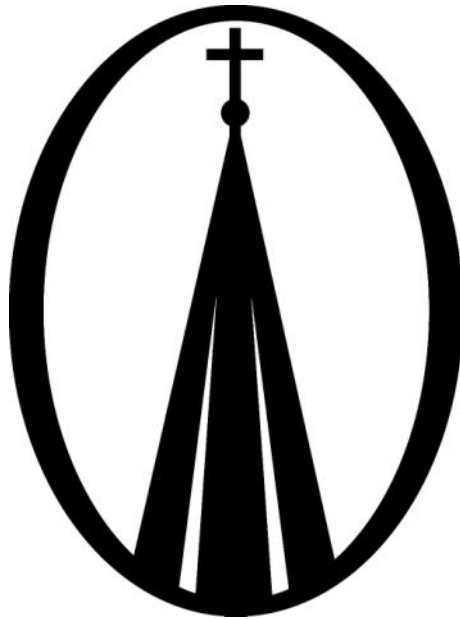


St. John Journal

**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 4
April 2021**

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

Greetings!

Like many of you, I continue to reflect on living out my Christian faith in these days of Lent. Traditional emphases have been about deeper practices of prayer, growing in financial generosity, spending time in scripture, feeding the hungry and more.

First, amidst the ongoing reality of COVID-19, a new practice has recently emerged for me out this Biblical passage from Mark 12:28:

- *“What commandment is the first of all? Jesus answered, Hear O Israel: the Lord our God the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself’. There is no greater commandment than these.”*

The final two lines in specific, have prompted me to clarify my practices in regards to “wearing a mask” and “social distancing”. Whether my leadership has been with the parking lot worship or the “recent social distanced 10:05 worship”, my actions had previously been due to an edict of our Texas Governor, and CDC guidelines. Recently however, my motivation has shifted and become guided by a *“love for neighbor”*. That is, until there is sufficient “herd immunity”, I am committed to “love my neighbor” by continuing to wear a face mask in public gatherings. Yes, it challenges my speaking within worship and is at times awkward, but I will continue to do so out of love for neighbors that may be more vulnerable because of age, health complications, etc. This has become a core part of my Christian identity this Lent, loving the neighbor God has created and sent into my midst. I appreciate your respect for my leadership on that front, and invite you to join in as well for the benefit of elderly members, and those with health risks,

Second, a follow-up to my initial column of January. My agreed upon responsibilities are Sunday worship at 8:00 a.m. plus 10:05 a.m., and Tuesday afternoon Confirmation class (5:00 p.m.). If there is something additional for which pastoral leadership is traditionally expected, don’t assume I know, or am available. My initial written agreement does not include an expectation to attend Council meetings OR be in the office, both of which are often ways a new pastoral leader learns of local expectations (assumptions) for the new Pastoral leader. Over the last few months, retirement life projects have kept me plenty occupied, and no let up is in sight this spring. *(As a side note, I explored with Confirmation students the possibility of shifting to “outdoor in person class”, but turned out that for now, “online classes” are preferred. If that surprises you, consider that this does not require transportation by Mom or Dad around supper time.)*

Third, as you read this we will be in Holy Week 2021 and nearing a celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord. I have no doubt that last year this time, your Holy Week lacked those rich rituals that are so central to our Christian faith. Based on learning safer ways to gather, over recent months (ie social distancing etc), I expect that each of you are personally looking forward to gathering for Palm

Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and of course the Resurrection of our Lord. *(My schedule is to be in leadership with you at the Easter Sunday 8:00 and 10:05 celebrations.)*

Thanks for your partnership, patience, and persistence in these challenging days to be faithful servants of the Gospel!

Peace be with you,
Pastor Greg Gaskamp



READINGS FOR APRIL

APRIL		FIRST READING	RESPONSIVE	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
4	EASTER SUNDAY	ACTS 10:34-43	PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24	1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11	JOHN 20:1-18
11	EASTER 2	ACTS 4:32-35	PSALM 133	1 JOHN 1:1--2:2	JOHN 20:19-31
18	EASTER 3	ACTS 3:12-19	PSALM 4	1 JOHN 3:1-7	LUKE 24:36-48
25	EASTER 4	ACTS 4:5-12	PSALM 23	1 JOHN 3:16-24	JOHN 10:11-18

LAY READERS

April	8:00AM Parking Lot	10:00AM Indoor Sanctuary
4	Glenda Stegent	Jennifer Anderson
11	Charles Gaskamp	Kallie Finke
18	Connie Rohde	Kaden Seeker
25	Sandra Tillman	Katie Seeker

Baptismal Anniversaries



4/01/1934	Verna Bentke	4/15/1975	Dodie Mehr
4/01/1973	Matthew Bentke	4/15/1979	Cori Kmiec
4/02/1967	Mark Eckert	4/15/2007	Morgan Westerfeld
4/02/1989	Johanna Wilkerson	4/15/2018	Cooper Koehne
4/04/1982	Chad Dismukes	4/16/1950	James Richter
4/06/1986	Amanda Dismukes	4/16/1972	Brenda Herrmann
4/07/1965	Pam Knebel	4/16/1995	Garrett Altman
4/08/1951	Sandy Janner	4/18/1948	Theresa Kuecker
4/09/1961	Regina Holtkamp	4/18/2004	Reese Ring
4/10/1932	Verna Sefcik	4/19/1954	Jim Kite
4/11/2010	Kannon Koehler	4/20/1975	Christina Ashorn
4/12/1942	Rosa Sloan	4/20/1980	Chad Rohde
4/13/1997	Reagan Randermann	4/21/1985	Stephanie Koehler
4/14/1933	Delores Gaskamp	4/21/1991	Laura Pieper
4/14/1963	Kim Weilbacher	4/24/1955	Gary Merkel
4/14/1974	Cathie Klatte	4/24/1988	Johanna Becker
4/14/2002	Bethany Janner	4/25/1982	Justin Bosse
4/15/1937	Dorothy Wiesepape	4/25/2010	Ainsley Kuecker
4/15/1948	Patty Schroeder	4/28/1953	Diana Williams
4/15/1973	Todd Giese	4/29/1990	Annette Neuendorff

Wedding Anniversaries



4/02/2005	Brooke & Darren Huckert	4/18/2009	Preston & Olivia Davis
4/09/1976	David & Carol Koehne	4/21/1963	Morris & Elvera Tisdell
4/12/1975	Danney & Connie Rohde	4/22/1977	Vernon & Judy Wagner
4/13/1969	Al & Audrey Steinbach	4/28/1989	Alan & Leslie Schroeder
4/16/2005	Chad & Shae Westerfeld		

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



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday school had a short month due to spring break, but the kids were able to plant 'Resurrection' gardens and just like our faith..able to watch it grow!

Easter Sunday will be exciting and filled with activities for our kids. We won't be having our traditional breakfast after sunrise service this year, but the youth will have a scavenger hunt to find the 'A' Words, decorate the cross with flowers, and have our famous egg hunt. We'll be doing our normal Sunday School hour at 9:00am Easter morning, and that will be the time we'll do all the fun activities listed. We are asking for donations to help make this the best yet, so if you would like to donate you may contact Megan Schramme or myself.

First Communion for some of our youth is coming up! The class will be held on Saturday, April 10th at 10am, and they will receive first communion on Sunday, April 11th.

We are also working on vacation bible school and very excited to have that this year. Stay tuned for details on that next month.

As always, feel free to contact me at 512-203-9591 or brooke.huckert@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer or have any questions or concerns about Sunday School.

Tentative dates to remember:

April 4th - Sunday school/Easter Egg Hunt @9:00am

First Communion - April 11th

Vacation Bible School -stay tuned for dates and details

Brooke Huckert
Sunday School Superintendent





APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
4 Easter Sunday 8:00AM Parking Lot Worship 9:00AM Sunday School Egg Hunt 10:05AM Indoor Worship	5 Office Closed 6:00PM Executive Committee Meeting	6	7
11 Easter 2 First Communion & Bibles 8:00AM Parking Lot Worship 9:00AM Sunday School 10:05AM Indoor Worship	12 6:00PM Council Meeting	13 Food Pantry	14 Activity Center Reserved
18 Easter 3 7:30AM-12PM BLOOD DRIVE 8:00AM Parking Lot Worship 9:00AM Sunday School 10:05AM Indoor Worship	19 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	20 9:00AM Quilting	21
25 Easter 4 8:00AM Parking Lot Worship 9:00AM Sunday School Special Called Meeting 10:05AM Indoor Worship	26	27 Food Pantry 9:00AM Quilting	28



Flower Chart

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

RIL



THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Office Closed Maundy Thursday 7:00PM	2 Office Closed Good Friday 9:00AM	3
8 Office Closed	9 Office Closed	10 10AM- First Communion Class
15 Office Closed	16 Office Closed	17
22 Office Closed	23 Office Closed	24
29 Office Closed	30 Office Closed	

COMMUNION BREAD

Betty Feldmann

ALTAR PREPARATION

Amanda Dismukes
Judy Grote

FAMILY AID

Helen Schulze

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Donna Bentke
Elvera Tisdel

SANCTUARY PREP

Cathie Klatte
Christin Seeker

CHURCH TELLERS

Cathie Klatte
Cathy Boeker

USHERS

----Ushers Needed----

Austin & Tyler Klatte
Trey Tillman



Special Envelope: Lutherhill



Prairie Hill Food Pantry Upcoming Dates:

April 13 & 27 6:30AM-8AM

Worship & Music Committee



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 for the early service in April and October. If you are able to help, please notify Mary Longhofer at (979)251-2904 .

The Worship & Music Committee met and decided on music for Lent. We will meet again on March 28th to chose songs for April.

Thanks,
Mary Longhofer
Worship Chair



Blood Drive

Sunday, April 18th 7:30AM-Noon

You can register online or with Debra Westerfeld
at (979) 277-5857

St. John has lost several lay readers over the last year. If you would like to read in church please let the church office know. The readings and prayers can be sent to you ahead of time via mail or email. Thank you!!!



Special Called Congregational Meeting

Sunday, April 25, at 9:00am



Join us in the sanctuary (broadcast live on FM87.9 for those wishing to remain in their cars) for the purpose of discussing the church's continued affiliation with the ELCA. Additional information will be included in a mail-out packet sent to congregational members.

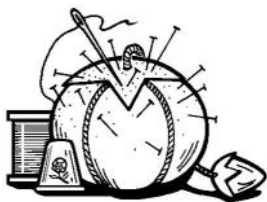


Lenten Schedule

Maundy Thursday **Thursday, April 1st** (Psalm 46)
7:00PM -Parking Lot & Indoor Worship

Good Friday **Friday, April 2nd** (Psalm 139)
9:00AM -Parking Lot & Indoor Worship

Easter Sunday **Sunday, April 4th**
8:00AM -Parking Lot Worship
9:00AM -Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt
10:05AM -Indoor Worship



The Quilters will meet on April 20 and 27. We meet at 9AM to noon. Come join us for quilting, sewing, putting together and tying LWR quilts.

Council Highlights

The Church Council of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church met for its monthly meeting on March 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 Steve Skrla. The February minutes were approved as distributed.

Old Business

- **Sanctuary Carpet:** After reviewing bids and discussing concerns from several flooring contractors relative to potential issues which could result from stretching the carpet, the council agreed to forego any work at this time.

New Business

- **Motion** to approve use of parish house as a polling place for May 1 General Election. **MSC.**
- **Motion** to approve request of Jana Lefebvre for use of the Activity Center for the Chappell Hill Garden Club meeting on Wednesday, April 14, from 10am to noon. **MSC.**
- **Motion** to hold a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, April 25, at 9am in the sanctuary (with live broadcast on FM87.9 for parking lot attendees) to discuss follow-up to information packet to be sent to congregational members the week of March 22nd. **MSC.**
- **Via Text Message:** Due to no Easter breakfast being served this year, Easter services for Sunday, April 4, will be held at 8:00am for outdoor parking lot worship and at 10:05am for in-person indoor worship.

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 96 families (239 people) at two distributions in February.

Worship and Music Report

Mary Longhofer

Filling openings for ushers at worship services.

Parish Education Report

Jennifer Schroeder

First communion instruction will be held for 3rd and 4th graders on Saturday, April 10, with first communion and bible presentations made during worship on April 11 at the service of their choice.

Youth Report

Kenneth Seeker

No report.

Evangelism Report

Rachel Church

No report.

Property Report

Steve Skrla

No report.

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

REACHING YOUR CHURCH OFFICE

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

St John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill

6605 Old Independence Rd.
Brenham, TX 77833



www.stjohnprairiehill.org

979-836-8666

The deadline for the
May newsletter is:

**Monday
April 19th**

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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