

MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER



*God Our Provider
Psalm 102: 23-27*

Hands reaching. Hearts hoping. Souls crying out to be saved from the very real oppression and injustice in everyday life. In these times we feel insecure and unsafe and cling to temporal things for momentary relief from our grief. Perhaps we lament, "Why are you allowing this to happen, O God?" as our Psalmist David intimates (Ps. 102:23-24) who will set the captive free? Who will reverse the tide of injustice? Who will deliver us from our grief? Where can joy be found? Question of restoration linger in the echoes of our mind. The psalmist echoes our cries.

In Lent we contemplate the state of our lives and the lives of others. As we feel our hurts and lament God's seeming absence let us not lose faith and hope that the Christ, who has shared in our every experience, will meet us in the darkest places physically, mentally, and spiritually. God's faithfulness in Christ allows us to sit in the midst of darkness and not lose hope but cling fast to the faithfulness of One who provides all that we need. God has been faithful before. God will be faithful to provide and restore us to fullness of life again. (Ps. 102: 27-28)

We pray: God of provision and restoration, grant us faith in our questioning and peace in our turmoil. Let us endure with you in this Lenten season clinging fast to the cross in the promise that we too will be resurrected and redeemed with Christ.

See you in worship,
Pastor Amelia



NEED A PRAYER?

Call Joyce Brooke at
715-778-5646
and our Prayer Chain will go into
action!



MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Join us at 10AM each Monday morning in the SVHRC Valley Villas dining room. All are welcome! We will be studying Deb Burma's "Living a Chocolate Life" Savoring God's Sweet Grace.

"HE CHOSE the NAILS"
submitted by Nancy Cleveland

The five Sundays of March will be highlighted by a five-session video Bible study after church. Max Lucado examines the gifts that Christ gave US at his crucifixion.

March 1 He Chose to "Be One of Us"

March 8 He Chose to "Forgive Us"

March 15 He Chose to "Invite Us into His Presence"

March 22 He Chose to "Love Us Forever"

March 29 He Chose to "Give Us Victory"

Join us when you can...we will hear Christ whisper, "I did it just for you."

LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

All Lenten Services 7PM

The Lenten theme is "I AM so We Are." We will explore the "I AM" statements of Jesus through the Gospels and connect it to how God has named and is calling us today.

- **Mar 4** Spring Lake, coffee/fellowship to follow.
- **Mar 11** Gilman, coffee/fellowship to follow.
- **Mar 18** St. John's, coffee/fellowship to follow.
- **Mar 25** Spring Lake, coffee/fellowship to follow.
- **April 1** Gilman, coffee/fellowship to follow.

WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S

all women of St. John's are welcome!
submitted by Nina Larson

Bingo: Tuesday, March 3 at the SVHRC at 2PM. Workers always welcome.

Quilting: The first and third Thursday at 9AM in the Fellowship Hall.

Circle/Bible Study: Monday March 9 at 2PM in the Fellowship Hall. Lynda Johnson will be our hostess and Nina Larson will have devotions. Pastor Amelia will lead our Bible Study.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Join Pastor Dwaine Thursday **March 12**, from 6:30-8PM at Sneakers in Spring Valley. Grab a beverage and other menu items as we talk and explore the subject of what God is telling us.



SAVE THE DATE
Saturday March 28

More details coming soon.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

submitted by Rob Moore

Our Sunday school class has been busy continuing to learn about Jesus's teachings! We had a great month in February despite some hiccups with the weather, and we're hoping for a great March! We'll be playing some fun games as we learn about these New Testament stories.

March 1 Zacchaeus

March 8 Lazarus

March 15 Pool of Siloam

March 22 The Good Shepherd

March 29 The Easter Story

Our 6th grade CONNECT group will be taking a break from classes during Lent to allow our students and their families to attend Lenten worship services. **CONNECT will resume on April 15th** at 6:30 with a new unit on the Life of Jesus.

EASTER SUNDAY COMBINED CHOIR

submitted by Mel Wentlandt

Attention those with voices and want to be heard! Your opportunity has arrived - anyone interested in singing with the combined choir on Easter Sunday - please contact Mel Wentlandt or Linda Anderson.

PALM SUNDAY CONTINENTAL BRUNCH & BREAKFAST

Please invite your family and friends to join you for worship (9:30am) and Brunch (10:30am) on **Palm Sunday April 5**. Brunch menu will include eggs, breakfast meat, baked goods, coffee, orange juice and milk. Gluten-Free & Vegetarian options will be available! This is a free-will offering fundraising event with proceeds going to support sending kids to Bible Camp! **We are looking for individuals willing to coordinate this event and also helpers to assist that day!** Contact the church office to assist or with any questions at 778-5935. We look forward to seeing you!

COMMUNION MILESTONE CELEBRATION



Our Communion Milestone is celebrated on Maundy Thursday of every year during Holy Week as we remember the institution of the Lord's Supper. This year it will be held on **Thursday, April 9** at 7pm. Please join us as we celebrate this important milestone!

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Feb 2	85	60
Feb 9	34	60
Feb 16	88	70
Feb 23	79	18
<u>Giving</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Open Plate</u>
Feb 2	\$3,391	\$30
Feb 9	\$255	\$24
Feb 16	\$2,861	\$152
Feb 23	\$1,183	\$40

Total budget: (2020) \$142,157.00

Needed/week: \$2,733.79

Total needed to date this month: \$21,870.31

Total received to date this month: \$18,316.71

**LUTHER POINT BIBLE CAMP
EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION DISCOUNT
DEADLINE MAY 1**

Did you know about day camps for children as young as 1st or 2nd grade? Did you know your whole family can come to "family camp" or that grandparents and grandchildren can enjoy a half-week camp option together!? While our middle school youth are expected to attend Jr. High camp at least once during Confirmation, there are unique summer camp options outside of that for Jr. and Sr. High too! See <https://lutherpoint.org/summer-camp> for more information.

St. John's helps covers the balance of most camps. Families are responsible for registration and deposit payments and St. John's will not cover extra non-early bird fees! It is an expectation that camp families participate with annual fundraising endeavors Parents are of course welcome to pay more than the deposit amount if they would like, or if they feel fundraising expectations might exceed their available time (though we think the fundraising is half the fun). Should a family have financial limitations or questions/concerns about their children attending camp, please contact Pastor Amelia to discuss options.

Thank You!

- TO:** Richard & Lynda Johnson for the donation to the Bldg. Fund in memory of Dick Wood, Ethel Whirry, Vernon Stone, Carleen Johnson, Carolyn Nelson & Barry Moran.
- TO:** Linda Stang for the donation to the General Fund in memory of Ethel Whirry.
- TO:** The Dittman Family for the donation to the General Fund in memory of Ethel Whirry.
- TO:** The Holerud family for the donation to the MEF in memory of Ethel Whirry.
- TO:** Kaye Gavic for the special donation to the Bldg. Fund.

Dear St. John's: Thank you so much for the financial support for my seminary education. Your support is such a blessing and encouragement as I continue this journey. I am so grateful for your continued prayers as I look ahead to my pastoral internship this coming fall. Again, thank you for your generosity. Katie Anderson

**EASTER FLOWERS
ORDERS DUE NO LATER THAN MARCH 30**

Help us decorate our worship space this Easter Morning at St. John's with spring flowers that announce Christ's Resurrection and his victory over death! Order your Easter flowers now using this form. **Please include your payment.** A list of persons or occasions being honored or remembered will be placed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday (must be turned in by deadline). Flowers can be picked up following the Easter worship service.

COST OF FLOWERS

Easter Lilies - \$9	Mums - \$15.95
Azaleas - \$17.95	Hydrangeas - \$17.95

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Return the form below with your payment to St. John's no later than Monday March 30. This will allow us we have time to get the order in to the greenhouse. Thank you!

_____ (Your name)

Wish to share:

_____ Lilies	_____ Mums
_____ Azaleas	_____ Hydrangeas

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

On occasion of _____

ST. JOHN'S LIBRARY
submitted by Lynda Johnson



We invite you to use the St. John's Library located in the North hall of the church. St. John's library has over 900 books to choose from. Books of biography, devotions, inspiration, romance mystery, humor, mission and there are also books for youth. Please come and enjoy our books.

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

3 Jason & Minda Matthys
6 Greg & Terri Trealoff
13 Jay & Wendy Arneson



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 Richard Johnson
1 Larry Whirry
3 Charlie Maier
4 Toby Roatch
6 Emma Esanbock
7 Elijah Butts
7 Jeremy Wildner
8 Jeff Cady
8 Wyatt Schultz
10 Pierce Burr
10 Joyce Garfield
11 Thomas Boyer
11 Ross Keehr
11 Alayna Vorliceck
13 Maximum Borst
13 Cliff Meyers

13 Tammy Meyers
16 Connor Lynum
18 Martin Gland
18 Crystal Mooney
20 Kimberly Keehr
23 Terri Trealoff
23 Lori Wells
24 Patrick Cipriano
24 Kelli Schlegel
27 Shelby Ellefson
27 Grace Hennemann
27 Anthony Robbins
29 Barbara Esanbock
29 Dawson Schmitt
31 Alec Boyer
31 David Butts

LAYETTE NEWS



New or gently used garments needed for the layette mission project. (dark colored), infant hats & Socks, 30 sweaters, jackets & sweatshirts (sizes 6-24 months), *You may leave items at the church or contact the Layette Coordinator Serena Roen at 778-5788 if you have any questions.



SPRING VALLEY COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Open the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month from 10-11:30AM & 4:30-6PM. Phone 715-778-5988 for more information. For immediate need, please call the Pierce County Food Pantry in Ellsworth at 715-273-2070. Winter of 2020 needs: Hearty Choice soups, Kleenex, toilet paper, liquid hand soap.

SPRING VALLEY SENIORS STAYING PUT

February Events

submitted by Karen Gunderson

SENIORS LUNCH: Every week **Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday**, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM at **Sneakers**. If you need a ride call 715-778-5800.

MEALS ON WHEELS: For inquiry, please call the ADRC of Pierce County @ 715-273-6780, or the ADRC of St. Croix County @ 715-381-4360. Staying Put volunteers deliver the meals.

ARTS & CRAFT CIRCLE: **Monday, March 9** 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM at the Staying Put office, S312 McKay St., for time to socialize and work on fun craft projects. CALL FOR A RESERVATION - 715-778-5800.

DANCE CLUB: Wednesday **March 25**, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the Moose Lodge in Menomonie (\$5/person cover charge). Live entertainment... Lots of fun! Call 715-778-5800 for updates and for a ride. **Drivers needed.** Call 715-778-5800.

MARLENE DORAN CARD-MAKING CLUB: Monday, March 16 at the Staying Put office @ 3:30 PM. Cards are personally crafted by clients/sent by volunteers. For a ride, call Staying Put @ 715-778-5800.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS/DEMENTIA

AWARENESS DISCUSSION: Thursday, March 19 at the Staying Put office @ 2:00 PM. This will be a casual event to promote dementia awareness/ask questions/engage in an open discussion. Please call to reserve a place at the table, or if you need a ride call 715-778-5800.

PEN-PAL CLUB: If you would like to become a pen-pal, or know somebody that would, call Staying Put @ 715-778-5800.

STRONG BODIES FITNESS SESSIONS: Tuesdays & Fridays 9:30-10:30 AM. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED: Call Staying Put @ 715-778-5800. Fee: \$3 per class, to cover various expenses. No person is turned away for inability to pay. Call the office for a fee-waiver @ 715-778-5800.

BOOKS-to-GO CLUB: Volunteers will deliver a basket of books or movies to you for your reading/watching pleasure. For more information call SV Library 715-778-4590 or Staying Put office 715-778-5800.

TECH WORKSHOP: For personal help on your electronic device, call Senior Staying Put office at 715-778-5800.

MEMORY CAFÉ: A social get-together for older adults. Held Tuesdays: **March 10 and 24**, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM at St. John's Lutheran Church, S520 Church Ave., Spring Valley, WI 54767. Anyone with memory loss is invited to attend with a friend or companion. Have fun and share stories. Enjoy coffee or tea and treats. For information call 715-778-5800.



St. John's Lutheran Church, Council Meeting, February 11th, 2020
Unofficial, minutes to be approved at the next meeting.
Belonging to Christ, we are a family of faith, **Encouraging** spiritual growth and
Connecting others to lasting hope.



Those present: Pastor Amelia Houdek, Karen Gunderson (President), Lisa Nelson (Vice President), Stacy Burr (Secretary), Earl Gunderson (Treasurer), Leanna Larson (Financial Secretary), Crystal Mooney (Stewardship), Rob Moore (Education), Nancy Cleveland (Adult Faith & Education), Mel Wentlandt (Social Concerns) and David Butts (Property)

Those not present: all present

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by President Karen Gunderson at 6:30 pm

Opening Prayer/Devotions: Pastor Amelia led us in prayer. Bible study. Romans 12: 1-16. We reflected on the reading and discussed how it related to our responsibilities as council members and how we represent the congregation as leaders.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Leanne Larson, second by Nancy Cleveland to approve agenda. Motion carried.

President's Report: Activities for the month-

- Communications with church office manager – issues/concerns
- Communications with treasurer – as needed
- Worked with treasurer and new bookkeeper to get new signature cards for bank accounts
- Conducted Budget review meeting for Congregation a week prior to the Annual meeting to answer any questions about the 2020 Budget.
- Prepared for and conducted Annual Meeting (thank you to all who helped out and participated in the meeting).
- Participated in another Joint Leadership team meeting with Gilman and Spring Lake, which has led to planning for Listening sessions for each Congregation.
- Meeting with Pastor Amelia to discuss Council agenda and matters of the church.

Pastor's Report:

Things to celebrate

- New website template has been chosen and the new website is under construction

Things I am working on

- A comprehensive sexual misconduct and prevention policy. I have sent 2 examples to Rob Moore and his team. We will set a time to discuss. This is in relation to background checking. I also have a volunteer application for us to implement in the 2020/2021 programming year that is really necessary especially for insurance purposes.
- Lent and Easter sermon series
- Creating engaging content for Confirmation program

Things to consider together

Installation of the new water fountain or purchasing Dixie cups to put by our fountain. This is a hospitality issue that needs to be addressed.

- Adding a handicap accessible door opener to the North doors. During my infirmity I experienced difficulty entering that door on crutches. This is both a safety and hospitality issue.

Things to know about my February schedule

- No vacation or time away for Con Ed.
- Will be catching up on shut in visits now that I can drive again. ☺

Things to pray for together

- Our ministry together
- Those who are ill in mind, body, spirit
- Healing for my right ankle (wound isn't healing, and I still can't bear weight. Not the expected outcome.)

Joyfully,

Pastor Amelia Houdek

Secretary's report: Motion by Leanna Larson, second by Earl Gunderson to approve January meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Review of bills- Earl working on revising balance sheet to be more accurate. We started paying benevolence again starting in December. We owe \$1100 so far this winter for snow removal. Roof loan will come out of building fund. Motion by Lisa Nelson, second by David Butts to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Stewardship: Members- Crystal Mooney. Looking for more members.

- No report

Adult Faith and Education: Nancy Cleveland

+Bible Study of Living a Chocolate Life at the SVHRC Valley Villas has 13 members

+MINUTE MINISTRY at beginning of Coffee/Fellowship hours has begun. BYOBV is encouraged

+Will offer five sessions before Lent of HE CHOSE the NAILS by Max Lucado

Matt Pommier will lead the sessions during the 5 Sundays in March. Matt did an awesome job leading the Because of Bethlehem series before Christmas.

+Encouraging our Adults to join Pastor Duwaine for Theology on Tap at Sneakers, February 13 from 6:30-8:00.

Motion by Earl Gunderson, second by Mel Wentlandt to approve Beulah Thompson, Phil & Laura Hennemann and Matt Pommier as members of the Adult Faith and Education Committee

Property: Members- David Butts, Jamie, Pierce & Brody Burr

- No report

Education: Members- Rob Moore, Darice Butts and Emma Esanbock

- Nothing new to report

Worship: Members- Linda Anderson. Looking for more members

- Pastor Amelia and Linda met on Monday, February 3 at 5:30 PM at St. John's.
- Discussed Lent season (Wednesday services have been planned).
- Strong baptismal connection for this year's theme (will use some baptismal songs during this season).
- Accompanist schedule and hymn selections will be made, and this information will be sent to Pastor Amelia and Connie.

Social Concerns- Members- Mel Wentlandt, Kate Crogan and Jennifer Bille

Mel is organizing Ash Wednesday Lasagna/Pasta Dinner February 26th with Stacy Burr.

Old Business:

Membership software- Need to sign up for a trial membership of Church Trac. Pastor Amelia will get it set up. Working on cleaning up membership list.

Marketing/Website Update- Ministry Designs was the Website voted on at the January council meeting. A template was chosen. Payment needs to be made yet.

New Business: Council Covenant- Discussed responsibilities and expectations of council members. Council is working to reach a common goal. We'll talk more about this at the March council meeting.

Testimonials- Topic tabled till next meeting. Vision for St. John's and 3-pt Parish- Council to finish the sentence, "I see a day when..." and share vision with council and members of the congregation.

EPIC Training- Council will be attending EPIC training in Rice Lake on March 7th.

Snow/Extreme Cold Days- St. John's will follow the guidelines of the Pierce County Sheriff's Department. If no travel is advised and church is canceled it will be posted on Facebook and Karen will inform council. If you are unsure if church is canceled check Facebook first or you can call a council member for clarification.

Mission Endowment- Needs more signers. Motion by Lisa Nelson, second by Leanna Larson to approve Laura Hennemann, Jon Anderson and Ross Keehr to move money from brokerage account to checking account.

Bible Camp- Families to pay deposit. Church to pay remaining unless family wants to pay for it all. Also, if families need extra help with deposit and/or payment, talk to Pastor Amelia.

Next Council Meeting: March 10th @ 6:30pm

Upcoming Events:

Ash Wed. Service and Lasagna/Pasta Dinner: February 26th

40 Days of Giving- Motion by Rob Moore, second by Linda Anderson to approve Lenten offerings to go to Malawi Fund.

Epic Training: March 7th in Rice Lake from 9am - 2pm.

Palm Sunday Service and Breakfast: April 5th

Adjourn: Motion by Rob Moore, second by Mel Wentlandt to adjourn at 8:02 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted: Stacy Burr, Secretary

SNOW DAY PROCEDURE

When the snow storms roll in on a weekend, the question always comes up... "Will we cancel church?" St. John's has never cancelled church that I am aware of, but in the interest of safety for our members the following will be used as our guideline: If the Pierce County Sheriff's Dept. puts out "No Travel Advised", then we will not have church.

So how will you know? The following will be the procedure:

- Check the Pierce County weather warnings.... If "no travel is advised" by the sheriff's department, then we will not have church.
- Use your best judgment.... If you do not feel that you will be safe out on the roads, do not venture out.
- Check St. John's Facebook.... Will post there.
- Each Council member will be notified, so you can check with any Council member to verify.

This procedure was discussed and decided on at Council, February 11th. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Gunderson @ 715-495-3155 or any of your Council members.

MARCH VOLUNTEERS

Communion Bread Baker for March: Stacy Burr

MARCH	Usher	Greeter	Reader	Acolytes	Coffee Host/s	Comm. Asst.	Altar Guild
1	Bob Hanson	Brian & Pat Sandness	Pat Sandness	JT Bauer Carson Lynum	Barb & Pete Esanbock	Shelby Crow Nancy Cleveland	Amy Cady Tiffany Gregg
8	Bill & Luann Emerson	Mooney Family	Stacy Burr	Carson Lynum Adrian Gregg	Earl & Karen Gunderson	Stacy & Brody Burr	Nina Larson Joan Wikre
15	Ben Anderson	Butts Family	Rob Moore	JT Bauer Abby Thompson	Volunteer needed	Nina Larson Sara Anderson	Amy Cady Tiffany Gregg
22	Bob Hanson Matt Pommier	Moore Family	Claire Pommier	Diego Schmitt Will Schmitt	Volunteer needed	Shelby Crow Leanna Larson	Rob Moore
29	Hennemann Family	Wentlandt Family	Nancy Cleveland	Ruth Hennemann Rhyan Nelson	Hennemann Family	Kristin Larson Nancy Cleveland	Kristin Larson

MARCH 2020

St. John's Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30AM Worship Service W/Holy Communion 10:30AM Coffee/Fellowship 10:30AM Sunday school	2 Bible Study 10AM SVHRC Valley Villas	3 Bingo 2PM SVHRC	4 Lenten Worship Service, Spring Lake Lutheran 7PM	5 Quilting 9-11:30AM	6	7 Don't forget to set your clocks ahead 1 hour before bed.
8 9:30AM Worship Service W/Holy Communion 10:30AM Coffee/Fellowship 10:30AM Sunday school 6PM: Joint Leadership Team Mtg. Gilman Lutheran	9 Bible Study 10AM SVHRC Valley Villas WELCA 2PM Fellowship Hall	10 Memory Café 10-11:30AM Council Mtg. 6:30PM	11 Lenten Worship Service, Gilman Lutheran; 7PM	12 Theology on Tap 6:30-8PM Sneakers	13	14
15 9:30AM Worship Service W/Holy Communion 10:30AM Coffee/Fellowship 10:30AM Sunday school	16 Bible Study 10AM SVHRC Valley Villas	17	18 Lenten Worship Service, St. John's; 7PM	19 Quilting 9AM-11:30AM	20	21
22 9:30AM Worship Service W/Holy Communion 10:30AM Coffee/Fellowship 10:30AM Sunday school	23 Bible Study 10AM SVHRC Valley Villas	24 Memory Café 10-11:30AM	25 Lenten Worship Service, Spring Lake Lutheran 7PM	26	27	28
29 9:30AM Worship Service W/Holy Communion 10:30AM Coffee/Fellowship 10:30AM Sunday school	30	31				