



St. John Journey

www.stjohnnabingdon.org

Council President's Corner

Happy Lent!

Looks weird, doesn't it? Happy birthday, or happy anniversary seem to be more appropriate "happy" events. Writing Happy Lent seems almost counter-intuitive, even awkward! After all, the mood of Lent is restraint, self-discipline, seriousness, even austerity. As Lutherans, we typically leave out the "alleluias" from any part of the worship during Lent and we don't decorate the altar with flowers. Lent is serious! For years, I always associated Lent with fasting or giving up something like a favorite food or beverage as a way to center my thoughts on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Now I prefer to think of Lent as a time when I can take on something such as additional prayer or Bible study to facilitate spiritual growth.

Many years ago in 1996, I reaffirmed my baptism during an Easter Vigil service right here at St. John. Whereas I was baptized as an infant, I didn't have much say-so in the event. Conversely, voluntarily joining an adult catechumenal process enabled me to choose a way to grow my faith. The significance of this process culminating during Holy Week was intentional. As such, I now look forward to Lent because it reminds me of that process and perhaps what I left behind, while simultaneously reminding me that something exciting happened to me during Lent.

Lent can also be a time when we are anticipating and looking forward to celebrating something wonderful that is about to happen. Sunday, March 3, will be special day because we welcome Elise and Adam to our St. John family, and collectively celebrate her first Sunday leading worship as our pastor. God is putting a young and gifted pastor in our midst and this is exciting! Be sure to welcome both after worship.

Spring is always the time of year we most associate with the anticipation of new life. A few days ago, I noticed some purple crocuses in my yard,

peeking up through a dusting of white snow. I thought about new beginnings, purple paraments, and the how a dusting of snow in its own unique way brings new life. We are truly blessed.

Finally, Lent is a time when we need to appreciate God's blessing on us. We can't get too focused on ourselves and what we are going to do or give up, else we may miss the grace that God freely gives us. The Good News is not what we do to enhance our Lenten experience, but what Jesus has already done for us.

So, Happy Lent, even if it does sound a little corny. I look forward experiencing Lenten blessings with all of you.

God's Peace and Blessings,
Bill

Prayer Chain

Steve Kluttz
Laurie Kluttz
Richard Brumlevee
Leo Sturgill
Joel Rosen
Sally Johnson
Dallas Church
Kathy Smith
Bridgette Smith
Peg Curphey
Canon Donald Muller
Nancy King
Taulbee Cherry
June Bjerke
Rita Kestner
Bob Murphy
Pastor Kevin Campbell

We pray for our refugee family: Wilmer, Cecilia and Hillary Pitre.

We pray for all on the front lines: doctors, nurses, medical personnel.

We pray for the homebound: Vickianne Dotten, Barbara Wright, Betsy Bonham
If you have names to add (or ones to be taken off) the prayer chain, please email Jill at the church office.



NEWS

A meeting of the Highlands Conference planning committee was held last weekend. Several of our church members attended to share ideas. An update on the conference, from Pastor Jonathan Hammond, is [attached](#).

Attention all Thrivent Financial Members

Did you know you can direct your Choice Dollars with Thrivent Financial to Hungry Mother Lutheran Retreat Center, St. John Lutheran Church or St. John Lutheran Preschool. Just log on to your account and click on Choice Dollars to see what \$\$'s you have to direct. Remember Choice Dollars do not come directly out of your own account. It is the way Thrivent gives back to the community through your generosity. The dead line for directing Choice Dollars for the 2023-24 is March 31, so please do it soon.

Thank You from the Minnick School

The students and staff at the Minnick School in Bristol, VA would like to thank the St. John congregation for providing backpacks to students during the school year. In addition, they would like to thank St. John for the Christmas food boxes and coats, hats, gloves, socks, etc. given to them at Christmas. The students and staff greatly appreciate all the help and support given to them by St. John.

Women's Group

On February 17th, over 30 women attended the first meeting of our newly reorganized women's group! Lots of ideas were exchanged and a survey was sent out to see what is most important to the women of St. John. There will be news soon about a special Women's Weekend at Hungry Mother Lutheran Retreat Center May 31-June 2. If you would like to be included in our Women's Group emails, please let Jill in the office know. If you have questions, you can contact Dona Jenkins or Sue Croghan.

Wednesday, March 13 12:05pm

Lenten Noontime Service

We will be hosting the lunch following the service.

Holy Week, March 24-31

Details about the week will be sent later in the month.

Quilters:

The quilters are continuing to meet on Tuesdays from 9:30 to noon (come late, leave early as needed) but they will NOT meet Tuesday, March 27 during Holy Week. As of now, Quilt Sunday is scheduled for May 12 (Mother's Day).

NexTrex Plastic Recycling

Update:

Another 45 pounds collected this month, bring out total to 194!! Keep up the great work--bring your plastic and fill our bins!

Food Pantry:

We serve the week of March 18-22. Monday and Friday: 9:45am-1:00pm Tuesday: 3:45pm-6:00pm Please come and help if you can. It is usually the busiest at the beginning of the shift, but come anytime.

Book Group:

Book Club will meet on Sunday, March 3rd at 2:00pm in the conference room. We are reading Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt. Here is the zoom link to join from home <https://vccs.zoom.us/my/sandydavis?omn=89235710983>

Tapestry Group:

Please watch the weekly emails for information on the next meeting.

If we missed your March birthday, please let the church office know.

Volunteers for March

Sunday March 3

Lay Asst.: Ken Croghan
Lector :Kent Peterson
Ushers: Jim and Sharon Meacham
Counters: Chris Meacham, Doris Vaught

Sunday March 10

Lay Asst : Ed Davis
Lector: Dave Morris
Ushers: Jim and Tammie Kroll
Counters: Jim Kroll, Sandy Davis

Sunday March 17

Lay Asst.: Linda Garnett
Lector: Doris Vaught
Ushers: Helen French, Dennis Bailey
Counters: Roger Nipper, Helen French

Sunday March 24

Lay Asst: Ken Croghan
Lector: Amanda Meacham
Ushers: Sue Croghan, Don Williams
Counters: Jim Kroll, Chris Meacham

Sunday March 31

Lay Asst: Ed Davis
Lector: Sandy Davis
Ushers: Bill and Shirl Spencer
Counters: Doris Vaught, Tammie Kroll