

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

Palmer, Kansas 66962

Rev. Joshua Hayes, Pastor

E-mail: pastor.hayes@outlook.com

Pastor Hayes - Home: (785) 692-4228; Cell: (720) 897-6829 (call or text)

Website: www.stjohnpalmer.net

Mrs. Sheila Stuenkel, Organist

Office Phone : (785) 692-4228

Member – Linn Lutheran School Association

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

Mrs. Kelsey Hatesohl, Mrs. Jessie Uffman, & Ms. Robyn Meyer

Email: linnluth@bluevalley.net

March 7, 2021

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 (Page 184)

**No more Gloria or Alleluia until Easter*

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

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

Distribution Hymn: 425 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

Distribution Hymn: 423 "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary"

Distribution Hymn: 564 "Christ Sits at God's Right Hand"

Distribution Hymn: 618 "I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"

Closing Hymn: 754 "Entrust Your Days and Burdens"

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please e-mail prayer requests to Pastor Hayes at pastor.hayes@outlook.com.

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

Raymond Ohlde, Angie Reinert, LaVon Hornbostel, Lula Stuenkel,

Marilyn Ohlde, & Loraine Oldehoeft (our nursing home residents)

Tiffany Snyder (cancer)

Ladonna Hornkohl (cancer)

Robbie Oelschlager (chronic pain)

Kelly & Quinn Rhoades

Lorna Heitman

Acolyte this Sunday - Conner Ohlde

Acolyte next Sunday - Ethan Bott

Ushers this Sunday - *Cody Ohlde, John Bott, Eli Thalmann, & Brett Peters

Ushers next Sunday - *Jacob Bott, Elijah Meier, Andrew Tiemeyer, Ryan Stuenkel

LYF Fellowship Hour duty today & March 14th - Sophia Bott & Claire Beikmann

LYF Fellowship Hour duty March 21st & 28th - Ella & Eli Thalmann

Upcoming Events

March 7

8:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Children's Sunday School
2:00 p.m. Linn Lutheran School Musical

March 10

5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Midweek & Confirmation
7:00 p.m. Midweek Lent 3

March 14

8:00 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Children's Sunday School

Announcements

- * We have had great Sunday School attendance for the beginning of 2021! Thank you to all the parents who have taken turns teaching. New sign up sheets for April and May are on the Sunday School bulletin board so that you can choose your dates to teach. The remaining dates will be assigned again. There will be no Sunday School on Palm Sunday (Confirmation) or Easter.
- * Linn Lutheran School is now accepting mowing bids. All bids need to be submitted to the school by **Monday, March 15, 2021**.
- * Linn Lutheran School will present the musical, "In the Big Inning-Heavy Hitters in the Hall of Faith," **TODAY, March 7th, at 2:00 p.m.** in the LHS gym. Preschoolers will also be sharing some songs. *Masks are required.*
- * **Thrivent Choice Dollars:** FYI – When Choice Dollars are designated for St. John, the entire amount stays within our church; when Choice Dollars are designated to Linn Lutheran, the amount of credit gets divided into half, in which St. John and Zion both receive equal credit. Hopefully, this helps to clarify how the Choice Dollars are handled. Choice Dollars need to be designated prior to **March 31st**.
- * The new date for the LWML Prayer Service at Zion is **Sunday, April 25th, at 2 p.m.**
- * **Linn Lutheran Preschool enrollment times for 2021-22:** If you are: LL Preschool returning students, association member church families (St. John and Zion), or current LLS families, ...your enrollment opening date was **February 15th**. If you do not fall under the mentioned criteria, your enrollment opening date is set for **March 16th**. NOTE: To enroll, call LLS at (785) 348-5792 or stop in the office to get your child's name on our list. Early enrollment prior to the dates listed above, enrollment via text, email, and/or messenger will NOT be accepted, and we will ask you to hold your request until the enrollment window is open as specified above.
- * This week on KFUO.org, begin the book of Philippians on Thy Strong Word (**weekdays at 11 a.m.**), hear Midweek Lenten service and organ recital on **Wed., March 10th, at 11 a.m.**, and hear practical application of our Lutheran Confessions on Concord Matters (**Tues., March 9th, at 2 p.m.**). Find your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org or wherever you get your podcasts.

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, 22:23ff; 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.

Please email any announcements for the bulletin to Theresa at theresa_meier@yahoo.com by noon on Friday.



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.

* To join the audio broadcast from the parking lot during the service, tune in to FM 107.9. You may also come and listen from the parish hall, if it makes you more comfortable. Pastor can bring Holy Communion to you either way.

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.

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).

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!”

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.

CATECHETICAL REVIEW

An Explanation of the Small Catechism
The Apostles' Creed - The Third Article

I. The Holy Spirit *(Continued)*

The Work of the Holy Spirit

156. What is the special work of the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit sanctifies me (makes me holy) by bringing me to faith in Christ, so that I might have the blessings of redemption and lead a godly life (sanctification in the wide sense).

Note: The word *sanctification* is used in two ways:

1. The wide sense - the whole work of the Holy Spirit by which He brings us to faith and also enables us to lead a godly life.
2. The narrow sense - that part of the Holy Spirit's work by which He directs and empowers the believer to lead a godly life.

551 **1 Corinthians 6:11** - You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

157. Why do you need the Holy Spirit to begin and sustain this faith in you?

By nature I am spiritually blind, dead, and an enemy of God, as the Scriptures teach; therefore, "I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him."

552 **1 Corinthians 2:14** - The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

553 **Ephesians 2:1** - You were dead in your transgressions and sins.

554 **Romans 8:7** - The sinful mind is hostile to God.

555 **Ephesians 2:8-9** - By grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, that that no one can boast.

556 **1 Corinthians 12:3** - No one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

158. What has the Holy Spirit done to bring you to faith?

The Holy Spirit "has called me by the Gospel," that is, He has invited and drawn me by the Gospel to partake of the spiritual blessings that are mine in Christ.

557 **Romans 1:16** - I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

558 **2 Thessalonians 2:14** - He called you to this through our gospel.

559 **Revelation 22:17** - The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.

Bible narratives: Invitation to the wedding banquet of the king's son (**Matthew 22:1-10**). Invitation to the great banquet (**Luke 14:16-17**).

The Sunday of Christ, the Stronger One



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