

Epistle

S T . J O H N L U T H E R A N
C H U R C H

Genesis	Lent	Mark
Exodus	Easter	Hebrews
Leviticus	to Trinity	Luke 4...
Numbers		John 5...
Song of Songs	18-May	Acts 8-15
Ecclesiastes	24-May	
Proverbs	5-Jun	Galatians
Joshua	26-Jun	
Judges	7-Jul	Acts 15:22 ...
	12-Jul	
1 Samuel	17-Jul	1 Corinthians
2 Samuel	7-Aug	
1 Kings	14-Aug	2 Corinthians
	22-Aug	
2 Kings	1-Sep	Ephesians
	4-Sep	
2 Chronicles	8-Sep	Philippians
	12-Sep	
Nehemiah	18-Sep	Colossians
Malachi	25-Sep	1 Timothy
Deuteronomy	28-Sep	Matthew
Jeremiah	2-Nov	3...
Daniel	21-Nov	Revelation 18...
Isaiah	27-Nov	1 & 2 Peter
	7-Dec	1 John
	13-Dec	Revelation 1-12
	25-Dec	Matthew 1-2
	29-Dec	Luke 1-3
Ezekiel	7-Jan	Romans
Joel	21-Jan	
Zechariah	25-Jan	
	29-Jan	2 Timothy
Job	4-Feb	John

Reading the Daily Lectionary (pg. 300)

The “new” maroon hymnal from 2006, also known as the Lutheran Service Book (LSB), includes one of the best bible reading plans on page 300. This plan takes into consideration three important aspects in making daily Bible reading a habit: (1) a manageable amount to read, (2) linking readings to the church year, and (3) selection, or in other words, what can be skipped. The beauty of this plan is that it balances all three concerns.

The readings from the first five books of the bible, the Torah or Pentateuch (shown in the left column in black with white font), skip most genealogy lists and culminate with the crossing of the Red Sea (Exodus 14), on Easter Day. This is fitting because the word “Hebrew” עִבְרִי means to cross over or through. The readings continue through the Easter Season with the Exodus and God giving His glorious Law through Moses.

The New Testament (right column), begins with St. Mark (the four Gospel accounts are in black with white font) during Lent and finishes before Easter so that Holy Week and the week after Easter allow for almost all of the book of Hebrews. The beginning “nativity” parts of St. Matthew and St. Luke are saved for the 12 Days of Christmas and St. John is finished in June but started fresh again in February during Epiphany until Ash Wednesday.

During the Trinity season, both the New and Old Testaments are read roughly chronologically. Late June starts with Joshua’s entrance into the Promised Land through the unified (2nd Samuel) and divided (1st Kings) Israel to the Assyrian and Babylonian Exiles in 2nd Kings and finally to the return under Cyrus’s Decree for the building of the second temple in 2nd Chronicles. Likewise, in the New Testament the church grows in Acts and Paul’s early epistle of Galatians is placed just after the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15. The history of Acts is finished first to give background for the other major letters of Paul.

As summer cools and the church year nears its end we read the first Gospel and the last book of Moses: St. Matthew and Deuteronomy. Then the Advent and Christmas seasons are enriched with the majority of Isaiah’s prophesies along with the “catholic” or universal epistles of Peter and John. Romans brings in the Epiphany season and new year with Paul’s clear distinction between Law and Gospel and preparation for Lent begins again with the harsh testing of Job and the soaring beauty of John’s Gospel.

Pastor Justin Massey

2018 Lenten Season: Biblical Motifs

For our Lenten journey this 2018 season, evening mid-week Vespers services will be using biblical *motifs* to help tie together some of the familiar elements and their related meanings scattered through the Bible. We will expand upon the five Lenten Year-B lectionary readings as printed on page xvi (16) in your Lutheran Service Book (LSB) hymnal. Since there are no texts for midweek services, we hope to expand on five elements or places that are first introduced in the readings: (1) **water**, (2) **garment or veil**, (3) **garden**, (4) **tree or pole**, and (5) **wilderness**.

Motif is a newer French word used in art and literature to denote a distinctive feature or dominant idea. These features spread within Scripture bring our attention to the beauty, complexity, and depth of the Bible. The five motifs we will be using for evening Lenten Vespers services are related to the assigned readings for Lent (LSB, xvi). We intend to explain their meaning and interpret their presence in many stories and doctrines in Holy Scripture. We pray that God will lead our preaching for your nourishment so that you will see the depth and beauty of God's Word. A short preview of our plan follows.

5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Dinner: St. John Youth Group

MW-3, Mar 7th, after Exodus 20, 1Corinthians 1, & John 2: **Garden**

The same Ten Commandments that were written on Adam and Eve's hearts now have to be written more permanently on stone. Wild human hearts constantly need tending; after all, our lives are not exactly beds of roses. Jesus shows how far even He is from the Garden of Eden as He struggles and prays in the Garden of Gethsemane. Yet, Jesus will obey His Father's command and will for our sake.



4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Dinner: PTL Spaghetti Dinner

MW-4, Mar 14th, after Numbers 21, Ephesians 2, & John 3: **Tree/Pole**

From the saving bronze serpent, the tree of life comes from Christ's sacrifice nullifying the consequences of eating from the tree of knowledge. God gave poisonous serpents because of the impatience of His people, His children of wrath. But good fathers discipline their sons for fruitfulness.



5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Dinner: Cappers

MW-5, Mar 21st, after Jeremiah 31, Hebrews 5, & Mark 10: **Wilderness**

God's bride has become an adulteress and all her children struggle through a fallen wilderness. The glory of the wilderness declines from the cross as those at the right and left hands of Jesus. Only our great high priest Jesus Christ can show the way through death to life.



Pastor Justin Massey

Holy Week Services at St. John

Palm Sunday Weekend—March 24 and 25

Saturday 6:30pm
Sunday 7:45am
Sunday 10:00am with Junior Confirmation

Holy Week Daily Mid-day services—

Monday – Friday 12:20-12:40pm

Maundy Thursday—

7:00pm Communion Service with symbolic Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday—

7:00pm Tenebrae Service with Passion Reading

Saturday No Service—March 31

Easter Sunday resurrection Services*—April 1

6:00am Sunrise Celebration Service
7:45am Resurrection Service
10:00am Resurrection Service

* All with Holy Communion

Breakfast Served in the Parish Hall 7:00-9:30am



God Says Yes to This Prayer

Ps 119:26b-32

“Teach me your decrees. Cause me to understand the way of your precepts,”

Merriam-Webster says a decree is the order or command of an authority. A precept is a general rule of action given by an authority. In this case, the authority is God. The prayer asks for more than just understanding God’s precepts. It asks for understanding “the way of” God’s precepts, that is the how and when and why of those precepts. It does not ask in order to argue but in order to apply, take in, and be shaped by understanding God’s precepts.

“that I might meditate on your wonderful deeds.”

Growing in understanding is not just for ones own (life) purposes but to know God better, to be able to recognize the awesomeness of his deeds, his greatest deed being making us his children through Jesus!

“My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word.”

Sorrows come from many directions: kids shooting classmates, families broken apart, culture embracing and encouraging things God forbids, you name it. But God has given us his word that he would strengthen, help, and uphold us by his righteous right hand. (Is 41:10)

“Keep me from deceitful ways;”

Not only do we deceive others but we can be pretty good at deceiving ourselves as well. God knows the truth. He will help us know it too. The question is are we willing to be honest with ourselves and with him?

“be gracious to me and teach me your law.”

I’m so thankful for God’s graciousness to me and the forgiveness he gives me in Jesus! So thankful he continues to teach us what is good and right!

“I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I have set my heart on your laws.”

Yes, LORD, it is my desire to be fully committed to you and to your ways. I already know I will not be perfect, but it is my heart’s desire to serve you faithfully.

“I hold fast to your statutes, LORD; do not let me be put to shame.”

Lord, do not let me be humiliated by having misused or abused your statutes. Help me apply them rightly. I also pray that I would not feel shame for using your word rightly, even if others disagree or respond haughtily.

“I run in the path of your commands, for you have broadened my understanding.”

Thank you and praise to you Holy God that you do indeed stoop to teach us and you do indeed broaden our understanding! Thank you for going above and beyond what we could ask or imagine to make us your children through Jesus! Amen.

by Myrna Campbell

SUNDAY SCHOOL

On March 4, all Sunday School students will meet in the school basement for the opening. We will honor those who have birthdays in March. The birthday people are to bring the same amount of coins as years of their age for the offering. There will be treats for all!

If your child hasn't been to Sunday School in awhile, this would be a great time to start!

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Did you know that the church offers the monthly newsletter electronically? This is a great way to the help the church save money. If you would like to sign up please email Kelly at secretary@stjohnchester.com.

S T E W A R D S H I P C O R N E R

Hudson Taylor, a Nineteenth Century British missionary to China, is reported to have said, "God's work, done in God's way, will not lack God's supply." To know God's way, we need to know His Holy Word. Or to say it another way: you need to know your Bible.

St. Paul, before he spends two chapters on giving, wrote that every thought is to be taken captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor. 10:5).

Doctrine matters. And doctrine matters because the Scriptures matter. And the Scriptures matter because this is where we learn the teaching of Christ. Our thoughts must be brought into line with the teaching of Scripture so that our work is what God wants done and so that we do this work in His way.

A good tree bears good fruit. A bad tree bears bad fruit. We have been made good trees in holy baptism. We are fertilized and pruned for bearing good fruit by constantly hearing God's Word preached and taught in sermon and Bible Class and in receiving the life-giving, faith-sustaining food of the Lord's Supper. Remember your doctrine, hold on to the Lord's teaching, and your thoughts will be taken captive to the obedience of Christ.

Bringing every thought captive to the obedience of Christ is recognizing that God does provide. The Lord's Prayer teaches us to pray for daily bread. Praying this day in and day out reminds us that the Lord is the giver of our daily bread, and that we are to give thanks for His daily provision of it.

God is rarely early and never late in His work, as Abraham learned, "on the mount of the Lord it will be provided" (Gen. 22:14). The Lord's generosity forms our generosity in return. Thus, we set aside for the work of God a generous, first-fruits, proportion of the daily bread that God has given to us. This act of trust in the Lord's provision is the working out of our faith in Him.

When budgetary discussions pop up, our natural reaction is to point fingers. But remember your doctrine, and what your mother taught about pointing fingers. Our first natural reaction is not always right. In fact, when our thoughts are brought into captivity of Christ, our first reaction should be repentance.

It should raise questions in our own lives. As good trees in Christ who are to bear good fruit, we should ask whether our thoughts are taken captive by obedience to Christ. Have we given generously? Have we given our first-fruits? You know. And God knows. "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him" (2 Chron. 16:9).

God will provide. He always has and He always will. He gives His meat in due season. He has not left you as orphans, but has grafted you into His own family. You belong to Him. Remember this, letting this thought dwell in you richly. And you will then be rich toward others.

Taken from lcms.org/stewardship

O U R 2 0 1 7 - 2 0 1 8 Y E A R - T O - D A T E F I N A N C I A L S T A T U S

Cash Flow from 7/31/2017 to 2/21/2018

Year-to-date Income	\$595,530.68
Year-to-date Expense	<u>\$682,843.03</u>
Difference (Income - Expense)	(\$87,312.35)

Money owed on Line of Credit

Beginning Balance 7/31/17	\$214,603.08
Paid on Debt year-to-date	(\$354,438.70)
Borrowed year-to-date	\$253,020.00
LOC Renewal Fee	\$80.00
Current Balance as of 2/21/18	\$ 112,584.38

Average 2018 Attendance per Week 212

ACOLYTES



Sat Mar 3 6:30 pm Rageyn Baker
 Sun Mar 4 7:45 am Nick Coffey
 10:00 am Landon Hornbostel
 Wed Mar 7 7:00 pm Cole Johnson
 Sat Mar 10 6:30 pm Gabriel Steele
 Sun Mar 11 7:45 am Max Blechle
 10:00 am Landon Welge
 Wed Mar 14 7:00 pm Nick Collins
 Sat Mar 17 6:30 pm Ashlynn Lemanski
 Sun Mar 18 7:45 am Aden Runge
 10:00 am Abby Bollman
 Wed Mar 21 7:00 pm Matt James
 Sat Mar 24 6:30 pm + Gavin Schroeder & Jesse Heath
 Sun Mar 25 7:45 am + Max Blechle & Landon Hornbostel
 10:00 am + Trentin Eggemeyer & Nick Collins
 Mon Mar 26 12:20 pm Abby Bollman, Kylie Fiortner
 Tue Mar 27 12:20 pm Kaden Freytag, Emily Mehrer
 Wed Mar 28 12:20 pm Jordan Merideth, Hayden Roth
 Thur Mar 29 12:20 pm Marcus Murphy, Addyson Mitchell
 Thur Mar 29 7:00 pm Hanna Kaempfe
 Fri Mar 30 7:00 pm Jordan Buskohl

USHER TEAMS

Sat Mar 3 5:00 pm Volunteer
 Sun Mar 4 7:45 am Ron Rathert
 10:00 am Rick Casten
 Wed Mar 7 7:00 pm Dennis Kontz
 Sat Mar 10 5:00 pm Volunteer
 Sun Mar 11 7:45 am Gary Duensing
 10:00 am Don Stallman
 Wed Mar 14 7:00 pm Ron Rathert
 Sat Mar 17 6:30 pm Volunteer
 Sun Mar 18 7:45 am Dennis Kontz
 10:00 am Gary Eggemeyer
 Wed Mar 21 7:00 pm Gary Eggemeyer
 Sat Mar 24 6:30 pm Volunteer
 Sun Mar 25 7:45 am Ron Rathert
 10:00 am Rick Casten
 Thur Mar 29 7:00 pm Gary Duensing
 Fri Mar 30 7:00 pm Don Stallman

ALTAR GUILD

Mar 3 & 17 Larry & Sharon Congleton, Swerry Bohnert Melvin & Edna Neislein
 Mar 4 & 18 Fred & Barb Fricke
 Mar 11 & 25 Dr. Stephen Platt, Ron & Anne Rathert, Mike & Barb Welge
 Mar 29 Maundy Thursday Wanda Dethrow

GREETERS

Sat Mar 3 5:00 pm Carolyn Colvis
 Sun Mar 4 7:45 am Brenda Pautler
 10:00 am Marilyn Runge
 Sat Mar 10 5:00 pm Shirley Hatmann
 Sun Mar 11 7:45 am Marilyn Duensing
 10:00 am June James
 Sat Mar 17 6:30 pm Karen Miller
 Sun Mar 18 7:45 am Tammy Grah
 10:00 am Diane Kelkhoff
 Sat Mar 24 6:30 pm Tammy Crawford
 Sun Mar 25 7:45 am Barb Fricke
 10:00 am Ardell Kruse

ALUMINUM CANS

Mar 26-Mar 3 Larry McDonough
 Mar 5- 10 Gary Knop
 Mar 12-17 Mike Welge
 Mar 19-24 Brett Klindworth
 Mar 26-31 Steve Stallman



WEEKEND JANITORS

Mar 3/4 _____ / Ryan Petrowske
 Mar 7 Ryan Petrowske
 Mar 10/11 Ron Cushman / Chris Urquhart
 Mar 14 Ron Cushman
 Mar 17/18 _____ / Gary Kelkhoff
 Mar 21 Chris Urquhart
 Mar 24/25 _____ / Larry McDonough
 Mar 29 Maundy Thursday Dennis Mott
 Mar 30 Good Friday Larry McDonough

RADIO ANNOUNCER & TECHNICIANS

Mar 4 & 7 Amanda Middendorf / Charlie Bargman
 Mar 11 & 14 Mardell Granger / Lynn Rickenberg
 Mar 18 & 21 Chris Urquhart / Bob Platt
 Mar 25 & 29 Chris Colvis / Tony Young
 Mar 30 Mike Welge / Charlie Bargman



WORSHIP SERVICES

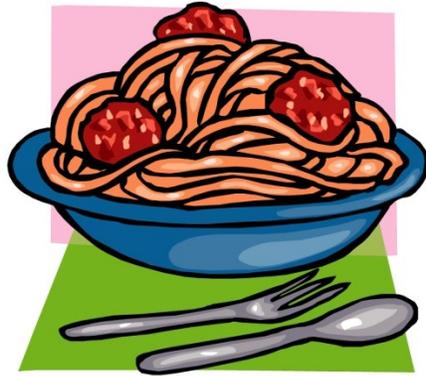
Saturday 5:00 p.m., Sunday 7:45 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
 Sunday School and Bible Class at 9:00 a.m.
 Sunday Worship Broadcast on KSGM 980 AM
 online at ksgm980.com

CHURCH E-MAIL

Rev. Timothy Sims- timoteosims@hotmail.com
 Rev. Justin Massey- Justin.Massey@ctsfw.edu
 Kelly Walls— secretary@stjohnchester.com
 Tammy Crawford— nurse@stjohnchester.com



St. John Chester Annual PTL Spaghetti Dinner



Wednesday, March 14, 2018

4:00 – 6:30 pm

St. John Parish Hall, Chester, IL

Call ahead for carry-outs 618-826-4769

Meal includes: All you can eat spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, garlic bread, dessert and a drink.

Adults: \$8.00

Children (ages 5-12) \$5.00

Children under age 4 are free for dine in only.

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church
302 W. Holmes Street
Chester, Illinois 62233

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JESUS LOVES:



March

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BIBLE TREASURE HUNT:



Bible Incomplete: Fill in the missing letters to complete the passage.

He th _ t opp _ esse _ h the _ oor r _ proa _ heth _ is
Ma _ er: bu _ he th _ t hon _ reth _ im ha _ h mer _ y on
t _ e p oo _ .

ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S BIBLE TREASURE HUNT:

And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness. Genesis 15:5-6

CAPPERS

CAPPERS will meet on Sunday, March 11 at 1:00 p.m. to play cards and have a light meal in the Parish Hall.

NEW FACILITY

The new total for the New Facility Fund is \$547,439.92. If you have a child or grandchild in our school, a family member or neighbor who is thinking about sending children to St. John, or just committed to this project, help keep this fund growing. You can contribute your extra change, money you saved using coupons, tax refunds, or a percentage of your earnings.

LENTEN SUPPERS

Please join us for supper before the Lenten services. Supper will be served in the Parish Hall beginning at 5:00 p.m. This year our meals will be served by the following groups:

March 7 Youth Group March 14 PTL Spaghetti Dinner March 21 CAPPERS April 1 Easter Breakfast Youth Group