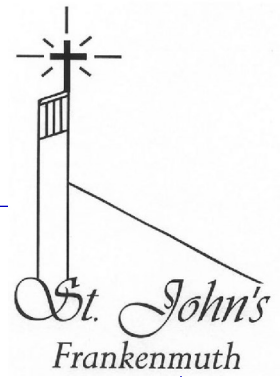


THE VICTORY



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter

March 2021

Fighting the Chill.

The last several weeks, we watched unprecedented winter weather debilitate Texas and surrounding states. Millions of people have suffered from a lack of power, water, and heat, all because of the cold. I first want to acknowledge the hardship so many people have gone through and encourage you to pray for the many residents who have been suffering. However, I also want to draw a comparison between that situation and our Christian lives.

During Holy Week, Jesus explained to his disciples what they should expect between his ascension and second coming. Wars and rumors of wars, famines and earthquakes are the signs that we should expect his return any day. Yet the real hazard Jesus says to watch out for is danger to your Christian faith. He says, "See that no one leads you astray.... Many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of

many will grow cold" (Matthew 24:4, 11, 12).

Infrastructure in Texas wasn't designed to handle extended cold. Michigan pipes and power plants are. The same cold can come to both states, but the outcome is drastically different.

In our spiritual lives, the cold air is like false teaching taught by false prophets. When we hear "false prophets," we shouldn't think of weirdos in ragged robes, telling us our crops will fail if we don't sacrifice a pig to the moon. The spiritual leaders Jesus is warning us about have much more power because they're very skilled at drawing us in and leading people astray from the truth about God. They will be very convincing. They will speak to our felt needs. The danger is their teaching won't align with Scripture, God's Word, as much as they will insist it does and try to use it to defend their ideas.

Continued on Page 2

Worship Service

Sunday at 10 a.m.

Bible Class

Sunday 9 a.m.

Sunday School

Sunday 9 a.m.

Service Broadcast

- ♦ **Sunday 8 a.m.**
Radio WKCQ 98.1 FM
- ♦ **Monday 7 p.m.**
Charter Cable TV channel 191

Church Office

Hours :

Monday—Thursday
10 a.m.—4:30p.m.

Office Phone:

(989) 652-6201

Pastor Patrick Ernst

(612) 845-9162

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When we look at the world's problems, our attention often goes first to the bad behaviors we see, the "lawlessness" and cold love. Think about people just in your life whose love has grown cold. Think about times when your love was pretty chilly. It's not too hard, is it? But loveless lives and lawlessness are like the downed power plants and burst pipes. The bounds of morality, compassion, respect for authority, and love burst open and freeze when Christians aren't prepared to ward off the cold of false teaching. When those behaviors show up in

our lives, we're seeing evidence of the cold attacking our faith. Where can we warm up? Where can we find the truth that will keep us alive? The only person who showed perfect love, to God and other people, is Jesus himself. His perfect life was lived for us and his death paid for our frozen love. The crucified and risen Christ warms our lives with the robe of his righteousness put around us. If you want to live, and live well, cozy up to the Bible, to Jesus. Insulate your faith with God's warm forgiveness and grace.

May Christ send Blessings over our 2021 Council Members.



Herb Zeilinger—President
Nate Reif—Secretary
Rob Reinert—Treasurer
Tom Kerr—Financial Secretary
Chuck Nemec—Cemetery Chairman
Jeremy Aiello—Christian Education
Mike List—Elder Chairman
Birt McKendree—Elder
Jim Tackabury—Elder
Ed Bergman—Elder
Tom Conzelmann—Elder
Mike Daenzer—Elder
Tom Steinbauer—Elder
Chris Kerr—Elder
Ben Reif—Trustee Chairman
Dale Warnemuende—Trustee
Jeff Warnemuende—Trustee

The Beauty Within Our Church Series

For the next couple of months I will be writing about beautiful features throughout our church. As you read, next time you visit reflect upon the beauty and grace around us.



I am the Good Shepherd. I know My sheep and My Sheep know Me. I lay down My life for the sheep.

St. John 10: 14-15

The Good Shepherd Sends Shepherds ~ 75 Years of Blessings

This year marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. The work of the seminary is aptly pictured in the Good Shepherd stained glass window in many chapels. The picture first shows that all teaching in the seminary is

centered in the Good Shepard who laid down His life for our salvation. Through His life and death, He redeemed us from the terrible grasp of the old wolf, the devil. Then the portrait reminds students each day that they are being prepared to be shepherds under the Good Shepard, feeding the flock on the green pastures of Word and Sacrament.

~Lutheran Sentimental Magazine January-February 2021 publication

Thank you Pastor Ernst for your studies at the Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary.

The Beauty Within Our Church Series ~ continued



The altar is the chief focal point of the church building. It is a table for the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Here heaven and earth are united as the body and blood of Jesus are given under the elements of bread and wine for our forgiveness and where the prayers of God's people are offered on behalf of the church and the world.

Above the altar is a wooden sculpture of Christ as a reminder of his death and resurrection. Candles on each side of the altar remind us that Christ is the light of the world.

The **baptismal font** holds the water for baptism. Our baptism sets us out on a lifelong journey that is characterized by our relationship to God, our relationship to our faith community, our relationships in our commu-

nity and the wider world. Living in our baptism means living a life of repentance, faith, and growth in the practices of discipleship.

The **pulpit** is the larger stand and it is normally used for the reading of the Gospel and the sermon. The **pulpit** is placed to one side and the **altar** or communion table is in the center. Here at St. John's we have only a pulpit, but many Lutheran churches have a pulpit and a lectern.

Church **paraments** are the cloths that adorn the altar, pulpit, communion table and other parts of a church sanctuary. Along with vestments -- **stoles** and other pieces of traditional clergy apparel -- the paraments are changed with the church calendar, and have specific colors and symbols to highlight various seasons and festival days.

Thank You Altar Guild Members for keeping our altar so beautiful throughout the liturgical seasons.

Book Review ~ Jeremy Aiello



March's book recommendation: *The Accidental Lutheran* By Nancy Almodovar

After years in the Reformed church, Nancy began to hunger for something more. Then, snowmageddon hit in Idaho and Nancy and her husband Bobby were looking for a church they could attend closer to home. God providentially directed them to Faith Lutheran, where they soon found that their beliefs regarding the Lord's Supper aligned more closely, and they were soon to find out that baptism really does save. This is their journey out of the Dutch Reformed understanding and into Lutheran theology.

"Dr. Nancy Almodovar's *The Accidental Lutheran* is a must read for anyone seeking the clear, historical, orthodox, and evangelical gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Nancy makes contested doctrines within the

Protestant world easily accessible by incorporating her personal journey as the backdrop, citing original sources (e.g., Reformed and Lutheran Confessional documents), and, finally, judging both positions against the final authority: Holy Scripture. A great read, you won't be disappointed!" --Jeff Damec, Christian, husband, father, and marketing executive

Nancy A. Almodovar grew up in a Pentecostal home and eventually became a Reformed Christian. She has been a speaker and author for over a decade and converted to Lutheranism as a truer expression of the Scriptures. During this time, Nancy earned a doctorate in philosophy and apologetics (Trinity), a masters of theology (Trinity) and a masters of Christian studies (Luther Rice Seminary), and is currently working on a Fellow at the International Academy of Apologetics and Human Rights (Strasbourg). She is also a Fellow at the university where she teaches as a professor of world religions. She is the author of over twenty books, one on the problem of evil (*Faith Seeking Consolation*) and one on her journey out of charismatic theology (*A Modern 95: Questions for Today's Evangelicals*).

You can purchase this book at amazon.com, or see Jeremy Aiello for more information.

Our thoughts
and prayers
Are with you

I urge that requests, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for everyone~ for kings and all those in authority. 1 Timothy 2:1-2

May God's comfort surround the family and friends of those who have fallen asleep in Jesus and give them peace in knowing that their loved ones have found eternal peace.

The following Memorials were made in honor of Elva Kehrberg, Sally Loesel and Thelma Kaesmeyer:

General Fund: \$100.00

Good Samaritan Fund: \$200.00

Bible Word Search: **CROSS, TOMB, & RESURRECTION**

Z C W B D M L O K S S Y Y H X
U D R E E R V E A Q P Z Q E G
I H E A V E N S V V S D D H L
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V C O O O E G E L D Y E S N E
O C R M Q M X V I E C J W E F
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R E S U R R E C T I O N E I X

AROSE
CRUCIFIXION
FORGIVENESS
MAGDALENE
RESURRECTION
SINS

ASCENSION
DISCIPLES
HEAVEN
NICODEMUS
ROMANS
THORNS

CROSS
EASTER
JESUS
REDEMPTION
SALVATION
TOMB