



The Informer

March 2023

St. John's Lutheran Church of East Moline, IL

Volume 64 Issue 7

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From Pastor's Pen:

"When the days drew near for him to be received up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem." (Luke 9:51)

My fellow travelers:

This month we begin our Lenten journey with Jesus as we set our faces to go to Jerusalem. While the phrase "set His face" primarily expresses an unwavering determination to finish His course, it had a unique meaning to our Lord which we would do well to apply to our own journey.

Setting His face towards Jerusalem meant something very different for Jesus than it did for the disciples. Based upon the persistent arguments among the disciples, it seems that they had visions of greatness and aspirations for royal grandeur once Jesus took up His throne in Jerusalem. Jesus, however, had another vision on his mind. For Jesus Jerusalem meant one thing: certain death. As He had predicted: *"Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written of the Son of man by the prophets will be accomplished. For he will be delivered to the Gentiles, and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon; they will scourge him and kill him."* (Luke 18:31ff) When Jesus set his face to go to Jerusalem, he set his face to die.

It is important to remember that when Jesus set his face upon death for us he had a nature like ours. He wanted to avoid pain, just as much as any of us. He had a family and friends He loved. He had special places He liked to go and things He enjoyed doing in this world. To turn his back on all of that and set his face towards vicious whipping and beating and spitting and mocking and crucifixion wasn't easy. It was difficult beyond our understanding, yet it was what He was determined to do for us and our salvation. He says in John 10: *"I am the Good Shepherd...and I lay down my life for the sheep...No one takes my life from me, but I lay it down of my own accord"* (John 10:14a, 15b, 18) His self-sacrifice in obedience to the Father and love for us is to be our source of meditation and our example to follow, because Jesus' journey is our journey, also.

We set our face to go to Jerusalem to die with Jesus. We set our face to share in His death and resurrection in our baptism; to die to sin and to be made alive to God.

As we begin our Lenten journey, this year, let us apply Jesus' words, when He says, *"If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake, he will save it."* (Luke 9:23-24) When Jesus set his face to go to Jerusalem, He not only took our place, but he gave us a pattern for life. If we seek to secure our life through returning evil for evil or surrounding ourselves with luxury in the face of human need, we will lose our life. We can save our life only if we follow Christ, dying to self and living for others.

Let us, therefore, set our face to go with Jesus to Jerusalem. Let this season of Lent be the beginning of a whole new life of dying and being made alive for the sake of others. Consider how you can use this sacred time to deny yourself, to devote yourself to Word and prayer and to caring for the needs of others.

In Jesus' name,

Pastor Ymberger

Even now,
says the LORD,
return to me
with your
whole heart.
Jer 2:12



Vicar's View

Job: A Lenten Reading Suggestion

The season of Lent has always been a time to reflect on the meaning of suffering; both Jesus' suffering that he underwent to save us, and also the disciplines, hardships, and trials that we face as his followers. That is why this Lent I have chosen to read through one of my favorite books of the Bible: the book of Job.

This book is the story of the unusually great suffering faced by a man named Job, and it deals with the age-old question of how a good and all-powerful God can allow such evil to exist in his world. Job, despite being faithful to God and as righteous as anyone can be in this world (Job 1:8), loses practically everything he has in a few moments for no apparent reason. He is left crying out to God for answers about why this happened to him. The book mainly consists of Job's conversations with three "friends" who attempt to answer his questions. Their answers sometimes seem reasonable and consistent with good theology: God is just, so Job must have sinned somehow to be punished in this way. But we see that those answers are overly simplistic. A fourth friend, Elihu, offers a more nuanced answer (chapters 32-37), but it is still insufficient, and Job remains unsatisfied. Job is shockingly honest in how he speaks to God, and even goes too far at moments, accusing God of injustice. But God finally responds to Job in two unforgettable speeches in chapters 38-41. And the most remarkable thing about the book is that it refuses to give an actual answer to the question of evil and suffering. God's "answer" is to remind Job that Job does not have the cosmic perspective to pass judgment on how God runs his creation. God hints at the idea that even forces of chaos and suffering are ultimately under God's control, and God has power to bring good out of them in the end, even if humans cannot see it. The book ends with Job accepting this in faith and God restoring Job's fortunes.



Job is a great read for Lent because of how honest it is about suffering and spiritual testing, and because it refuses to oversimplify things (Its 42 chapters also fit neatly into the 40 days of Lent!). It invites us to long with Job for God to be "a man, as I am, that I might answer him" and for "an arbiter between us who might lay his hand on us both." (Job 9:32-33). We see that hope fulfilled in Jesus, who joined us in our suffering on Good Friday, and who rose again on Easter morning, as we say with Job, "I know that my Redeemer lives!" (Job 19:25). So I would invite anyone who feels inclined to join me in this journey, and let me know how it's going if you do!

Picture: *Job Rebuked by His Friends* by William Blake

Serving the Lord This Month:

Ushers

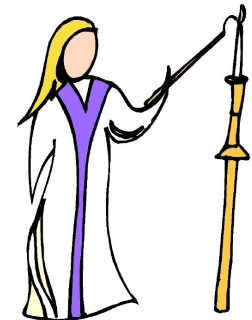
Mar 4: Chuck Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
Mar 5: Brian, Kevin, & Wendy Rossmiller, Val & Dawsyn McDonald
Mar 11: Chuck Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
Mar 12: Brian, Kevin, & Wendy Rossmiller, Val & Dawsyn McDonald
Mar 18: Chuck Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
Mar 19: Brian, Kevin, & Wendy Rossmiller, Val & Dawsyn McDonald
Mar 25: Chuck Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
Mar 26: Brian, Kevin, & Wendy Rossmiller, Val & Dawsyn McDonald

Greeters

Mar 4: Sharon DeWulf & Joyce Hoffman
Mar 5: Lucille Perley & Karen Schmidt
Mar 11: Sharon DeWulf & Joyce Hoffman
Mar 12: Lucille Perley
Mar 18:
Mar 19: Kathy McDowell
Mar 25:
Mar 26: Karen Schmidt

Acolytes

Mar 5: Johnny Kjera
Mar 12: Brayden Medinger
Mar 19: Bentley Orton
Mar 26: Payton Braddy



Communion Assistants

Mar 5: Glen McMillin
Mar 19: Kevin McAnally



Altar Guild

Dawn Antolik
 Steeve Antolik

Eternal Candle

Mar 5: In honor of Tyler Belan's baptismal birthday
Mar 12: Lucille Perley in memory of loved ones
Mar 19: OPEN
Mar 27: In honor of Elizabeth Antolik's Baptismal Birthday



Flower Chart

Since Ash Wednesday until Easter is a solemn time of contemplation and not a time of celebration, we will refrain from decorating the Chancel until Easter, at which time it will be decorated with Easter lilies.



Church News

Birthdays this Month:

<u>2nd</u> Gabrielle May	<u>17th</u> Brian Kelly
<u>3rd</u> Ruth Poole-Mayerhofer, Earl Schaefer, & Audrey Schatteman	<u>18th</u> Stacey Roman
<u>4th</u> Torin Fauser	<u>21st</u> Carmae Kern & Jaxon McKay
<u>6th</u> Colin Scheer	<u>22nd</u> Chris Caldwell & Savanna Kern
<u>7th</u> Elizabeth Antolik, Diana Johnson, & David Pratt	<u>23rd</u> Susan Bowman & Janet Wachs
<u>9th</u> Robert Coon & Chris Higgins	<u>25th</u> Hallie & Zoe Flaugh, Jackson Merritt, & Carla Umbarger
<u>10th</u> Nikki Chellew	<u>26th</u> Jeff Belan, Kamryn Kruger, & Jacob Ryan
<u>12th</u> Steve Sullivan	<u>28th</u> Ronda Little & Nancy Williams
<u>14th</u> June Sutton	<u>29th</u> Mary Ann Eckert, Russell Kosche, & Megan Weathers
<u>15th</u> Keri Pena	<u>30th</u> George Fellows, Cassie Johnson, & Ruby Pancrazio
<u>16th</u> Kevin Rossmiller	



Weekly Attendance & Offerings

Sorry for any disappointment, but we are behind in entering attendance this year. This was due to the problems with the year end finance reports.

Membership Report

Transfer Out

Diane Totten
Aaron Peck

Address Updates

Molly (Rogers) Balentine
1909 Time Central Dr.
St. Charles, MO 63303

Scott Kelly
1744 N. Western Ave #325
Chicago, IL 60647

All Boards meet on
Thursday, March 2nd at
6:30pm.

There is a Voter's
meeting on March 12th
after worship service

Church News

LWML

The LWML March meeting will be on Thursday, March 23rd at 1:00pm in the Janssen rooms. The program will be preparing Easter cards for our shut-ins. All ladies are invited to join us for fellowship and service. Looking forward to seeing you!

Donations— Toothbrushes and toothpaste

This fall LWML will be preparing personal hygiene kits for the shelters. Each month we will be collecting different items to use in the kits. March's collection will be travel size toothpaste and toothbrushes individually packaged. Look for the LWML Donation Box in the concourse. We hope the congregation will help us with this project. Thank you!



Ladies Luncheon

The Ladies of St. John's invite you to lunch on **Thursday, March 16th at 11:30am** at the Deerfield Restaurant. We hope you will join us!

Beautification Committee

It's been quite some time since we have had a Beautification Committee. We have been told that last time there was one, it turned into an expensive remodeling project. That won't happen this time. But we think we can add some new art work, and make some other smaller updates to make our building even more beautiful than it already is. If you would be interested in joining in on this project, please come to our first meeting on Thursday, March 23rd at 6:30pm.

Easter Lilies

We will be purchasing Lilies to adorn the altar at Easter soon. The cost is yet unknown, so please watch the Bulletin for more information. We need a total of 44 plants to fill our crosses.

Thank you!!



March for Life

We are getting a group together to go to the March for Life in Springfield on March 21st. We will be departing from the church parking lot at 7:30am. If you would like to go with, please see Pastor. See the article on page 7 for more information.

Notes from the Balcony

This morning falling snow is in the process of turning the outdoor world white. The scene out the back windows is so peaceful and beautiful that I'm not even considering what is happening out the front door to the driveway and roads. Growing up in northern Wisconsin, this winter wonderland lasted all the months of winter and afforded continuous opportunities for sledding, games like fox and goose, and of course, shoveling. I have vivid memories of shoveling countless inches/feet/yards/(miles?) of snow off the front sidewalk wearing a furry grey and white barn cat named "Star" across the back of my neck as a scarf. I worked quickly before the school bus came to pick me up so I wouldn't have to wear drippy wet snow boots to high school and have them make my locker a mess. Despite the work, all that snow did make winters up north quite beautiful.

The beauty of the dreary winter landscape in these parts covered by white snow and glistening in the sun is a picture similar to the image of robes dirty from the effects of sin washed white in the blood of our Savior and the glistening light of God's presence. The hymn, *Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain* (LSB 435), is one of our member's favorite hymns and embraces the lovely imagery of cleansing, healing, and refreshment found at Calvary. James Montgomery (1771-1854), the author of this and 400 other hymns, was the son of Scottish Moravian Brethren missionaries who both died while away serving in the West Indies. Four of James' hymns are in our hymnal including *Angels from the Realms of Glory* (LSB 367) and *Go to Dark Gethsemane* (LSB 436). Montgomery invites the singer to Calvary in whatever sorry state he finds himself to experience relief in Christ. The text of the hymn follows:

*Come to Calvary's holy mountain, sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain flows for you, for me, for all,
In a full, perpetual tide, opened when our Savior died.*

*Come in poverty and meanness, come defiled, without, within;
From infections and uncleanness, from the leprosy of sin,
Wash your robes and make them white; ye shall walk with God in light.*

*Come in sorrow and contrition, wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission, here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore; they that drink shall thirst no more.*

*They that drink shall live forever; 'tis a soul renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never break His covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died, sealed when He was glorified.*

May the abundance of the cleansing redemption found in Christ at Calvary be yours during this Lenten season and always.

To God be the glory,

Christine Engebrecht



From the CID

What Does This Mean?

In each of the six parts of his Small Catechism Dr. Luther asks: "What does this mean?" We might ask this question as we contemplate the significance of Christ's resurrection.

Christ's resurrection means that God's Word is true and He keeps his promises. The Old Testament prophecies concerning Christ's life, death, and resurrection were all fulfilled in Jesus. (Ps.16:10; Ps.22; Is.53, etc.) This means that God's promises of forgiveness, new life, and eternal salvation for us are true and will never be broken.

Christ's resurrection means that He is truly God as well as man. Psalm 49:7 states "no man can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for him". Someone might give their life in an attempt to save another person from a tragedy as firefighters or policemen sometimes do. But only God himself can save us from eternal death!

Christ's resurrection means that His sacrifice on the cross was sufficient ransom for all mankind. God wants no one to die, but for all to be saved. (John 3:16; 1 Tim.2:4) He rejects no one. Though many reject him. Jesus, the second Adam, removed the curse of death that the first Adam had placed on all humankind. (Rom.5:18)

Christ's resurrection means that all who trust in him as Lord and Savior have a new and eternal life. (Rom.6:3-11) This new life begins not with our physical death, but with faith. (John 5:24; 11:25-26; 10:10b; 17:3). This new life in Christ includes peace, hope, love, meaning, and strength.

Easter is celebrated by many people – believers and unbelievers. The chocolate egg candy makers claim that they know what Easter is all about. Though I enjoy those delicious cream-filled eggs, I contend that they know nothing about the true meaning of Easter. On that special day we who trust in Jesus celebrate that He rose from the dead. And we celebrate all that this wonderful event means for us!

Rev. Jeff Harter

March for Life 2023

We show up. We confess Christ. We are Lutheran.

The rally preceding the **2023 Illinois March for Life** will begin on March 21 at noon at the Lincoln statue on the front (east) lawn of the state capitol building in Springfield. The **March** itself, *walking a perimeter around the capitol complex, will follow at about 1:00 p.m. Thereafter, March participants from Illinois are encouraged to visit the offices of their state legislators.*

Preceding all these events, at 10:30 a.m. Trinity Lutheran Church will conduct a Matins service commemorating Joseph, Guardian of Jesus. Central Illinois District (CID) President Michael Mohr will preach. (He will also speak at the noon rally.) The church is across the street from the capitol building (on the northeast corner of 2nd and Monroe streets), about a block north of the Lincoln statue.

A light lunch will be available at Trinity Lutheran Church for those attending the Matins service. It will consist of: a 4-inch Subway sandwich (ham or turkey), a bag of potato chips, a chocolate chip cookie, and a bottle of water. Suggested donation: \$5. Please use a \$5 bill. It's a fitting Illinois thing to do, since Lincoln is on the \$5!

Issues, etc. will cover the **Illinois March for Life**, recording in-person interviews at Trinity starting at 11:30 and continuing to record through the early part of the afternoon. These will be broadcast on KFUO (850 AM, audible in southern and much of central Illinois) that same afternoon between 3:00 and 5:00. The entire program can be live-streamed or accessed on-demand at www.issuesetc.org



Lenten and Holy Week Schedule

Wednesday, February 22nd: Ash Wednesday *“The Gospel According to Caiaphas”*

12:00pm– Worship with Communion

5:30pm– Lenten Supper– served by LWML

BBQ sandwiches and hot dogs

6:30pm– Worship with Communion

Wednesday, March 1st: *“The Gospel According to the Armed Mob”*

5:30pm Lenten Supper

6:30pm– Worship

Wednesday, March 8th: *“The Gospel According to Pilate”*

5:30pm Lenten Supper

6:30pm– Worship

Wednesday, March 15th: *“The Gospel According to Herod”*

5:30pm Lenten Supper

6:30pm– Worship

Wednesday, March 22nd: *“The Gospel According to Crowds”*

5:30pm Lenten Supper

6:30pm– Worship

Wednesday, March 29th: *“The Gospel According to Soldiers”*

5:30pm Lenten Supper

6:30pm– Worship

Holy Week Schedule:

Thursday, April 6th: 12:00pm and 6:30pm Maundy Thursday- Worship with Communion

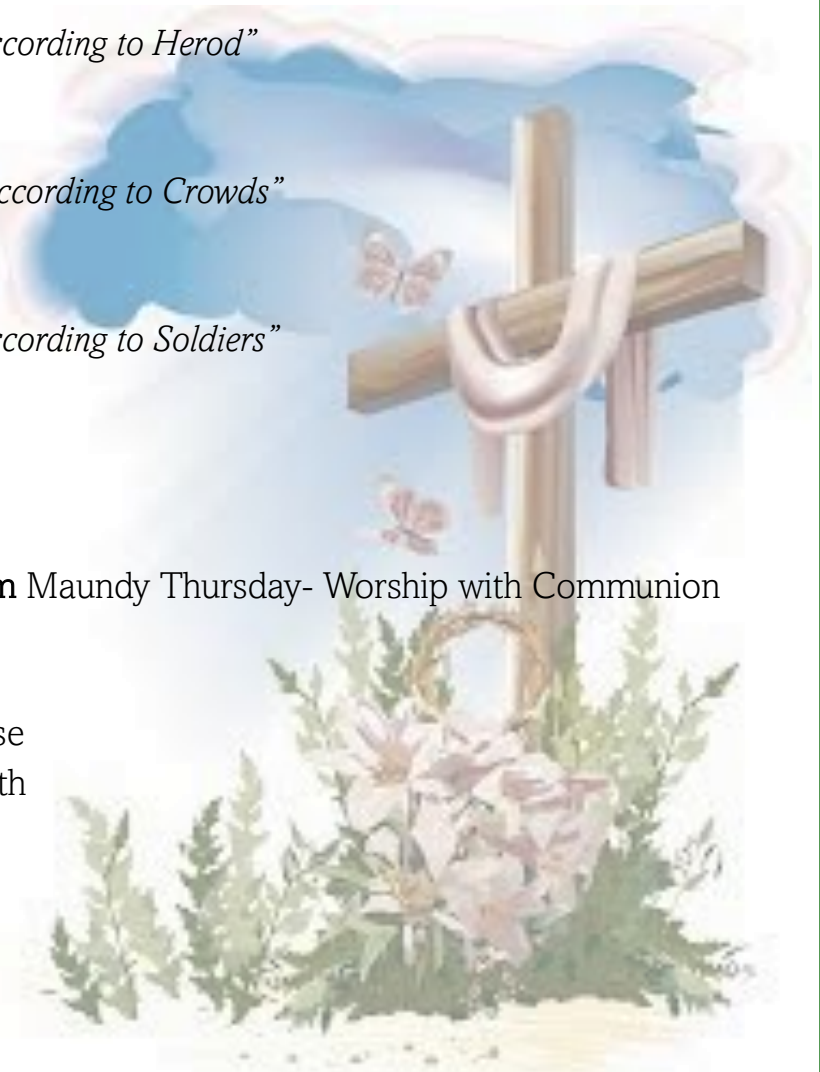
Friday, April 7th: 6:30pm- Good Friday

Saturday, April 8th: 5:00pm- Easter Vigil

Sunday, April 9th: 6:30pm- Easter Sunrise

7:30am– Breakfast served by the youth

9:00am- Easter Festival



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>26</div> <div>9am - Worship</div> <div>10:15am - Bible Study /</div> <div>5pm - Chili cookoff</div>	<div>27</div> <div>9am - Morning Prayer @</div> <div>1pm - Staff Mtg.</div> <div>6:30pm - Heavenly</div>	<div>28</div> <div>10am - Food Pantry</div> <div>6:30pm - Bible Bowl</div> <div>6:30pm - Guitar Jam</div>	<div>1</div> <div>9am - TOPS</div> <div>10am - Midweek Bible</div> <div>5:30pm - Lenten Supper</div> <div>6pm - Chimes</div> <div>6:30pm - Lent Service</div> <div>7pm - Confirmation</div>	<div>2</div> <div>All Boards Meet in Prep</div> <div>6:30pm - Board Meetings</div>		<div>4</div> <div>8am - Mens Bible Study</div> <div>9:30am - Adult Choir</div> <div>5pm - Worship w/</div>
<div>5</div> <div>9am - Worship w/</div> <div>10:15am - Bible Study /</div>	<div>6</div> <div>9am - Morning Prayer @</div> <div>1pm - Staff Mtg.</div> <div>6:30pm - Heavenly</div>	<div>7</div> <div>10am - Food Pantry</div> <div>6:30pm - Bible Bowl</div> <div>6:30pm - Guitar Jam</div>	<div>8</div> <div>9am - TOPS</div> <div>10am - Midweek Bible</div> <div>5:30pm - Lenten Supper</div> <div>6:30pm - Lent Service</div> <div>7pm - Confirmation</div>	<div>9</div> <div>6:30pm - Parish Planning</div>	<div>10</div>	<div>11</div> <div>8am - Mens Bible Study</div> <div>9:30am - Adult Choir</div> <div>5pm - Worship</div>
<div>12</div> <div>9am - Worship</div> <div>10:15am - Bible Study /</div>	<div>13</div> <div>9am - Morning Prayer @</div> <div>1pm - Staff Mtg.</div> <div>6:30pm - Heavenly</div>	<div>14</div> <div>10am - Food Pantry</div> <div>6:30pm - Bible Bowl</div> <div>6:30pm - Guitar Jam</div>	<div>15</div> <div>9am - TOPS</div> <div>10am - Midweek Bible</div> <div>5:30pm - Lenten Supper</div> <div>6pm - Chimes Practice</div> <div>6:30pm - Lent Service</div>	<div>16</div> <div>11:30am - Ladies</div>	<div>17</div>	<div>18</div> <div>8am - Mens Bible Study</div> <div>9:30am - Adult Choir</div> <div>5pm - Worship w/</div>
<div>19</div> <div>9am - Worship w/</div> <div>10:15am - Bible Study /</div> <div>2pm - Bible Bowl Circuit</div>	<div>20</div> <div>Informers Deadline</div> <div>9am - Morning Prayer @</div> <div>1pm - Staff Mtg.</div> <div>6:30pm - Heavenly</div>	<div>21</div> <div>10am - Food Pantry</div> <div>6:30pm - Bible Bowl</div> <div>6:30pm - Guitar Jam</div>	<div>22</div> <div>9am - TOPS</div> <div>10am - Midweek Bible</div> <div>5:30pm - Lenten Supper</div> <div>6pm - Chimes</div> <div>6:30pm - Lent Service</div> <div>7pm - Confirmation</div>	<div>23</div> <div>1pm - LWML</div> <div>6:30pm - Beautification</div>	<div>24</div>	<div>25</div> <div>8am - Mens Bible Study</div> <div>9:30am - Adult Choir</div> <div>5pm - Worship</div>
<div>26</div> <div>9am - Worship</div> <div>10:15am - Bible Study /</div>	<div>27</div> <div>9am - Morning Prayer @</div> <div>1pm - Staff Mtg.</div> <div>6:30pm - Heavenly</div>	<div>28</div> <div>10am - Food Pantry</div> <div>6:30pm - Bible Bowl</div> <div>6:30pm - Guitar Jam</div>	<div>29</div> <div>9am - TOPS</div> <div>10am - Midweek Bible</div> <div>5:30pm - Lenten Supper</div> <div>6pm - Chimes</div> <div>6:30pm - Lent Service</div> <div>7pm - Confirmation</div>	<div>30</div>	<div>31</div>	<div>1</div> <div>8am - Mens Bible Study</div> <div>9:30am - Adult Choir</div> <div>9:30am - Confirmation</div> <div>5pm - Worship w/</div>

St. John's Lutheran Church of East Moline, IL

1450 30th Avenue
East Moline, IL 61244

Phone (309)792-0755
Fax (309)792- 0776
Email: office@stjohnsem.org

Walking in the



Light of Christ!



Worship Times

Saturday 5:00pm

Sunday 9:00am

Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:15am

Office Hours

Mon- Thurs 8:30am-12noon

Inside our Sanctuary:

