

## ANOTHER LENTEN SEASON

We have entered into another Lenten season. Lent is a busy time at church. The choir works hard at preparing special music for the Lenten season and for the Easter season. The Sunday School is also learning a song to sing at one of our services. And, of course, throughout the season of Lent, we have special Midweek suppers and services.

It all goes to show that Lent is a time of worship. Lent is a time for us to meditate on God's Word. When we do focus on God's Word, two messages are clear: 1) we are sinful people in need of God's forgiveness and 2) we are forgiven people who have Jesus' forgiveness.

As we meditate on the suffering of Jesus, we see our sin and we see our Savior. Jesus suffered for our sin. He was without sin, yet He willingly went to the cross to bear the punishment we deserve. Because He did, we have the forgiveness of sin. He is our Savior.

For that reason, we worship Him. We praise Him. We thank Him. We serve Him. We serve Him with our lives. We serve Him with our lips. As we meditate upon God's Word, we see how God wants us to live and what He wants us to do. He wants us to live lives of love. He wants us to tell others of His love.

To do so, it is important for us to be into God's Word. God's Word alone can move us to praise, thank, and serve God with our lives and lips. May God use His Word this Lenten season, as we gather together to worship Him, to show us our sin and our Savior, as well as show us how He want us to live for Him



# Love

is patient, *1 Corinthians 13: 4-5*  
love is kind.  
It does not envy,  
it does not boast,  
it is not proud.  
It does not dishonor others,  
it is not self-seeking,  
it is not easily angered,  
it keeps no records of wrongs.



## Wednesday Lenten Services

- FEB 28** Perfect Love... is Not Easily Angered
- MAR 06** Perfect Love... is Not Self-Seeking
- MAR 13** Perfect Love... Keeps No Record of Wrongs
- MAR 20** Perfect Love... is Kind

**Supper begins at 5:00 PM followed by Worship at 6:00 PM**

# HOLY WEEK

All are invited to join us for worship

PALM SUNDAY



9:00AM Worship  
Kids/Adult Choir sing

MAUNDY THURSDAY



6:00PM Worship

GOOD FRIDAY



1:00PM Worship  
7:30PM Worship

EASTER SUNDAY



7AM & 9AM Worship  
Easter Breakfast at 8AM



# CALL COMMITTEE

U P D A T E

With the announcement of Pastor Becker retiring on July 7 of this year, the call process for a new pastor has begun. All were invited to attend the pre-call meeting held on Wednesday, January 31. Pastor Finnern, MN North District President, walked those attending through the process and helped us understand what we can expect in the coming months.

We discussed the option of calling a pastor straight out of the seminary vs from the field. There were uncertainties with both options, but when all was said and done the group voted to begin the process of calling a pastor from the field. If we are not able to find a good fit, we have the option of calling a pastor from the seminary next year. We are a little late to submit a request from the seminary as many graduating pastors have already been assigned to other churches.

At the end of the meeting, we were asked to complete a Pre-Call Congregation Survey (the congregation had an option to complete this survey, as well). Those surveys have been completed and sent to the district office. From there, we will receive a list of possible pastors who have asked to be added to a call list to begin our selection process.

Paul Zenke, St. John's President, is currently working on other necessary paperwork and is working on the creation of a call committee who will work together in the best interest of the whole church to select possible pastors to interview. Ultimately, this is the choice of the entire congregation, but the goal of the call committee to narrow the list down to pastor options that best fit for our church, as a whole.

The call committee will keep the congregation updated monthly in the church newsletter, as well as necessary updates in the church bulletin. Please keep this process in your prayers, as well as for Pastor Becker as he nears retirement.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

# YOUTH NEWS

*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no records of wrongs. 1 Corinthians 13:4-5*

## FAMILY SERVICE DAY

helping hands feeding families in need



DAY INCLUDES MANY HAPPY FACES

Families are invited to join us in a family service day packing meals for the Outreach Program in Nisswa on **April 13 from 10:00 am to 11:30 am**. Please sign up in the church entryway before March 31, so we can get a head count.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SINGS



The Sunday School kids are singing "Do You Know Who Died for Me" during worship on **Sunday, March 3**. Be sure to have kids arrive at 8:45 am to warm up together in the pre-school classroom.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING JULY 22 - 26

Grab your binoculars and don your life vest! We are off on a cruise through the jungle. At this VBS, kids will set off on an epic adventure from Genesis to Revelation. Kids will sail along a fun jungle cruise, stopping at seven ports of call. These ports are the 7 C's of History: creation, corruption, catastrophe, confusion, Christ, cross and consummation. Kids will discover how these events shape our world, and they will learn to reconnect the Bible to their everyday lives.

Boarding for our Jungle Journey will begin July 22 – 26. Register on-line beginning March 1 at [www.stjohnaitkin.com](http://www.stjohnaitkin.com). We are currently looking for volunteers. Contact Brea Hamdorf for ways you can volunteer (314-608-9778).



*The Holy Spirit is doing great things with ACT. Please pray for these children to follow Christ and be an example to others.*

## SUPER BOWL SUNDAY FUNDRAISER

Thank you to all who supported our ACT group during the annual Super Bowl Sub & Snack Sale. This is one of their biggest fundraising events. This year they raised nearly \$1500 towards their trip to the 2025 LWMS National Youth Gathering. Thank you also to everyone who donated time & resources to make this event work. ACT is blessed to be part of a generous congregation.



## BRAINERD JAYCEE FISHING TOURNAMENT CANCELED

We planned to help the Brainerd Jaycees at their ice fishing tournament, but the thin ice had to change volunteer plans and we were unable to attend. It was disappointing to miss out on the fundraiser, but we won't question God's plans for the weather this winter.

## WEDNESDAY DISCUSSIONS

During our Wednesday meetings, we've been discussing Gideon, friendship, and stress. We had a movie night showing the movie, "Grace Unplugged" – a movie based on the parable of "The Prodigal Son" and in part on the real-life experience of producer Russ Rice, whose daughter ran away from home after rejecting the Christian faith in which she was raised.

## PREPARING FOR THE MN BIBLE BOWL

Some of our teens are preparing for the upcoming MN State Bible Bowl. We meet after church on Sundays to study the Book of Acts. We are learning many new names, places, and true amazing events. We've changed the Bible Bowl for ACT this year to make it optional for teens on a night not designated for ACT.

Minnesota  
**STATE BIBLE BOWL**  
 2024



# Care Boxes Sealed & Delivered



## CARE BOXES SEALED & DELIVERED

Each year, our St. John's Circle packs boxes full of sweet treats and little gifts for our students in college or in the military. This is our way of letting these young adults know that God is always with them and that we at St. John's Lutheran Church are thinking about them and keeping them in our prayers. Who doesn't love receiving a package in the mail that says, "You are a child of God, and you are loved!"

Thanks to this group of ladies who always go out of their way to make a difference!



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
**CHICKEN  
DINNER**  
**SIT DOWN OR CARRY-OUT**

FRIDAY, APRIL 26 from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM

watch for more details soon!



## NARCAN IN AED BOXES

There was a new addition to the two AED metal enclosures this past month, Naloxone. You may know this by its trade name, Narcan. Narcan is a medication that is intended to reverse the action of medications such as narcotics and opioids when taken in overdose. Overdoses happen with both prescribed and illicit medications, to young and old alike. The medication is easily administered with one or more sprays in the nostril.

If you suspect someone suffering an overdose the first action is to assess for responsiveness and breathing. Yell "Wake up!" and gently shake them. If they will not wake up, give the first dose in the nose by holding the spray device with your thumb on the bottom of the plunger, insert the nozzle into either nostril and press the plunger firmly. Each spray device contains just one dose. Then call 911 or have someone else call for you. Wait 2 to 3 minutes after the first dose to give the medication time to work. If the person does not wake up, continue to administer doses every 2 to 3 minutes until the person does wakes up. The church has a total of 4 dosed in the facility. Stay with the person until help arrives.

Please feel free to open the AED enclosure and check out the Narcan, read the directions and check out the illustrations as well as check out the plunger device. I would be glad to assist you with familiarizing yourself. Should you feel that you need Narcan in your home, I also can assist you in finding how to purchase your own.

With this tool, any one of us can save a life.

*Teri Hiller-Baty, RN Parish Nurse*

## LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP CAMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE

St. John's is providing \$100.00 or one half of the cost of camp (whichever is greater) for any of our children that would like to attend a summer program at Lutheran Island Camp. You can go online to the camp website ([www.islandcamp.org](http://www.islandcamp.org)) to check on the summer camp possibilities. If you have any questions, you can call Debbie Schultz, 927-6250.



If you would like to donate toward this, please place your gift in an envelope marked: "LIC Camperships" and place the envelope in the offering plate.

**SUMMER IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!**



# MARCH BIRTHDAYS

*Blessings on your special day!*

Hunter Westerlund	02	Charles Wikelius	13	Eric Wold	24
Monica Lovsness	03	Kaleb Bauer	15	Noah Christian Carlson	25
Sally Fenner	04	Jessica Perlberg	17	Marissa Sterling	25
Eric O'Neil	04	Isabell Harmon	18	Gina Wold	25
Ted Hasskamp	08	Kevin Rom	18	Jeanie Christian	26
Theresa Bartel	09	Bruce Sanvig	18	Dennis Ruschmeier	26
James Bartel	09	Travis Torgerson	18	Levi Flerlage	27
Maria Hasskamp	09	Terry Urban	18	Paige Harmon	28
Daniel Witt	09	Kathy Hanlon	19	Katelyn Sarlette	28
Lydia Kleinhans	10	Cynthia Priem	21	Maggie Borseth	29
Jason Torgerson	10	Nathan Rom	21	Kyle Priem	29
Beckett Pearson	12	Jennifer Monse	22	Bryan Haugly	31
Christine Miller	13	Lori Kaiser	23	Huck Novotny	31
Randy Quale	13	Roger Renstrom	23		

*\*The birthdays listed are from our church records. Any mistakes are unintentional. Please notify the office of any mistakes, deletions, or if you do not want your birthday listed.*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

KEEPING MEMBERS INFORMED + INVOLVED



# RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

## St. John's Lutheran Church

Monday, April 22 and Tuesday, April 23

register at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)



# TOGETHER IN MISSION | NEWS FROM THE NEUENDORFS

*We recently received the following from James and Christel Neuendorf:*

## SHARING JESUS DURING EPIPHANY

A new outreach started this month. On January 13th we started English classes for little children in Mayaguez. In December when we visited the HeadStart preschool (who rents space in our church), we invited all the families to join. We sang English songs like “Jesus loves me”, and “the itsy-bitsy spider”. We read the bible story of Daniel and Lion’s Den.

We talked about how God sent his angel to shut the lions’ mouths, and we made a happy lion craft. We were joined by 2 new families with 2 children each. Special thanks to Missionary Ashley Lehr who provided support for this activity, and to Pastor Gustavo who set up a bouncy house for us.

We are learning that children with autism pick up English more easily than Spanish (according to a child’s therapist); and that these mothers were looking for English activities for their children.

We thank God for this way to support these families and hope to connect with even more families. After this event, another family with young children came to visit. They are from the Adventist faith, so we are thankful to have a chance to form relationships with them and share the grace we have in the Gospel. The father was invited to the men’s event happening later that evening in our outdoor kitchen, where the men enjoyed a meal and bible study about Job.

On January 12th we began our Friday bonfire fellowship. Though the rain stopped us from having a campfire, we still cooked in our new outdoor kitchen, enjoyed fellowship, a bible study, and hymns. Our church members are helping to plan a Valentine’s Day event for celebrating friendship on February 17th. We are thankful for our outdoor kitchen where we are preparing to host church members’ birthdays. Sandra is preparing for her birthday in February.



*If you would like to give toward the support of our Together in Mission Missionaries, please place your offering in an envelope marked “Together in Mission.”*