Sundays)	\$ 13,350.56
Actual Offerings Received	\$ 19,318.00
Offering Budget Shortage	\$ - (4,032.56)
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Office Expense <small>(503.75 Printer)</small>	\$ 567.00
Worship & Music	\$ 89.00
Postage	\$ 6.00
Phone	\$ 205.00
Computer Operations	\$ 125.00
Payroll service Fees	\$ 48.00
Administrative Exp.	\$ 915.00
Excel Electric	\$ 534.00
Excel Gas	\$ 545.00
City Water & Trash	\$ 229.00
Building Repair & Maint.	\$ 504.00
Custodial Supplies, Misc.	\$ 145.00
Building Expenses	\$ 1,957.00
Employee Salaries	\$ 9,549.00
Visiting Pastors	\$ 150.00
Work Comp. Ins.	\$ 0.00
Total Salaries	\$ 9,699.00
Christian Outreach	\$ 0.00
Total Expenses	\$ 12,571.00
End of Month Total <small>(offerings minus expenses)</small>	\$ (3,253.00)
<hr/>	
Check Book Balance	\$ 139,337.00
Liabilities	\$ 0.00
Actual Cash Balance	\$ 139,337.00
Dedicated Accts. Balance	\$ 126,124.00
Church Acct. Balance	\$ 13,213.00
N. Branch School Rental Balance	\$ 700.00
Gen. Offering Bal.: Year to Date	(\$ 4,032.56)

If you have any questions regarding this report,
please call Patha Vue Treasurer at (651) 313-3165
Thank you!

FOOD PANTRY

Let us all remember to donate food items into our Food Pantry. Local food shelves are always in need of non-perishable food items to help the less fortunate. Also, don't forget paper needs like baby formula, diapers, soap, toilet paper, etc... are always needed. Buy one item for yourselves, but also buy one for the Pantry. Christian Outreach Committee will see that the items are delivered to the local food shelf.

WE WISH EACH ONE OF YOU A BLESSED DAY AND PRAY THAT GOD WILL BLESS YOU THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

MARCH WILLING WORKERS FOR CHRIST



Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

8 AM SERVICES GREETERS

03
10 Ron & Marlene Chelberg
17 Laurel & Sheldon Anderson
24 Dave & Kim Schmidt
31

READERS

03 Cindy Johnson
10
17
24 Kathy Spiczka
31

USHERS

03
10 Hal & Diane Satter
17
24
31

LAY-SHEPHERD

03 Linnea Kment
10 Lynne Graber
17
24
31 Linnea Kment

ACOLYTE 8 AM

03 Jillian Horfall
10 Nicole Robins
17
24
31

9:30 SERVICES GREETERS

03 Barb Johnson
10 Karol Krier & Georgia Melander
17 Judy Curry
24 Shirley Weeks
31 Rachel & Raven Hare

READERS

03
10 Teddy Abress
17 Kim Anderson
24
31

USHERS

03
10
17 Norm & Kim Anderson
24 Nancy Bernard & Teresa Humble
31

LAY-SHEPHERD

03
10
17
24
31

ACOLYTE 9:30 AM

03 Drake Siemonsma
10 Ariel Potrament
17
24
31

FELLOWSHIP HOST

03
10 Kathy Eliason
17 Teddy Abress & Anna C.
24
31

ALTAR GUILD

Set Up
03 Cindy Johnson
17 Loreen Beckett
31 Cindy Johnson

Clean Up
Louise Wilner
Evie Dockham
Sharon Jaworski



Set Up
10 Cindy Johnson
24 Loreen Becket

Clean Up
Sharon Jaworski
Louise Wilner

St. John's Lutheran Church

MARCH 2019

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 8:00 and 9:30 Services Traditional	4	5 Master Key 7PM	6 GA 6PM	7	8	9
10 8:00 Traditional Service 9:30 Contemporary Service 	11 Outreach 6PM Missions 7PM	12 Master Key 7PM	13 GA 6PM	14	15	16
17 Start Pack the pews 	18 Brotherhood Breakfast village Inn 7AM Council Meeting 7PM	19 Master Key 7PM	20 GA 6PM	21	22	23
8:00 Traditional 9:30 Contemporary	25	26 Master Key 7PM	27 GA 6PM	28	29	30
24 8 & 9:30 Traditional Services						
31 End Pack the pews 8 & 9:30 Traditional Services						

Confirmation Retreat:
Luther Crest
Alexandria, MN

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Alexandria , MN

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Ash Wed. Services:
11AM & 7 PM

Lent Services:
11AM & 7PM

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Quilting Bee 5:30-8:30

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Little Angel Preschool enrollment is open for the 2019-20 school year. Children ages 3 to 5 by September 1 and potty trained are invited to attend our school. Morning and afternoon sessions are available as well as a Wednesday evening class.



Application must be submitted with a non-refundable \$75 application fee. To register, follow the link found in the enrollment section at <https://littleangelpreschool.org>

For questions regarding admissions or a tour of the school, please contact Makayla Wahlberg, Director, at:

(651)462-5115 or

littleangelpreschool.info@gmail.com.

Tuition is:

5 Days per week: \$220/month

4 Days per week: \$185/month

3 Days per week: \$150/month

2 Days per week: \$115/month

1 Day per week: \$80/month

Wednesday Evening Class: \$60/month

There is a 25% multiple student discount on 2nd child and scholarships are available.

- ◆ *Little Angel Preschool*
- ◆ *Willing workers*
- ◆ *Calendar*
- ◆ *Events/Services*
- ◆ *Pastor's Article*
- ◆ *Inside This Issue:*

Pastor Ben Hollingshead
Cell: 651-323-3293

Church Office: 651-462-5115

Return Service Requested

St John's Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 308
31075 Genesis Ave.
Stacy, MN 55079

The Voice of St. John's

Non-Profit Organization
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