St. John's Messenger

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

April **2021**

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
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From the Administrative Assistant's Desk

Dear Friends,

The pandemic, with its subsequent lockdowns and restrictions, has posed unique challenges for churches and their congregations. Last year, in fact, in most cases services for Holy Week and Easter were not just limited; they were cancelled entirely. Given that Holy Week and Easter are the most important events in the Christian Church year, it was devastating for many believers not to be able to participate in a Worship setting for those observances. While they certainly could (and did) note the important dates in their homes and personal lives, it was not the same as joining fellow disciples to be led in prayer by a pastor. No palms waving as they heard the familiar Bible readings about Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem. No somber remembrance of Christ's sacrifice, crucifixion, and death. No celebration of His triumphant Resurrection, and the subsequent salvation for His followers. There were no Easter egg hunts, fellowship events, or breakfast potlucks as there had been every year for decades. Few area churches had the technology to share their services via the Internet, and they would spend months finding new ways to reach the people who used to weekly populate the pews.

Here in Beloit, the LCMS churches have routinely partnered for many events, and 2020 was no exception. St. John's initially offered a combined broadcast of Sunday services with Messiah Lutheran until the latter was able to install the technology in their own sanctuary. They also continued to teach their confirmands together, via Zoom classes.

Which brings us to 2021. The prior twelve months have wrought substantial changes in the way the church community has offered Worship services. Pastors and church councils have had to often reevaluate their approaches based on the frequent adjustments to CDC recommendations, as well as state and local health protocols. With care, concern, and significant protections in place, the churches have reopened. For many, Sunday School, Bible study, and confirmation classes have resumed, and now the people have their eyes eagerly fixed on the fast-approaching Holy Week, with innovative ideas for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Morning services.

During previous Good Friday services, local LCMS pastors have worked together to present the special Tre Ore Service. The three-hour offering, originally introduced in the seventeenth century, commemorates Christ's time on the cross. This year, four area LCMS pastors will still be teaming up, but from their own churches. Each hour of the unique service will take place at a different church, and people are invited to those churches for in-person Worship during the noted times, or they can choose to view part or all of the services on-line.

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Reverend Dennis Roser of St. John's Lutheran Church, Reverend Dan Eddy of Messiah Lutheran Church, and Reverend Randall Senn of Trinity Lutheran Church, all of Beloit, and Reverend Gene Dassow of Christ Our Savior, Roscoe, have been planning this presentation for months.

"It's taken a great deal of preparation to coordinate three consecutive live broadcasts from three separate locations," stated Reverend Eddy of Messiah Lutheran. "We want the transitions to be smooth, the quality to be consistent, and still maintain the proper level of somber respect for the occasion. We also needed to make sure we weren't duplicating any readings or hymns in our respective plans."

Reverend Roser explained the idea behind the multiple location service, "In this way, we can livestream the Tre Ore while also offering in-person worship on Good Friday that is socially distanced, and will not keep people together in one space for such a long duration."

The service schedule is as follows:

Friday, April 2 - The Good Friday Tre Ore Service is being offered in its entirety on-line. Each hour will take place at a different church, and people are invited to those churches for in-person Worship during the noted times.

12:00 to 12:55 pm – This first hour is being hosted by Christ Our Savior in Roscoe with Reverend Gene Dassow. This hour can be viewed on their Facebook page.

1:00 to 1:55 pm – The second hour is at St. John's Church in Beloit with both Reverend Dennis Roser and Reverend Randall Senn, of Trinity Lutheran Church leading the service. Members of both congregations are invited to attend at St. John's, and this hour will be streamed on the St. John's Facebook page.

2:00 - 3:00 pm - The final hour will be at Messiah Lutheran Church with Reverend Dan Eddy closing the service recounting Christ's Agony. This hour can be found on Messiah's Facebook page.

The public is invited to attend the services in-person. Masks are necessary for attendance, and local requirements for health and safety will be followed. Those wishing to view the services on-line can find the links of the church Facebook pages. You do not need to be a member of Facebook to access the broadcasts.

In Christ Jesus,

Berta Ingham Eddy

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

Please note:

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

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

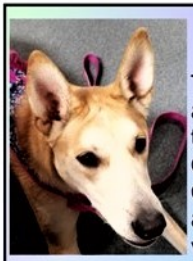
Our podcast stream is now available on the iHeart radio app, the number one podcasting platform right now!
https://www.iheart.com/podcast/269-st-johns-lutheran-church-i-76708569/

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!!



Two Alternative Ways to Experience the Word of God!!

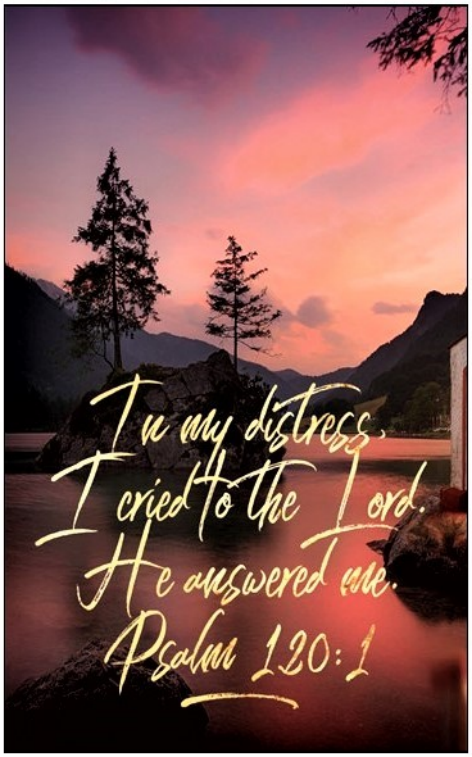
Two weekly video programs are easily available to you, giving you the opportunity learn more about the Word of God, as an individual or as a family! One program is for children of all ages and one is for adults. Both of these video programs are uploaded to Youtube and shared on Facebook each week.

The program for young people is **"CATechism and Dog"** and is uploaded every Wednesday. 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 Saturdays. 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!



Please join us for regular Sunday Worship each week at 9:00 a.m., in-person or livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube

2021 Holy Week Service Schedule:

Sunday, March 28, 9 am - Passion Sunday with the Rite of Confirmation (in-person and livestreamed)

Wednesday, March 31, 7:30 pm - Prayer at the Close of the Day (Facebook Live)

Thursday, April 1, 6:30 pm - Maundy Thursday Service (in-person only)

Friday, April 2 - **The Good Friday Tre Ore Service** is being offered in its entirety on-line. Each hour will take place at a different church, and people are invited to those churches for in-person Worship during the noted times. The schedule is as-follows:

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Sunday, April 4, 9:00 am - Easter Sunday Service (in-person and livestreamed) *unfortunately, no Easter breakfast or egg hunt for this year.

Women's Guild News

Respectfully submitted by Betty Pearson

LWML
South Wisconsin District

Mustard Seed Daily Devotions

How, Lord...

Can I be more loving?

In the Word

"My command is this: Love each other as I have l have loved you." John 15:12

Of the Word

Jesus did not suggest we love each other - He commands we do it. So does that include showing love to the car mechanic who swears and smells bad, the check-out girl with all the tattoos and piercings, and the women in the office who gossips about each of us, and my enemies? Yes, it does. The command is *"love each other"* (John 15:15:12b).

In His command Jesus is not talking about emotional love. He is talking about love in action: the kind of love that is more patient and forgiving, a love that will not react in anger to the gossip in the office, a love that uses kind words and shows a smile to the car mechanic and check-out girl, a love that is not prejudiced, a love that is not too busy so someone who is hurting.

Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth (1 John 3:18). This love in action is learned love and our teachers are a loving Father and His Son who show us how love can be accomplished: We love because he first loved us (1 John 4:19).

Walking with my Lord

Dear Lord, when I am confronted with people I find hard to love, show me how I can be loving. Remind me that in spite of all my sins You still love me. In Jesus' name. Amen

(Mustard Seed: How Lord? Authors: Marcia Gomulka and Myrna Lou Meyer, authors. www.lwml.org)

April Birthdays

4 Aaron Bartz
John Kannengeiser
5 Chuck Gruber
6 Jack Fiedler
9 Beth Schmuck
11 Lee Fassett
Ruth Peterson
12 Katie Petitt
Logan Larson
15 Nathaniel Bielharz
17 Kathleen Prins
18 Amara Rindfleisch
Jonathan Giannone
20 Lori Kassal
21 Pat Weber
22 Marilyn Rogers
23 Doris Rindfeisch
27 Micah Wildauer
28 Jo Cunningham

Wedding Anniversaries

4 Larry and Marlene Nolta

To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.

Martin Luther

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.

In our thoughts and prayers . . .

all those whom we have named on our prayer list, and those we now name in the thoughts of our hearts; Beulah Knutson, Michael Larson, John Kannengeiser, Dick Sears, Pam Matchett Damrow, Beverly Bottoms, Al Jenks, Jan Jenks, Kurt, Ruth Peterson, Carol McKechney, Daryl Swain, Jan Petterson, Marsha Griinke, Bob Brohn, Darlene Willing, Carol Lowry, Karen Nohr, Brad Carter, Keith Stowers, Ed Spychalski, Jon Turner, Bobbie Reynolds, Mike Papini, Tom Wulf, Doris Rindfleisch, Joaquin, Marcie Moore, Laura Jo Pearson, Cayden Krueger, Janice Hemerley, and all of our members who are homebound, those who serve in the military (particularly Pastor Keith GeRue, Kyle Summers and Logan Davies), emergency services and all who work for the common good.

Our Homebound Members

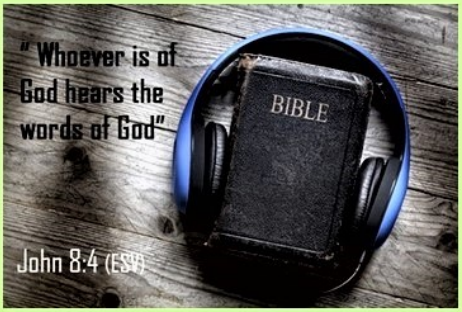
Beverly Bingham, Rock Bay Harbor Apts.
Beverly Bottoms, Riverside Terrace
Dan Burrows, Skaalen Nursing & Rehab, Stoughton
Carol Gusk, Home
Donna Hall, Willowick, Clinton
Janice Hemerley, Suites at Beloit
John Kannengeiser, Home
Shirley Mathewson, Beloit Sr. Living
Katherine Petitt, Green Knolls at Beloit
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)

Miss a sermon?

Want to share a particular sermon with family or friends?

All Sunday services from October of 2019 through the most recent Sunday are available to you on CD or MP3. you need only ask Berta Eddy, and she will provide it for you.



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**

FOOD COLLECTION FOR THE SALVATION ARMY

Giving Hope Today

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.

If George Lucas had written the Bible:

"Pontius, if you strike me down, I shall become more powerful than you can possibly imagine."

Calling All High School and College Graduates!

Is this your year for a diploma? Please let us know so we can include you in our upcoming special service.

Email your information (name, school/college) to officestjohnsbeloit@gmail.com

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

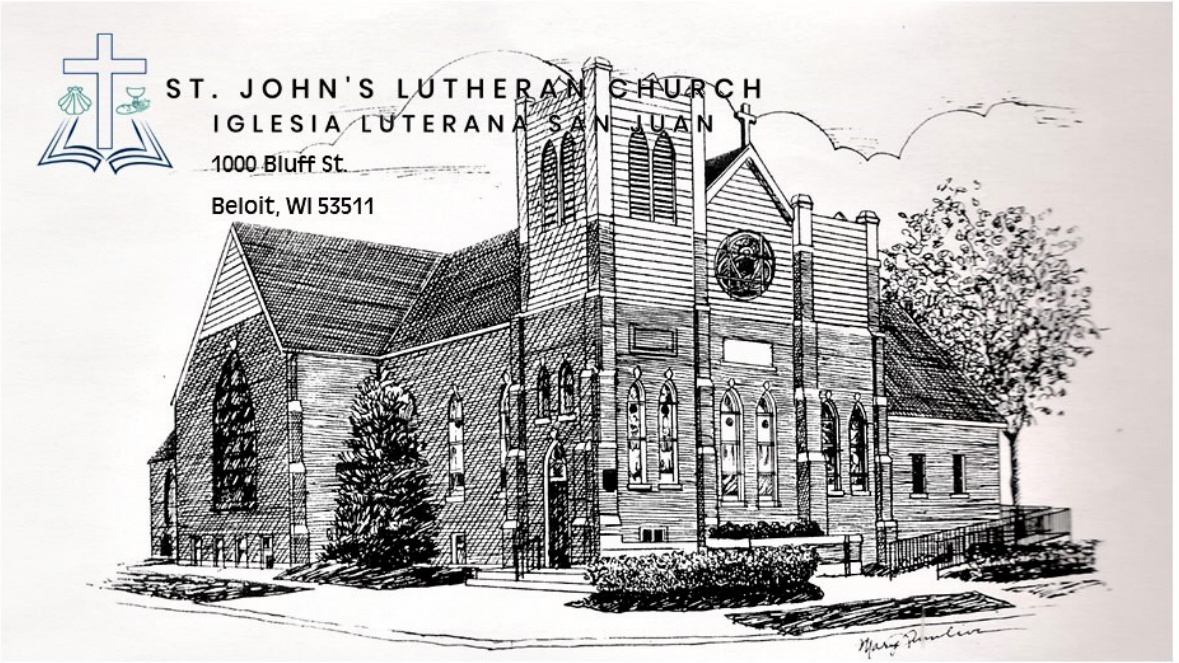
dennisroser@outlook.com cell: (608) 713-2050

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

The angel said to the women,
"Do not be afraid! I know that you are
looking for Jesus, who was crucified.
He is not here. He has risen,
just as he said."
(Matthew 28:5-6 EHV)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