

St. John's Messenger

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

March

2019



From the Pastor's Study

Dear Friends,

When God delivered the Israelites out of their slavery in Egypt and as He placed them in the promised land, He warned them that if they trusted and obeyed Him their lives would be protected and blessed with good things, but if they turned to other gods He would remove His protection from them and give them over to their enemies. After centuries of giving them small punishments for their disobedience, God finally gave the people into the hands of the Babylonians. In 586 BC, the Babylonians took the majority of Israel into captivity. There were at that time, lying prophets who told the people that they would be delivered shortly and everything would go back to normal. This was not true, because God had not sent them. However, God had sent Jeremiah to them with a message about these things - which is recorded in Jeremiah 29:4-12.

4Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. 6Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. 7But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. 8For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, 9for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, declares the Lord. 10“For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. 11For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.”

Our culture has changed dramatically during the course of just a few decades - and it's going to change much more in the years to come. Congregations, which were once the center of their communities' lives, now feel like they have been left behind in a foreign land. Churches who used to set up folding chairs in the aisles now struggle to keep their doors open. It is normal for us to feel hurt and defensive. However, indulging these feelings for too long is of no benefit to the Church or the world around us whom God has called us to serve.

(continued on page 2)

God's message to the Jews in their exile may also be applied to the Church in our day: "... seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare." God calls us to pray for our communities and to do everything that we can for their good. This is an important witness for the Church in our age. How common is it today for people to do things for others when they don't have to? How many people in our city feel lost, forgotten, and cut off from God? While it is tempting to begin making a list of all of the things that we might do to serve our community - and that's good - it is important that we begin first by seeking Beloit's welfare before God in prayer. Of course, our efforts on their behalf do not stop there - but they should always begin there. God will show us what He would have us do. Pray that God would burden your heart with His mission in our city. And remember the words God also spoke through Jeremiah to the exiles: "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." As Jesus invites us into the work he is doing in our city, we will most likely experience some changes in how we do things, but also a life together that is increasingly meaningful and of much benefit to our neighbor. Finding ourselves surrounded by a culture that we no longer easily identify with is disheartening, but finding ourselves engaged in the work God is doing - although feeling foreign to us - is one of the greatest joys this life offers.

In Christ Jesus,

Pastor

February 2019 Expenses

Charter Internet	\$ 38.99
CPH	\$ 10.64
Great America	\$ 81.74
TDS Phone Service	\$ 103.65
Beloit Utilities	\$ 94.85
Alliant Energy	\$2673.35
Beloit Daily News	\$ 174.58
Father & Son Cleaners	\$ 800.00
S. Wis. District	\$ 984.00
Badgerland Disposal	\$ 64.00
Concordia Publishing	\$ 396.75
Concordia Plan Svc.	\$2817.56
Stamps	\$ 35.00
Booklets	\$ 90.64
Jay Big Roll	\$ 36.50
Salvation Army	\$ 225.00
Mileage	\$ 278.20



Special For Our Youth



Additionally, Pastor Roser will be taking a group of youth from St. John's to the **LCMS National Youth Gathering in 2019**. St. John's will most likely be registering with some other congregations in the Stateline area. While the cost

of registration is \$365.00, plus transportation, lodging, and meals, families will only be asked to pay a \$25.00 registration fee per youth member attending. All other monies will come from fund-raising. The event will be held from July 11 - 15, 2019. It is open to students entering 9th grade (or age 14) in the 2019-2020 school year through age 19. **The FAQs are located at <https://lcmsgathering.com/faq/>**

St. John's School Has a new Facebook page!!



Keep up to date on everything happening. You don't have to be a Facebook member to see it, but we appreciate it if Facebook members would give the page a "like"

www.facebook.com/stjohnslutheranschoolbeloit

Scoopie Night!!

Tuesday, March 26, 2019



The St. John's Women's Guild will once again be hosting a **Scoopie Night** at Culver's on Cranston. Join them from 4 pm to 8 pm on Tuesday, March 26th. All you have to do to help support them is eat...and given the menu offered, that's pretty easy to do.



Our Women's Guild meeting was scheduled for Thursday, February 7th but the weather had other ideas...lots of snow! Instead, we met on the 14th, Valentine's Day. The weather

is still keeping some away as we only had 9 members attending. On our agenda was our next fundraiser which will be a Scoopie night on Tuesday, March 26th. The Spring Rally will be held at St. John's this year, on Wednesday, April 24th. The guest speaker will be Mandy Chitwood of the Beloit Domestic Violence Survivor Center. The ingathering will be for women who are starting over. For those of you who don't know, the ingathering is a collection of items needed for whatever organization we are focusing on helping. More information about the ingathering will be added to the Sunday bulletin in the near future. Our Heart Sisters were revealed and we will sign up to see who will be our new sister for the new season. Lent will be coming up soon and we will be serving the soup supper on Wednesday, April 3rd. We hope to have a large turnout.

You are special

"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Ps 139:14 ESV. Sarah Hupp writes:

"Did you know you started out as a single cell, and within that cell was enough DNA to hold the equivalent of 1,000 volumes of coded blueprints? Or that [the DNA in that one cell] determined the color of your hair and eyes, the shape of your nose, and the size of your ring finger? Did you know nobody else has your fingerprints...the same sparkling eyes...the same laugh...or looks at things the way you do? You're an original, and it didn't happen by accident. God designed your DNA. He made you the way He wanted you to be. He gave you your voice, your smile, your freckles, your curly hair, all those things that make you who you are. And because God made you, you're special to Him and to others...in fact, the world wouldn't be complete without you." No wonder the psalmist said, "I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well." Maybe you're thinking, "Yeah, but you don't know the limitations I live with. And when it comes to my self-image, I struggle every day to feel like I measure up." Pastor Jim Penner says: "I've talked with and prayed for many who are dealing with physical issues...disease, diabetes, cancers, struggles with weight, muscular and autoimmune disease.

The limitations the human family deals with on a daily basis are endless. Yet Ephesians 2:10 says, 'You are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus.' God knew exactly what He was doing when He made you. You're unique in all the world. And that makes you special.

tdew@theencouragingword.org

March Birthdays

- 1 Dorothy Bushaw
- Robert Burns
- 4 William Vander Kooi
- 8 Katrina Roser
- 9 Rachael Mears
- 10 Kevin Rindfleisch
- Tim Drager
- 14 Christina Bickford
- 21 Chris Peterson
- 22 Trey Grinke
- 29 Cindy Mitchell



Wedding Anniversaries

22 Ed and Linda Spsychalski

Change the Date!!

The new Men's Bible Fellowship is changing the schedule. This monthly event will now be held on the **first THURSDAY of each month from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm .**



It's open to all men in our congregation (and their friends) ages high school through retirement. We will begin with a meal and then a Bible study. The church will provide the meal and we will simply ask for free-will offerings to help underwrite it.

***“Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”***

(Matthew 4:4 ESV)

Holy Socks!!

The "Holy Socks Puppet Ministry" at St. John's is doing well. We've even uploaded video to YouTube. In the coming months, we will be offering periodic presentations during Divine Service.

We meet every Sunday after worship. Children and youth of all ages are invited to join us.

If you would like more information, please let Pastor Roser know.



***“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. “***

(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 ESV)





LENT

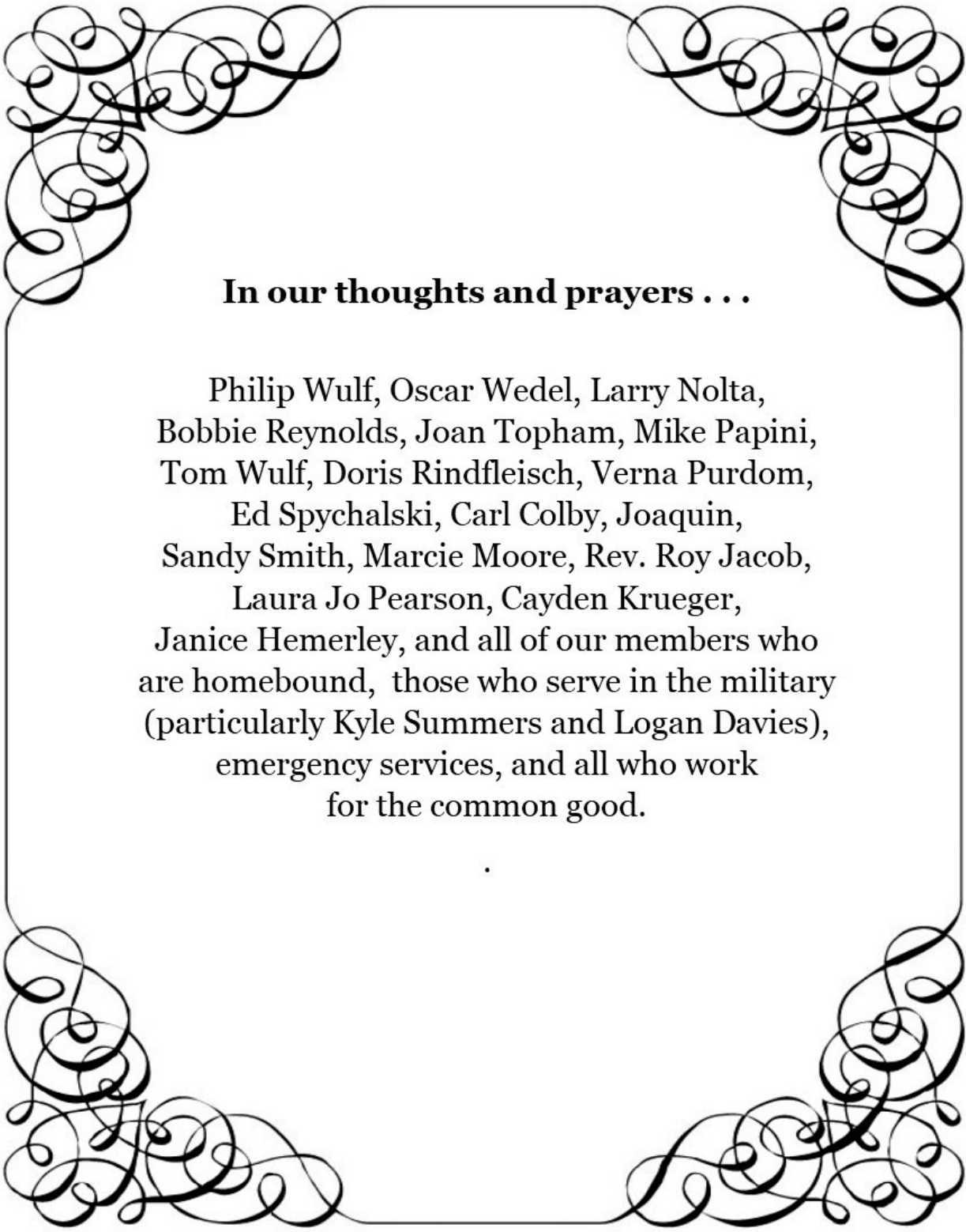
Ash Wednesday and Lent

Our Ash Wednesday service
will be held at **March 6th at 6:30 pm.**

**Lenten Suppers will begin the following
Wednesday, March 13th, with the meal being
served at 5:30 pm.**

**On Wednesday, April 10, the meal will be potluck,
so please bring a dish to pass that evening.**



A decorative border of black scrollwork surrounds the text. The scrollwork is most prominent at the corners, forming a frame around the central text. The lines are thick and elegant, creating a classic, ornate look.

In our thoughts and prayers . . .

Philip Wulf, Oscar Wedel, Larry Nolta,
Bobbie Reynolds, Joan Topham, Mike Papini,
Tom Wulf, Doris Rindfleisch, Verna Purdom,
Ed Spsychalski, Carl Colby, Joaquin,
Sandy Smith, Marcie Moore, Rev. Roy Jacob,
Laura Jo Pearson, Cayden Krueger,
Janice Hemerley, and all of our members who
are homebound, those who serve in the military
(particularly Kyle Summers and Logan Davies),
emergency services, and all who work
for the common good.

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Our Homebound Members

Beverly Bingham, Rock Bay Harbor Apts.

Sandy Buresh, Fair Oaks Health Care Center

Dan Burrows, Alden Meadow Park

Ivan Drake, Home

Connie Fast, Home

Donna Hall, Willowick in Janesville

Joanne Hildebrandt, Azura Memory Care

John Marquardt, Home

Shirley Mathewson, Beloit Sr. Living

Ione Reetz, Home

Christine Ruckert, Premier Skilled Nursing

Anna Rumery, Willowick in Clinton

Ed Spsychalski, Home

Betty Steuck, Riverside Terrace

Elinor Swain, Alden Meadow Park

Marilyn Treder, Pioneer Court

Oscar & 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)

CD Ministry and Altar Flowers



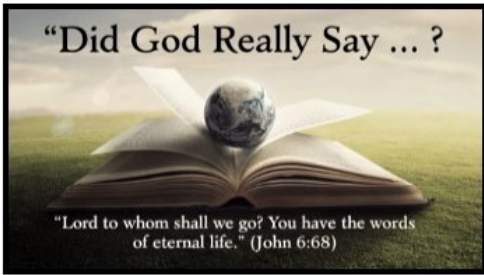
If you would like to sponsor either the CD Ministry or provide Altar flowers, the sign-up sheets for the new year are available in the Narthex.

DartBall

There is a full schedule of dartball games, opponents, and locations posted on the bulletin board in the office.



“Did God Really Say ... ?



2019 Lutherans for Life of Wisconsin Essay Contest

For students in Grades 6 through 12, any Lutheran student or student in a Lutheran school is eligible. Students will write a life-affirming essay based on the 2019 Conference theme: “Did God Really Say...? and Conference Bible verse: “Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” (John 6:68). Not incorporating the conference verse in the essay will disqualify the entry.

Grades 6 - 8 should submit essays up to 400 words.

Grades 9 - 12 should submit essays up to 750 words.

Entries should be submitted digitally using Microsoft Word via email to LFLofWIEssay@gmail.com by March 15, 2019. There will be a \$150 prize for each of the two categories for the LFL of Wisconsin Essay Contest. The two winners will advance to the national contest.

Full rules are available in the church office window.

***“Whoever gives thought to the word will discover good,
and blessed is he who trusts in the Lord.”
(Proverbs 16:20 ESV)***



Beloit Domestic Violence Survivor Center

**Spring Rally - St. John's - April 24, 2019
Beloit Domestic Violence Survivor Center
Mandy Chitwood, volunteer coordinator**

Ingathering for women who are starting over:

**personal; feminine products items such as shampoo,
tooth paste, lotion, deodorant, toothbrush & paste
usable kitchen items: cups, plates, silverware pots &
pans**

paper products: toilet paper, garbage bags, paper towels

cleaning products, dish soap

Clean & Gently used:

kitchen towels, personal towels and washcloths

seasonal clothing for women & children

sheets, pillowcases, blankets, pillows

baby items: diapers, baby clothing

**We gather for worship every Sunday morning at 9 am,
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!



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.



facebook

Beloit

MEALS WHEELS!

delivering more than meals

Do you need help getting meals or know someone who does? Contact Beloit Meals on Wheels

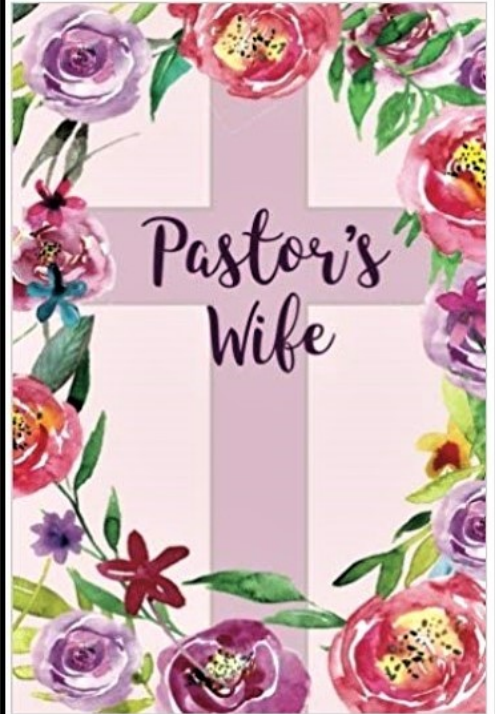
Beloit Meals on Wheels delivers nutritious meals directly to our client's homes. We serve clients age 60 and older, who are home bound and not driving, and live in the Beloit area. Depending on the need, home-delivered meals can be on a short- or long-term basis. Menus are developed by a registered dietician to ensure meals meet 1/3 of the Recommended Daily Allowance for seniors and our food is prepared by Best Events Catering. In addition to home-delivered healthy meals, our clients receive a daily visit from our friendly volunteers. Signing up is easy! For more information, contact us at 608-362-3683 or visit us online at www.beloitmealsonwheels.org



This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us hope it is not raining
(Psalm 118:24 ESV
with Grandma Molly variation)

photo by
Berta Ingham Eddy

March is Pastor's Wife
Appreciation Month



Staff and Contact Information

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



HAPPY SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

It's not luck...
it's God's favor.

From the fullness of his grace we have all
received one blessing after another.

JOHN 1:16



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
IGLESIA LUTERANA SAN JUAN

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Beloit, WI 53511

