

St. John's Monthly Newsletter

March 2018

RETURN FROM EXILE: A LENTEN SERIES

Fellow Redeemed,

Once again we have embarked into the Lenten season as we journey through the Church Year. Lent, however, is its own kind of journey. Lent is the journey we make as we travel with Christ from the Mount of Transfiguration to Jerusalem where He will face the cross and the grave for our sakes. It is a very sobering trip, a journey that often struggles to find joy. But there is Easter!

This year our theme for our Lenten worship has been focused upon the journey, but perhaps not in the way we usually walk it. Our overall theme is "Return from Exile: A Lenten Journey." All journeys must have a starting point; and in the preaching and teaching this Lenten season, we considered our starting point a land of exile.

The land of exile from which we began our journey is the wilderness of sin and death. Sin came into the world when our first parents were unfaithful and disobedient, eating fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam and Eve sinned, and we have inherited from them not only the sin itself, but also the result of that sin—separation from our Lord and God. From the first sin in the first garden, we have been exiled into the wilderness where we have wandered without any ability to find our way out.

This is the beginning of our journey: exile. But every journey also has a destination, an ending point. Our return from exile brings us into the promised land. Our relationship with our God is restored by Christ's sacrifice. Our destination, then, is the perfect place, the new garden, the courts of heaven—the ultimate destination which was established for us by His death and resurrection. There is great joy in the journey as we see where our returning brings us; but there is also a somber attitude when we consider what Christ faced on account of our sin.

All journeys consist of many events that take place between the journey's beginning and its end. Our Lenten journey is no different. Each leg of our Lenten journey this year begins in the Old Testament and then continues into the New Testament, pointing us to the joy that is ours in Christ Jesus. Do not be surprised to discover that from the very beginning, even outside the gates of the Garden of Eden, it is Christ who travels with us. He has always been our guide, from the very beginning, and He will journey with us to the very end. Indeed, He has even gone before us to prepare a heavenly dwelling place.

Life is full of journeys, life itself is a journey, and I want you to come along with me on this journey. It's not too late to jump in on our sermon series. There are still several more midweek services left in this Lenten season and you are invited. Bring a friend, bring your family, journey with us all the way to the cross and empty tomb. You will grow, you will learn, and you will be strengthened in your faith.

Don't forget about Sunday morning Bible study. This year our studies are meant to help you unpack the readings and message from the previous Wednesday to help give you a greater appreciation of the Word of God. In fact, if you haven't been in Adult Bible study now is a great time to start! I pray that you will come, hear the Word of God, and live in the promise of His Holy Gospel.

Blessings!

Pastor Jacobsen

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry
Newsletter Article – March 2018

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.

Serving this March:

Elders: Brock Montgomery & Mark Ewald
Ushers: 8:00 am: Laverne Schaal, Jacob Shepard
 10:30 am: Sandy Meridith
Altar Guild: Cindy Phipps, Sara Doehring, Coonnie Elder
Acolytes:

MARCH	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM
4	KAYLIN RICHEY	CHRISTIAN LARSON	SAMMY CORDES	MAISY HUGHES
11	GRACE LANGE	NOAH LANGE	MAISY HUGHES	ALEXANDRIA SAUNDERS
18	MILES HARLIN	NOAH WALKER	CHLOE FULLER	ZACH WETZEL
PALM SUN - 25	ASHLYNN SMITH	OLIVIA LAWLER	MARLEY VANHOVELN	BRODY RANKIN

Book of the Month:

Embracing Godly Character: The Christian Community's Response to a Godless Culture



Overview

We live in a godless culture. What are we to do when the faith of the next generation is threatened and challenged? We respond by embracing godly character.

Embracing godly character means exploring how to center our lives on God's Word and promises. It means learning how the Christian community of old responded to similar cultural challenges. And it means being rooted in the identity God has given us through Christ.

Parents and other faith leaders within the Christian community are essential to raising godly families, and that begins with starting a conversation about the role that character formation plays in equipping the next generation to stand firm in the faith—for now and for generations to come.

Call or email the church office if you want us to order for you!

Rev. Adam Jacobsen	Senior Pastor	714-1965	revjacobsen@stjohns-mattoon.org
Miguel Ruiz	Dir. Parish Music	719-849-0120	mruizmusic@gmail.com
Bailey Maldonado	Church Secretary	234-4923	bailey@stjohns-mattoon.org
Trent Duckett	Principal	234-4911	tduckett@stjls-mattoon.com
Joyce Zschau	Parish Nurse	234-8227	joyce_zschau@yahoo.com

Birthdays:

- 2- Laura Dixon, Dylan Haugh
- 3- Cassie Thoman, Christopher Wetzel
- 4- Lola Maldonado, Clara Moore, Barbara Degler, Kevin Lange, Madaline Shepard
- 5- Thomas Roth, Austin Saunders, Michael Moody, Christopher Miller
- 6- Donna Cole, Chantel Thompson
- 8- Marilyn Perryman
- 9- Thomas Jones, Casey Hoenes, Rachel Kepp
- 10- Michael Diepholz, Janice Mann
- 11- Shelia Atwell
- 12- Donald Bareither, Mary Ellen Aylor
- 13- Hilda Alms, Richard Woelber
- 15- Joan Hoenes, Ellie Gass, Kaitlyn Walker, Heidi Larson, Alyssa Shepard
- 16- Katy Aubrey, Jack Pierce, Shannon Cobb, Michael Fuller
- 17- Joel DuFrain
- 18- Kyndall Croft
- 19- Holly Alwardt, Ryan Hill
- 20- Sydney Allee
- 21- Laveta Reel, Joe Fonner, Cody Overton
- 22- Brent Mauck
- 23- Charlotte ZuHone, Carol DuFrain, Susan Vadakin, Jeffrey Allee, Myles Bott
- 24- Gary Hurst, Anthony Maldonado
- 26- Joshua Wohlman
- 27- Jack Harper, Olivia Lawler
- 30- Briar Rhoads, Nancy Maxedon

Anniversaries:

Larry & Nancy Maxedon March 18, 1967
Lynn & Rachel Farmer March 20, 1993
Edwin & Donna Cole March 26, 1967

Monte & Cynthia Overton March 26, 1977
Howard & Doreen Nelms March 31, 1961

Prayer Requests:

Those In Need of Comfort, Health, & Recovery: (Recently Added)

Alan Phelps
Carolyn Phillips
Richard Grice
August Stortzum

Auggie Doehring – Brother of Derald Doehring
Ken Maleske – Father of Kris Maleske
Carol McDaniel – Sister of Doug Blume & Nancy Gass
Rose Weber – Mother of Julie Gass

For those Serving Our Nation:

John Mauck (Okinawa)

Jason Wetzel - stationed in Afghanistan

Those Who Need Our Ongoing Prayers:

Ava Gass
Howard Diepholz
Roland Dahnke
Toni Hesse
Kathy Beaver – Friend of Joyce Zschau
Dan Johnson Jr. – Son of Dan & Virginia Johnson
Judy Yott – Aunt of Pastor Jacobsen

Oliver Countryman
Paul Welton
John Kendall
Bob Zschau

Chuck Cookson
Pastor Paul Garchow
Norma Schussler
William Kroening
Kevin Shaffer – 2nd Grade Teacher's Husband
Dan Kruger – Brother of Pat Wetzel
Bob Pierce – Father of Tina Smith

Church News, Events, and Announcements:

MUSIC UPDATE:

Thank you, everyone, for your continued patience as we continue our congregational journey of learning a new musical setting for the communion service. Over the last couple of months, we have worshiped using new music for the Kyrie, Gloria, Alleluia, Agnus Dei, and Nunc Dimittis. Just as a reminder, our new setting (Divine Service setting 2) will not become a permanent replacement for the old service many are accustomed to (Divine Service setting 3). We will return to the old setting and make regular use of it. In the future, these two settings can be alternated by the seasons of the church year to add a bit of musical variety to our services. Our old traditions will remain constant and intact, even as we slowly explore more recent musical developments. Our commitment to you is to always preserve and cherish the best of our musical and liturgical heritage, and to be painstakingly discerning as we seek to include the contributions of today's musicians to the worship of the church.

Acolytes: There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for Lent & Easter services. We have several openings. Please sign up soon!! Thanks!!

Easter Egg Hunt: The annual egg hunt will be held Saturday, March 31 at 11:00 am. Please bring a dish to share; we will have a potluck lunch after! Even if you do not have kids to bring please bring a dish, join us for lunch, and watch the kids!

CANTOR'S REFLECTIONS: What is this "Verse for Lent?" Jesus can be a very enigmatic person, which often makes the Gospels difficult to understand. With the "Alleluia" we sing before the Gospel, there is also appointed a verse to be sung ("Alleluia and Verse"). The purpose of this verse is to introduce the Gospel and help us understand it by giving us a particular angle from which to view it. During Lent, as the "Alleluia" is omitted to emphasize the somber nature of the season, the verse remains by itself.

Game Night: The Parish Life Committee has planned a game night on Saturday, March 10 from 4:00-6:30 pm in the gym and fellowship hall. Please bring your favorite board game or card game and a small snack or side to share. Thanks and hope to see you there!

125th Anniversary Celebration: We would like to form a committee of people to plan the 125th celebration. If you are interested in helping with this, please contact the church office at 234-4923 or bailey@stjohns-mattoon.org. Thank you!

Church Calendar: We are in the process of combining the church and school calendar to google calendar. The new calendar did not transfer in a way that is legible into this newsletter. Please stay tuned to next month to see if we can work the kinks out and get it back in. The worship schedule for Lent and Easter is a few pages back. And as always, you can call the church office to reserve a room in the church.

School News, Events, and Announcements:

Save the date: Tuesday, March 13 is Monical's Pizza community night to benefit St. John's. Flyers will be available outside church office and must be presented at time of purchase. St. John's will receive 20% of sales. All proceeds go to retire the debt.

Bessie Bingo Tickets will be on sale between services March 11.

St. John's Lutheran School Middle School Choir will present a concert on Friday, March 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. You will hear jazz, sacred, classical sacred, spirituals, and various other genres. Come out for a great presentation! **You can also see this concert after the 12:30 pm service on Wednesday, March 7.**

Box Tops: The school is still accepting Box Tops. You can bring to the school or church office or place in the Campbells bins at each entrance. Thank you for your support!

Lent & Easter Worship Schedule:

Ash Wednesday, February 14

12:30 pm & 7:00 pm

Wednesday Lent Services

Wednesday, March 7, 14, 21

12:30 pm & 7:00 pm



Palm Sunday, Sunday, March 25

8:00 & 10:30 am

Maundy Thursday, Thursday, March 29

12:30 & 7:00 pm

w/Holy Communion

Good Friday, Friday, March 30

12:30 pm & 7:00 pm

Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 31

5:00 pm

w/Holy Communion

Easter Sunday, Sunday, April 1

6:00 am (no communion)

8:00 & 10:30 am

w/Holy Communion



Easter Lily Order Form

Easter is just around the corner and we will be decorating the church again this year with Easter Lilies.

If you would care to purchase a plant or plants to help beautify the chancel for our Easter services, please mark and return the form below to the church office with your payment, by **Tuesday, March 27.**

***If you have any questions, call the church office at
234-4923.***

Qty. _____ Lily(s) at \$12.50 each.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY:

Given by: _____

In Memory of: _____

Phone: _____