

SAINT JAMES *Lutheran* CONNECTION

March 2019

www.saintjameslutheran.com

40 Days of Preparation

Our Lord Jesus spent forty days and forty nights in the wilderness, being tempted by the devil. The traditional Gospel lesson for the First Sunday in Lent tells the story. Jesus fasted for forty days and forty nights. He was hungry. Sounds like an understatement to me.



The temptation followed immediately after Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan River. The Father spoke from heaven, "This is my beloved Son." The devil called this into question, "If you are God's Son, why don't you turn these stones into bread?" It seems unlikely that the devil knew it would not be long before Jesus would turn water into wine. But even though Jesus was hungry, He refused to use His divine power to make bread for Himself. Did any good idea ever come out of hell?

The Baptism of Our Lord and His subsequent temptation in the wilderness prepared the Son of Man to begin His public ministry. We all know that His public ministry culminated in the events of Holy Week, the institution of the Lord's Supper, His Jewish trial before the Sanhedrin and His Roman trial before Pontius Pilate, His crucifixion and His glorious resurrection.

Our Lord spent forty days preparing to do all these things for us. Now we spend forty days preparing to remember His death on the cross and to celebrate His Easter triumph.

A generation or two ago, Lent was a time of fasting. Today Lent is the season when we have both lunch and dinner at church on Wednesdays. There is more than one way to fast. You may decide to "give something up for Lent" by contributing to our annual Lenten self-denial offering. Since we call it "self-denial," it does not seem right to spend the money on ourselves, so we always give it to a worthy cause outside our walls. Details of this year's Lenten Self-Denial Offering are on pages 4-5.

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Worship Services

Sunday 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Monday 6:30 p.m.

Lord's Supper: 1st and 3rd Sunday and following Monday

Bible Studies

Sunday 9:15 a.m.

Tuesday 10:00 a.m.

Saturday 8:00 a.m. divided as follows:

Women: 2nd / 4th Saturday

Men: 1st / 3rd / 5th Saturday

460 Annapolis Street West / West Saint Paul, MN 55118

Lent Sermon Series: Guilt by Association



Have you ever been falsely accused, in the wrong place at the wrong time, or judged based on your friends or family? Jesus knows what it's like, but when the time came, He didn't say, "No, that wasn't me. I'm not with them." Rather, He identified with sinners and paid the price for our guilt.

Most of the Gospel readings this year come from the Gospel of Saint Luke, so for our Lenten and Easter reflection, we'll focus on Luke's unique perspective of the final hours and resurrection of Jesus. Come and hear Luke's "orderly account for you, most excellent God-lover, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught" (Luke 1:3-4).

In keeping with our focus on Luke's narrative, we will not use the Passion History booklets this year. Each Wednesday we will hear from Luke, and we will keep the Passion History booklets for future use.

Lent services are Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday, March 6	Luke 22:39-46	The Burden of Guilt	Pastor Albrecht
Wednesday, March 13	Luke 22:47-53	Guilt by Betrayal	Pastor Critchley
Wednesday, March 20	Luke 22:54-62	Guilt by Aiding and Abetting	Pastor Critchley
Wednesday, March 27	Luke 22:63-71	Guilt by Confession	Pastor Volker
Wednesday, April 3	Luke 23:1-12	Guilt by Expectation	Pastor Albrecht
Wednesday, April 10	Luke 23:13-33	Guilt by Substitution	Pastor Volker

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday April 18, 7:00 p.m.	Luke 22:14-38	Evidence of Guilt	Pastor Albrecht
Good Friday April 19, 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.	Luke 23:33-49	The Consequence of Guilt	Pastor Critchley
Easter Vigil April 20, 7:00 p.m.	Luke 23:50-24:3	Survivor's Guilt	Pastor Albrecht
Easter Sunday April 21, 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. (Children's Easter service at 9:15 a.m.)	Luke 24:1-12	Guilt-Free	Pastor Volker

We also continue the tradition of meals served on Wednesdays after the 11:00 a.m. service and at 5:00 p.m. before the 6:30 service. Invite a friend to join us as we contemplate the deep love of Christ.



Small Talk

Snow



For inspiration to write this article, I just had to look outside my window. By the time you read this, the snow may be gone, or at least diminished. Boy, did we get snow in February. The last month

seemed to be making up for

what little snow we received in November, December and January. I know some people are not happy about all the snow we've received, (I'm thankful that we don't offer a *Letter to the Editor* section of our newsletter). However, I like snow. I like looking at it. I don't mind playing in it. I like the wonder it creates as it comes down softly in big snowflakes and dampens the sound around us. I love the amazing crystal structure of each flake. I will admit that I don't like to drive while it is snowing...and shoveling it more than once a week gets to be tiring.

It's a little amazing that snow is mentioned in the Bible, considering the location where these stories take place. We Minnesotans pride ourselves on our snow knowledge and scoff at the deplorable efforts of another state's ability to handle their snow. Yet the Bible lands contain mountains which are tall enough to have snow at their peaks. This must be the source of the Bible's experience with snow.

The trait that is most often referred to in the Bible is snow's color. One of the first references is the whiteness of Moses' hand when God demonstrated His power by making Moses' hand leprous, (Exodus 4:6). The more familiar reference to snow in the Bible is from Isaiah 1:18. **"Come now, let us settle the matter," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as**

crimson, they shall be like wool." The color of snow is used as a contrast to the color red. Red was associated with sin because of the blood of animals was used to sprinkle on the Altar of the LORD and on His people as a sign of sin's cost: a life. As God tells us in Leviticus 17:11, the life is in the blood.

In Isaiah, God makes a promise to His people. If they come to Him and admit that they are soaking in the red of sinfulness, He will remove it. He will return them to the purity of the color white. That purity of color is referenced in Daniel's vision of God's throne room in 7:9a. **As I looked, thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool.** A similar description is made of Jesus at His transfiguration in Mark 9:3, (His clothing became whiter than anyone could possibly bleach them), and in John's vision of the Ascended Christ in Revelation 1:14 (His hair was white as wool).

When there is fresh snow on the ground and it is a clear day, the snow reflects the sunlight so powerfully that I need to wear sunglasses while driving around. If there is a cloudless night and the moon is full, the snow reflects that light so well that we can see everything at night. When God makes His promise in Isaiah, to make our sins as white as snow, He is talking about making us like Him. Because Jesus has washed our sins away with His blood and through Baptism, we wear Christ, we effectively reflect Christ in our lives. May the light of His forgiveness continue to shine in all that we say and do. May the wonder of God's mercy continue to quiet our fearful souls. May we continue to come to God with our sins and confidently believe that He has made them as white as snow.

~ Pastor Volker

Trinity First Lutheran School Speaker

Half of our Lent Self-Denial offerings this year will go to support Trinity First Lutheran (TFL) School in Minneapolis. On Sunday, March 3, the principal, Mrs. Sarah Wippich, will speak at our adult Bible Study hour in the Fireside Room. In addition to having her with us, the school's worship team will play at the 10:30 a.m. service. The following is a quick synopsis of TFL's purpose and mission.

Trinity First School seeks to bear witness to the sure knowledge of salvation through Jesus by being a beacon of Christian Education to the City.

Families come to our school for many reasons. They are looking for a school that will:

- Provide a safe-haven for their child. The children have been hurt in some way in their lives and need extra-special care and attention.
- Take them in. We are a school-of-last-resort for some children who have been moved from school to school due to challenging issues that are not resolved.
- Challenge their child. They are not being challenged where they are currently enrolled.
- Help them raise their child in a Christ-filled home.
- Provide their child with special education support.
- Work with them even though they may be in an unstable situation (housing, job, life.)
- Know their child and their family. They are seeking a small school where they can experience family.

Many of these families are not seeking a *Christ-filled* education because they do not yet know what that really means. We know that a Christ-filled education can bring so much more than an academic education. We know that Christ brings new life and the solution to all the challenges and problems a family may face!

Vestry Designates Lenten Self-Denial Offering

Do you want to give up something for Lent? It is our custom here at Saint James to practice a little self-denial to show appreciation for our Lord's atoning death. One way to do that is to give up some small pleasure in your life - a meal, a treat, or an activity - and give the money you save to the Self-Denial Offering. It's a good way to say "a Lenten thank you" to the Lord.

This year the Vestry has designated half of our offering for the Neighbors Food Shelf and the other half for Trinity First Lutheran School in Minneapolis.

March is Minnesota Food Share Month. (Please see page 5.)



Sarah Wippich
Principal, TFL



We, the Volkers, just wanted to thank everyone who attended one of the Meet and Greets that were hosted for us. We had a great time getting to know the hosts and the people who attended. We appreciate your interest in us and our family, but we also appreciate hearing your stories. This has really helped with our transition here. We're looking forward to many years of serving the Lord with you.

March FoodShare Campaign

Hello from Saint James Care Corps! For 37 years the Minnesota Food Share March Campaign has helped raise food, funds and awareness to help fight hunger across the state.

So why is it important?

- This annual effort helps raise more than half the food distributed by the 300 participating food shelves in the state. Last year Neighbors received a combined total of 318,271 pounds/dollars—this year they hope to hit 325,000 to help feed our neighbors in need.
- The Neighbors food shelf serves more than 500 families each month.
- Nearly 1 million pounds of food was distributed through Neighbors last year
- One in 10 Minnesota families experienced food insecurity in 2017.
- 100 percent of contributions to the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign support hunger relief.

Members of Saint James have always been an important contributor to Neighbors Food Shelf. We thank you for continuing in this effort! Simply bring your contributions to church and help fill our food barrel! A list of most needed items is posted in the narthex near the food barrel. Financial contributions are also welcome! You can make a check out to Saint James and indicate Neighbors Food Shelf on the memo line. Thank you again for all you do for our neighbors!

~ Saint James Care Corps



February Funerals

February 8 Audrey Ward



Condolences to her daughter Liz (Tim) Graham, and to her grandchildren, Chad, Hannah, Sam, Joe and Tyler

February 13 John Raddatz



Condolences to his wife, Joy, and their daughter, Debra (Bob) Raddatz-Portnoy, and their son Larry (Terry).

February 23 Marlene Stoerzinger



Condolences to her husband Ron and their children, Laura (Mike) Kapsch, Dan (Shelagh), Steve (Kara) and Sarah (Rob) Nutt.

Leviticus - The LORD Speaks to Us Today

Pastor Albrecht's Bible Class in the Fireside Room



We have considered the voluntary offerings and the mandatory offerings. Now we turn to the consumption of the most holy food. This is how God provides daily bread for the priests and their families. This is also how God makes the priests holy and keeps them holy as they serve Him in the Tabernacle.

The LORD speaks to Moses in five divine speeches of unequal length. Five times the LORD uses the Hebrew word Torah, which is usually “the Law of Moses.” In this context the Torah is ritual instruction for the priests, explaining how they are to handle different kinds of offerings. Why does God distinguish the holy domain from the common domain? How does the distinction between most holy and holy correspond to the distinction between unclean and clean? What do we learn from the instructions to the priests about the worship life of God’s Old Testament people? How does our worship life today resemble theirs?

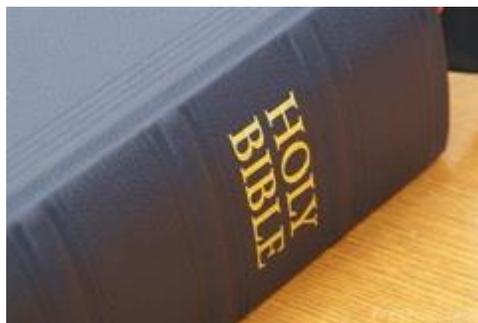
The class will be repeated on Tuesday mornings in the Fireside Room. All are welcome.

Pastor Volker's Bible Class

Chapel (Rooms 7 & 8, downstairs)

We've wrapped up our study of Esther at the end of February. We will join with Pastor Albrecht's Bible study in the Fireside Room to hear Mrs. Sarah Wippich speak about the ministry of Trinity First Lutheran School on March 3rd. On March 10 we will launch into a new book of the Bible, Colossians.

More information will be given in the weekly bulletin. Looking forward to seeing you then.



Saturday Morning Women's Bible Study



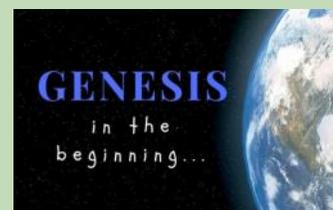
James & Proverbs

The women will meet March 9 in the Fireside Room. The doors open at 8:00 a.m. Pastor Albrecht joins the group at about 8:30.

We will continue our discussion of the Epistle of James in connection with selected passages from the book of Proverbs.

All women are cordially invited to join the discussion.

Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study



Genesis

The men will meet in the Fireside Room on March 2 and 16. We will consult Martin Luther's commentary on the book of Genesis as we discuss the First Book of Moses.

Donuts and bagels are usually provided. Bring your own beverage, if you like.

All men are cordially invited to join the discussion.

Funeral Receptions at Saint James

Saint James funeral servers will assist with a reception/ luncheon following the funeral. These are usually held in the Fellowship Room downstairs. For information not included on this sheet, please call 451-457-9232.

Our committee does not prepare the food, but we set the tables and will provide the following for your reception:

- White table cloths, placemats and napkins (silk flower in a vase is optional)
- Plastic eating utensils and paper cups for coffee
- Creamer, sugar, salt and pepper
- Coffee and water (If you want another beverage please provide it.)
- We will serve the food, clean up and have your leftovers ready to take home. Please bring containers for the leftovers.
- If you want a dessert, it should be provided by the family or the caterer. If you choose a sheet cake, please have it scored by the baker.
- We do not provide plates.

It is the family's responsibility to make arrangements with a caterer for the food.

Some things that would be helpful for the committee to know:

- The name of a family contact person.
- Approximately how many people are you expecting at the reception?
- The name and phone number of the caterer.
- The times for the visitation, service and luncheon.
- Will the meal be hot? Cold? Both?

Caterers We Have Used

(or you may prefer to use your own)

Kowalski's - 651-313-6870 www.kowalski's.com/catering
Grand Avenue store will deliver for \$25

DeGidio's - 651-291-7105 www.degidios.com/store/catering
Italian

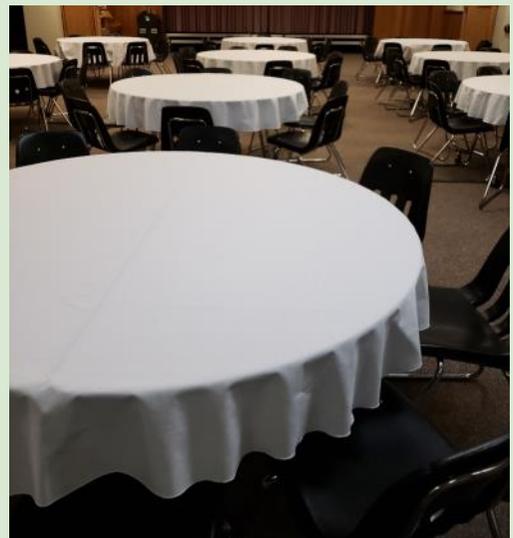
Tinucci's - 651-459-3211 www.tinuccis.com/catering

Bette Dilla - 651-459-8207 Custom-made food prepared in our kitchen

Funeral Luncheons

A group of Saint James members have volunteered to assist grieving families with funeral luncheons. We will work with the caterer and provide certain items. A list of caterers is provided.

Copies are available on the Welcome Center, or from the church office.



Pine Car Derby & Car Show – Sunday March 10th at Noon



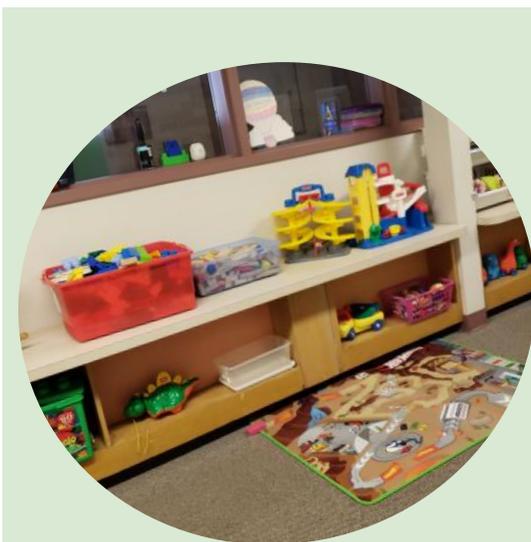
On Sunday March 10th, stop in the Narthex to vote for your favorite Pine Car design! Cars must be submitted by Sunday March 3rd to Roger or Terese for the car show. Please include your name & age category. Contact Roger or Terese with any questions or if you need more time to prepare your car!

The youth category is for ages pre-k through 8th grade and the "Old Timers" is for 9th grade through adult.

This event is for everyone to enjoy. Come down for lunch, then cheer on your favorite car as you rub elbows with your church family.

Calling YOUTH to Serve!

Contact Terese to help serve a meal to your church family on Wednesday, March 6th or March 27th during Lent. Times are 4:30-5pm, 5pm-6pm, 5:45pm-6:30pm & 7:30-8pm for the final clean-up.



Thank you, Mariel!

If you remember how crowded the nursery used to be, you will certainly be impressed at the new look. Some people have noticed the difference and wondered whom to thank.

Mariel Grimm has devoted a significant number of hours to community service, volunteering here at Saint James and at Saint Croix Lutheran Academy.

Although she was ordered to perform so many hours of community service, Mariel says once she got started she realized that it was a blessing to her to help out where help was needed.

March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 8:00am Men's Bible Study
3 8:00am Divine Service with Holy Communion 9:15am Sunday School and Sarah Wippich presentation of TFL 10:30am Divine Service with Holy Communion 12:00pm Youth Variety Show & Fundraiser	4 4:30pm Executive Committee Meeting 5:00pm Children's Handbell Choir 6:30pm Evening SonRise Contemporary Service 7:30pm Mission Trip Meeting 7:30pm Adult Handbell Choir	5 10:00am Leviticus Bible Class 7:00pm Sunday School Teachers Meeting	6 11:00am Ash Wednesday Divine Service with Holy Communion 12:00pm Lenten Lunch 4:00pm TreeHouse Support Group 5:00pm Confirmation 5:00pm Youth Group 5:00pm Lenten Meal 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Divine Service with Holy Communion 7:30pm Saint James Choir Rehearsal	7 7:00pm Puppet Theater	8 10:00am Service @ Lilydale	9 8:00am Women's Bible Study
10 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Sunday School and Bible Classes 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am A3 All Ages Activity: Pine Car Derby	11 10:00am Service @ White Pine 5:00pm Children's Handbell Choir 6:30pm Evening SonRise Contemporary Service 7:30pm Adult Handbell Choir	12 10:00am Leviticus Bible Class 2:00pm Service @ Wilder 514 2:45pm Service @ Wilder Memory Care 7:00pm Youth Committee Meeting	13 11:00am Lenten Service 12:00pm Lenten Lunch 4:00pm TreeHouse Support Group 5:00pm Confirmation 5:00pm Youth Group 5:00pm Lenten Meal 6:30pm Lenten Service 7:30pm Saint James Choir Rehearsal	14 7:00pm Puppet Theater	15 9:30am Service @ Wilder 512	16 8:00am Men's Bible Study
17 8:00am Divine Service with Holy Communion 9:15am Sunday School and Bible Classes 10:30am Divine Service with Holy Communion	18 5:00pm Children's Handbell Choir 6:30pm Evening SonRise Contemporary Service 7:30pm Adult Handbell Choir 7:30pm Elders	19 7:00pm Natural Outreach Class	20 11:00am Lenten Service 12:00pm Lenten Lunch 4:00pm TreeHouse Support Group 5:00pm Confirmation 5:00pm Youth Group 5:00pm Lenten Meal 6:30pm Lenten Service 7:30pm Saint James Choir Rehearsal	21 7:00pm Puppet Theater	22 7:00pm Family Game Night	23
24 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Sunday School and Bible Classes 10:30am Worship Service	25 5:00pm Children's Handbell Choir 6:30pm Evening SonRise Contemporary Service 7:30pm Adult Handbell Choir 7:30pm Vestry	26	27 11:00am Lenten Service 12:00pm Lenten Lunch 1:30pm Service @ Southview 4:00pm TreeHouse Support Group 5:00pm Confirmation 5:00pm Youth Group 5:00pm Lenten Meal 6:30pm Lenten Service 7:30pm Saint James Choir Rehearsal	28 7:00pm Puppet Theater	29	30
31 8:00am Worship Service 9:15am Sunday School and Bible Classes 10:30am Worship Service 4:00pm Harrison Lawrence Senior Recital						

Saint James Lutheran Connection
Submissions for the April issue are due March 19.

**SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

IN THIS ISSUE:

- **Trinity First Lutheran School Principal Sarah Wippich will be our guest on Sunday March 3**
- **Lent Begins with Ash Wednesday on March 6**
- **Lenten Sermon Series - Guilt by Association**
- **Vestry Designates Lenten Self-Denial Offering**
- **Pine Car Derby on Sunday March 10**
- **Volunteers Organize Assistance for Funeral Lunches**
- **Harrison Lawrence Organ Recital on Sunday March 31**