

The Richland Word

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 3

MARCH

2020

Sunday School News

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!

A big thank you to our congregation who donated food, money, and participated in our Potato and Salad Bar Fundraiser last month. We appreciate your support. A shout out to Becky Muehlbrad and Mary Martinka for your help in making this a success.

Up and Coming Fundraisers

We have two up and coming fundraisers for our mission trip to Crownpoint, New Mexico, and summer camp at LOMT-Camp Lone Star, in La Grange. We will be serving **breakfast Easter Sunday from 7:30pm until 10am with a free-will donation being accepted.** Join us in the Parish Hall Easter Sunday to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord beginning with a great breakfast together!

Then on Sunday, May 17th, the last Sunday of the 2019-2020 Sunday School year, we will be enjoying a lunch catered by Captain Reds, (chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, dessert and a drink). Tickets for this lunch will be \$15 per person. We will also be having a silent auction that day. Tickets are on sale now. For tickets, or if you have any questions, contact John or Shannon Patrone.



Lent 2020

“Lent” comes from the Old English meaning “spring season,” and refers to the 40-day period (excluding Sundays) starting Ash Wednesday and ending on Holy Saturday (this year, February 26th and April 11th, respectively) of Holy Week.

It is traditionally a time of *special* prayers, fasting, and giving, above and beyond what is the normal or regular pattern of the believer.

St. John’s traditionally observes the season of Lent with a series of midweek Wednesday evening gatherings, starting at 6:00pm with a light supper. There is no cost for this meal, usually hosted by various groups and committees within the congregation.

The season kicks off with a traditional Ash Wednesday worship service in the sanctuary, and then, for the rest of the Lenten season, up until the beginning of Holy Week, the past few years members and friends have

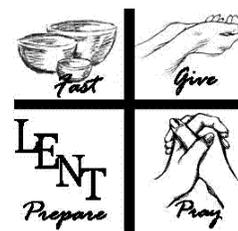
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March Acolytes

- 1 - Cameron P.
- 8—Gwen and Steger
- 15—Elaine
- 22—Cameron L. & Alayna
- 29—McKenzie and Andrew



Continued on next page

Holy Communion Available and "TRUTH PLUS LOVE"

"Christians today are facing a crisis of influence. So many people dismiss us as either too rigid and judgmental in our convictions or too soft and easygoing in our response to challenging and complex issues. And with social media as our megaphone, we can now comment on anything and everything--often without thinking through how it might come across to others...especially to those whose only knowledge of God comes from us."

With these words, evangelist Matt Brown introduces his book, "Truth Plus Love: The Jesus Way to Influence." According to Brown, truth communicated by employing the grace and *love* of God is what is needed today.

Beginning Wednesday evening, March 4th, starting at 6:50pm in the parish hall, you are invited to join others in learning how to more effectively communicate with others the faith we have learned to cherish. A meal will be available in the parish hall beginning at 6:00pm, and then at 6:50pm we will transition for the next 45", around tables, to hear, discuss, and learn more about "Truth Plus Love."

Also beginning in March, on March 8th, St. John will make the Sacrament of the Altar (Holy Communion) available to those that

Men's Sunday Morning Breakfast & Bible Study

Did you know that St. John's has a men's breakfast/bible study? Thanks to the vision of *chef* Chris Hamann, St. John offers a monthly (normally twice a month, as announced) men's

would like it, immediately following the worship service, on those Sundays it is not served *within* the worship service.

Holy Communion (also called The Sacrament of the Altar, The Eucharist, or The Lord's Supper) has always been the center piece of Christian worship, faith and life. And with many not able to attend every Sunday, especially those certain Sundays when the sacrament is normally served, this way *anyone* who wants or feels a need for this healing meal, *any Sunday*, can find the nourishment for faith and life that they need at St. John.

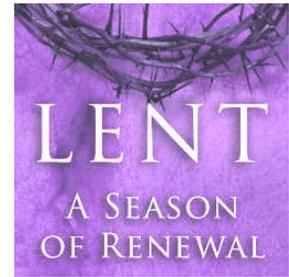
This service will be brief (5 to 10 minutes) and immediately follow the worship service. Those that would like the sacrament on those Sundays when it is not made available *within the worship service*, will simply be invited to gather at the front of the sanctuary, after the "Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God." Gathering together in the 1st pew in front of the pulpit, candidates will be led through a simple order of confession and forgiveness, the elements will be consecrated, and Holy Communion will be served.

"Even now, return to Me, with all your heart" says the Lord (Joel 2)
- Pastor Todd

breakfast, which includes a Bible study led by Pastor Todd. The study's current focus is the life of King David, as recorded in First Samuel.

Come for breakfast. Stay for the Bible study. 7:30 to 8:45am.

The next "B&B" is March 8th!



Lent 2000

- continued from p. 1

gathered (or remained) in the parish hall, following the meal, for a time of devotion, learning, inspiration, and prayer.

The focus of our midweek Lenten gatherings this year is improving our effectiveness in shining the light of Christ (the theme of the season of Epiphany) where we work and live: *Truth Plus Love: The Jesus Way to Influence*. Together we will look at particular Scripture passages that relate to ways to make our lives "more salty," using the image that Jesus gives us in Matthew 5.

We will begin on Wednesday evening, March 4, and meet on the Wednesday evenings following, concluding the first Wednesday in April.

Wednesday evening schedule during the season of Lent:
(up until Holy Week)

5:30pm Vocal Choir
(but not March 4th)

6:00pm Supper

6:50pm "Truth Plus Love"

7:40pm Handbell Choir
(in the sanctuary)

Women's Guild News

The Women's Guild meeting in March is on the 15th and will consist of making sock bunnies for our shut-ins.

Refreshments that day will be provided by Donna Sammons, Mary Martinka, and LaVerne Engelmann.

Copies of the yearly Women's Guild schedule are in the sanctuary and the Parish Hall. If you are interested in helping with refreshments or giving a devotion where there is a blank, please call Brenda Kirchner or Sandy Brunton

All women are invited to attend. Join us, we are a fun group of women.



“Work Day” March 28th

St. John's Property Maintenance Committee has set March 28th as a “work day” for the congregation to spruce up St. John's campus in preparation for the celebration of our Lord's resurrection in April. (The following Saturday, April 5th, is a back-up, in case of rain on March 28th.) Please bring your own work gloves.

The day will begin at 8:00am and end approximately 11:30am. Contact Ronald Roithner with any questions.



Crafting w/ Friends

In March, crafters will be meeting on March 14th and 28th at 10am in the Parish Hall.

Miriam Hees will continue to work with our new young ladies called “Charms”. They are making dinner napkins to possibly sell as a fundraiser to aid in the expense of the summer programs (summer camp and mission trip) this year.

We are looking into creating a back for our donated quilt top and completion of the quilt, plus we have begun work on blankets for Seton Hospital for advanced ill patients (families will be able to keep them).

Consider joining us. We are a small group but have fun sharing ideas and projects.

- Sandy Brunton



Cookbooks

The Women's Guild still has a few remaining cookbooks available to sell. There are some on the table in the parish hall. The price of the cookbooks has been reduced to \$15 each.

Contact the church office if you want one please or put your money in the envelope provided, and put that on Sandy's desk in the church office. Thank you.

Thank You

Thank you to Pastor Todd, Mark Muehlbrad, and the Church Council for the wonderful surprise on February 16th, with a certificate for 15 years of service and a gift certificate to area restaurants.

I was surprised, and it was very appreciated!

I love my job!

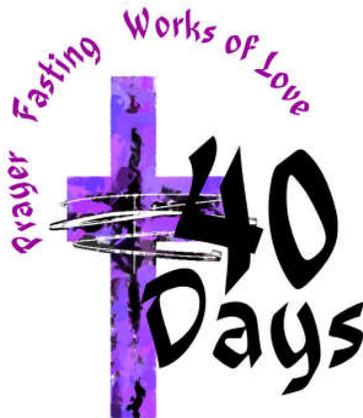
- Sandy Brunton

Thank You

On behalf of myself and the rest of St. John's staff, I would like to thank the congregation for voting to approve a bonus this year for the staff at the recent meeting of the membership.

God bless you.

- Pastor Todd



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Church Office: 512-251-4314



LCMC

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church of Richland (SJR) is a member of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. For more information about LCMC, visit their website at www.lcmc.net

Pastor: Rev. Todd Peterson
Cell: 512-745-1057
pastortoddpeterson@gmail.com

Secretary: Sandy Brunton
office@stjohnrichland.org

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 a.m.

Sunday School for All Ages
(in the parish hall)

10:15 a.m. Lenten Worship

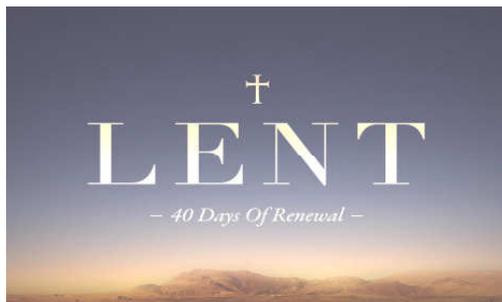


Midweek Suppers for Lent 2020

One way St. John celebrates the Lenten season is by gathering on Wednesday evenings together for a common meal.

St. John's Joint Team, the Church Council, the vocal choir, and the hand bell choir have each signed up to provide the supper for one of the six midweek gatherings this year. However, March 18 and April 1 are still available.

Visit the sign-up sheet on the table in the back of the sanctuary if you'd like to help.



"Seniors Luncheon"

This group consists of "seniors" (anyone that considers himself or herself to be!) and meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 11:30am at various local restaurants.

The next Seniors Luncheon is on Tuesday, March 24th, at IHOP in Stone Hill Town Center (18709 Limestone Commercial Dr, Pflugerville, TX 78660), and starts at 11:30am.

Call Pastor Todd or the church office for more information.

