

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

Palmer, Kansas 66962

Rev. Joshua Hayes, Pastor

Mrs. Sheila Stuenkel, Organist

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Principal & Teacher: Mr. David Beikmann; Teachers: Mrs. Laura Stunkel,

Mrs. Kelsey Hatesohl, Mrs. Emily Harding, & Mrs. Renae Bott

March 23, 2025

The Third Sunday in Lent

Welcome to St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church. If you are a guest or visitor with us today, we welcome you and invite you to come and worship with us again. Please take the time to introduce yourself to Pastor Hayes, and we hope to see you again soon.

Remember that the Worship Service begins when you enter. As the Music for Meditation begins, you are invited to join in quiet, preparation time for worship. Before the service, speak to the Lord; during the service, let the Lord speak to you; after the service, speak to one another.

Liturgy - Divine Service Setting Three (pg. 184)

Opening Hymn: 533 "Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure"

Hymn of the Day: 659 "Lord of Our Life"

Agnus Dei: 434 "Lamb of God, Pure and Holy"

Distribution Hymn: 619 "Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior"

Distribution Hymn: 620 "Jesus Comes Today with Healing"

Distribution Hymn: 707 "Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"

Distribution Hymn: 594 "God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It"

Closing Hymn: 923 "Almighty Father, Bless the Word"

Prayer Requests

Please email prayer requests to Pastor Hayes at pastor.hayes@outlook.com.

Prayer requests will remain for 2 weeks unless you specify a length of time.

Angie Reinert, Marilyn Ohlde, Loraine Oldehoeft, Lorna Heitman, Loren Bott,

JoAnn Ohlde, Gladys Stone, & Marilynne Ohlde (nursing home); Addie Voelker,

Micah Helms, & Deb Hatesohl (cancer)

Acolyte today - Sophia Hiltgen **Acolyte Sun., March 23rd** - Lucious Petesch

Ushers today - *Daniel Nabors, Dylan Ohlde, Noah Thalmann, Mason Tiemeyer

Ushers March 30 - *Ryan Stuenkel, Conner Ohlde, Deavon Ohlde, Kingston Voelker

LYF Fellowship Service today & March 30th - Conner & Greyson Ohlde

LYF Fellowship Service April 6th & 13th - Cash Stunkel & Kingston Voelker

Upcoming Events

- March 23** 8:30 a.m. Mixed Choir Rehearsal
9:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Children's Sunday School
- March 24** 7:00 p.m. LLS School Board Meeting
- March 26** 5:30 p.m. Midweek/Confirmation
7:00 p.m. Midweek Lent 3
- March 30** 8:30 a.m. Mixed Choir Rehearsal
9:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
10:45 a.m. Voters Assembly Meeting (regarding parsonage)
- April 2** 5:30 p.m. Midweek/Confirmation
7:00 p.m. Midweek Lent 4

Announcements

- Mark your calendars for church cleaning on **April 5th** starting at 9 a.m.!
- LCMS memory verse challenge: **2 Corinthians 5:14-15** - "For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised."
- Linn Lutheran School 1st-8th grade students will be singing at St. John on **Sunday, March 30**. Students need to arrive by 9:15 a.m. to the Parish Hall to warm up. Students will sing right away and then join parents for the church service.
- The Linn Zone LWML Spring Event will be held **March 30** at Immanuel, Bremen. Registration begins at 1:30 and the event will start at 2:00. Adam Fosse from Zion, Linn, will talk about his time as a missionary in Mongolia. Ingathering will be items for Swaddling Clothes. Please join us for an afternoon of fellowship.
- St. Peters Lutheran, south of Barnes (2647 3rd Rd) is hosting a spaghetti dinner **TODAY, March 23**. Serving from 11:00-1:30. Pasta, salad, breadsticks and desserts will be available, and the proceeds will go to the Josh Helms family. Little Micah Helms, age 6, is currently at St. Jude where he is battling brain cancer.
- The St. John LYF will be hosting a fundraiser meal on **Sunday, April 6**, immediately following Bible class and Sunday school.
- Olivia Gaschler and Jubilate Deo Music Academy invite students going into grades 5-8 to join the Circuit 7 Summer Children's Choir! Weekly hour-long rehearsals will be held on Tuesdays at 1:00 in the Linn area and Wednesdays at 1:00 in Marysville area through the months of June and July. Students will perform a combined afternoon concert on Sunday, July, 27th, with combined rehearsals the week before at the performance location. Rehearsal and performance locations will be determined following registration. There is a \$30 registration fee, payable to Jubilate Deo Music Academy, to help with music purchases and accompanist fees. Contact Olivia Gaschler at (402) 613-7320 by May 1st, 2025 to register!

THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His Table those who trust His words, repent all sins, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily, according to Holy Scripture, do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, are asked to refrain from communing with us until such a time as they are properly instructed.

A short, more detailed explanation of our Confessional practice is available from our Ushers or Elders. If you would like to learn more about the Sacrament of the Altar and our confessional position, I would be happy to visit with you.

-Rev. Joshua Hayes, Pastor, St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

In preparation for Holy Communion, you may use the following statements as part of your self-examination:

- I admit that I am a sinner. (1 John 1:8-10)
- I believe that Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from all sin, from Satan and death. (Acts 4:10-12; John 14:6)
- I desire to live as God wants me to. (John 14:15; 1 John 2:6)
- I am sure of my eternal salvation because Jesus died for me and rose again. (John 3:16; Romans 8:14; & 1 John 5:11-12)
- I believe the Risen Christ is really present in Holy Communion and that with the bread and wine I receive His Body and Blood. (Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 4:22-24; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; Luke 22:17-20)
- I forgive those who have wronged me.

Morning Prayer

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.



Introit (Psalm 25:1-2, 17-18, 20; antiphon: vv. 15-16)

My eyes are ever | toward the Lord,*
for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.
Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,*
for I am lonely and af- | flicted.

To you, | O Lord,*

I lift | up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust; let me not be | put to shame;*

let not my enemies exult | over me.

The troubles of my heart | are enlarged;*

bring me out of my dis- | tresses.

Consider my affliction and my | trouble,*

and forgive | all my sins.

Oh, guard my soul, and de- | liver me!*

Let me not be put to shame, for I take ref- | uge in you.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

My eyes are ever | toward the Lord,*
for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.
Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,*
for I am lonely and af- | flicted.

Collect for the Third Sunday in Lent

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading: *Exodus 8:16-24*

¹⁶ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, so that it may become gnats in all the land of Egypt.’”

¹⁷ And they did so. Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff and struck the dust of the earth, and there were gnats on man and beast. All the dust of the earth became gnats in all the land of Egypt. ¹⁸ The magicians tried by their secret arts to produce gnats, but they could not. So there were gnats on man and beast. ¹⁹ Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said.

²⁰ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Rise up early in the morning and present yourself to Pharaoh, as he goes out to the water, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord, “Let my people go, that they may serve me. ²¹ Or else, if you will not let my people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and your servants and your people, and into your houses. And the houses of the Egyptians shall be filled with swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they stand. ²² But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where my people dwell, so that no swarms of flies shall be there, that you may know that I am the Lord in the midst of the earth. ²³ Thus I will put a division between my people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall happen.’”” ²⁴ And the Lord did so. There came great swarms of flies into the house of Pharaoh and into his servants’ houses. Throughout all the land of Egypt the land was ruined by the swarms of flies.

Gradual (*Psalm 9:19, 3*)

Arise, O Lord! Let not man prevail;

let the nations be judged before you!

When my enemies turn back,

they stumble and perish before your presence.

Epistle Reading: *Ephesians 5:1-9*

¹ Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ² And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

³ But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴ Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵ For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in

the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

⁷ Therefore do not associate with them; ⁸ for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true).

Tract (*Psalm 123:1-3a*)

To you I lift up my eyes,

O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

**Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master,
so our eyes look to the Lord our God, till he has mercy upon us.**

**Have mercy upon us, O Lord,
have mercy upon us.**

Gospel Reading: *Luke 11:14-28*

¹⁴ Now [Jesus] was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. ¹⁵ But some of them said, “He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons,” ¹⁶ while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. ¹⁷ But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. ¹⁸ And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. ¹⁹ And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁰ But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²¹ When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; ²² but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. ²³ Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

²⁴ “When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ ²⁵ And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. ²⁶ Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first.”

²⁷ As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!” ²⁸ But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”

Catechetical Review

An Explanation of the Small Catechism The Apostles' Creed - The Second Article (Cont.)

Christ's Work of Redemption, or Atonement

139. How does this work of redemption benefit you?

Christ was my substitute. He took my place under God's judgment against sin. By paying the penalty of my guilt, Christ atoned, or made satisfaction, for my sins (vicarious atonement).

- 479 **Isaiah 53:4-5** - Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed
- 480 **2 Corinthians 5:21**- God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.
- 481 **Hebrews 2:17** - For this reason He had to be made like His brothers, in every way, in order that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that He might make atonement for the sins of the people.

140. Has Christ redeemed only you?

No, Christ has redeemed me and all the people (universal atonement).

- 482 **2 Corinthians 5:15** - He died for all.
- 483 **2 Corinthians 5:19** - God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them.
- 484 **1 Timothy 1:15** - Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners - of whom I am the worst.
- 485 **1 John 2:2** - He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.
- 486 **2 Peter 2:1** - [They deny the] Lord who bought them - bringing swift destruction on themselves.

As We Gather...

Jesus Overcomes the Strong Man

Jeremiah was charged with speaking evil when he spoke the Word of the Lord (**Jeremiah 26:1-15**). So also, Jesus is accused of doing evil when in fact He is doing good. He casts out a demon from a mute man so that he is able to speak (**Luke 11:14-28**). But some said Jesus did this by the power of Beelzebub, Satan. Like Pharaoh of old, their hearts were hard (**Exodus 8:16-24**). They did not recognize the finger of God, the power of the Holy Spirit at work in and through Jesus. Jesus is the Stronger Man who overcomes the strong man. He takes the devil's armor of sin and death and destroys it from the inside out by the holy cross. He exorcizes and frees us by water and the Word. We were once darkness, but now we are light in

Christ the Lord (**Ephesians 5:1-9**). As children of light, our tongues are loosed to give thanks to Him who saved us.

The Sunday of the Strong Man



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