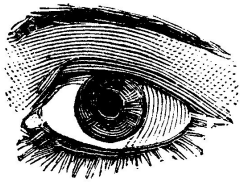




SAINT JOHN EVANGELIST

Newsletter

QUARTERLY / March, April, May 2025



Inside this issue

- Page 1** What is Lent?
- Page 2** Worship Schedule /
Church Council Notes
- Page 3** Life Outreach /
LWML Missions
- Page 4** Dorcas Anniversary /
Social Events
- Page 5** Trustee Projects/
Project Concern /
SELC Convention
- Page 6** Child Day Care News /
Hatian Ministry /
Valentine Cards
- Page 7** Planned Parenthood /
Glucose Hacks /
Adult Bible Studies

**"Outside the Christian
church, where there is
no gospel, there is no
forgiveness... no
holiness."**

Martin Luther

Significance of Lent

Early in the Church's history, the major events in Christ's life were observed with special observances, such as His birth, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension.

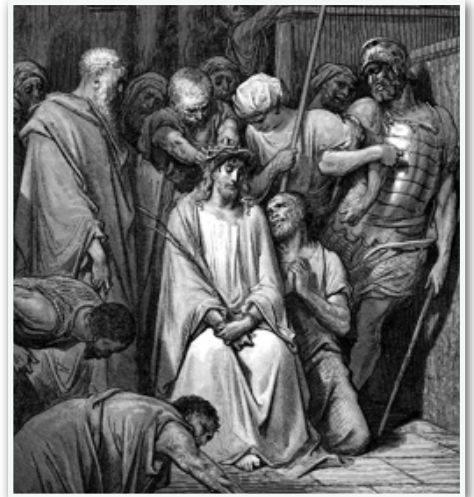
As these observances developed, a period of time was set aside prior to the major events of Jesus' birth and resurrection as a time of preparation.

During Lent, the Church's worship assumes a penitential character.

The color of the season is purple, a color often associated with penitence. The "Hymn of Praise" is omitted from the liturgy. The word "Alleluia" is usually omitted as well. Not using the word "Alleluia" - a joyful expression meaning "Praise the Lord" - until Easter Sunday, clearly sets Lent apart as a distinct time from the rest of the Church year.

Finally, the penitential character of Lent is not its sole purpose. In the Early Church, the weeks leading up to Easter were a time of intensive preparation of the candidates who were to be baptized at the Easter vigil or Holy Saturday.

Lent, in the Church's calendar, was seen as an especially appropriate time for Baptism because of the relationship between Christ's death and resurrection and our own Holy Baptism. "In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus". (see Romans 6:1-11).



Beliefs: Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, lcms.org



Worship With Communion

Saturdays, 3pm

Sundays, 9am

**Sunday Bible Study
10:30 - 11:30am**

**Monday Bible Study
6:30pm**

**Thursday Bible Study
1:30pm - 2:30pm**

Ash Wednesday Worship

March 5 at 6:30pm

Lenten Worship Services

Wednesdays: March 12, 19, 26

April 2 and 9 at 6:30pm

Lenten Dinners from 5:15 - 6:15pm

Maundy Thursday Worship

April 17 at 6:30pm

Good Friday Worship

April 18 at 6:30pm

Easter Worship Services

Holy Saturday at 3:00pm

Sunday at 10:00am

Easter Breakfast before Service

Mothers Day Services/May 11

Saturday 3pm & Sunday 9:00am

Memorial Day/Mon. May 26

Church and Day Care Closed

Church Council Highlights

Beginning Ash Wednesday (March 5, 2025) St John Church will be in the season of Lent. May you experience the awesome wonder of God's work in sending His Son to suffer, die, and rise again for all our sins. Let us all loudly proclaim this Easter season, "He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!"

Our Church Council and the individual Boards continue to provide for the spiritual, educational, emotional, and social needs of our congregation. Our facilities are well maintained (thank you Trustees), and we continue to reach out to our community and beyond. Other articles in this Evangelist highlight the many activities our members are involved in. Pastoral and Lay Delegates to the LCMS/ELC District Convention traveled to Florida in January to represent St. John Church. (See a the report on that event on page 5). Social Concerns is again overseeing mid-week meals prior to Lenten worship services. Bible Classes and Confirmation classes continue this Spring. Please consider attending these activities.

Our Church and Child Day Care had to deal with insurance changes that have caused premiums for Workman's Compensation and Property/Liability insurance to rise significantly. As you can imagine, some of the recent natural disasters around the country have caused everyone's premiums to rise. The original amount in our budget will not cover these costs. The Trustees and Church Council are working to address these issues.

Good news! The Child Day Care Oversight Committee has completed its review of the Parent Handbook. We are now starting to review the Employee Handbook, which may be modified to include both Day Care and Church employees. The Committee approved increases to tuition rates, and has actively supported increased enrollment, especially in the infant and toddler room. We are strategically planning for the eventual end of the Federal "COVID" subsidy received by St. John Child Day Care, which may end in June 2025.

There is a need for additional members to volunteer to serve on our Boards. As the saying goes, "many hands make the work go quickly". Please prayerfully consider serving on a Board. Contact me or Pastor DeVries and you will be appointed to serve. Church Board members and Officers voting will take place at the next St. John Voters' Meeting.

The Council will be presenting our 2025-26 budget at the Voters' Meeting in May or June. Watch for announcements on the exact date and time. If you have any questions please reach out to me. Jim Papala, President

Life Outreach Ministries

The converted duplex across the street from the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Sanford, Florida is kept clean and warm and filled with pictures of babies.

Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries, a recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, provides a safe and stable home where unwed, pregnant women learn the self-discipline to provide a safe and stable home for themselves and their families (whether they ultimately choose adoption or raise the child themselves). Most importantly, the women learn that they are beloved children of God, saved by the blood of Jesus.

The ministry's attachment to a congregation keeps it pointedly Christ-centered and Lutheran, without the limits that come with government aid. As such, it is neither a social-service agency nor a handout program.

Along with daily devotions, weekly church attendance, house cleaning, employment (or work on their educational goals) and turns cooking the evening meal, the residents have lessons in self-esteem, time management, finances, parenting and home care.

Pastor DeWitt at Redeemer Lutheran, takes the maternity home residents through a 12-14 week instruction class. "So often they claim Christian faith, but don't know Christ," he said. To these women, Christianity is a list of does and don'ts. They don't know grace. That's not the world they come from. They come from a world where you do and you get."

Many of the women and children are baptized in the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. Some become confirmed members and others reach out years later with joyous updates: stable employment, weddings, more children with a husband in a safe and happy home. engage.lcms.org

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Our St John LWML has been busy turning yards of donated fabric they have received into fabric squares that will be turned into quilts that to be donated to Lutheran World



Relief. Lutheran World Relief shares them in the USA, and every corner of the world affected by poverty or environmental disasters of many kinds.

To help the quilting process, LWML member, Jean Belter, applied for, and received, a Thrivent Financial Action Grant to purchase rotary cutters, plastic measuring mats and an iron. She is teaching quilters how to cut multiple squares at the same time. This makes the squares neater and the process is much easier on the hands then cutting with scissors. Thank you Jean and Thrivent.

If anyone is interested in learning this process please come to help when you see the notice in the bulletin, or just ask any LWML member, they would love the extra help.



Our next regular

Tuesday meetings are scheduled for:

March 18 at 1:30pm in the fellowship hall.

April 15 at 1:30pm in the fellowship hall.

May 20 at 1:30pm in the fellowship hall.

Mark your calendar for some important LWML Zone 1 meetings and a National LWML Convention. The next Zone 1 Rally will be at Grace Lutheran church on Oklaoma Ave. on Saturday, April, 12 from 9 - 11am.



Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 9 (Set clocks ahead 1 hour)



Dorcas Society in Action

The Dorcas Society is pleased to announce that the annual Dorcas Bake Sale & Craft Fair raised \$4,093.00 in December 2024. Dorcas members appreciate all the helpers who made this event a success.



At the December 18, 2024 Advent meal, the Society served 52 people. Everyone enjoyed the food and fellowship before the Advent worship service that followed.

St. John Dorcas Society celebrated its 85th Anniversary on Sunday, February 16. The celebration began with worship services that highlighted the faithful contributions and service the Society has made to St. John Church and the surrounding community. A lunch at Joe's "K" Ranch followed the Sunday worship.

Dorcas Society member and past president, Kathy Barker, past away on December 27, 2024. We will miss her very much, but know she is in the arms of her heavenly Father.

The Dorcas Society will host an upcoming Wednesday Lenten meal. (See Social Concerns column on this page for Lenten Meal dates.)

On Wednesday, May 7, 2025, Dorcas will host its annual Women's Celebration at St. John Fellowship Hall. The event is open to all women members of St. John and their guests. Ticket prices will be \$18.00 per adult and \$6.00 for children aged 6-12. Tickets will be on sale in March and April after church services.

On a personal note: Thank you to all that helped me during a very difficult time in my and my family's life.

See you at our upcoming Lenten Dinners and worship services and our joyous Easter service.

Paulette Schmadl,
Dorcas Society President

Chili Cook Off, Bunco and Lent Events

An enjoyable time was had by those who attended the St. John Church inaugural "Chili Cook Off" and Bunco event in February. Five very different [and yummy] chilies were taste-tested and favorites chosen. Thank you to all who entered the contest and kudos to our winners-1st place CynDee Johnson-Kroll, 2nd place Carolyn Krueger, and 3rd place Lyn Weber! Now is the time to start perfecting your chili recipe for next year's contest... the Social Concerns Board hopes to see you there!



Join your church family for dinner at 5:15pm before this spring's Lenten services on March 12th, 19th, 26th, April 2nd and April 9th, with a potluck on March 26th. Thanks in advance to our

hosts – Elders, Dorcas Society, Handbell Choir, Social Concerns Board, and Lloyd and Chris Buttke. Menus will be posted in the weekly bulletin. Please sign up in the narthex to bring a favorite dish to the potluck or a dessert to the other dinners.

New ideas for fellowship events are always welcomed. Contact Lyn Weber at 414-366-0114

What are Hymns For?

Christ's bride, the Church, is fed and nourished as we read, mark, memorize and weave hymns into the preaching of the Gospel. Hymns are a powerful teaching tool. As such Hymns must be spiritual, confessional and biblical. They speak of the hope that is in us; they tell of the mighty deeds of God in Christ on our behalf.

"Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching . . . one another in psalms and hymns . . . (Col. 3:16) *LCMS.ORG, Worship Library*

Recent Trustee Projects

No more mice or outside air will be entering the church's exterior doors facing South Lake Drive thanks to Craig Hanke and Adam Seaman installing new door sweeps. These new sweeps will also prevent door deterioration and save on energy use..

Bob Weber, helped Trustees fix Narthex doors that had weak hinge supports. This caused Narthex doors to not stay open and created wall damage. More Narthex doors will be fixed in the future.

Dimmer switches have been installed to control sconce lights in the Narthex and Office hallway area.



Project Concern Spring Outreach

Project Concern, a faith-based non-profit emergency food pantry, clothing bank and resource center serves low income residents of Cudahy and St. Francis, WI.



Project Concern and St. John member, Jacquelyn Damask, promotes Project Concern's monthly needs and collects donated items placed in baskets located near the church office and at the Child Day Care East entrance. March focus is Deodorant. April focus is Toothbrushes/Toothpaste. May focus is Hand Soap. Welcomed items are: Laundry Soap, Shampoo, Shaving Cream, Kleenex, Diapers, Baby Wipes, New Socks, Low Sodium Canned Vegetables, Diced Tomatoes, Tomato Sauce, Canned Ham and Canned Chicken.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

"Called to be Light": SELC District is Mission Focused

The 2025 SELC Convention encouraged every SELC congregation to adopt a missionary either through financial support and/or prayer. A healthy 71% of all offerings given to the SELC are used for mission work. A special convention offering was given to international missions in India. Many details were not able to be shared because of ongoing persecution Christians are enduring from the Hindus. St. John Church will highlight SELC and Missouri Synod Lutheran mission work through monthly bulletin inserts.

Good news! President Harrison, President of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, told the convention delegates that none of the LCMS California churches were affected by the fires. President Harrison also spoke of the health of the LCMS, ongoing programs and the Concordia Lutheran College system. He noted that Concordia Austin has chosen not to be a part of the LCMS Concordia system despite efforts to keep the college in fellowship.

As lay people, we need to understand the men in the pastoral office bear a great burden and we need to assist where we are able. If we are not able, we need to find someone who can help.

My thanks to the St. John congregation for your trust in me to be your lay representative to the 2025 SELC convention.

Peter Brandstrom,



It is better to hold out a helping hand than to point a finger.



Day Care Students Visit St. Matthew's Seniors

In February, the children started learning about shadows as they talked about Groundhog Day. They then had a lot of ❤️ activities for Saint Valentine's Day. Related activities included talking about kindness and using the color 🍷 .

As we move onto March, the children will celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday and St. Patrick's Day, when a lot of "green" 🍀 will be used. Towards the end of the month, they will discuss the changes in the weather and the new season of Spring.

New Child Day Care opportunity! The school-age children will visit St. Matthew's Residence to be a part of Roy Lemmer's devotions when the students have Spring Break.

April, of course, will focus on more Spring activities and getting ready for Easter. During that time, we will have our annual Scholastic 📖 Fair and Child Day Care families will participate in Storybook Night. Our Story Book Night theme this year will be The Very Hungry 🐛 and we will have various activities for them to participate in after reading the story. Our annual St. John Child Day Care **O&H Kringle Sale** will begin sometime in **April**. Look for the April dates in church bulletins.

Remembering those in need, St. John Child Day Care families and staff continue their monthly item donations to Project Concern.

VBS Donated Offerings to Haitian Ministry



Trinity Hope is a Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. They feed children in Haiti who attend Christian schools where they hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Last summer our VBS children donated mission offerings to Trinity Hope. Those offerings were matched by St John Church and we were able to provide around 1350 meals for the children of Haiti. A common phrase in Haiti is "An empty stomach has no ears."

Keith Logan, Executive Director of Trinity Hope, will be at St John Church to tell us more about their work. Keith will be with us on Saturday March 29th at 2pm and Sunday, March 30th during Adult Bible Study. Please sign up in the narthex for Saturday at 2pm. Refreshments will be provided.

More information can be found on line at Trinity Hope.org and on You Tube. Search Trinity Hope Haitian feeding program.

Trinity Hope has an 100% rating from Charity Navigator.



This Lady Brought You Valentine's Day Cards



Esther Howland, born in Worcester, Massachusetts, is credited with being the first person to produce valentine cards and possibly the very first commercial producer of valentine cards in the United States. Her efforts, coupled with the subsequent businesses that popped up in the area made Worcester, MA, the US capital for industrial card production for nearly 100 years. *American Vinegar Works, Worcester, MA*

Planned Parenthood Just Came Out With a New Video 🙄

Planned Parenthood just came out with a new video that calls virginity “made up” and a “social construct.” The “educator” in the video tells young people: “It’s time to throw away the notion of losing your virginity.” Instead of seeing it as “losing something,” Planned Parenthood encourages impressionable teens to experiment sexually because “all the myths around sex and virginity can be hurtful and overwhelming.”

In classic Planned Parenthood fashion, irrefutable definitions, like virginity, are warped, and morality is thrown out the window.

Planned Parenthood’s damaging education materials teach that gender is fluid, deviant sexual practices are healthy and pornographic materials in schools are acceptable reading for young kids and teens. This organization should not be allowed in public schools.

Live Action, Arlington, VA

Glucose Hacks

- **Eat foods in the right order:**

The right order to eat food to minimise glucose spikes is 1) Fiber 2) Protein and fats 3) Starches and sugars.

- **Veggie starters:**

Veggie starters reduce glucose spikes of the meal. Starter vegetables should make up 30% of meal.

- **Stop counting calories**

Counting calories does not necessarily improve health outcomes.

- **Savory Breakfast:**

A breakfast composed of protein, fat, fiber and optional starches. Nothing sweet except fruit (just for taste).

- **Pick dessert over a sweet snack:**

Want something sweet? It is better to have a dessert after a meal than a sweet snack between meals.

- **Vinegar reduces glucose spikes 30%:**

Put 1 Tbls. in a tall glass of water (with a straw to protect teeth), or as a salad dressing 20 min. before a meal.

- **After you Eat - Move:**

After meals, when you can, use your muscles for 10 minutes to reduce after meal glucose spikes. Ex. walking, tidying up your house, doing calf raises, etc.

- **Want a snack? Go savory:**

Savory snacks give us energy. They have healthy proteins, fats and fiber. Ex, pecans, walnuts, cheese and beans.

- **Put “clothes” on your carbs:**

Add protein, fat or fiber to starches and sugars. This reduces speed of glucose absorption in your body.

Note: These Glucose Hacks will lower your blood glucose spikes throughout the day. *Glucose Goddess*



Winter Bible Study Offerings

Sunday Mornings, 10:30am: Incarnation Of Jesus. Next: Acts
Monday Evenings, 6:30pm: Study of the Book of Galatians:
Paul’s letter about Christian freedom. Leader: Roy Lemmer
Thursday Afternoons, 1:30-2:30pm: NEW! “The Unexplained” A Bible Study that explores the beliefs our contemporary society has with spirituality and the spirit world. Topics include what Scripture has to teach about: Miracles, Mystical Experiences, Near Death Experiences, Dreams, Demons and Angels.