

The Richland Word

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Adult Sunday School: Annual Winter Focus on the Prophets Congregational Mtg.

Lessons in the spring quarter address the importance of prophets in Israel's history. Moses revealed God's promise to give his people prophets who would speak God's word. Stories of Joshua, Huldah, and Elijah show the fulfillment of the promise.

Lessons on Ezra, Nehemiah, and Lamentations illustrate how the prophets gave new hope to the Israelites. At Easter, Isaiah's prophecies portray Jesus as the suffering servant through whom believers receive salvation. In the last lessons we see how Elijah, Jeremiah, and other prophets called people back when they strayed from God's covenant.

Sunday School books, which include Scripture and commentary, are free and all are welcome to join us.

- Loyd Shrout



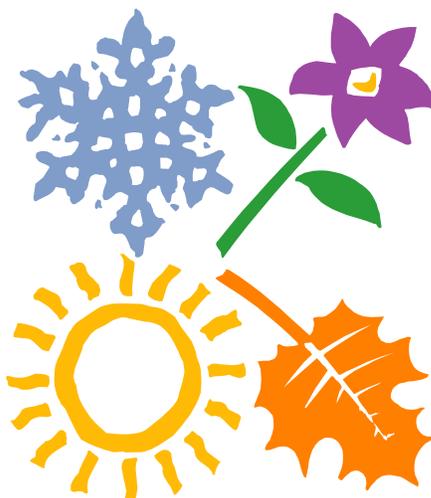
Adult Class

St. John's annual winter Congregational Meeting is set for Sunday, March 14th, following worship, in the Parish Hall.

This is an important time for us to review the previous year, recognize past leaders, and highlight some dreams, hopes, and visions for the coming year.

The meeting is later this year due to Covid and the winter blizzard, but many people have worked hard to prepare an excellent Annual Report for Ministry Year 2020 for our members, to be distributed at this meeting.

All members are cordially invited to attend.



ANNUAL MEETING

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Lent 2021

After having to cancel our Ash Wednesday worship service due to the blizzard and freeze of that week, we began our celebration of Lent with our midweek service on Wednesday, February 24th. It was a warm and beautiful Texas night that evening (especially compared to the previous week!), and those in attendance decided to gather outside in the front of the sanctuary, as the sun was setting. It was a beautiful way, time and place, to begin our Lenten season, celebrating life, the gift of one another, and God's great gift of

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A Minister's Musings: What a Blast! What a 3 Days!

When the congregation of St. John (or those able to do so) gathered together on Sunday, February 28th, there were stories to be shared, of struggle, survival, and God's provision, having survived the winter blizzard/freeze of 2021. What a blast of cold air and snow Texas received, beginning on Sunday, February 14th (Valentine's Day).

The next three days turned into one for the record books (almost, beaten only once before, in 1949, when temperatures in the Austin area plummeted to minus 6 degrees!).

It was a three days most of us will never forget. Electricity went out, temperatures in homes dropped, pipes froze, and individuals wondered, as

things got colder in our homes than ever before, what the next day would bring.

It was the most unforgettable three days,...and the beginning of the season of Lent!

The season of Lent ends with another "three days" that make even the most challenging and difficult moments of those three days in February pale in comparison. A cosmic struggle that took place both on earth and in the heavenlies, where God in human form implemented the most amazing and mysterious plan of all the ages, for the redemption and salvation of human souls.

Called "The Triduum" by the Ancient Church, it begins on Maundy Thursday evening, and concludes Sunday morning,

on March 28th, Palm Sunday.

Hope you can join us for our remaining 2021 midweek Lenten devotions, starting on Wednesday evening @ 6:45 p.m.

Lent 2021

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salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ.

The theme for this year's midweek Lenten services is the four cardinal virtues (JCMW - justice, courage, moderation, and wisdom), and how these great values are profoundly illustrated in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Using the Service of the Word, these midweek Lenten devotions (March 10th, 17th, and 24th) are offered as a way to prepare for celebrating Holy Week, which begins this year

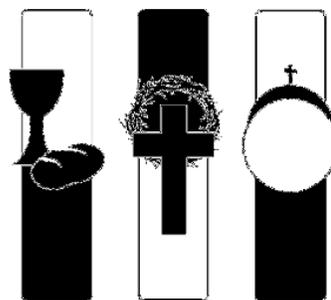
(The traditional Jewish calendar days run from evening to evening. As a result, day 1 - Thursday evening to Friday evening is day 1, Friday evening to Saturday evening is day 2, and Saturday evening to Sunday evening is *the third day*.)

The Easter Triduum, also known as the Holy Triduum (also, the Paschal Triduum), --- these 3 days comprise the most sacred days in the Christian calendar, surpassing even Christmas in their importance, for they contain the revelation and realization in human history of the divine plan for human redemption and eternal salvation, put in place thousands of earlier, during the life of our first parents, Adam and Eve.

As we journey together towards Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week, and then approach the remembrance and celebration of these most holy 3 days, I pray that your heart would be moved...by the greatness of God's love for you, as demonstrated by the sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus Christ, so that you and I might live as His sons and daughters with Him...forever.

"What wondrous love is this,
O, my soul?"

- Pastor Todd



TRIDUUM



Women's Guild

St. John Women's Guild is getting ready for the new year!

It has been a long time since we have met together. March 28th is the date set for our first meeting in 2021, and all ladies are invited! We will meet in the Parish Hall, immediately following the worship service, and, with our face coverings, will be spaced out sufficiently in the Parish Hall for both safety and comfort.

Things we will be discussing include both old business (authorizing the paying of outstanding bills) and new business, including what we would like to do in 2021!

Please bring your dreams and hopes for our Women's Guild to the meeting on the 28th. If you have any questions or would like to help in preparing for this meeting, in any way, please talk to Sandy Brunton or Kathy Pemberton.



Crafting w/ Friends

As the church campus reopened February 28th, St. John's Crafting with Friends group will meet on March 13th at the usual time, 10:00 a.m.

Put your thinking caps on, bring your ideas and maybe some projects with you. It is fun to share our ideas!

If you know of anyone that may be interested in working with us, please invite them. You may not think you are a crafty person, but you would be surprised and I know you have ideas for us to work on.

I hope everyone is well; that winter storm knocked us for a big loop, but now we can get back to doing what we love to do,...and rejoicing in our Lord.

Peace and love, Sandy

Daylight Savings Time Begins

Daylight Saving Time begins this year on Sunday, March 14th. Remember to set your clocks ahead (forward) an hour Saturday night, March 13th, before you go to bed.



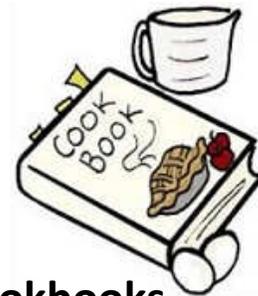
**DAYLIGHT-
SAVING
TIME BEGINS
MARCH 14th**

2021 Flower & Bulletin Charts



New 2021 flower and bulletin charts are posted on the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary. Feel free to sign up on either or both. The flowers can be cut flowers or potted plants.

If you have any questions or would like more information, talk to Mary Martinka or Sandy Brunton.



Cookbooks

The Women's Guild sold cookbooks last year and we still have some left. They are \$15. There are some on the table in the parish hall for you to see. The recipes are from our members.

Contact the church office if you have questions.





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LENT



40 Days of Renewal

The season of Lent this year is celebrated at St. John in a simpler fashion than in the past, with no meal, using an alternative service format, the "Service of the Word."

The theme is the great values known as the cardinal virtues,...justice, courage, moderation, and wisdom,...and how the life of Jesus illustrates these important values.

This time of devotion begins on Wednesday evenings at 6:45p.m. Come and join us.



Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church is associated with Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC). For more information about LCMC, visit their website at www.lcmc.net

Music Opportunities

Since St. John re-opened for in-person ministry last month, members of the Hand Bell Choir began practicing together on Wednesday evenings, beginning March 3rd.

If you would like to try "swinging" (or ringing) the hand bells, talk to Louise Dunklin, St. John's Music Director.

Also, if you would like to join others in preparing a special vocal number for Easter Sunday, please let Louise know. If enough people are interested, she will contact you and set up a time that works for everyone for the group to rehearse.



Holy Week

Ways to Give

For those who use offering envelopes, 2021 envelopes are available in the back of the sanctuary in alpha order. For those not currently using offering envelopes but would like to try them, unlabeled boxes are also available. Simply take an unlabeled box, write the box number and your name on the sheet on the clipboard nearby, and you're ready to go!

Individuals may also go to www.stjohnrichland.org, go to the "Support" tab at the top right of the home page, and give electronically, or by using a mobile device.

