

St. John Journal

News & info for the family of St. John
Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill



*A loving and welcoming family of faith,
excited about what God has done
(and continues to do!)*

Volume 16, Number 03

March, 2023

Volume 16 Issue 03

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Lent means “spring!” Lent is a personal and congregational journey upon which we pause in our busy life to reflect. Paul’s counsel is that our reflection should be the practice of self-examination. He writes in 2 Corinthians 13:5 “*Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!*”

To “examine” means to put ourselves to the test, that is to inspect our lives for the purpose of discovering unhealthy practices which hinder our relationship with God and others. The Lenten practice of ‘giving up’ something serves a purpose. In the United States, the most common things being given up for Lent are: 1) Chocolate, 2) Social Networking, 3) Alcohol, 4) Twitter, 5) Facebook, 6) School, 7) Meat 8) Sweets, 9) Coffee, and 10) Fizzy drinks. After 40 days of “giving up,” people return to these joys.

The practice of ‘giving up’ for Lent has lost its purpose. This discipline serves to remove sinful feelings, thoughts, words, and deeds from our daily lives. In the place of sinful ways, we are to implement new practices which draw us closer to God. Connecting with God through prayer is a divine network which builds this divine relationship. Reading the Bible and participating in Bible Study connects our soul with God and His message to us. Sunday and Lenten worship connect us with God and God’s people. Lent means ‘spring.’ As the weather warms up, spring offers the image of flower’s, bush’s, and tree’s blooming and new life beginnings. The image of life is the purpose of Lent. Just as the seed sprouts and emerges from the soil, so too can our faith relationship with God grow and take on a new and fresh life.

So, let us examine ourselves and weed out sin in our life by giving them to Jesus on the cross. Let us then plant practices in our life that will bear a fruitful relationship with God.

Soli Deo Gloria - to the Glory of God.

Pastor Norm



Will be meeting on Sunday, March 5th 2023 @ 4 pm St John's Activity Center. Members are encouraged to wear green.

Acolytes & Readers for Lenten Services at 6:00PM

<i>Date</i>	<i>Acolyte</i>	<i>Reader</i>
March 1st	Jax Antkowiak	Kallie Krause
March 8th	Harper Huckert	Katie Seeker
March 15th	Kannon Koehler	Jennifer Anderson
March 22nd	Logan Boeker	Charles Gaskamp
March 29th	Ainsley Kuecker	Kallie Krause

Readings for March

March		FIRST READING	RESPONSIVE	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
5	Second Sunday in Lent	Genesis 12:1-9	Psalm 121	Romans 4:1-8, 13-17	John 3:1-17
12	Third Sunday in Lent	Exodus 17:1-7	Psalm 95:1-9	Romans 5:1-8	John 4:5-26, 39-42
19	Fourth Sunday in Lent	Isaiah 42:14-21	Psalm 142	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41
26	Fifth Sunday in Lent	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 130	Romans 8:1-11	John 1:1-45

March Acolyte Layreader Flowers

5	Elaina Morgan	Connie Rohde	Butch Seeker family in memory of Lanell's birthday and baptism
12	Randa Tillman	Sandra Tillman	
19	Owen Finke	Joseph Ordner	Trey & Cathy Boeker in honor of Clay's baptism
26	Izzy Sommerfield	Sandy Ordner	The Family of Delores Gaskamp in honor of her 90th Birthday



A very Happy Birthday to all members celebrating theirs in March.

Baptismal Anniversaries

3/01/1946	Cookie Engeling	3/15/1987	Heather Myers
3/01/1992	Christopher Horton	3/17/2019	Elijah Rosenbaum
3/01/1992	Mason Marburger	3/18/1973	Penny Randermann
3/03/1957	Allan Winkelmann	3/19/1989	Derek Gaskamp
3/05/1972	Mary Sue Longhofer	3/21/1982	Brett Schroeder
3/06/1983	Brian Estes	3/21/1999	Justin Neuendorff
3/06/1985	Meredith Sommerfield	3/21/2010	Taylor Bosse
3/08/1953	Joyce Richter	3/22/1987	Blake Becker
3/10/2013	Brooklyn Randermann	3/23/2003	Clayton Boeker
3/11/1962	Marcus Randermann	3/27/1988	Jennifer Anderson
3/11/1973	Paul Randermann	3/27/1966	Laura Sulaica
3/11/1973	Robert Randermann	3/28/1979	Sharon Boswell
3/11/2001	Mollie Grote	3/29/1981	David Schawe
3/11/2012	Rhett Schroeder	3/29/1998	Mina Kraft
3/12/1944	David Bryan	3/31/1940	Calvin Janner
3/14/1990	Dalton Feldmann		
3/15/1953	Debra Westerfeld		
3/15/1953	Gary Schulze		

Wedding Anniversaries

3/04/2000	Kenneth & Christin Seeker	3/24/1984	Shannon & Dodie Mehr
3/05/2001	Lisa & René Chavelas	3/25/2000	Matthew & Rachel Bentke
3/09/2019	Mary & Robbie Roeser	3/27/2015	Adrienne & Spencer Reynolds
3/12/1978	Robert & Janice Fairlie		
3/13/2010	Josh & Rachel Church		
3/17/1990	Russell & Tina Seeker		
3/19/2021	Reagan & Taylor Lawhun		

You are in our thoughts and prayers as each of you celebrate your special day. May God richly bless you!

REACHING YOUR CHURCH OFFICE

Linda Crabtree prairiehillsecretary@gmail.com Church Office Phone: 979-836-8666
 Office hours: Monday-Wednesday 8:00am-4:00pm Website: www.stjohnprairiehill.org
 Church Council President Herbert Klatte, Jr. (936) 801-8663

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church Church
Council Meeting Minutes for February 13, 2023**

The Church Council of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church met for its monthly meeting on February 13, 2023, at 6:00 pm. Council Present Herbert Klatte, Jr., called the meeting to order. Pastor Norm Sulaica opened with scripture and prayer. All current members were present except Rita Gaskamp. The January minutes were approved as distributed.

Unfinished Business Semi-annual meeting Kenneth Seeker was approved as President-Elect. Lightening strike insurance claim is now complete. Brenham Iron Works: Activity Center building work on the books to begin.

New Business Lenten and Holy Week worship services. Soup supper sign up sheets are ready. Easter Breakfast will be held after sunrise service. Luther League to help. Photo Directory for the congregation will be scheduled. **Motion** on quote given to remove old diseased and dead tree. Sendero Technical Services for \$2100.00. **MSC.** Also, look into the trees heading to the cemetery next.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer Report Sharon Neutzler Report as submitted.

Financial Secretary Report Jeannie Kroll Amend the January minutes to reflect the correct December, 2022, giving as follows: General Fund Envelopes of Weekly Giving \$13,873.00, plus special offering (Men in Mission Scholarship) \$650.00, Loose Offering \$784.00 and Direct Deposit of \$4331.32, adjustment of \$207.00 for a total of \$19,845.32. For the month of January, the total General Fund Envelopes of Weekly Giving \$11,583.00, plus special offering (Lutheran Disaster Response) \$725.00, Loose Offering \$139.01 and Direct Deposit of \$5314.90 for a total of \$17,761.91. (The sum of \$23,150 monthly is needed to meet the 2023 budget approved at the October semi-annual congregational meeting.)

Community Concerns Report India Randermann Food Pantry served 67 families. (112 people) at two distributions in January. **Motion** for Blood Drive set for April 23, 2023. **MSC.** Text vote to change the date to April 30, 2023, as requested by the Gulf Coast Blood Drive. **MSC**

Worship and Music Report Virginia Altman No report.

Parish Education Report Stephanie Koehler Children's Sunday school classes resumed January 8. **Motion** to allow use of Activity Center 1st Sunday of every month for Women's Bible Study. **MSC.** **Motion** to pay for camper fees upfront and then get reimbursed. **MSC.** **Motion** to approve March 5 and March 26, 2023 for bake sales;

April 9, 2023 for an auction at Easter; and possible spaghetti dinner in the near future. **MSC.**

Youth Report Kenneth Seeker Luther League had 7 youth, 5 adults and 1 friend for the first bowling/pizza get together in February. Youth had great ideas for upcoming events. First Sunday of every month: next, March 5 at 2 pm bowling. Youth are in charge of picking leaders. Council will approve their choice and get background checks on the adults. Future fishing tournaments: one per year instead of two.

Evangelism Report Josh Clay First SHARE meeting had 8 in attendance.

Property Report Colton Maass Insurance claim on lightening strike previously discussed. Ryan Lynch has been contacted regarding the parsonage bathroom vents.

Pastor's Report Pr. Norm Sulaica Luther League (high school youth ministry), first Sunday of the month. Confirmation Camp **Motion** for confirmation to always be the 3rd Sunday in May. **MSC.** Confirmation Sunday, May 21, 2023. Ash Wednesday Service (February 22, 2023) NALC Pastor Pulpit Exchange Men's Ministry (Men in Mission) St. Matthew Lutheran Church: funeral for Anna Bosse on February 13, 2023 Family to visit February 24 to 28, 2023

Motion to approve all reports as presented.

MSC Motion to adjourn. **MSC.**

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Koehler for
Rita Gaskamp Council Secretary

2023 ST JOHN COUNCIL MEMBERS

President.....Herbert Klatte, Jr.
Vice-President Kenneth Seeker
Treasurer Sharon Neutzler
Secretary.....Rita Gaskamp
Community Concerns.....India Randermann
Evangelism.....Josh Clay
Financial Secretary Jeannie Kroll
Parish EdStephanie Koehler
Property Colton Maass
Worship & Music Virginia Altman



March

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<p>March Special Envelope Habitat for Humanity</p>			<p>1 4:45PM Confirmat Class 5:00PM Soup Supp 6:00PM Worship S vice 7:00PM Choir</p>
<p>5 Second Sunday in Lent 8:30AM Sunday School 9:15AM Worship Service Youth Bake Sale after Wor- ship Service 2:00PM Luther League - Bowling 3:00PM Via de Cristo Train- ing - Parish Hall 4:00PM Young Women's Circle</p>	<p>6 10:00AM Bible Study 6:00PM Executive Meeting</p>	7	<p>8 2:00PM Game Day 4:45PM Confirmat Class 5:00PM Soup Supp 6:00PM Worship S vice 7:00PM Choir</p>
<p>12 Third Sunday in Lent 8:30AM Sunday School 9:15AM Worship Service</p>	<p>13 10:00AM Bible Study 6:00PM Council Meeting</p>	<p>14 6:30AM Food Pantry</p>	<p>15 4:45PM Confirmat Class 5:00PM Soup Supp 6:00PM Worship S vice 7:00PM Choir</p>
<p>19 Fourth Sunday in Lent No Sunday School 9:15AM Worship Service</p>	<p>20 10:00AM Bible Study</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>21 9:00AM Quilting</p>	<p>22 4:45PM Confirmat Class 5:00PM Soup Supp 6:00PM Worship S vice 7:00PM Choir</p>
<p>26 Fifth Sunday in Lent 8:30AM Sunday School 9:15AM Worship Service Youth Bake Sale after Wor- ship Service</p>	<p>27 10:00AM Bible Study</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8</p>	<p>28 6:30AM Food Pantry 9:00AM Quilting</p>	<p>29 4:45PM Confirmat Class 5:00PM Soup Supp 6:00PM Worship S vice 7:00PM Choir</p>

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DAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 ion er ier-	2 Office Closed 10:00AM Naomi Circle	3 Office Closed	4
5 ion er ier-	9 Office Closed 2:00PM Ladies Aid	10 Office Closed	11
12 ion er ier-	16 Office Closed	17 Office Closed	18
19 ion er ier-	23 Office Closed	24 Office Closed	25
26 ion er ier-	30 Office Closed	31 Office Closed	

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

There will be no Sunday School on March 19th



Ladies, come one! Come all!

To the Ladies' Salad Supper on April 16th at 4:30 p.m. in the St. John Fellowship Hall.

Bring a favorite salad to share. Appetizers and desserts will be provided. Come for the food, fellowship, and fun!



The following are sharing their time and talents for the month of March:

COMMUNION BREAD Deanna Giese

ALTAR PREPARATION Jennifer Schroeder, Jill Eckert

FAMILY AID Carolyn Kessel, Mary Hill, Sandy Janner, Rosa Sloan, Audrey Steinbach, Elvera Tisdell, Janet Wehring

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE Donna Bentke, Elvera Tisdell

SANCTUARY PREP Cookie Engeling, Audrey Steinbach

CHURCH TELLERS Christin Seeker, Cathie Klatter

SCREEN CREW Anna Finke, Jennifer Schroeder

USHERS Don Holtkamp, Chris Koehler, Blake Becker

LADIES AID Carolyn Kessel, Janet Wehring, Dorothy Haevischer

A special thank you to those who volunteer and continue to volunteer within the church, behind the scenes. It truly does take a village. Again, many thanks for your commitment.



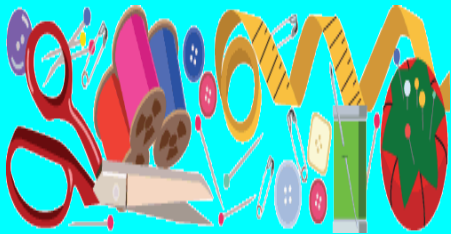
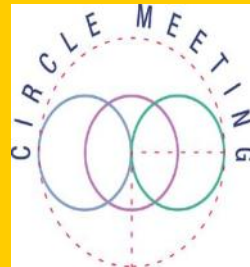
Luther League

The next Luther League meeting will be March 8th with bowling at the Bowling Alley beginning at 2:00PM. All jr. high and high school students are invited to attend.



Naomi Circle

**Meets March 2nd at 10:00AM.
Bible Study leader and hostess
is Susi Bentke.**



**Quilters will meet on March 21st
and March 28th at 9:00AM.
Hostess for March is
Deanna Giese.**

**St John Lutheran Church Prairie Hill
Food Pantry Upcoming Dates:
March 14th and March 28th
6:30AM-8:00AM**



Game Day

Each 2nd Wednesday of the month, there will be a Game Day at the church from 2:00pm - 5:00pm. The next Game Day is March 8th. Join us for fun, games and fellowship. All ages are welcome.



YOUTH
Bake Sale
Sweet and salty treats
for everyone

*Proceeds benefit youth
Summer Camp*

March 5th
March 26th

Immediately following
Church

The poster features a central white rectangular area with a thin gold border. The text is centered within this area. Surrounding the text are several realistic illustrations of baked goods: a croissant on the left, a donut with white frosting and sprinkles at the top right, a chocolate-glazed croissant on the right, a slice of bread with a hole in the center at the bottom left, and a cinnamon roll at the bottom right. The background of the poster is a light beige color.



Contact Information for Pastor Norm

Pastor Norm can be reached in either of the following ways:

Cell Phone Number (361) 362-9108 Or

Email: pastornorm2003@yahoo.com

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, March 5th

Youth Bake Sale after Worship

2:00PM Luther League Bowling

3:00PM-6:00PM Via de Cristo Training

4:00PM Young Women's Circle

Wednesday, March 8th

2:00PM Game Day

Each Wednesday in March

5:00PM Soup Supper

6:00PM Lenten Worship Service

Sunday, March 26th

Youth Bake Sale after Worship

Coming in April:

Sunday, April 2nd

9:15AM Youth Sing at Worship Service

Sunday, April 9th

Youth Silent Auction during Easter Breakfast

8:30AM Youth Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 30th

Blood Drive

Choir Practice

Choir practice is held each Wednesday at 7:00PM. The choir is looking for men of the congregation to join and share their voices. Practice is on Wednesdays at 7:00PM. Please join in to lend your voice.



Work is being done to reopen our church library. The library will be located in the meeting room across from the Pastor's office. Please feel free to help us fill out shelves by donating any Christian fiction or non-fiction books. They can be new or used, and can be for adults or children. A box is located for the collection in the narthex of the church. Thank you for any help with this. We will keep you posted on the progress towards when the opening occurs.



**St John Lutheran Church
of Prairie Hill**
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The deadline for the
April newsletter is:

April 17th

Submissions received after
this date will be included if
time and space allow.

Thank you!



March

**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**