

THE LUTHERAN LIGHT

“You are the light of the world... Let your light shine before others so they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”
(The Sermon on the Mount- Mathew 5:14a 16)

LENT BEGINS

All through the month of March we observe the Liturgical Season of the Church Year = LENT!

Lent means “Spring.” The word “Lent” comes from the same root as the word “lengthen.” It is an old word for springtime, when daylight lengthens rapidly. Spring does not just happen in one day; neither does renewal. Lent is the Church’s Spring. New Life. Renewal.

ASH WEDNESDAY AND THE 40 DAYS OF LENT

The name Ash Wednesday is derived from the custom of those in need of forgiveness coming to the church in sackcloth (*coarse cloth*) and with naked feet and throwing ashes over their heads when they had finished their prayers. The ashes were made from the palms blessed the previous Palm Sunday. The Body of Christ, the Church, is to fill itself with new life in its members and expel all signs of death. The whole teaching of this day is intended to aid our devotional life and as a check on the effect of the world on each of our lives.

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Church, ELCA***
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Following the example of the Ninevites, who sought forgiveness through the use of sackcloth and ashes (*see the book of Jonah*), we, the Church, today are reminded of our own sentence of death as a consequence of our sin, sprinkling ashes on our head with the words “***Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.***”

This custom is a relic of an ancient ceremony referred to in early Christian writings. Those Christians who were guilty of grave faults had to show public sorrow. Accordingly, on Ash Wednesday, the bishop blessed that sackcloth which was worn by those seeking forgiveness during the forty days of Lent. Then, as the faithful were singing the Seven Penitential Psalms, those seeking forgiveness were expelled from the church on account of their sins just as Adam and Eve were driven out of Paradise because of their disobedience. They were not allowed to remove their penitential clothing or reenter the church during or before Maundy Thursday until after they had been reconciled by the long penance of Lent and by confession, forgiveness, and absolution.

The ceremony of the Blessing and Imposition of Ashes, as we know it today, is a relic of these former practices of public sorrow. Since the eleventh and twelfth centuries everyone, congregation and clergy alike, confesses guilt and undertakes to be “converted” by showing public sorrow to seek the mercy of Almighty God Who

always pardons sinners who repent. We should make a point of receiving the ashes in a spirit of humility and sorrow that by this act we receive God's Love and Forgiveness sought by the Church through the imposition of ashes.

Lent, as a period of 40 days, came into being as a result of a long period of development. Originally in the first century, Lent was a period of 40 hours in keeping with the 40 hours Jesus' Body was in the tomb. The 40 hours observance ended with an Easter worship service at 3:00 A.M. Later the 40 hours grew into six days during the third century. The six days were not the last week in Lent but an extension of the 40 hours. These six days were known as "Holy Week," days of strict abstinence. Holy Week observance began in Jerusalem during the fourth century. Services were held on the appropriate day at the actual place where a special event took place during the last week of Jesus' Life. When Holy Week was celebrated in the West, they substituted the actual place for the Stations of The Cross, still used by the Roman Catholic, Episcopal, Eastern Orthodox, and yes, even some Lutheran churches today.

The six days grew to 36 days, as a tithe (a tenth) for the 365 days of the year. By 731 AD., the time of Charlemagne, four days were added to make the present 40 days. Sundays are never a part of Lent. We speak of the Sundays "in" not "of" Lent. Each Sunday of the Church Year is thought of as a "mini" Easter when we are to share in the Eucharist (Holy Communion, The Lord's Supper), and celebrate Christ's Resurrection and New Life given as a gift to us.

Lent, beginning Ash Wednesday (*February 17, 2021, this year*), is a 40 day period of repentance and renewal preceding Easter, The Feast Day of The Resurrection of Our Lord (*which is on Sunday, April 4, 2021, this year*).

Lent can be a special time for meditation, prayer, and penitential practices. It can be a time to increase our understanding of Christ's sacrifice and resurrection, a time of recommitment to the Christian life. Observing Lent prepares us to celebrate Easter, The Resurrection of Our Lord, more fully.

Lent means "Spring." The word "Lent" comes from the same root as the word "lengthen." It is an old word for springtime, when daytime lengthens rapidly. Spring does not just happen in one day; neither does renewal. Lent is the Church's Spring!

May the Peace of The LORD be with you through your journey these forty days and this season of Lent. A very Blessed Lent to you!

Sincerely, Pastor Jon Beake



LENT

Lent is a time to take time to let the power
of our faith story take hold of us,
a time to let the events get up
and walk around in us,
a time to intensify our living unto Christ,
a time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts,
a time to place our feet in the streets of
Jerusalem or to walk along the sea and
listen to his Word,
a time to touch his robe
and feel the healing surge through us,
a time to ponder and a time to wonder....
Lent is a time to allow
a fresh new taste of God!
Perhaps we're afraid to have time to think,
for thoughts come unbidden.
Perhaps we're afraid to face our future
knowing our past.
Give us courage, O God,
to hear your Word

From the Pastor

I am learning the history and geography of Idaho, now that I am a resident of this great State and it is my home. I thought that I would share with you each month some of the fun facts and stories that I have learned (*which you may or may not know yourselves*) and that you can in turn share with one another over coffee.

A TEST: Idaho Weather or Not

1. What is it that protects Idaho from icy blasts of cold Arctic air and extremely cold temperatures?
2. What is the name of the rain or snow that falls?
3. What is Idaho's average annual precipitation?
4. What is the area of Idaho that receives more than 50 inches (127 centimeters) of precipitation yearly?
5. What is the area of Idaho that gets less than 10 inches (25 centimeters) of rain each year?

(ANSWERS: 1. What are the Rocky Mountains: The Bitterroot Range, Clearwater Mountains, Salmon River Mountains, Sawtooth Mountains;

2. Precipitation; 3. Nineteen inches or 48 centimeters; 4. Central and Northern Idaho; 5. The Snake River Plain.)

(Quoted and taken from: "Idaho Jeopardy! Answers and Questions About Our State" by Carole Marsh, copyright 2001, Gallopade International, page 17.)

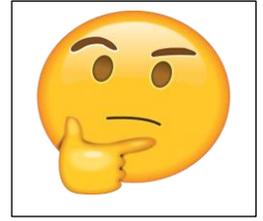
Quilt Dedication Sunday

The quilting women of Saint John's have made quilts this year and last year. They will be dedicated to the Glory of God on May 9, 2021 during Sunday Worship. They will be on display in the Sanctuary from Friday April 30th through May 9th.

If you would like to purchase or know someone who would like to buy a quilt, they will be for sale for \$75.00 each. If you have any questions; contact Kim Ferguson, Sharon Strom or Norma Neu.



"Makes You Think" from Pastor:



Things you should know about BACON

1. Bacon has been eaten since 1500 B.C. and is still the #1 meat to eat! (*Nah, bacon has been around since the beginning of time!*)
2. Denmark consumes the most bacon in the world. (*Really?! Wow! I am moving.*)
3. Oscar Mayer was the first to patent sliced bacon since that whole bologna thing worked out so well.
4. During World War II the United States citizens donated their excess bacon fat to the army for the development of weapons.
5. In 1992, Hardee's produced one of the first fast-food bacon burgers, called "The Frisco Burger." It was a hit! (*No kidding?!*)
6. The average American consumes 18 pounds of bacon per year. (*Are you doing your part?!*)
7. Bacon has been described as the "gateway to meat for vegetarians." The first slice is free... and then you are hooked.
8. One of the first foods eaten on the moon was bacon. Out of this world man! Far out!
9. Turkey bacon was created by someone evil, bent on destroying the world. Resist it at all costs!

(Thank you to a member who shared this with me, after hearing a sermon in January with bacon in it.)



**St John's Congregational
Council for 2021**



Patricia (Pat) Tiede President
Dustin Allen Vice President
Pat Chase Secretary

Andrew Porath
Angela Quinn
Teri Kendall
Dale Morrival
Debbie (Deb) Simms
Ashley Woonsook
Dan Landvik
Gary Ferguson
Stephen Blaker

Thank you all for your time and dedication to this congregation. You are deeply appreciated.

March's Birthdays

If you are missing from this list, please tell Shonda

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 4- Izabella Zavisov | 15 – Marla Egbert |
| 4 – Laura Porath | 19 – Marie Christian |
| 5 – Judy Theobald | 20 – Sheila Funk |
| 6 – Pat Tiede | 20 – Janessa Bauer |
| 6 – Brylee Jones | 20 – Kensi Carter |
| 6 – Soren Briggs | 23 – Stockton Woodworth |
| 7 – Andrew Porath | 24 – Adam Christian |
| 8 – Aiden Gehring | 26 – Gerry Allen |
| 9 – Macy Winder | 27 – Erynn Winder |
| 12 – Marlene Henery | 28 – Michael Ferguson |
| 12 – Shelby Hamann | 28 – Kambria Woonsook |
| 13 – Kaden Unruh | 30 – Jared Gehring |
| 13 – Curtis Campbell | |

MID WEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Mid-week Lenten services will be posted on the website on Wednesdays for your own devotions, prayer, and worship.

In our busy lives it seems that we seldom take time to reflect, pray, and be silent. It is the hope that our Mid-week Lenten Service will help provide that for you, a time for prayer, reflection and silence to listen to what God would have you hear.

*“ Listen to the silence...
Stay open to The Voice of The Spirit. ”*

OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

We remember in prayer: Honi Allen, Sid Allen, Marilyn Allen, Del Alvy, Debbie Boomer, Linda Cavaness, Ron Funk, Brenda Gisslen, Christopher Gohl, Virginia Gohl, Elaine Havlicak, Paige McMichael, Erika Meadows, Betty Miller, HallieJo Porath, Brooklyn Woodworth, Ivan Charles and Arnold Burgemeister.



March's Wedding Anniversaries

If you are missing from this list, please tell Shonda

- 1- Ron & Rita Funk
- 4- Calvin & Harriet Dyer
- 6- Paul & Robyn Herndon
- 7- Sean & Katina Allen
- 9- Steve & Linda Blaker
- 11- Bill & Vicki Meadows



FOOD BANK DONATIONS

St. John's is collecting non-perishable food donations for the Willow Bay Baptist Food Bank on the first Sunday of each month. The big yellow bin is in the narthex. If you can't bring them on the designated Sunday, you can drop them off some other time in the month.



WHO KNEW?!

Stjohnsaf.com

Our new web site is: **stjohnsaf.com**

In the past thirty days our new web site has been visited by people in these places:

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| Alaska | Canada |
| Arizona | China |
| California | Germany |
| Idaho | Israel |
| Michigan | Pakistan |
| Montana | India |
| Ohio | Philippines |
| Oregon | Wyoming |
| South Carolina | Texas |
| Washington | Utah |
| Virginia | |

There have been **3,583 visits total** during these past weeks – March 16, 2020, through February 7, 2021.

The below is the ‘breakdown’ of:
The **visits on Sunday**,
The **total visits during the week**, and
The **offering received** during these past weeks.

PAST SUNDAYS’ ATTENDANCE AND GIVING, AND WEB SITE VISITS

Sunday 01/03/21
Web Visits 17; Offering\$5,716.40
The week of January 3rd – January 9th
Total Web Visits for the week51
(This is the fifth Sunday we came back together as a congregation in the Saint John’s church building; ‘in-person’ attendance in the sanctuary 21.)

Sunday 01/10/21
Web Visits 15; Offering\$4,711.45
The week of January 10th – January 16th
Total Web Visits for the week56
(This is the sixth Sunday we came back together as a congregation in the Saint John’s church building; ‘in-person’ attendance in the sanctuary 25.)

Sunday 01/17/21
Web Visits 19; Offering\$10,505.60
The week of January 17th – January 23rd
Total Web Visits for the week49
(Sunday ‘in- person’ attendance in the sanctuary 25.)

Sunday 01/24/21
Web Visits 23; Offering\$3,468.20
The week of January 31st – February 6th
Total Web Visits for the week69
(Sunday ‘in- person’ attendance in the sanctuary 23.)

Sunday 02/07/21
Web Visits 28; Offering\$3,479.25
The week of February 7th – February 13th
Total Web Visits for the weekunknown
(Sunday ‘in- person’ attendance in the sanctuary 34.)

Now this is **ONLY** the number of **VISITS** recorded and shared here in the above listing, **NOT the number of people who listened to or worshipped with the internet offerings**. The ‘household’ where the iPhone, iPad, computer screen, or other devices were being used could have: one person listening, or a couple listening, or a family of 4, 5, or 6 listening. We do not know **how many people** were involved in the **3,583 visits** these past weeks.

Just as **we do not know if they listened to the whole worship service**, or just listened to the sermon, or to the hymns, or to the liturgy. People can fast forward through or stop the recording anytime they wish to do so. Or... they could have listened to the recording three or four times. Yet, if you think about it, we may have reached way more than **3,583 people** if a whole household was listening and worshipping together.

It makes one think... Who Knew?!

A HUGE THANK YOU goes out to Carl Rudeen, Neil Poulson, Arnold Burgemeister, and Edith Kopp for creating and continuing to up-date our old and our new web sites. Thank you, each of you, for your expertise, time, and talents with our congregation’s technological offerings – especially during this time of the pandemic. If you have not yet visited our new web site, do so at: **stjohnsaf.com**

(Pat) Tiede, President (Deacon)
*Stewardship Committee, Constitution
Committee,*

Dustin Allen, Vice President (Deacon)
*Christian Education Committee, Pre-
School*

Pat Chase, Secretary (Deacon)
Worship Committee

Stephen Blaker (Deacon)
Social Concerns Committee

Gary Ferguson, (Trustee)
Property Committee

Ashley Woonsook, (Trustee)
Endowment Committee

Angela Quinn (Trustee)
Finance Committee, Youth Committee

Teri Kendall (Trustee)
*Hospital Helpers, WELCA, Organ
Maintenance Committees*

Dale Morrical (Deacon)
Scholarship Committee

Andrew Porath, (Trustee)
Debbie Simms, (Trustee)

Memorial Committee

Dan Landvik, (Deacon)

CONGREGATIONAL MINISTERS

Treasurer, Shonda Bauer

Financial Secretary, Shonda Bauer

Parish Secretary, Shonda Bauer

St. John's Preschool Director, Honi Allen

Custodial Ministry, Patty Porath

Education Ministry, Lacy Zavison

Youth Ministry, Josh & Lacy Zavison

Altar Ministry, Marita Poulson and
Rebecca Gallegos (*Coordinators*)

Usher Ministry, Shonda Bauer *Coordinator*

Acolyte Ministry, Kelli Long (*Coordinator*)

Reader Ministry, Pat Chase (*Lectionary in
Worship*)

WELCA Ministry, Norma Neu, Pres.
Sharon Strom, V.P., Kim Ferguson, Treas.
Lacy Zavison, Sec.

Music Ministry, Marita Poulson (*Worship
Committee, Chair, Keyboardist*), Marilyn Allen
(*Youth & Keyboardist*), Ann Caspersen
(*keyboardist*), Patty Porath (*Bell Choir & youth
keyboardist*) Edith Kopp (*St. John's Choir*)

Greeter Ministry, Edith Kopp, Sharon
Strom, Lacy Zavison & Kim Ferguson
(*Coordinators*)

Soundboard Ministry, Arnold
Burgemeister, Rayma Cates & Jonathan
Kress

Prayer Chain Ministry, Kim Ferguson,
Sharon Strom & Norma Neu (*Coordinators*)

Internet Broadcast Ministry, Neil Poulson
Funeral Dinner Ministry, Norma Neu
(*Coordinator*)

Cradle Role Ministry, Shonda Bauer
(*Coordinator*)

Coffee Hour Ministry, Shonda Bauer
(*Coordinator*)

Landscape Ministry, Brandon Long
Parish Pastor, Rev. Jon Beake

NATIONAL/ REGIONAL CHURCH MINISTRIES

Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, *Presiding Bishop of
the ELCA, Chicago, Illinois*

Rev. Kristen E. M. Kuempel, *Bishop of the
Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod, Spokane,
Washington*

Rev. Phil Misner, *Assistant to the Bishop
Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod, Spokane
Washington*

Rev. Anne Palma, *Upper Snake River Valley
Cluster Dean, Twin Falls, Idaho*

St. John's Office Hours

An answering machine is available to receive messages

Monday- 8:30 – 12:30

Tuesday - CLOSED

Wednesday - 8:30 – 1:30

Thursday – 8:30 – 12:00

Friday – 9:00 –12:00

SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

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Pastor 208-226-5440
Fax 208-226-7251

E-mails: jbeake@juno.com
Stjohns656@juno.com

Web Site: stjohnsaf.com
ELCA Web Site: www.elca.org

Sunday Radio Transmission: 106.9 FM
Internet Broadcast: stjohnsaf.com

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

*9:00am Sunday School Opening and Classes K-12
(Sept- May)*

*9:00am Adult Sunday School/Bible Study (Year
Round)*

10:00am Worship Service (sung liturgy)
*(Eucharist Celebrated the 1st and 3rd Sundays in the
month and on all Festivals and Feast Days)*

Saint John's Mission Statement:

REJOICE: *Gather, Worship, and Praise...*

RENEW: *Grow, in Christ's love...*

REACH OUT: *Go, Care for God's People...*

***"If I am not allowed to laugh in heaven, I don't
want to go there." Rev. Dr. Martin Luther***

"THE BACK PAGE"

THE LUTHERAN LIGHT is published the last week of the month to keep members and friends informed as to the ministries and activities of Saint John's congregation. Please submit your articles and additions by the 15th of each month to the church office.

***"It is pleasing to the Dear God whenever you
rejoice or laugh from the bottom of your heart."
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther***

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