



Care Gram

A member congregation of the Northern Illinois District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod



St. John Lutheran Church

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Mark Burnidge

Board of Lay Ministry

Gary O'Day

Board of Education

Sunday School

Eileen Day

*Board of Outreach and
Hospitality*

Linda Kalnicky

Board of Stewardship

Mark Burnidge

Board of Church Properties

Allen Emmerich

Choir

Connie Bach

Get out of the boat!

When I was younger, I spent a lot of time in boats. But it's not because I love boats. I only liked the boat because I could catch fish in it. But when I wasn't catching fish, I did not enjoy being in the boat. It wasn't until a friend taught me how to fly fish that I then began to enjoy just being in God's creation struggling to hook the "big one" or any fish for that matter.

Why I am talking about boating and fishing? Because these two activities show up promptly when it comes to following Jesus and living out our faith in Him.

First, Jesus calls us to get out of our comfortable "boats". These are whatever is causing you to think twice about living out and/or sharing your faith in Jesus. This can be distractions, busyness, fears, or just plain doubt in God's promises. As your pastor, I must confess that I am guilty of all of these. The "woulda, coulda, shoulda" happens to me a LOT. But thanks be to God that in repentance, God turns me back to Him, and then through His grace, works even when I fail to be faithful to His call to follow and be His light, bearing His love to my neighbor. However, this doesn't absolve me of His call to get off my duff and serve Him by loving Him and others.

A great picture of this is found in Matthew, Chapter 14. When Jesus calls Peter to walk on water, it is all about keeping our eyes on what Jesus calls us to do. He isn't calling us to lift heavy weights, or to lead a revolution, but just to FOLLOW HIM. He knows our capabilities, our gifts, and our talents, and loves it when we use them to grow His Kingdom, blessing others as He has loved us.

Secondly, Jesus calls us to be "fishers" of men in 3 out of 4 of the gospel accounts. This isn't just those disciples named in our Bible, but for ALL disciples of Jesus, aka "Christians". Now the really cool thing is that God tells us exactly how to fish a bunch of different ways. In Matthew, Chapter 5, Jesus tells us we can do it by shining His light in us so that others can see it. And in Matthew, Chapter 10, He says that we can be people of peace and forgiveness in hard times. And in the parable of the sower of the seeds, we can sow seeds of His word as we talk to people.

Now if you are like me, I fish to catch fish! But my head dips to my chest when I don't catch fish. But when it comes to being "fishers" of men, the catch is all up to God. He is the One who brings people to faith and lures them into His loving net. I'm thankful; for that because I am way too often an "unsuccessful" fisherman in my own eyes.

So, what holds you back from sharing your faith? When I dig deep in to my failures, I see that for me its fear. And yet it is mainly the fear of the unknown, rather than actual experience. And yet, when I am truthful with myself, at some point, someone shared their faith in Jesus with me. It wasn't everything they knew or even the tip of the iceburg, but it was shared because of an opening that I gave to them. In that opening, I needed to hear what Jesus had to say to me at that moment. At that moment, a seed was planted by one of His Disciples to grow faith in me. Just think about that and let that sink in. We believe because God used someone at some point to share their faith with us. We believe because someone invited us or brought us to hear about Jesus. This is how growth in God's Kingdom works. He works through his people. I can think of no more beautiful and eternally satisfying blessing to give to someone.

Easter is a great time to remember and proclaim that as Christians we dwell in His grace through His powerful love that brings life to hopeless situations. So let's get out of our comfort "boats" and share God's powerful love.

In Christ we *are* loved to love,

Pastor Adam



Join us for Easter Breakfast

Enjoy food and fellowship.

Starts about 7:30 am.

(after Sunrise Service)



Fellowship

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

SAVE THESE DATES:

April 1: Easter Breakfast

May 6: Oldtime Potluck Dinner with Pirates Bingo (75th Annv.)

May 13 (Mother's Day): Bake Sale

DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED:

June ?: Community Fun Fest (picnic)

October: Trunk or Treat
Bonfire

November: Bake Sale
Food Drive for Veterans

December: Village Needy Families Program
Holiday Hors d'oeuvres

3 **SIMPLE** Ways to Support St. John Lutheran Church

We have 3 programs ready for you to take advantage and use while shopping.

Gift Card Fundraiser: Simply buy gift cards from a wide variety of vendors and a percentage of your purchase will be donated direct to our church. List of participating places and order forms are available by the Narthex table.

AmazonSmile: If you shop at Amazon then PLEASE enroll in their “Smile” program. www.smile.amazon.com. When asked the name of your organization just type in Saint John Lutheran Church Island Lake. Be sure your selection includes Island Lake since there are many St. John churches. Amazon will donate 0.05% of each purchase to our church. St. John will only receive the amount of funds raised. Never disclosing your purchase or personal information.

Goodsearch.com: Just like Google or Bing, Goodsearch is an online search tool. Goodsearch donates one penny for every search you make. Go to www.goodsearch.com and click on “Join Now” located in the top right hand corner. It’s that easy!!

For more information: Linda Emmerich 847/732-3763

FORMS CAN BE FOUND ON TABLE

Board of Outreach & Hospitality

Is your faith dead?

On May 20, 2013, an EF5 tornado hit the town of Moore, Oklahoma. The state's Department of Emergency Management reported that 25 people were killed, 377 people were injured, and approximately 1,150 homes were destroyed. Reporting for NBC from the disaster site two days later, anchors Brian Williams and Harry Smith had the following exchange. Williams: "In the briefings today it was apparent there's FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency) and then there's the faith-based FEMA. I counted no fewer than thirty churches banding together and that's going to be a huge part of the recovery." Smith: "And as we've seen in so many different places in this country, if you're waiting for the government, you're going to be in for an awful long wait. **But the Baptist men, they're gonna get it done tomorrow.**"

What a testimony to the world to hear Christian churches recognized for their good deeds! The Bible is clear that we are saved by God's grace, not our own good deeds (Eph. 2:8-9). But Scripture is just as clear that good deeds characterize those who are followers of Christ.

So, how is your faith? Can you confidently substitute your name in the following: **"But (your name), he/she will get it done tomorrow."**

Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

James 2:17

Serving Joyfully in His Name,

Linda Kalnicky

Board of Outreach & Hospitality

Live a Life to Please Him

Lent. A time for reflection. A time for repentance. A time for meditation on the significance on what happened when Jesus died on that cross. When a friend asked if I wanted to read the book, **Heaven, How I Got Here: The Story of the Thief on the Cross** by Colin S. Smith, I emphatically said YES. The story is written as a first-person account of the thief who repented and asked Jesus to remember him when he entered His Kingdom. The following are words from this thief as told in the book:

Seeing what Jesus suffered and hearing Him cry out in agony had a profound effect on me. From childhood I had been told that God's law was given to show us our sins. That's true. But I have to tell you that the clearest view I ever got of the ugliness of my sins was not in reading the Ten Commandments but in being near to Jesus in that awful darkness on the cross.

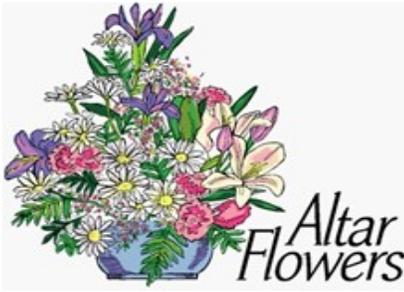
I began to see that if my sins caused Him so much suffering, they must be very great indeed. I learned to hate my sins at the cross. The rebellion that once tasted sweet, the covetous heart that once drove me forward, my hatred and unbelief toward God, and my self-willed desire all seemed ugly and repulsive to me as I saw what they had done to Jesus.

His cry of anguish tore me apart. If He was given up for my sins, what sin would I not give up for Him? That took hold of me. My greatest desire was to be done with any and every sin that had ever gained a foothold in my life. I found myself longing to be holy, to be filled with the love that I had seen in Jesus' eyes, and to live a life that would please Him. I only had a few hours left for that. I hope you have much longer.

During this time of Lent, take the time for personal reflection. Meditate on the significance of Christ's death and resurrection. Take time to ask yourself: Am I living a life that pleases Him?

Serving Joyfully in His Name,

Linda Kalnicky



April

- 1 Hancock/ available
- 8 Annette Eyers/ available
- 15 available
- 22 Rodewald/ No Split
- 29 Hunt/ No Split

May

- 6 available
- 13 MacDonald/ Conner
- 20 Kooi/ available
- 27 available

Bouquets are \$10 each or \$20 for two. Put your name on the Sunday that marks a special occasion for you. If you want both bouquets, please write "No Split" behind your name. On the Sunday you signed up, you can put the cost of the bouquet(s) into a flower envelope (narthex table) and drop it into the offering plate. The flowers are yours to take home. We would appreciate you returning the plastic vase so we can keep the flower cost down. Our thanks to all those who supplied flowers for the chancel this past year.



BIRTHDAYS

- 4/12 Sheryl Stowell
- 4/13 Sandy Pollack
- 4/30 Gary O'Day

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

- 4/1 Cheyenne Burnidge
- 4/1 Vadie Howton
- 4/8 Dorothy Chobot
- 4/9 Sandy Pollack
- 4/9 Raymond Nellis
- 4/12 Olivia Catchot
- 4/26 Ted Amrich
- 4/26 Tom Amrich
- 4/30 Christian Nellis

ANNIVERSARIES

No Anniversaries

Worship Helper Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Lay minister</u>	<u>Usher</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
4/1/2018	Easter Sunrise	Kooi	L. Bruns, Holtz	Max
4/1/2018	Easter Traditional	Anderson	Schmidt	Savannah
4/8/2018	Contemporary	Eyers	MacDonald	Kylie
4/15/2018	Traditional	Emmerich	B. Bruns, Guzy	Justin
4/22/2018	Traditional	Burnidge	T & T Amrich	Cheyenne
4/29/2018	Matins	O'Day	Geary, Brasch	Alexis, Kevin
5/6/2018	Traditional	Kooi	L. Bruns, Holtz	Max
5/13/2018	Contemporary	Anderson	Schmidt	Savannah
5/20/2018	Traditional	Eyers	MacDonald	Kylie
5/27/2018	Traditional	Emmerich	B. Bruns, Guzy	Justin





Easter Sunday

April 1, 2018

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service

7:30 am Easter Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Festival Service with Communion

Coming to the

St. John Fellowship Hall...

Sunday April 8th @10:30am...

Café Jesus!



Café Jesus is a way for us to start talking about what God's Mission here at St. John might look like, while also getting to know one another better.

The Café is the refreshments and small table settings, and the Jesus is well... we are centering our conversations in God's Word.

So I (Pastor) invite you to journey with others there, and enjoy some conversation and treats on April 8th. I promise you it will be worth it.