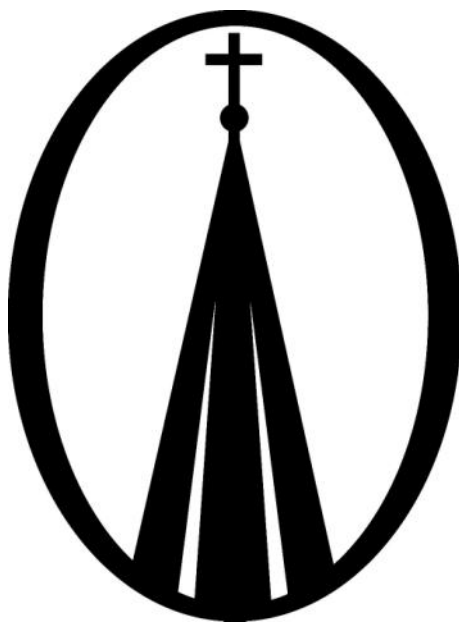


# St. John Journal

**News & info for the family of St. John  
Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill**



A loving and welcoming family of faith,  
excited about what God has done (and continues to do!) for us

**Volume 14, Number 3  
March 2021**

St John Lutheran Church is a congregation of  
the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

As I sit down to write this (02/15), severe weather is shaping our lives. Hovering over us, amidst bitter temperatures and winds, realities we take for granted are foremost anxieties: *will electricity be interrupted? Will our water lines freeze up? And we think long and hard, before venturing out on the roads?*

Like severe weather, the arrival of Lent brings a time of reflection and discipline. Some might ask, *"What will I give up?"* Yet, I want to pose, *"What will you take up?"*

What arises in your mind, as you pose those questions in the context of your neighbor? Some are those with whom we are well connected (if not related!), yet others with whom you may be marginally connected. The severe weather plus our extended pandemic, may be impacting the latter in ways you (and I) don't know. Consider as a Lenten discipline, what will I take up to "love my neighbor", especially those less familiar neighbors?

Rather than simply asking "What will I give up for Lent?" consider challenging yourself: *"What will I take up for Lent? "Love your neighbor as yourself."*

Beyond your neighbor, consider as well "praying" for this transitional time within St John-Prairie Hill.

- ...for your congregational leaders, who find themselves with those added responsibilities, which may have previously been handled by a "full time" called Pastor.
- ...for our ELCA seminaries, which form individuals from ELCA congregations (like St John-Prairie Hill), for pastoral leadership;
- ...for Bishop Rinehart and staff, as they seek to identify gifted candidates, for consideration with congregations seeking to call a new Pastor;
- ...an openness to "ministry imagination" with what the Spirit might be inviting St John to take on anew; and
- ...for patience. Our scriptures tell of Jesus going away, for time to pray and discern.

So, what will you take up, within these 40 days of Lent, that have brought challenges on numerous fronts? How will you open yourself, and your congregation, to the Spirit's nudging?

Pastor Greg Gaskamp

## READINGS FOR MARCH

MARCH		FIRST READING	RESPONSIVE	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
<b>7</b>	Lent 3	EXODUS 20:1-17	PSALM 19	1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-25	JOHN 2:13-22
<b>14</b>	Lent 4	NUMBERS 21:4-9	PSALM 107: 1-3, 17-22	EPHESIANS 2:1-10	JOHN 3:14-21
<b>21</b>	Lent 5	JEREMIAH 31:31-34	PSALM 51:1-12	HEBREWS 5:5-10	JOHN 12:20-33
<b>28</b>	Palm Sunday	ISAIAH 50:4-9	PSALM 31:9-16	PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11	MARK 11:1-11



## LAYREADERS

March	8:00AM Parking Lot	10:00AM Indoor Sanctuary
<b>7</b>	Glenda Stegent	Sandy Ordner
<b>14</b>	Camryn Finke	Bethany Janner
<b>21</b>	Riley Moehlmann	Sandra Tillman
<b>28</b>	Clay Boeker	Taylor Klatte

## REACHING YOUR CHURCH OFFICE

Johanna Becker      prairiehillsecretary@gmail.com    979-836-8666 (church office)  
 Office hours: Monday-Wednesday 8-4pm      Website: [www.stjohnnpairiehill.org](http://www.stjohnnpairiehill.org)

# Baptismal Anniversaries



3/01/1946	Cookie Engeling	3/15/1987	Heather Myers
3/01/1992	Christopher Horton	3/17/2019	Elijah Rosenbaum
3/01/1992	Mason Marburger	3/18/1973	Penny Randermann
3/03/1957	Allan Winkelmann	3/19/1989	Derek Gaskamp
3/05/1972	Mary Sue Longhofer	3/19/1989	Kyle Herrmann
3/06/1983	Brian Estes	3/21/1982	Brett Schroeder
3/08/1953	Joyce Richter	3/21/1999	Justin Neuendorff
3/10/2013	Brooklyn Randermann	3/21/2010	Taylor Bosse
3/11/1962	Marcus Randermann	3/22/1987	Blake Becker
3/11/1973	Paul Randermann	3/23/2003	Clayton Boeker
3/11/1973	Robert Randermann	3/27/1988	Jennifer Anderson
3/11/2001	Mollie Grote	3/28/1979	Sharon Boswell
3/11/2012	Rhett Schroeder	3/29/1981	David Schawe
3/12/1944	David Bryan	3/29/1998	Mina Kraft
3/14/1990	Dalton Feldmann	3/31/1940	Calvin Janner
3/15/1953	Debra Westerfeld		
3/15/1953	Gary Schulze		

# Wedding Anniversaries



3/04/2000	Kenneth & Christin Seeker	3/17/1990	Russell & Tina Seeker
3/05/2001	Lisa & René Chavelas	3/24/1984	Shannon & Dodie Mehr
3/08/2003	Kyle & Stephanie Rosenbaum	3/25/2000	Matthew & Rachel Bentke
3/09/2019	Mary & Robbie Roese	3/27/2015	Adrienne & Spencer Reynolds
3/12/1978	Robert & Janice Fairlie		
3/13/2010	Josh & Rachel Church		

*You are in our thoughts and prayers as you celebrate your special day. May God richly bless you!*

# SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

We have been having so much fun in Sunday School! In February the kids learned all about the story of Jesus walking on water and how important it is for us to 'keep our eyes on him' even during times when we feel like we're sinking. They really enjoyed science and testing buoyancy of objects that would float or sink, and art was especially fun with them creating 'FEET' to walk on water with. We also buried the "A" word to symbolize the beginning of Lent.

In March we will begin a new rotation for the kids teaching about holy week and Easter. We will not have Sunday School March 14 due to spring break.

With Easter upon us, we are asking for donations for our annual egg hunt. If you would like to donate, there will be a basket in the back of the church.

We will also place flowers on the cross Easter morning before our egg hunt. As of now we are planning to have the Easter egg hunt during the Sunday School hour; however that could change if the church decides to have the breakfast after sunrise service. I will be keeping all the Sunday School parents informed as we get closer!

We are always looking for volunteers to help with the Sunday School program and our children would love to see new faces leading a rotation. If you would like to lead a craft, art, or even a science rotation I know the children would absolutely adore seeing you in Sunday school! If you have a question about rotations or would like to volunteer I would LOVE to hear from you! Please feel free to contact me at (512)203-9591.

Dates to Remember:

March 14th - No Sunday School

Brooke Huckert

Sunday School Superintendent

Sunday School is collecting money to purchase items for the Easter Egg Hunt on April 4<sup>th</sup>. There will be a basket on the way out of church.





# MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
	1 6:00PM Executive Committee Meeting	2	3 Lent Wednesday 6:00PM Indoor & Parking Lot Service <i>No Soup Supper</i>
7 Lent 3 8:00AM Parking Lot Worship 9:00AM Sunday School 10:05AM Indoor Worship	8 6:00PM Council Meeting	9 Food Pantry	10 Lent Wednesday 6:00PM Indoor & Parking Lot Service <i>No Soup Supper</i>
14 Lent 4 8:00AM Parking Lot Worship <i>No Sunday School: Spring Break</i> 10:05AM Indoor Worship	15 <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	16 9:00AM Quilting	17 Lent Wednesday 6:00PM Indoor & Parking Lot Service <i>No Soup Supper</i>
21 Lent 5 8:00AM Parking Lot Worship 9:00AM Sunday School 10:05AM Indoor Worship	22	23 Food Pantry 9:00AM Quilting	24 Lent Wednesday 6:00PM Indoor & Parking Lot Service <i>No Soup Supper</i>
28 Palm Sunday 8:00AM Parking Lot Worship 9:00AM Sunday School 10:05AM Indoor Worship			



## Flower Chart

The 2021 Flower Chart has been posted in the Annex. Please sign-up if you would like to put flowers in church!

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Don Holtkamp,  
Blake Becker, Chris  
Koehler  
Cookie Engeling



7



## Prairie Hill Food Pantry Upcoming Dates:

March 9 & 23      6:30AM-8AM

### Worship & Music Committee

The worship and music committee met and selected hymns for the Lent Season coming up.

Since we are doing inside worship again, ushers will be important for both services. Handing out bulletins and giving out communion packets and picking up attendance cards. We still need people to sign-up.

If your phone number or email has changed please notify Mary Longhofer at (979)251-2904 or the church secretary at (979)836-8666.

Thanks,  
Mary Longhofer

## *Lenten Schedule*



<b>Lent Wednesdays</b> (Indoor & Parking Lot)	March 3, 10, 17, 24	6:00PM Worship
<b>Palm Sunday</b>	Sunday, March 28 <sup>th</sup>	8:00AM, 10:05AM
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	Thursday, April 1 <sup>st</sup>	7:00PM
<b>Good Friday</b>	Friday, April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9:00AM
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	Sunday, April 4 <sup>th</sup>	6:30AM, 10:05AM





# The Psalms: Songs in the Key of Life

... Rev. Phil Fenton

Wednesdays in Lent 2021

Beginning February 24 6:00 p.m.

The Psalms are Hebrew poetry at its best. And what was best about poetry then is still what is best about poetry: no other vehicle better gives expression to the heights and depths of the human experience. In this wonderful book one will find the full spectrum of human emotions. If you can feel it, you can find a psalm about it: joy, sadness, fear, anger, abandonment, tranquility, vengeance, repentance, praise, and helplessness. Sometimes exhilarating, sometimes calming, sometimes shocking, the psalms give us a peek into a very public yet very personal conversation between the author and his God. Nothing is “off” the table. God knows what is in our hearts at any given moment. We can’t help but feel what we feel, and the Psalms invite us to take even our “lesser” feelings to God in prayer.

## Purpose:

- + To introduce worshipers to the great faith-resource that we have in the Book of Psalms.
- + To lead worshippers into to the understanding that in the book of Psalms you will find every emotion that human beings feel: joy, praise, sadness, fear, anger, contrition, resentment, etc. We can’t help but feel what we feel, and the Psalms invite us to take all of it to God in prayer.
- + To encourage worshippers to memorize (hide away in their hearts) entire psalms and portions of psalms so that they can be readily available to them to express their feelings of joy or to be “very present helps in times of trouble.”
- + To help worshippers experience the spiritual practice of meditation.

**February 24** Introduction to “The Psalms: Songs in the Key of Life” – Psalm 23

**March 3** “Awe and Wonder” Psalm 8

**March 10** “Spiritual Depression” Psalm 42 – A Lament

**March 17** “Lord, I’m Sorry” Psalm 51

**March 24** “Lord, I’m Angry” Psalm 109

**April 1, Maundy Thursday** “Be Still To Know that I am God” Psalm 46

**April 2, Good Friday** “Where Can I Go from Your Presence?” Psalm 139

### **Council Highlights**

The Church Council of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church met for its monthly meeting on February 8, 2021, at 6:00 pm. Council President, Jon Westerfeld, called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. All members were present except Kenneth Seeker and Cathy Boeker. The January minutes were approved as distributed.

### **New Business**

- **Via Text Messages:** Approved use of Activity Center by Dorothy Haevischer for Marvin's birthday party on Saturday, February 6, beginning at 10:00am. All responses agreed. *[Request for use of building was withdrawn due to Marvin's illness.]*
- **Motion** to approve advertising in the Brenham Banner-Press Spring Visitor's Guide edition. **MSC.**
- **Motion** to allow Brandy Dunham and Mitchell Eben to reserve the church for April 17, 2021 wedding as backup location in case of inclement weather. **MSC**

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Treasurer Report**

**Betty Feldmann**

Report as submitted.

#### **Financial Secretary Report**

**Cathy Boeker**

Report as submitted.

#### **Community Concerns Report**

**Cathie Klatte**

Food Pantry served 95 families (238 people) in January at two distributions.

#### **Worship and Music Report**

**Mary Longhofer**

Renewing use of ushers at worship services.

#### **Parish Education Report**

**Jennifer Schroeder**

Will celebrate Valentine's Day and burying of the "A" Word on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Plans for First Communion instruction and presentation of Bibles to third and fourth graders are being made.

**Youth Report****Kenneth Seeker**

No report.

**Evangelism Report****Rachel Church**

No report.

**Property Report****Steve Skrla**

Discussed bids received for improvement projects, including stretching sanctuary carpet and installing covered porch at Activity Center. Tabled pending additional information requested.

**Motion** to accept all reports as given. **MSC.**

**Motion** to adjourn. **MSC.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Janice Fairlie, Council Secretary

President .....	Jon Westerfeld	Evangelism.....	Rachel Church
Vice-President .....	Kenneth Seeker	Financial Secretary.....	Cathy Boeker
Treasurer.....	Betty Feldmann	Parish Ed .....	Jennifer Schroeder
Secretary .....	Janice Fairlie	Property.....	Steve Skrla
Community Concerns .....	Cathie Klatte	Worship & Music.....	Mary Longhofer



The Quilters will meet on March 16 and 23. Deanna Giese will host. We meet at 9AM to noon. Come join us for quilting, sewing, putting together and tying LWR quilts.

## St John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill

6605 Old Independence Rd.  
Brenham, TX 77833



[www.stjohnprairiehill.org](http://www.stjohnprairiehill.org)

979-836-8666

The deadline for the  
April newsletter is:  
**Monday**  
**March 15<sup>th</sup>**

Submissions received after  
this date will be included if  
time and space allow.

Thank you!

Interim Pastor  
Church Secretary  
Sexton  
Accompanists

The Rev. Greg Gaskamp  
Johanna Becker  
Sherry Randermann  
Mary Longhofer,  
Linda Pieper, Linda Schulze

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