

# NEWS NOTES

March 14, 2021

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

(614) 875-2314    www.stjohnsgc.org    email sj@stjohnsgc.org

Senior Pastor Seth Jersild (217)-255-2118 ~ sjersild@stjohnsgc.org

Associate Pastor Patti Morlock (740)-405-1548 ~ pmorlock@stjohnsgc.org



Dr. John Schuder, Minister of Music; Dirk Ahlgrim, Saturday Organist

Susan Abbott Locey, Director of Celebration Ringers

Nick Grossman & David Shrum, Contemporary Worship Leaders

Karl Eiginger, Children's Choir Director

**Readers:**

4:00pm: Holly Starr

8:15am: Pam Wittenberg

11:00am: Rick Butsko

**Altar Guild**

David and Karen Grossman, David and Lisa Stallard, Linda Wagner, Dee Harlor, Rhonda Maynard

## ✠ PERSONAL NOTES ✠

**HOSPITALIZED:** Please pray for members who are or were in the hospital this past week: Joyce Rawson; Paul Eyerman.

**BIRTH:** Congratulations to Dave and Kate Shrum who welcomed a new baby boy, James Heinrich Shrum, to their family on March 7<sup>th</sup>.

**OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** is extended to Barbara Rawson and family on the passing of her husband, John, on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. All who mourn are in our thoughts and prayers.

**THANK YOU NOTES:** "I want to thank our ministers for the sermons heard on the television at my children's home. They have been inspirational and comforting. Thank you for my Christmas poinsettia and cards from fellow believers. Thanks for drive-thru ministry also! Looking forward to gathering again for worship, programs, and dinners." ~Margie Kennell

**DEDICATIONS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD:**

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** In memory of my brother, Gene Maynard. Given by Sandy Hayes.

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** In memory of my husband, Paul. Given by Doris Leibrock.

**BULLETINS:** Given by Rhonda Maynard.

## ☞ TODAY'S NEWS ☞

**SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP** will now be held at 6:00pm beginning on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

**LENTEN WORSHIP** - We will hold in-person services at 12noon and 6:15pm on all Wednesdays through March 24<sup>th</sup> during the season of Lent. See insert for more details regarding Lent/Easter services.

**DRIVE-THRU COMMUNION** will be held on Sundays from 12 noon to 12:15pm.

**GREETERS AND READERS** of the scriptures are needed at all services. Please sign up on the sheets posted in the North Entrance.

**EASTER LILIES** will beautify our Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Order forms are available at the church entrances, in the Eagle, and on our website. Please order on or before March 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **OWLS (OLDER, WISER LUTHERAN SENIORS) WILL MEET ON MARCH 19 AT 1PM**

We are doing our best to bring the OWLS together on Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup> for a couple of hours. We hope you invite and encourage others to come and enjoy the fellowship. Face masks are required and will be available if needed. We will practice safe distancing and do our best to keep everyone safe.

Our speaker is John Hampson representing the Grove City United Methodist Church's Free Store. The Free Store is available to residents in different zip codes and continues to be very successful. Come and hear how it got started, where they are today and how you can help/contribute. It's an interesting story and has provided families in need many times over.

Our OWLS will meet at 1:00 pm for this program and future programs until further notice. Unfortunately, we will not be sharing lunch. If you plan to attend, please sign up on the salmon insert sheet or call Bonnie Swanson at 614-562-8002

**OUTDOOR FAMILY EASTER EVENT** - Please join us on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am near the shelter house for an Easter Egg-Stravaganza, Weather Permitting! We are SO excited to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus together! Seriously, you DO NOT want to miss this incredible experience. Join us for games, an egg hunt, and the greatest story ever told. **IF YOU'RE NOT COMFORTABLE GATHERING AT CHURCH**, we're super bummed– and we know you are, too but we totally understand! You can create the same event in the safety of your own home for your family. ***Please let us know either way by marking the salmon insert if you would like to join us live for this event or if you would like a link to the resources to do this on your own at home.***



**EASTER CANDY DONATIONS AND “STUFFERS” NEEDED!** We are asking for donations of individually wrapped candies to fill plastic Easter eggs. There is a marked bin in the Link area for candy donations. If you would like to help fill the Easter eggs, please mark your calendars for Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at noon in the Family Life Center. A light lunch will be provided. Please mark the salmon insert if you plan to attend. Thank you so much for your support!

**BUILDING PROJECT UPDATES:** Thanks to all who have donated funds to purchase new chairs for the Family Life Center. We have a good start toward 200 chairs. The cost of each one is approximately \$52.00. We are also accepting donations toward the new lighting for the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Education Building.

**FAITH MISSION** is in need of personal care kits for men. Kits should include shampoo, body wash, deodorant, lotion, toothpaste and toothbrush. Please assemble into a one-gallon zipper seal plastic bag. We will collect these items in the Link through March 28<sup>th</sup>.

## ☪ YOUTH NEWS ☪

### YOUNGER SUNDAY SCHOOL

- **Ages 3 – Grade 4** your lesson today from your take-home packet is “The Light of the World”, John 3:14-21.
- **Grades 5 – 6** have Ten Commandment 4.
- Questions? Connect with Tim Allman at [tim.allman110@gmail.com](mailto:tim.allman110@gmail.com).

**OLDER SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Confirmation “Trot through the Bible” and High School Sunday School meets virtually on Sundays 9:30 – 10:30am.

**PRE-ORDERED APRIL AND MAY YOUTH MINISTRY MATERIALS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PICK-UP next Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> through Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>.** This includes Sunday School, Adventure Club, Faith Trek, Explorers, Energizers, Family Faith Boxes, and IQA bible study. Requested deliveries will also take place between March 21<sup>st</sup> and March 28<sup>th</sup>. Talk to Laurie, Gary, or Diana for details.

**AXIS FAMILY/PARENT RESOURCE (month three: evangelism) is being emailed to our rsvp list this week.** If you’re a parent, or grandparent, or an adult in a young person’s faith web and you’re interested in parenting materials and resources in raising youth our youth in today’s world, contact Diana at [dimbrock@stjohngsc.org](mailto:dimbrock@stjohngsc.org). Month Four: Relationships will be emailed the week of April 15<sup>th</sup>.

## ☪ STEWARDSHIP ☪

**Attendance:** Lenten Worship – 63

3/7/2021 – 244

<u>February 2021</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Operating	\$60,937	\$116,006	\$55,209	\$115,072
Benevolence	\$ 4,934	\$ 9,501	\$ 278	\$ 1,278
<b>Total Amount given to Good Samaritan Fund during pandemic as of 2/28/2021: \$18,280.</b>				
<b>Thank you!</b>				

**WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL AND GENEROUS GIVING  
TO ST. JOHN'S MINISTRIES!**

## ☞ CALENDAR ☞

### **SUNDAY, MARCH 14**

8:15am Traditional Worship (Sanc)  
 11:00am Contemporary Worship (Flc)  
 11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanc)  
 12:00pm Drive-thru Communion

### **MONDAY, MARCH 15**

12:00pm Lunchtime AA (102)  
 7:00pm Daily Reprieve AA (204)  
 7:00pm Council (Flc)

### **TUESDAY, MARCH 16**

9:00am Quilters (103-4)  
 2:00pm Small Group (102)  
 6:00pm Cub Scouts (virtual)  
 7:00pm Boy Scouts (virtual)

### **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17**

12:00pm Lenten Service (Sanc)  
 1:00pm Small Group (103-4)  
 6:15pm Lenten Service (Sanc)  
 6:45pm Explorers (virtual)  
 7:45pm Energizers (virtual)

### **THURSDAY, MARCH 18**

7:00am Promise Keepers (103-4)  
 1:00pm Small Group (101)  
 5:45pm Adventure Club (virtual)  
 6:00pm Small Group (101)  
 6:00pm Small Group (Library)  
 6:45pm Faith Trek (virtual)  
 7:00pm Contem. Worship Reh.

### **FRIDAY, MARCH 19**

9:30am Bulletin Team (Lib)  
 1:00pm OWLS (Flc)  
 8:30pm AA Mtg (Fh)

### **SATURDAY, MARCH 20**

6:00pm Traditional Worship (Sanc)  
 7:00pm A.A Serenity Seekers (103-4)

### **SUNDAY, MARCH 21**

8:15am Traditional Worship (Sanc)  
 11:00am Contemporary Worship (Flc)  
 11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanc)  
 12:00pm Drive-thru communion  
 6:00pm Saddles n Such 4H (Flc)

# Listening for the Promise

## Weekly Devotional

The Third Sunday in Lent      March 7, 2021, 2021

*“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery...” - Exodus 20:1-3*

God gave Moses specific instructions on what to say to the people before giving them the Ten Commandments. Listen to the words: “You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself.” (Exodus 19:4) Why would God say that? The Israelites who heard these words knew why. The memory was still fresh in their minds. God was saying, “Do you remember when you were trapped in Egypt and there was no escape from bondage? How you groaned under the cruelty of your taskmasters? I came down to buy you back out of slavery. Remember standing on the shore with the sea at your feet and Pharaoh’s troops breathing down your back? Feeling stuck because you couldn’t move forward and you couldn’t go back? I made a way for you when there was no way. Remember how in the wilderness I fed you with manna? Remember how I swooped down and bore you up on eagles’ wings? Remember?”

See, the rightful setting for the commandments is God’s boundless, faithful, fatherly love. Love doesn’t always come wrapped up like a pretty gift. It doesn’t always show up on your doorstep in the form of beautiful flowers. In fact, it just might be written in stone.

So how should we respond to such a gift? Before God gave the Ten Commandments, he told Moses to prepare the Israelites for his visit. They were to sanctify themselves and wash their clothes. When God comes down to visit you, it will require something of you. Something like reverence and expectancy, humility and awe. How might you and I prepare ourselves for whatever it is that God might like to give us or say to us?

We need to make room in our hearts and minds, we need to lose the clutter that prevents us from hearing God speak. Clutter like worry, and riches, and endless busyness that robs us of rest and peace. See, sin in our lives doesn’t stop God from giving, it just stops you and me from receiving.

Moses pleaded his case for the Israelites on the mountain, and God sent his first love letter written in stone. Today we come before Jesus Christ and he pleads for us before the Father’s throne. His love letter would be written in the blood of the Lamb. Let us prepare to receive his love in Word and Sacrament that we may be set free from all that holds us bound. Amen.

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## **HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES AT ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**



We'll be celebrating Holy Week and Easter  
at St. John's with the following services:

### **Palm Sunday Services, March 27-28**

Saturday 6:00 p.m. Traditional Passion Service (Sanctuary)

Sunday 8:15 and 11:00 a.m.:

"The Cry of the Whole Congregation" Passion service (Sanctuary)

No contemporary service.

### **Maundy Thursday, April 1**

7:00 p.m. (Sanctuary)

### **Good Friday, April 2**

7:00 p.m. (Sanctuary)

### **Easter Saturday, April 3**

1:00 p.m. "Sit Down" service for those with mobility issues. (Sanctuary).

The pastor will distribute communion to attendees as they remain seated in the  
pews.

6:00 p.m. Traditional (Sanctuary)

### **Easter Sunday, April 4**

8:15 a.m. Traditional (Sanctuary)

9:30 a.m. Traditional (Sanctuary)

11:00 a.m. Traditional (Sanctuary)

11:00 a.m. Contemporary (Family Life Center)

Please note that there will be an extra traditional worship service at 9:30 a.m. on  
Easter Sunday. You might want to consider coming to this one if you'd like more  
space.

Starting with Holy Week, ALL THE PEWS IN THE SANCTUARY will be available for  
seating. The tape will be removed. However, we do still encourage people to wear  
face coverings in consideration of all who have not been able to receive vaccinations  
yet. We will also continue to use the pre-packaged communion kits for worship for the  
time being. We look forward to being able to return to our normal communion  
practices SOON!

***God's peace and blessings to you all!***



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