

## **Office Hours**

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

## **Church Staff**

Pastor Karla Leiby  
[pastorkarla@stjohnslutherannorry.org](mailto:pastorkarla@stjohnslutherannorry.org)  
570-854-3919

William Jacavage  
Director of Music

Sue Billman  
Office Manager  
[sjelc300@ptd.net](mailto:sjelc300@ptd.net)

Tina Pontius  
Treasurer

Joyce Shearer  
Payroll Treasurer

Barb Moyer  
Restricted Fund Treasurer

## **Congregation Officers**

Mike Erdley, President  
Holly Bedisky, Vice President  
Eric Shearer, Secretary

## **Congregation Council**

Mike McWilliams  
Teresa Meisinger  
Pam Miller  
Teresa Miller  
Tom Propst  
Karen Smeltz  
Randy Stine  
Craig Treacher

**Church phone:** 570-473-3770

**Email:** [sjelc300@ptd.net](mailto:sjelc300@ptd.net)

**Website:**  
<https://stjohnslutherannorry.org>



As we enter the season of Lent, our theme will be “All In” using resources from Barn Geese Worship. Jesus shows what it is like to be all in for the reign of God. It means being fully invested, deeply committed. There are no backup options. Everything is on the line.

Before we can go all in, though, God shows us the way. God knows that going all in for this beautiful broken world is a challenge, so God goes all in on our behalf first, revealing what it is like to bet it all on love. God is all in for us. Let's go all in for God's love, too.

Each week brings a different focus of the ways in which God calls us to go “all in.” We will use these themes in our weekly Sunday Worship and in our midweek service. Here's a peek at our weekly themes.

February 18, Ash Wednesday *All In for Repentance*  
February 22, First Sunday in Lent *All In for Creation*  
March 1, Second Sunday in Lent *All In for the Unknown*  
March 8, Third Sunday in Lent *All In for Wonder*  
March 15, Fourth Sunday in Lent *All In for Relationship*  
March 22, Fifth Sunday in Lent *All In for Letting Go*  
March 29, Palm Sunday *All In for the Highs and Lows*  
April 5, Easter Sunday *All In for Resurrection*

There will also be daily devotions posted on our Facebook page and available in paper format in the back of the sanctuary.

May we be open to the ways that God is inviting us to go *All In* this Lenten season and beyond as you seek to follow our Lord Jesus Christ in all things.

Blessings,

*Pastor Karla*



## Notes From the Director of Music



# Why don't we hear Alleluia sung or spoken during Lent ? "The A word "

In Lutheran worship, the practice of not singing "Alleluia" during Lent is rooted in the liturgical tradition that emphasizes the solemnity and penitential nature of the season. Here are the key reasons behind this practice:

### Preparation for Easter

Lent is a time of reflection and preparation for the celebration of Easter. By withholding "Alleluia," which means "Praise the Lord," the worship community acknowledges the gravity of sin and the need for repentance.

- **Contrast with Joy**: The joyful proclamation of "Alleluia" contrasts sharply with the somber themes of Lent, making its eventual return on Easter Sunday more impactful.

- **Ancient Tradition**: This practice has roots in early Christian liturgical customs, where periods of fasting and penance were observed before major feasts, including Easter.

Over centuries, the church calendar developed specific themes for different seasons, and the exclusion of "Alleluia" during Lent became a common practice in many Christian denominations.

- **Focus on Reflection**: The absence of "Alleluia" encourages congregants to focus on themes of repentance, self-examination, and the anticipation of Christ's resurrection.

- **Sermons and Readings**: Lenten readings and sermons often highlight the need for personal reflection and the reality of suffering, aligning with the overall tone of the season.

### Key Takeaways

- The omission of "Alleluia" during Lent serves to underscore the penitential nature of the season and enhances the joy of Easter.

- This practice is a part of a broader liturgical framework that helps congregants engage more deeply with the themes of reflection and anticipation.

Submitted by,

*Bill Jacavage*

Director of Music

# ASH WEDNESDAY *Worship*

Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 p.m.

With imposition of ashes and  
Holy Communion



Everyone is invited to  
join us Wednesday  
evenings at 7:00 p.m.  
February 25<sup>th</sup> - March  
25<sup>th</sup>. We will meet in  
the Adult Sunday  
School Room.



Pastor Karla will  
be on vacation February 27<sup>th</sup>  
through March 7<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor Ann Zimmerman will  
covering worship service on  
March 1<sup>st</sup> and pastoral emergencies.

## *40 Days of Lent*

Social Ministry will be collecting items for 40 Days  
of Lent. Non-perishable food, personal care  
items and cleaning supplies will be collected now  
through March 29<sup>th</sup>. The designation for this  
year's collection is Kate's Kupboard.



St. John's will be hosting a Red  
Cross Blood Drive on Thursday,  
March 12<sup>th</sup> from 1-6:00 p.m.

All blood types are needed. Please  
consider donating blood to help those  
in need of blood and blood products.

Remember to set your clocks **ahead**  
**one hour** on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>.

Don't be late for church !!

*Daylight  
Saving  
Time*



## **Preschool Registration 2026-2027**

Registration forms are available for 26-27 school  
year. Students must be potty trained and age 3 by  
Sept 1<sup>st</sup> for the Tuesday-Thursday class and 4 years  
of age by Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> for the Monday-Wednesday-  
Friday class. Tuition is \$75 per month for the 3 year  
old class and \$100 per month for the 4 year old  
class. There is a \$30 registration fee. Please  
share with your family, friends and neighbors.  
Forms can be picked up in the church office or  
online at St. John's website.



Scout Sunday was observed on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Some members of the Cub Pack, Troop, and Venture Crew served as greeters and lectors, while others participated at their home church. St. John's was presented a plaque for 80 years of being the charter organization for the Pack. Following worship light refreshments were served in Fellowship Hall for the scouts, their families, and church members.



On February 15<sup>th</sup> through Holy Baptism, we welcomed into our St. John's family Thomas Jeffrey Specht and Samuel George Specht, sons of George and Amanda Specht.

## Spring Fling

Venture Crew 2307 will be having their annual Spring Fling on Saturday, March 14 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Come check it out !

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Vendor spots are currently available, limited space. Rental space is \$20. If you are interested, please contact Lisa Orner at 570-556-7002.

## NEWS FROM KATE'S KUPBOARD

Kate's Kupboard was open on **January 17, 2026**.

We helped **613** people by distributing **181** household/personal care bags, **170** produce boxes, **181** packs of meat and **318** bags of groceries. We helped **121** babies and provided adult care products to **25** people.

The total cost was **\$5,564.50**

Thank you to **ALL** the volunteers who helped with this Kate's Kupboard in any way.

Between our December and January Kate's Kupboard we helped **1** baby. We help people through NEIGHBORLYPA. Com.

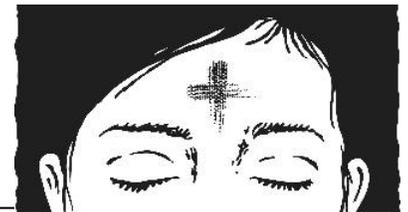
## Thank You

Thank you to all the members of St. John's who supported Kate's Kupboard in 2025. Supporting Kate's Kupboard by sharing your time, talents, treasures and prayers was greatly appreciated. We could not have provided help to 7,617 people and 1,336 babies without your support. We pray for your continued support in 2026 as we continue to do God's Work with Our Hands.

## Luke 2 & John 13

My earliest memory, (for real, I promise), was placing the Christ child in the manger after midnight service on Christmas Eve. I was 4 and I had a profound thought, When did Jesus know that he was our Lord, Savior, and the Lamb of God sent to atone for our sins? I remember it so clearly because it was the first time I asked my Mom and Dad a question that confounded them. Now, 65 years later and I still wonder! The Gospel of Luke in the second chapter gives tantalizing clues when on his eighth day of life the elder Simeon proclaims (in part) to God, <sup>30</sup> **...for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.** Obviously 8-day old Jesus could not understand the proclamation, but his parents did and were amazed. We celebrate this day as Epiphany, the revelation that Christ was revealed to the whole world both gentile and Jew. A few verses later the Gospel simply states, <sup>40</sup>**The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.** Then at age 12 when Jesus was thought to be lost to his parents after a pilgrimage, his exasperated parents find him in the temple and we hear the first words spoken by Jesus in the Gospel of Luke, <sup>49</sup> **...” Why were you searching for me? Did you not know I must be in my Father’s House?”** So, at some point between 8 days and 12 years Jesus discerned that he was true man and true God, I will continue to wonder when He had the revelation. Think about that though, how would you feel at such an awesome moment? It would be a profound change to our lives. But the real meaning in my wondering is that we face our own revelations every day! We can have the Epiphany that yesterday is the past and we have been called to fulfill the great commandment that Christ spoke in the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter in the Gospel of John: <sup>34</sup>**I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.** Each day then we can have this Epiphany / revelation too, it is essential for growth, relevance, and inclusion! Yesterday is the past, we need to look forward, step into a new day, rise up from the dust and walk away into the blessing of the new day mindful of the commandment to love one another!

*Doug Manning*



## THE SYMBOLISM OF ASHES

Ash Wednesday

On the first day of Lent, pastors in many churches dip a finger in ashes (often made by burning palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday) and make a cross on parishioners' foreheads. God's people have used ashes as a sign of mourning, humiliation and penitence. In the Old Testament, ashes were used as a sign of purification offering. The New Testament speaks of repenting in "sackcloth and ashes" (Luke 10:13) On Ash Wednesday, Christians are pained because our sins – private and public – led to Jesus' death. With repentant hearts, we begin the season of Lent, knowing it leads to resurrection on Easter Sunday.

# Thinking of Lent

Advent prepares us for Christ's birth; Lent prepares us for the glorious act of Christ's resurrection. Churches have special services during the weeks of Lent, but it's what each of us does regarding our spiritual life that makes Lent most meaningful.

Lent is a good time to read, study and inwardly digest the four gospels. (The word gospel means "good news.") A college student decided to work his way through Matthew, Mark, Luke and John for his Lenten devotional time. Soon he was fascinated by the stories, such as the Pharisees and Sadducees trying to trap Jesus in debate. The brilliant Jesus handled every occasion with wisdom, leaving the authorities dumbfounded.

During his devotional time, the student was filled with laughter and amazement at the brilliant son of God, who was only in his 30s. Get to know the good news, and you'll understand the young man's amazement.



**PRAYERS:** Steve Reich; Doug Manning; Sue Kurtz; Louise Hilbert; Dixie Wagner; Chris Eisely; Stephanie Zettlemoyer

**HOMEBOUND and CONTINUED PRAYERS:** Shirley Leiby; Kathryn Lebo; Jason Gulden; Helen Snyder; June Diehl; Mary Rogers; Nevin Brungard; Elaine Kohl; Nancy Hendricks; William Wagner; Betty Yerg; Jane Ressler; David Bartholomew; Marti Row

2026	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Jan. Income:	\$ 16,277.07	\$ 22,484.83
Year to Date Income:	\$ 16,277.07	\$ 22,484.83
Jan. Expenses:	\$ 24,550.95	\$ 25,654.90
Year to Date Expenses:	\$ 24,550.95	\$ 25,654.90
	Income Less Expense – Jan.	-\$ 8,273.88
	Year to Date	-\$ 8,273.88

**LONG BEFORE  
ZACCHEAUS  
COULDN'T SEE  
JESUS  
THE TREE WAS  
ALREADY  
PLANTED TO  
MEET HIS NEED**





## Raise the Region 2026

**March 11-12, 2026**

Camp Mount Luther is once again participating in the Raise the Region and we need YOUR support! Your donations made through [raisetheregion.org](http://raisetheregion.org) will help Camp Mount Luther continue to provide quality spiritual formation, outdoor adventure, intentional community, and leadership development experiences for people of all ages. The more donors and donations we raise the better our chances of receiving incentives, stretch dollars and awards!

Please go to [raisetheregion.org](http://raisetheregion.org) March 11 at 6 PM through March 12 at 11:59 PM to make your contribution.

Thank you for your generosity!!

## Summer Camp

### TASTE OF CAMP

- WHEN** Sunday, March 29, 3-5:00 p.m. And stay for CaTALYST's Dinner Church at 5 p.m.
- WHAT** song \* games \* food \* campfire \* 2026 program release
- WHO** new campers \* still-on-the-fence about it campers \* returning campers \* parents \* supporters \* anyone else who wants to have a good time!
- WHERE** Camp Mount Luther, of course!

Questions? Contact [cml@campmountluther.org](mailto:cml@campmountluther.org)

### 2026 SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE

The summer schedule for Camp Mount Luther is now available on their website. Check it out! A variety of theme camp weeks including – Scooby Doo, X-Teen, Pirates, Work Week, Family Camp, Mini-Camp, Day Camps and more. There is something for everyone ages 5-18+. To look at everything available or to register – go to [campmountluther.org/summer](http://campmountluther.org/summer)

# 2026 Easter Flowers

The form, along with payment may be placed in the offering plate (please mark envelope - **“Easter Flowers”**), dropped off at the church office, or mailed to the church. Please make checks payable to: **St. John’s Lutheran Church.** *Flowers may be picked up any time after the 9:00 AM Easter Service.*

**Please Indicate:**  **Yes I will pick up my flowers please**       **No I will not pick up the flowers, plant in church gardens**

**ALL ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY**  
**Sunday, March 1, 2026**

**If a color is not available, the florist will make a substitution at their discretion**

	<b>TOTAL</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Pansy, 4 ½ ” ...\$3.50/each	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Gerbera mix 4 ½ ” ...\$4.00/each	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Daffodils, mini ...\$4.00/each	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Hyacinth (1Bloom)...\$4.00/each    Pink _____    Blue _____    White _____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Hyacinth (3 Blooms) ...\$9.00/each    Pink _____    Blue _____    White _____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Tulips (6 bloom)...\$9.00/each Red _____    Pink _____    Yellow _____    Purple _____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Lilies (4-6 White Blooms)....\$14.00 each	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Color Lily.....\$11.00/each	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Martha Washington.....\$13.00	_____
<b>TOTAL AMT. DUE</b>	_____

**Amt. Paid** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

To the Glory of God \_\_\_\_\_



# March 2026



<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m.          Sunday School 10:15 a.m.          Crew 2307 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Troop AA 6:30 p.m.          7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m.          MomCo 6:30 p.m.  <b>Midweek Lent Service</b>          7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m.          Bell Choir 6:30 p.m.          Al anon 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> 
<p><b>Pastor's Vacation</b></p>						
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m.          Sunday School 10:15 a.m.          Catechism 10:15-12:00</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>Finance</b> 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Troop AA 6:30 p.m.          7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m.  <b>Midweek Lent Service</b>          7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Blood Drive 1-6:00 p.m.          Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m.          Scout District Comm. 6:30 p.m.          Bell Choir 6:30 p.m.  <b>Council Meeting</b> 7:00 p.m.          Al anon 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Spring Fling – Crew 2307          9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.</p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m.          Sunday School 10:15 a.m.</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>WELCA</b> 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Troop AA 6:30 p.m.          7:00 p.m.</p> 	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Messenger Folding 9:00 a.m.          Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m.          MomCo 6:30 p.m.  <b>Midweek Lent Service</b>          7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m.          Scout Roundtable 6:30 p.m.          Bell Choir 6:30 p.m.          Al anon 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>Kate's Kupboard 9-11:00 a.m.</p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m.          Intergeneration Sunday School          And Breakfast 10:15 a.m.          Catechism 10:15-12:00</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Troop AA 6:30 p.m.          7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m.  <b>Midweek Lent Service</b>          7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m.          Bell Choir 6:30 p.m.          Al anon 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>
<p><b>29</b></p>  <p>Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m.          Sunday School 10:15 a.m.          Crew 2307 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>Troop AA 6:30 p.m.          7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>April 1</b></p> <p>Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m.          MomCo 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>2 Maundy Thursday</b></p> <p>Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m.          Maundy Thursday Dinner Church 6:30 p.m.          Al anon 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>3 Good Friday</b></p> <p>Good Friday Service 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> 