St. John's Messenger

Sharing the good news of forgiveness and eternal life through Jesus Christ.







From the Pastor's Study

Dear Friends,

As I write to you, it is the evening before Transfiguration Sunday (Jan 24). Transfiguration marks the last Sunday in the Epiphany season as we enter the Gesima period of pre-Lent. Gesima is a Latin term for "days." In fact, the original name for the forty-day-period that we call Lent was "Quadragesima" (forty days or forty-

some days). The journey to Easter has three phases or stages - Gesima (three Sundays beginning with the seventieth day before Easter), Lent (Quadragesima), and Holy Week (also called Passiontide). The Scripture lessons read in worship during each phase or "leg" of the journey prepare us for the one following - until we are finally prepared to celebrate Easter in its fullness.

Can you imagine celebrating Christmas eve without having first heard a series of readings detailing the appearance of Gabriel to Mary, the angel speaking to Zechariah, and the angel's exhortation to Joseph that he take Mary, his wife, into his own home? The arrival of the Holy Family in Bethlehem and the appearance of the angels to the shepherds would feel a bit abrupt and we wouldn't be able to appreciate all of the details that Luke is recounting for us. Christmas without Advent would feel just that - abrupt - and lacking in preparation. Without Gesima (or Pre-Lent, if you prefer), Ash Wednesday can feel just as abrupt and without pretext. This is why the historic lectionary of the Church provides three weeks of lessons that serve as a bridge between the glories of our Lord's Transfiguration and God's calling for us to repent and turn back to Him. This three-week period - Septuagesima (seventy-some days before Easter), Sexagesima (sixty-some days), and Quinquagesima (fifty-some days) bring us lessons that move our hearts and minds from the joys of Christmas and Epiphany to our sorrow over our sins. Consequently, when Ash Wednesday arrives and we receive the ashes on our foreheads, our hearts have already been prepared for the day's message by the lessons read and studied during the previous three weeks.

(continued on page 2)

The festival of Easter is the most important celebration of the year, and three phases of preparation are certainly appropriate if we are to experience its liberating joys in all of their fullness! Want to have a more meaningful Lent? - observe Gesimatide with us.

In Christ Jesus,

Pastor





Two Alternative Ways to Experience the Word of God!!

Two weekly video programs are easily available to you, giving you the opportunity learn more about the Word of God, as an individual or as a family! One program is for children of all ages and one is for adults. Both of these video programs are uploaded to Youtube and shared on Facebook each week.

The program for young people is "CATechism and Dog" and is uploaded every Tuesday. In this program, Belle and Pastor Roser work through a section of the catechism at a level that connects with young children and their families.

The program for adults is "Catechism for Life" and is uploaded on Thursdays. In this program, Pastor Roser reviews a section of the catechism, discussing how it applies to our every day lives.

Join us on-line for these programs, as well as our weekly Worship services, streamed live each Sunday at 9:00 a.m., and also recorded so you can watch them anytime!

Look for the links on our Facebook page, subscribe to our Youtube channel, or find the links on our Webpage under Digital Church!

Mark your calendars:

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Ash Wednesday (the first day of Lent)



This week's Worship service bulletin is available for you on our website on the Digital Church page.

It will be used for both the in-person and on-line Worship. https://www.stjohnsbeloit.com/connect-with-us.html

So many ways for you to stay connected to St. John's Lutheran Church, Beloit!

Our podcast stream is now available on the iHeart radio app, the number one podcasting platform right now!

https://www.lheart.com/podcast/269-st-Johns-lutheran-church-i-76708569/

Or try our Podbean website or app: http://stjohnbeloitmedia.podbean.com/

You can also find our podcasts at Itunes, Spotify, and the Google podcast app!

Our livestreaming and recorded Worship services are still found on our Facebook page and on YouTube.

Take the Word of God with you wherever you go!!



St. John's Prayer at the Close of the Day!

When: Every Wednesday from 7:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Where: Facebook Live -

https://www.facebook.com/stjohnslutheranbeloit

How to Submit a Prayer Request:

Send requests to Pastor Roser @ 608-713-2050 dennismroser@outlook.com

or send a PM using St. John's Facebook Page

*Deadline for prayer requests is Wednesday each week at 6:30 pm

The 2021 sponsorship sign-up sheets for both the CD Ministry and Altar Flowers are now available in the Narthex!

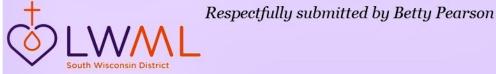
Please be sure to PRINT CLEARLY. Thank you.

Please note:

Pastor Roser's new email address: dennisroser@outlook.com

Please be aware
the door between
the church offices
and the school
once again has a
proper lock.
It uses the same
key as the door
between the
church offices and
stairwell by the
sanctuary.

Women's Guild News



Begin with God He gives Comfort

In the Word

Is God always ready to listen to me?

My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life (Psalm 119:50).

Of the Word

Wouldn't it be fantastic to be comfortable all of the time? In our everyday lives we want to have comfortable shoes, comfortable beds, comfortable temperatures, comfortable friends. We even have our own special comfort foods. But, alas, being comfortable all of the time just isn't "real." Aches and pains come our way as do old age, job losses, broken-down communications, suffering, and even death. These are the times we can turn to God knowing that only He can comfort our innermost being. The comforting "things" of this world are only temporary fixes, but God's comfort lasts.

Praise be to ... the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God (2 Corinthians 1: 3-4).

When I think of your rules from of old, I take comfort, O LORD: (Psalm 119:52).

Walking with my Lord

My dear Father, I sometimes come to You with a heavy heart and in need of Your comfort. I know that You love me and will never leave me, but at times I feel You are so far away. Lord, forgive my weakness and doubt. Help me in these times to lean on You and renew me with Your Holy Spirit. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

(Mustard Seed: Begin with God. Authors: Marcia Gomulka, Dcs. Betty Knapand, Myrna Lou Meyer. www.lwml.org)

February Birthdays

1 Bill Cunningham

Daniel Giannone

2 Daniel Bottoms

8 Sidney Roser

11 Brian Giannone

14 Mindee Larson

Sheila Combs

17 Pam Levan

18 Mike Monroe

21 Bey GeRue

22 Ashley Peterson

Bob Bue

25 David Carter

Sandy Buresh

28 Annika Gill

Kylie Thompson

(29) Marlene Nolta





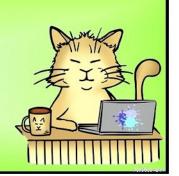
Wedding Anniversaries (none for February)

Psalms 107:8

King James Version

Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

Please be aware, we have chosen when the office is "unmanned" to forward calls directly to Berta's cell. If she is unable to answer, you are welcome to leave a message, and she will help you as quickly as possible. Thank you.





Our Homebound Members

Beverly Bingham, Rock Bay Harbor Apts.

Beverly Bottoms, Riverside Terrace

Dan Burrows, Skaalen Nursing & Rehab, Stoughton

Carol Gusk, Home

Donna Hall, Willowick, Clinton

Janice Hemerley, Suites at Beloit

John Kannengeiser, Home

Shirley Mathewson, Beloit Sr. Living

Katherine Petitt, Green Knolls at Beloit

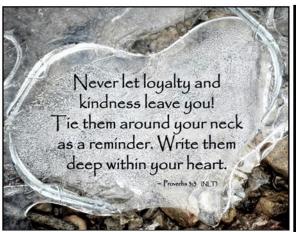
Ione Reetz, Home

Christine Ruckert, Autumn Lake, Beloit

Ed Spychalski, Home

Mildred Wedel, Home

"And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up." (James 5:15 ESV)



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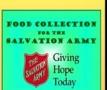


TROUBLE IN CAT CHURCH

Our local food banks are experiencing significant shortages as individuals and families are impacted by the changes in work and school schedules.

The items most needed are:

- * Toilet Paper
- * Rice
- * Canned Meats/Tuna
- * Canned Hearty Soups or Mixes
- * Hand Sanitizer
- * Dry Beans
- * Canned Vegetables
- * Baby food/diapers



All other items, of course, will be gratefully accepted as visits to the food banks are rising, and expected to continue to do so in the coming months.

St. John's Lutheran Church has a collection bin for the Salvation Army in the Narthex. If you would like to drop items off, our Administrative Assistant, Berta, is in the office Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, or contact Pastor Roser to arrange a time.

Thank you for your generous help.

do good, lend, and expect nothing in return and your reward will be great

Luke 6:35

Who Wants to Win a Culver's Gift Card?

We have a number of avenues to keep you apprised of the opportunities and events here at St. John's: The monthly Messenger, the weekly Communicator, the Facebook page, the Web page, the Sunday Bulletin, and (first and foremost) the Worship service. Many times we will repeat the information in more than one of the venues in an effort to make sure the information is reaching everyone. But how can we tell if the announcements we're providing are getting through and being remembered?

How about by playing a little game each month!

The last weekend of the month, watch for a list of four questions whose answers can be found in the one or more of the Messenger, Communicator, Sunday Bulletin, Facebook page, Web page, or during the Worship Service during that month. Submit the answers either in writing or by email to the church's Administrative Assistant by noon the following Friday, and a winner will be drawn from the entries with the correct answers. The winner gets a gift card for some delicious Culver's food!

See the November 27, 2020 Communicator for the current quiz. Get your answers in by noon on December 4, 2020 to be in the drawing for the Culver's Card!

We gather for worship every Sunday morning at 9 am, whether in-person or on-line, and everyone is welcome!

You have a savior who is Christ the Lord, and we invite you to join us in receiving the gifts which God delights in giving you through His Son.

God loves all people. His Son died in the place of everyone and answered for all of our sins - including yours. Everyone who trusts in his death for the forgiveness of their sins will receive the free gift of eternal life with God. We would love to have the opportunity to tell you more about this good news.

Where everyone is invited, and Jesus is Lord!

Stay Connected!



Did you know if you miss a regular Sunday Worship Service, you can watch it in its entirety on YouTube!

Just use this link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw9-9SrlBpZwdB2bPj-7Stg



If you would like see links to Pastor Roser's blog, uplifting posts, occasional humorous posts, and reminders of upcoming events, check out the St. John's Facebook page.

The posts are public, so you don't even have to be a Facebook member to see what's happening. The links are also available on our website.

Staff and Contact Information

Rev. Dennis Roser, Pastor

dennisroser@outlook.com cell: (608) 713-2050

Mrs. Berta Eddy, Administrative Assistant

officestjohnsbeloit@gmail.com

www.stjohnsbeloit.com

www.facebook.com/stjohnslutheranbeloit/

www.facebook.com/stjohnslutheranschoolbeloit

www.youtube.com/channel/UCw9-9SrlBpZwdB2bPj-7Stg



In the mood for some home-baked pastry without a lot of effort?

From February 1 through February 19, Berta (our Administrative Assistant) is selling
Butter Braids to benefit local animal rescue Hope's Legacy and Trust.

Each Butter Braid is \$14, with more than \$5 of that cost going back to Hope's Legacy!

Delivery is scheduled for Friday, February 26th!



and ENJOY!

Available flavors are apple, cream cheese, blueberries and cream cheese, cinnamon, strawberries and cream cheese, caramel roll, and cinnamon roll.

If you would like to order, please contact her either by email officestjohnsbeloit@gmail.com or by calling her (314)-775-7372.

For this reason I kneel before the Father...
I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

- Ephesians 3:16-17 -

