

Messenger

Saved to Share
Called to Care

From the Desk of Pastor Tanney

So how are the resolutions coming? Already failed or followed through? Decided not to make any this year because you can never keep them? I'm sure it is not because there is nothing to improve on. I decided to lose 10 pounds in a month. Well the month is over and I've gained 1 pound. I did well by not eating after 7:00pm, exercise on the other hand was more sporadic. Sometimes you need someone to keep you accountable, which my wife would be more than happy to do. She would even give suggestions to help, (which I did not ask for.)



Lent is another opportunity to renew resolutions. Normally we take the time of 40 days to give up

something that would tempt us to follow after the world, the devil and our own human desires of the flesh. As Jesus did early in his ministry when he went out into the wilderness, directed by the Holy Spirit, to be tempted by Satan. If you count 40 days beginning with Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday you get 46 days, so we don't count the six Sundays in-between.

Traditionally, Lent is a seasonal time for prayer, fasting and works of love aimed to help us in the spiritual disciplines to stay in the Word. It is also a time for repentance. We begin the 40 day season with ashes on our foreheads normally in the form of the cross, which is to signify that we are dust, and to dust we will return. The idea is, like sin, we are dirty and need to be purified and that can only come from the cross.

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I am very excited that our Vietnamese and Nepalese pastors have completed their pre-seminary class with me and in celebration, please join me in recognizing them in our **Sunday Worship, February 25th** with a brunch following. We are inviting both communities for the commemoration and food afterwards. There will be no Bible class that Sunday.

If you are like me we can get so busy with daily responsibilities that we lose the time we are responsible to Jesus. A simple and effective discipline is to have devotions with the Lord. We provide devotional booklets free of charge for anyone interested to make a resolution to spend more time with Jesus. They are about the length of time of a commercial on TV. So hit the mute button open the booklet and read, say a short prayer and get back to that program you can't miss.

We do provide Lenten Services during the Lenten season entitled "Thy Will be Done" Wednesday morning and evenings we will explore in this series what God's will is for all people and what His will is for you and me. Come and join us.

When you get a hankering to talk or complain about what you gave up for Lent, replace that hankering by speaking the word of God. For all the times you would have done the activity that you gave up for Lent, replace it by reading the word of God. Christians should always be drawing closer to God.
Monica Johnson



THY WILL BE DONE

EXPERIENCE *the* SEASON OF LENT

GOD'S WILL and GOD'S PROMISE	GOD'S WILL and MY IDENTITY	GOD'S WILL and MY DREAMS
GOD'S WILL and GOD'S IDENTITY	GOD'S WILL and MY WORLDVIEW	GOD'S WILL and MY RESPONSE

"My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

MATTHEW 26:39

**Join us for Ash Wednesday, February 14
10:00am and 7:00pm**

**Mid Week Lenten Services 10:00am and 7:00pm
Wednesdays, February 21- March 21**

"Not as I will, but as you will," Jesus prayed to his Father the night before he went to the cross for our salvation. And that is our prayer as well this Lent as we seek to do God's will in our lives, as we draw near to the observance of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection during Holy Week.

Social Ministry

James 2:14-18- *“What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, “Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith. I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.”*

Our “faith and actions” gives us the opportunity to provide food and clothing for our community. The number of clients we are serving is less than a year ago, but these people have the same needs. With your support we are financially able to continue to provide this service. We were able to assist a parent with some funding for various needs. We pray that this small gesture will show him our love and concern.

Social Ministry Board decided that we will continue to close the food pantry on the 5th Saturday of the month.

Blessings and peace to all of us as we continue to demonstrate our faith and deeds together as a congregation through this ministry.

Evangelism

February is the month of love. In case you missed the memo, the chocolate, floral and Hallmark industries are working hard to remind you and get you to spend your hard-earned cash on some of their items. Once you get



through Valentine’s Day, you’re not required to monetarily show your love again until May and June, when you are encouraged to tell your mother and father that you love them with chocolate, cards, etc.



This year Valentine’s Day is also

Ash Wednesday. What a better way to celebrate the true meaning of love than the beginning of the Lent season? Who better to be the perfect example of love than Jesus Christ, who died on the cross to take away the burden of our sins in forgiveness? The ultimate act of love shines through the suffering and pain to take away our sins. Celebrate your earthly love with chocolate, flowers and cards. Celebrate the heavenly love of Jesus Christ at the beginning of Lent, on Ash Wednesday! Happy Valentine’s Day indeed.

Thrivent Choice® makes a meaningful impact

Choice Dollars® directions can help support St. Johns as well as our Food Pantry.

Based on member recommendations, St Johns (portions going to our Food Pantry) received **\$607** in charitable outreach funding in 2017.

Think of the impact you—along with other eligible Thrivent members—can help make by directing Choice Dollars to St. Johns Food Pantry. The outreach funding we receive from Thrivent Financial through this program can help us keep our Food Pantry shelves full and serve more of our community.

Directing Choice Dollars is easy. Simply go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more and find program terms and conditions. Or call 800-847-4836 and say “Thrivent Choice” after the prompt. Together, we can do even more to help strengthen communities and change lives.



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Stewardship

“I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:8-9).



Without commands or even arm-twisting, St. Paul encourages, even challenges, the Church in Corinth to demonstrate the sincerity of their faith by their generosity in giving. He does this because giving generously is a gift of the Spirit given to us through the Gospel.

St. Paul wrote: “But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving” (2 Corinthians 8:7). In other words, just as we grow in faith and speech and knowledge of eternal things by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God, so also do we grow in giving from the same Spirit through the same Word.

The problem is that the grace of generosity often grows cold in us. It’s not so much that we stop giving, but we don’t put it first. We treat it like all the other bills that must be paid. It becomes a chore, just one more thing to check off a list of things to do. That empties it of its spiritual power and robs us of the joy that Christ and the Scriptures assign to it.

On top of that, since this generosity is linked to faith and knowledge of divine things, a lack of excelling in giving is a sure sign that our faith and knowledge of God are under attack as well.

Thus St. Paul points to the foundation of generosity: the generosity of Christ Himself. Even though He was rich, He became poor so that we who are poor might become rich. Thus, the incarnation, suffering, and death of our Lord on the cross is the reason, source, and driving force for our generosity in giving to the church.

And since Christ who was rich became poor so that we might be rich in His grace—of which generous giving is part—so we also who are rich in His grace can excel in pressing His grace into service toward the gracious work of the church.

Pay attention to what you give to the church so that you may excel at it. And if you find that your heart has grown cold or indifferent toward it, immerse yourself in God’s Word. Read it at home. Attend Bible Class. Hear and listen to it preached in the Divine Service.

Be reminded of what Christ has done for you in His incarnation, suffering, and death. For this will strengthen your faith and knowledge. And where that excels, so will the grace of giving excel also.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry



**Look for the 2018
Voter and Executive Council
meeting schedule in upcoming
bulletin announcements!**

Our Vision
St. Johns, partnering with Open Sky
Education will do Christ-centered
community outreach that engages our
community with worship

Our Mission
St. Johns Lutheran Church is a diverse
family of saved sinners, walking together
in forgiveness. Motivated by Christ's
love, we will share the Gospel and care
for the needs of all people.

- February 2** *Earl Welch*
- February 6** *Jeanette Creamer*
Pastor Tanney
- February 7** *Tamarris Bobannon*
Carolyn Dickhoener
Melvin Frentzel
- February 12** *Eunice Bain*
- February 17** *Mabel Wilke*
- February 20** *Debra Meyer*

Jeanette Creamer
3629 Oak Hill
St. Louis, MO 63116

Mabel Wilke
Alexian Brothers Sherbrooke Village
4005 Ripa Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63125

February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 2:00pm Home Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	2 8:00am Bible Study	3 8:00am Social Ministry 8:30am Food Pantry
4 9:00am Worship 10:30am Bible Class and Sunday School	5 3:30pm Compass 7:00pm Elders	6 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study 7:00pm Vietnamese Bible Study	7 9:30am Preschool Chapel 3:30pm Compass 4:00pm Compass Chapel 6:30pm Choir 6:30pm ESL 7:00pm Pre-Seminary Training	8 2:00pm Home Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	9 8:00am Bible Study	10 8:30am Food Pantry
11 9:00am Worship w/ Communion 10:30am Bible Class and Sunday School	12 3:30pm Compass 6:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm WOW	13 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study 7:00pm Vietnamese Bible Study	14 9:30am Preschool Chapel 10:00am Ash Wednesday Service 11:30am Avalon Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 4:00pm Compass Chapel 6:30pm Choir 6:30pm ESL 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service	15 2:00pm Home Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	16 Eagle Closed 8:00am Bible Study	17 8:30am Food Pantry
18 9:00am Worship Scout Sunday Servant Recognition 10:30am Bible Class and Sunday School	19 President's Day Eagle Closed 6:00pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Evangelism	20 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study 7:00pm Vietnamese Bible Study	21 9:30am Preschool Chapel 10:00am Lenten Service 3:30pm Compass 4:00pm Compass Chapel 7:00pm Lenten Service	22 2:00pm Home Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	23 8:00am Bible Study	24 8:30am Food Pantry
25 9:00am Worship w/ Communion Pre-Seminary Recognition & Confirmation Celebration Brunch	26 3:30pm Compass 6:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Ushers	27 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study	28 9:30am Preschool Chapel 10:00am Lenten Service 3:30pm Compass 4:00pm Compass Chapel 6:30pm Choir 7:00pm Lenten Service			