

St. John's Monthly Newsletter

March 2020

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod March 2020 Newsletter Article

We are at the beginning of Lent. During the Lenten season, the church calls to our attention the sufficiency of what God gives. It points to the sufficiency of God's grace in the atoning work of Jesus. It shows us the sufficiency of faith in Jesus' work for us. It makes known the sufficiency of God's Word in faith and life.

But Lent doesn't just remind us of the sufficiency of God's spiritual gifts, the gifts that pertain to our redemption and salvation. Lent also reminds us of the sufficiency of the physical, temporal gifts of God, those that pertain to this body and life. In other words, it reminds us of the importance of godly contentment and of outward discipline and training of the body.

This outward training of the body teaches us not to give in to every desire of our flesh but to learn to say no to them. And it does this in such a way that if you fail, it is no sin. It is a way to practice without putting yourself into a compromising situation.

The easiest example of this is fasting. When you fast, you are practicing saying no to the desires of your body. But if you fail in this, if you break your fast, you have not sinned. You have, though, learned something about how your flesh works, how difficult it is to fight against it, and how you need help from above in order to do it.

There is another example of this. It is alms-giving. This is an increase in giving to the church and its mission during this time. We all know that our flesh finds security in money and stuff. By committing to give more to the church, you are training your flesh. You are, by this outward discipline, training yourself to be content with what God gives. You are practicing saying "no" to your desires. Again, if you fail, you have not sinned. But you've learned just how powerful your flesh is in leading you instead of you leading it. You've learned how you need help from above in being content with what God gives.

This is why St. Paul instructs young Pastor Timothy in this way:

"But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and[a] we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs." (1 Tim 6:6–10)

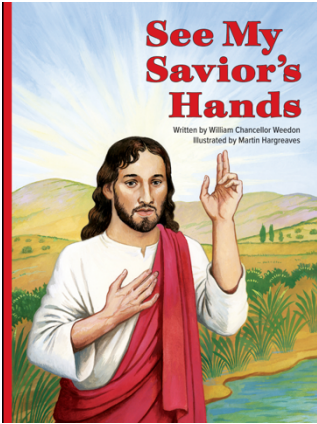
Our sufficiency is not of ourselves; it is in God. Let us learn this without sin by training our flesh this Lenten season.

Serving this March:

Elders: Rick Shepard & Collin Richey
Ushers: 8:00 am: Laverne Schaal
10:30 am: Jacob Shepard
Altar Guild: Kim Shepard & Kim Warfel

The Acolyte 3-month schedule is on the ledge outside the church office.

Book of the Month:



Have you ever considered Jesus' hands? The Bible reveals His story by telling us how He used His hands!

Imagine Jesus as a boy, His hands holding the scrolls of Scripture in the temple. As a teacher, His hands blessing the loaves and fish that would feed thousands. As our Lord, His hands touching the leper to heal him. As our Savior, His hands nailed to the cross.

See Jesus' hands in these traditional illustrations and simple, eloquent words that tell the story of His life, His death, His resurrection, and His love for us.

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

Prayer Requests:

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

Norma Schussler
Sandy McMillan
Dale Wheeler
Roger Tice
Edith Creek
Tara Stortzum
Carolyn Phillips
Pat Rooney – Father of Sarah Jacobsen
Don Booher – Zschau Family Friend
Marlese Cook – Friend of the Ervin Family

Other Prayer Requests

Jason Wetzel – deployed in Iraq
Rob & Tabitha Ames – for aid in adoption

Those Who Need Our Ongoing Prayers:

Ava Gass
August Stortzum
Ken Rufener
Shirley Kolbus
John Kendall
Bob Zschau
Chuck Cookson
Jules Martin – Brother of Michael Martin

Church & School News & Announcements:

FIRE: The FIRE will be helping the Altar Guild clean the sanctuary on March 22. There will be pizza and a fun activity afterward.

Men's Club: Men's Club will meet at Denny's Thursday, March 12 at 6:30 pm.

New Member Class continues during the Education Hour (9:25–10:15am) until Palm Sunday in the Fellowship Hall with Pastor Jacobsen.

Daily Noon Prayer Service during Lent: Pastor Jacobsen and Pastor Eckardt will be leading a simple, brief (10-15 minute) mid-day prayer service in the sanctuary through April 8 at 12:00noon. All are invited to join--a great way to deepen your prayer life during the season of Lent, as you take a few minutes out of each day to hear God's Word and pray. If you like, bring a sack lunch, and those attending the service can fellowship and eat lunch together afterwards.

Acolytes: There is a schedule posted for Lent & Easter acolyte sign ups on the bulletin board outside the conference room. Please sign up for at least 1 service. *The new 3-month schedule is on the ledge.*

St. John's Middle School Choir will be presenting a concert on Friday, March 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary. Please join us for an evening of several styles of choral music including music by Irving Berlin, The Beatles, as well as spirituals and even one song with a Hebrew text of peace. The concert will last less than 45 minutes.

SJL Eagles Flight: The 3rd Annual SJLS Archery Tournament is scheduled for March 14 at EIU Student Rec. Center in Charleston. The name of our tournament is "SJL Eagles Flight." We are looking for volunteers for various tasks before and during the tournament. We will have a silent auction, concessions, scoring/registration, admissions, and other needs. If you have a question about the tasks or can help make this a success, please contact Larry Miller or Trent Duckett.

Scholarship Fund: St. John's Lutheran School registration has begun for the 2020-2021 school year. That means families will be applying for financial aid. Last year, we were blessed to award \$31,000 amongst 35 students! We anticipate several families will re-apply and new families will have interest, but our available funds right now are only about \$17,000. Please consider a donation to this important mission, so that we may equip more students for service.