

NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S

March 2023

FROM THE PASTOR

On Christian Fasting

Our Lord Jesus teaches us: "And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you." [Matt. 6:16-18]

Jesus does not say "if" you fast, with the implication that it is simply a matter of personal preference. Rather, our Lord says, "when you fast" and gives instructions on how to do so rightly. In short, Jesus tells us that fasting is not to be an outward work (so as to be cause for boasting) but part of one's private devotion. It is part the Christian prayer and devotional life. It is a way of training the flesh to focus on what is most needful. Remember what Jesus tells Satan when tempted in the wilderness: "But he answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" [Matt. 4:4]

We rely solely upon the grace and mercy of our Lord. We deserve nothing that we have. To put off the needs of the body in some way and for a time is a visceral reminder of this fact. Martin Luther explains the usefulness of fasting in the Small Catechism: "Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training..." [SC VI]

Luther also clarifies that fasting alone is insufficient. It is an aspect of faith and not a replacement for faith. Remember Nineveh and the order of their repentant response to Jonah's preaching. It is written: "So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them." [Jonah 3:5]

First, they believed God (had faith) and then they proclaimed a fast – the fasting was a sign of their repentant faith and God saw their faithful repentance and blessed them for it.

But there is yet another blessing that comes from fasting. It gives us something to anticipate. During Lent we omit the *Gloria in Excelsis* and the Alleluias so when Easter finally arrives, we might appreciate it all the more. Think of the lilies and the empty tomb, the trumpets and organ and the beautiful hymn "I Know that My Redeemer Lives". By fasting from food or some other thing during Lent you can appreciate that thing all the more. It is, after all, a good gift from God that is meant to be enjoyed. Remember dear Christian as you fast this Lenten season that our time in this mortal coil is momentary, but that joy lasts unto eternity.

✠ Invocabit, 2023 ✠

Rev. Joshua K. DeYoung, Pastor

TRINITY LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL – OPENING FALL 2023

TLCHS, a new LCMS high school opening in West Allis, is currently enrolling 9th and 10th graders for the 2023-2024 School Year. The school's headmaster will be Rev. Brandon Koble, Pastor of Oklahoma Ave and Trinity Lutheran Churches. Trinity Lutheran Classical High School seeks to nourish our students with a classical education that instills truth, goodness, and beauty through an emphasis on and adherence to the Holy Word of God. Focusing on the traditions and teachings of the universal Christian Church, we will prepare our students to faithfully serve in the home, the Church, and the public life of the community. Through careful attention to our students' spiritual, mental, and physical habits, Trinity Lutheran Classical High School will unite with parents and the Church to form a loving partnership focused on teaching the students to imitate Christ and lead them to grow in fear, wisdom, knowledge, and love of the Lord. For more information on TLCHS, please go to <https://trinitywa.org/classical-high-school/>. For more information, you can reach Pastor Koble at pastorkoble@trinitywa.org. He would be happy to meet with your family, explain classical Lutheran education, and see if TLCHS would be a good fit for your family. TLCHS is participating in all three of our state's parental choice programs.

LENTEN DINNERS 2023

Date	Group Serving	Menu	Group Singing
2/22/23	Board of Elders	Soup and Sandwiches	Sr/Handbell Choirs
3/1/23	SJL Faculty	Pizza Casserole	Cherub/Senior Choir
3/8/23	Lighthouse Wealth Partners	Tacos	Handchime/ Handbell Choir
3/15/23		Potluck	Treble/Senior Choir
3/22/23	Senior/Handbell Choirs	Sloppy Joe's	Flute/Organ
3/29/23	Ladies' Group	Shredded Chicken Sandwiches	Children's Choir

USHERS NEEDED

The Board of Elders is in need of individuals interested in ushering during worship services. Please prayerfully consider helping out in this way. If you would be interested in ushering or have questions, please contact Kimberly in the church office at chapman@stjohnsracine.org; (262) 637-7011. Thank you!

FELLOWSHIP FRIDAYS

During the months of March and April, Fellowship Friday will not be held. Fellowship Friday will resume on Friday, May 19! Tacos will be served as the main meal. We look forward to getting together again in May. In the meantime, please join us at one or all of the Lenten dinners during the season of Lent.

EASTER FLOWERS

Flowers to decorate the church for Easter are available by signing the sheet posted in the narthex or by calling or emailing the church office. (chapman@stjohnsracine.org, (262) 637-7011) Flowers available this year are hyacinths, daffodils, tulips, and Easter lilies at \$13 each. Checks should be made payable to "St. John's Altar Guild." Sunday, March 5 is the last day to sign up for Easter flowers. You may take your flowers home after the 10:15 a.m. Easter service.

LWML PRAYER SERVICE

The members of Cross and Crown Mission Society invite you to join them Tuesday, March 14th at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 3350 Lathrop Avenue, Racine for this year's Prayer Service, "MY SOUL REJOICES: A Service of Song And Prayer". It will be led by our LWML Zone Counselor, Pastor Lockie, and will begin at 1:00 P.M. After the service all are welcome to gather for fellowship in the classroom for refreshments. Looking forward to having you as their guests in worship and fellowship!

SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING

There will be a Special Voter's Meeting on Sunday, March 12 between church services to select an 8th grade homeroom teacher/5th-8th grade language arts teacher.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN TRIP

Please join the Stewardship Board on Saturday, April 22nd for a spring field trip to Feed My Starving Children, a Christian organization in Libertyville, Illinois that utilizes volunteers to pack meals for kids in need around the world.

Last September, we packed 52 boxes of food, which will feed 31 children for an entire year...and we are hoping to see those numbers grow this spring! *Please Note: For safety reasons, Feed My Starving Children does require that anyone participating is at least 5 years old.*

Our packing time is from 11:30-1:15. We will meet at the Park and Ride on Highway 20 and leave at 10:15 am to caravan down to Libertyville. This is a wonderful opportunity to give back - we hope that you and your family will be able to join us. Please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E49ACA-A28A7F58-feed>

A NOTE FROM KARL GLASSEN

Return, O Christian. Whatever has kept you away from God's house this past year, this past decade, it's time to come home. This is not man's house, but God's house. It is where God's family gathers. Where we hear and take to heart Jesus' words, Jesus' mercy, Jesus' forgiveness. Where we eat of the body that was broken and drink of the blood that was shed for us. But only sinners are welcome. Sinners who know and confess their unworthiness. Sinners who know and believe in the One who has reconciled them to the Father. Sinners in need of redemption, healing, hope. Return, O Christian. Come and hear how much God loves you. Come and receive Christ's love. Come and surround yourself with a community that desires to know you, love you, and encourage you in the Christian life of repentance and faith. Because this is your Father's house, it is also your house. Welcome home!

Concerned, Karl Glassen, Elder

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1-Mar	Julia Kellner	16-Mar	Ethan Gonzalez
1-Mar	Sutton Schaefer	17-Mar	Nancy Blaesing
2-Mar	Morgan Burman	17-Mar	Stephanie Peterson
2-Mar	Colston Friedel	17-Mar	Pat Piehler
2-Mar	Lisa Hlavacek	17-Mar	Robert Pirk
3-Mar	Scott Schweitzer	18-Mar	Terrel Tigges
4-Mar	Scott Albright	18-Mar	Jan Vuvunas
4-Mar	Allyson Borgardt	19-Mar	Janice Albright
4-Mar	Linda Peterson	19-Mar	Christopher Nelson
5-Mar	McKenna Bowe	20-Mar	Karalynn Franke
5-Mar	Amanda Knoell	20-Mar	Daniel Palenik
5-Mar	Nathan Knoell	20-Mar	Penny Paulson
6-Mar	Jean Adel	21-Mar	Caleb Jozwiak
6-Mar	Evan Kotowski	22-Mar	Ethan Schaefer
6-Mar	Erhard Reimann	23-Mar	Alice Duchac
7-Mar	Timothy Boeselager	23-Mar	Richard Pierce-Ruhland
7-Mar	Rodney Darge	23-Mar	Kristen Polack
7-Mar	Lisa Eickhorst	24-Mar	Tim Beier
8-Mar	Marianne Gilbert	24-Mar	Jeffrey Chrisensen
8-Mar	Theodore Patzke	24-Mar	Liliana Kading
9-Mar	Kathleen Gunderson	24-Mar	Adam Schneider
10-Mar	Lydia Balke	25-Mar	Tim Busarow
11-Mar	Amber Davis	25-Mar	Scott Miller
12-Mar	Amanda Ambrose	26-Mar	Hayley Gonzalez
13-Mar	Olivia Terselic	26-Mar	Matthew Nelson
14-Mar	Grace Block	27-Mar	Brooklynn Christensen
14-Mar	Patricia Cole	27-Mar	Emma Lahti
14-Mar	Owen Kotowski	27-Mar	Gavin Moser
15-Mar	Mara Douglas	27-Mar	Whitney Riegelman
15-Mar	Vanessa Luther	29-Mar	Jessica Schuler
15-Mar	Dennis Polak	30-Mar	Timothy Beuschel
15-Mar	Nancy Rooney	30-Mar	Cherie Mayrand
15-Mar	Mark Schaefer	31-Mar	David Krause
16-Mar	James Culotta	31-Mar	Tyler Naegeli



We apologize if we have forgotten anyone.
Please contact the church office at 637-7011 to correct.
Thank You!

VANCO MOBILE AND ONLINE GIVING

Giving is easier than ever through St. John's Vanco online or the Vanco Faith mobile app. You can access **Vanco online giving** by going to the St. John's Church and School website; stjohnsracine.org. Under the church heading, click online giving. This page allows you to give to different church funds. You can choose a one-time contribution or set up recurring contributions through this site.

Giving is also available through the **Vanco mobile app**. Vanco, our eGiving provider, has launched an updated mobile app called Vanco Mobile Faith. Downloading the new Vanco Mobile is easy! Head over to the App Store or Google Play to download Vanco Mobile for free.

To use Vanco Mobile, follow these easy steps:

1. Search for our church by entering St Johns Lutheran. Do not use any punctuation, and it is case sensitive
2. Create a new account or login
3. Select your gift amount, fund, and frequency
4. Enter your payment method and click submit to complete your donation.

Please contact Kimberly in the church office if you have any questions about or need assistance with the Vanco online or mobile app giving. chapman@stjohnsracine.org or (262) 637-7011.



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

March 5 – Lent 2 (Reminiscere)

Matthew 15:27 – “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” These are the words of faith, for faith means receiving what God gives. And God has given us so much more than just the crumbs that fall from the table — He has given us life, salvation, body and soul, eyes and ears, possessions and income. That’s where our stewardship starts: with faith in the God who is the greatest Giver.

March 12 – Lent 3 (Oculi)

Luke 11:21–22 – “When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil.” Jesus has disarmed Satan in a most unusual way: He has disarmed him by allowing Satan to cast all his weapons into Jesus. Satan has nothing left to attack us with — he spent it all on Jesus. And now Jesus is our stronger man. He guards and keeps us and ours. We have none to fear.

March 19 – Lent 4 (Laetare)

John 6:5 – “Jesus said to Philip, ‘Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?’” Of course Jesus knows the answer to that question — He knows how He means to care for His people. The Lord provided, and He still provides. This knowledge frees us for generosity without fear.

March 26 – Lent 5 (Judica)

Hebrews 9:12 – “He entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.” The only price that could redeem us was the very blood of the Christ. This is the only sacrifice of true worth. His sacrificial giving sets the pattern for our life, for how can we who are redeemed by the self-giving of God not also give of ourselves to His kingdom?

LIFE THOUGHTS FOR LUTHERANS –

March 2023

Lent II (Reminiscere) – We as God’s people regard it our privilege and delight to abstain from sexual immorality (1 Thessalonians 4:3-7). The eternal joys of godly relationships and bodily service to neighbors (1 Thessalonians 4:9) more than make up for whatever momentary gratification we forego. *Heavenly Bridegroom, captivate our hearts by Your self-giving love that we desire in body and soul to receive Your blessings and serve Your kingdom. Amen.*

Lent III (Oculi) – Children of light (Ephesians 5:8) need not hold back a word (Jeremiah 26:2), even when it becomes politically dangerous or elicits cultural hostility (Jeremiah 26:8). Indeed, we find great blessing (Luke 11:28) in lovingly shining the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ into the haunts of darkness and death. *Light of the World, let us walk and speak Your image as beloved children. Amen.*

Lent IV (Laetere) – Christ in the flesh assures us that God knows how to care for what He creates (John 6:11-12). His Gospel gives sustenance, company, and community along with forgiveness and salvation (Acts 2:42-45). Having such a Father and family nearby can stave off sin and death. *Good Shepherd, let us bring care by being it. Amen.*

Lent V (Judica) – God’s gifts do not always make immediate human sense (John 8:48, 53, 57). What remains certain regardless is that God is good and God gives. The Father who eternally gives Himself to the Son (John 8:42) and the Son who offers Himself to the Father in appreciative obedience (John 8:55) are the Holy Trinity who imparts this life-giving Spirit even where only death appears possible (Genesis 22:10). Trusting His Word and work releases from death’s threatening grip (John 8:51, Genesis 22:13). *Father, Son, and Spirit, guide us to trust Your Gospel that we may share in Your abundant life. Amen.*

ON THEIR HEARTS, IMPRINT HIS IMAGE

Hymn 422 is one of my favorite Lenten Hymns. What's one of yours? **COULD YOU SHARE IT with our SHUT-INS?**

- 1.) Find your special Lenten hymn and jot down your favorite stanza.
- 2.) Add a note of why it's so special to you...
- 3.) and, then ask them to join you in the 4th verse of Hymn 418!
- 4.) Send it to one, more or all of our shut-ins on the list below.

Doing this is an exercise of soulful preparation and compassionate service. See what it does for you and PRAY for what it does for these faithful servants that are our "shut-ins." These wonderful Christians rejoice and give thanks for every card and message they receive from you. Please share the season of Lent with them.

I give thanks for what you do for them and for what I know you will continue to do.
God bless your Lent. ***"Be with us through this season, Lord!"***

Louise Borgardt: louseborgardt@gmail.com

SHUT INS

Name	Address	Phone Number
Ann Beckett	6603 Medley Drive, Racine, WI 53402	
Leola Christian	5321 Douglas Avenue, Apt. 101, Racine, WI 53402	262-886-0734
Pat Cole	6551 Mariner Drive, Unit 6, Racine, WI 53406	
Sue Erickson	5101 Wright Ave #215, Racine, WI 53406	262-260-8454
Gary & Shirley Filicetti	4710 N Main St, Racine, WI 53402	262-639-3721
Janet Fisa	Elizabeth Gardens 5111 Wright Avenue, Room 203, Racine, WI 53406	262-234-9859
Marcella Geyer	3139 Conrad Drive, Racine, WI 53404	262-634-8105
Gail Gotch	1916 Wisconsin Avenue, Apt. 359, Racine, WI 53403	262-221-6912
Mimi Hynek	5321 Douglas Avenue, Apt. 1156A, Racine, WI 53402	
Susan Monson	418 Shoreland Drive, Racine, WI 53402	262-639-8490
Kathy Patzman	5404 Idlewood Drive, Racine, WI 53402	
Art Preuss	5643 Erie Street, Room 219, Racine, WI 53402	
Linda Puchter	1463 28th Ct, Kenosha, WI 53140	262-553-9470
Marlene Roepke	1201 Kingston Avenue, Racine, WI 53402	
Joanne Ruble	1108 N. Sunnyslope #104, Racine, WI 53406	262-498-3476
John Smith	1636 Raintree Lane, Racine, WI 53406	262-456-0073