



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

"All God's Children Joyfully Celebrating God's Transforming Grace"

Established 1852

915 Federal Av. Saginaw, MI 48607

989.754.0489

SPIRIT NEWSLETTER MARCH 2016

Issue 113

Vol. 03

Dear Friends in Christ:

As you read this, we are in the midst of Lent. I have been impressed with the number of St. John folks who attend midweek Lenten services. Beautiful devotion to our Savior! Special thanks to all who help make the services and the meals so special. Speaking of meals, wasn't the Valentine's Day red-themed potluck fun, pretty, and tasty? Again, great turnout! St. John is a warm and welcoming church, for which I am very grateful! Keep it up by inviting and offering to bring others to worship.

Easter is very early this year on **March 27th**. Holy Week begins with **Palm/Passion Sunday on March 20th**. It is my favorite week of the whole year, as Lent is my favorite season. The last week of our Lord's life is powerfully rich with meaning. No matter how many times I observe it and read the scriptures pertaining to it, I always learn more and am deeply blessed.

On **Maundy Thursday, March 24th**, we will observe our Lord's Last Supper at **11:00 a.m.**, with a luncheon at 12:00 p.m. and we will also worship at **7:00 p.m.** On **Good Friday, March 25th**, we will remember our Lord's Crucifixion at **12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.** Please make it a point to attend and offer to bring others to worship with you.

Easter Sunday is the center of our faith. The tomb is empty, the crucified one is risen. Hope has not died! Because Jesus lives, we and all who believe have life eternal! Easter is the celebration above all celebrations! Invite your family and friends to join you for worship.

Reading the words of hymns are part of my devotional life during Lent. I offer this beautiful hymn by Marty Haugen for you to reflect upon. It is ELW#334, "Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery."

May you be blessed in your Lenten Journey to the Cross and on . . . to the Empty Tomb!

In Christ's Love, *Pr. Connie Sassanella*

Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery

*Tree of Life and awesome myst'ry,
In your death we are reborn;
Though you die in all of hist'ry,
Still you rise with ev'ry morn,
Still you rise with ev'ry morn.*



Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery (continued)

*We remember truth once spoken,
Love passed on through act and word;
Ev'ry person lost and broken
Wears the body of our Lord,
Wears the body of our Lord.*

*Christ, you lead and we shall follow,
Stumbling though our steps may be;
One with you in joy and sorrow,
We the river, you the sea,
We the river, you the sea.*

*Light of life beyond conceiving,
Mighty Spirit of our Lord;
Give new strength to our believing,
Give us faith to live your word.*

*From the dawning of creation
You have loved us as your own;
Stay with us through all temptation,
Make us turn to you alone.*

*In our call to be a blessing,
May we be a blessing true;
May we live and die confessing
Christ as Lord of all we do.*

*Living Water of salvation,
Be the fountain of each soul;
Springing up in new creation,
Flow in us and make us whole.*

*Give us eyes to see you clearly;
Make us children of your light.
Give us hearts to live more nearly
As your gospel shining bright.*

*God of all our fear and sorrow,
God who lives beyond our death,
Hold us close through each tomorrow,
Love as near as ev'ry breath.*



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
915 Federal Avenue, Saginaw, MI 48607

Pr. Connie Sassanella

SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:30 a.m.

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

PASTOR'S TELEPHONE

Preferred (c) 330-692-6194 (h) 989-401-2283

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Secretary: Barb Socia

CHURCH'S TELEPHONE

Office: 989-754-0489

Fax: 989-754-4029

E-MAIL

Office: sjc915@sbcglobal.net

Pastor: csassanella@yahoo.com

WEBSITE

StJohnLutheranELCASaginaw.weebly.com

FACEBOOK

St John Lutheran ELCA Saginaw

NEWSLETTER

Deadline: 20th day of the previous month

Please Remember Care Facility Members:

Please Remember At Home Members:

They would love a card or visit from you!



Church Updates

Donations: Roger & Pauline Winterstein (Summer Day Camp), Art Meyer (Thrivent Choice Dollars), Chuck & Ginger Reed (Thrivent Choice Dollars), Pr. Connie Sassanella (Thrivent Choice Dollars).

Hospitalized Since Last Month: John Balderas.

Our Dearly Departed: Our Christian love, thoughts, and prayers are with the family and friends of **George Hopper**, who died on January 27, 2016. He was the husband of Farrah Madsen and father of George Jr., Griffin, and Gage Hopper. Also, **Junior (Duncan) Shaw**, who died on February 13, 2016. He was the uncle of Eveline Gatzsche. Memorial services will be conducted at a later date.

Lent and Easter at St. John - 2016 Come Worship with Us

March 24 – Maundy Thursday

Worship Services: 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. (12 p.m. Lunch)
Stripping of the Altar



March 25 – Good Friday

Worship Services: 12:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Tenebrae Service



March 27 – The Celebration of Jesus' Resurrection

Easter Worship Service: 9:30 a.m.



Easter

His Love

God sent His Son to take the punishment
For all the thoughtless, sinful things we do;
Jesus gave His life because He loves us;
His love is boundless, sweet, forever true.

On Easter morn He showed He is our Savior;
His resurrection proves He is our Lord.
That is why we tell you, "Happy Easter!"
He secured our heavenly reward!

by Joanna Fuchs

Easter Flowers

If you would like to order an Easter Flower, please fill out the enclosed envelope with what type of flower and how many. Also, write on the envelope if the flowers ordered are in honor or in memory of someone and their name. All orders with payment must be in the church office by **March 13, 2016**. Please make checks out to: St. John Lutheran Church.

Daffodils, Tulips, or Hyacinths = \$9.50 each

Easter Lilies = \$11.00 each

Mums = \$11.50 each

Azaleas or Hydrangeas = \$16.00 each



St. John Lutheran Numbers

Date	Attend.	Deposit
1/31/16	43	\$1,505.00
2/7/16	52	\$4,561.50
2/14/16	49	\$1,711.00
2/21/16	45	\$2,607.00

Memorials/Gifts Received

January 1 – February 21, 2016

General Fund	\$	1,575.00
Altar Flowers	\$	128.00
Music & Organ	\$	0
Breakfast for the Hungry	\$	100.00
Summer Day Camp Gifts	\$	50.00
Summer Day Camp Grants	\$	0
Camp Lu-Wix-E Gifts	\$	0
Congregational Life	\$	0
Luther League	\$	0
Heating Fund	\$	0
Stamps	\$	0
TOTAL	\$	1,853.00

March Birthdays

- March 1 Carl Quackenbush
- March 2 James Patman
- March 6 Ruth Sharper
- March 7 Gregory Busch
- March 8 Randolph Wendland
- March 10 James Peters
- March 11 Dalessa Sylvester
- March 17 Janet Goodeman, Richard Taylor
- March 20 Duane Alverson
- March 26 David Meyer
- March 27 Bruce Albosta



March Anniversaries

- March 17 David & Janet Goodeman



To My St. John Family:

"The Parkinson's has stopped me from a lot. Things I always did, that's all gone. But I thank you many times over for thinking of me. I miss and love my St. John family. Thanks for thinking of me again and again! Love and best wishes to all"

Arlene Roenicke



Summer Day Camp Committee

Our Summer Day Camp Committee is seeking new folks to serve. Hiring staff, along with various duties, is involved. Please speak to Pam Aven or Pr. Connie if interested.

"The Passion of the Christ"

A Mel Gibson Film



At the Temple Theatre
201 N. Washington Avenue, Saginaw
Friday, March 25, 2016

Showings at 3:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Doors open one hour before show

Tickets are \$5.00 each

Call 877-754-7469 or go to: templetheatre.com.



Free Community Dinners

Our **Free Community Dinners** are on the second Thursday of each month, with dinner served from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Our next dinner is on March 10th. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office for workers to setup, cook, and cleanup. Contributions to fund the Free Community Dinners here at St. John can be made with checks payable to: Messiah Lutheran Church, "St. John Evening Dinners" and we can forward your check to them. If you have any questions about the dinners, please contact Dewey Burke at 989-971-4316 or at dewburke@hotmail.com. Thank you for your help in providing for those less fortunate and your generous donations!

March Against Hunger Funds Match



Saginaw Metro Ministries (SMM) is kicking off their yearly Fund Drive on March 1st for the SMM Food Pantry. All funds collected between March 1st – April 30th will be matched by 10% at the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. Please fill out the deposit slip enclosed, along with your check, and send to: Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. Thanks for your generous contributions to feed the hungry!



Thrivent Members

Any undirected 2015 Choice Dollars will expire on March 31, 2016. Don't miss this opportunity to recommend our church for some of Thrivent Financial charitable outreach funds. If you have any questions, please contact a customer care person at 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" when prompted. You can also email them at: fraternal@thrivent.com. There is also a Thrivent Choice Dollars Direction form in the church office to mail.