

Gidings

St. John's Lutheran Church Newsletter
April 2020 Edition

Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



There was a real catch as to why so many people were there on Palm Sunday to cheer Jesus on...

Many of them who witnessed any number of Jesus' miracles of feeding and healing were hoping to make him king. But a warrior king, that is. One who would be Messiah, but on their terms. One who would call on God to obliterate the Roman troops who occupied their homeland and who held them under the imperial thumb. One who would issue in a new golden age just like in the good ol' days of King David. One who would support their causes and who would give them the power and privilege they believed they were entitled to. And (can I say it bluntly?) one who would do their bidding, fill their prayers, and bless their agendas... while leaving their personal lives alone.

But, because neither the crowds, (nor even the disciples, for that matter) really understood who and what Jesus really was all about... that he wouldn't be the "superman" or "santa claus" type of Messiah that they clamored for him to be... the rest of the story becomes rather ugly. The very sad truth is Jesus is put to death on Friday before all of Sunday's discarded palm branches are even cleared from the streets.

But that's one part of the story many people would rather ignore.

And yet, how else can you ever even begin to more fully understand God's incredible love for you except by hearing that part of the story? The story of a God who empties Himself on our behalf. A God who literally goes through hell in place of us. A God who is actually willing to become so vulnerable, simply in the hope that you and I would respond by loving Him back and by living-out our lives walking beside Him.

But do you know? There are always more than enough people who are actually quite content, really, in simply hearing the story of the Palm Sunday parade, and then just skipping right over to Easter Sunday's announcement of resurrection. Yet, if you and I are to have a story in which we bank our lives on, we need the whole story, don't we? We need everything in-between those two Sundays.

Unfortunately... since, due to the pandemic, we are unable to gather with one another toward the end of Holy Week, in-between those two Sundays... we won't hear that part of the story. At least together, that is.

That is why I am asking you to carve out some sacred time in your homes on Maundy Thursday to slowly read **Matthew, Chapter 26**. And on Good Friday, to gently read **Matthew, Chapter 27**. I will also be sending out to all of you some prayers to offer up along with the readings for those two holy days... in order to we may still pause for worship together, at least in this manner.

So please don't dismiss these additional home devotions, nor approach them casually. For in them, Jesus has not yet finished telling you, yet alone showing you, just how much God loves you.

Pastor Jim Dew



1 Parker Lear
2 Geneva Hudel
3 Alva Schulmeier
6 Wayne Richie
Martyn Turner
7 Anna McKenna-Stevens
12 Douglas Cobb, Jr.
14 Felicia Alvarez
20 Sarah Huber



21 Ann Olson
Lindsay Kramme
22 Larry Foster
Debbie Kramme
Manuel Alvarez, Jr.

25 Dr. Marla Lear
26 Bill Brewer
Caitlin Nicole
Moreno
27 Sydney Walker
29 Billy Odam
Connie Haiduk
30 Lindsey Ressmann
Ron Bara

Eucharistic Ministers: Please remember to notify the church office whenever you make a visit to any of our homebound members. Thanks!

Thank you Mission Ministry Team and members for helping put together our Care Bags



A thank you letter has been received from CAM for the St. John's donations received between December 16-20. "Many lives were touched. Our volunteers are amazing."

Upcoming Retreat Opportunities in 2020

Camp Chrysalis, Kerrville TX - <https://crosstrails.org>
September 4-7 Family & Friends Labor Day Retreat

Lutherhill Ministries, LaGrange TX - <http://lutherhill.org>
October 18-20 Fall Family Retreat

Mo Ranch, Hunt TX - <https://www.moranch.org>
May 1-3 Men's Retreat
May 29-31 Women's Retreat
October 9-11 Mother-Daughter Weekend

St. John's 16th Annual Fiesta Nueva Celebration has been rescheduled for Sunday, November 8. Any raffle tickets with an April 19 date will be honored in November. More details will follow.

SHOWER THE PEOPLE WITH LOVE at CAM had a record month in March. We welcome the additional help from Pastor Louise Shaw who assisted with the women's side of the showers. And a huge gesture of thanks for Dottie Bowles and her daughter-in-law that made 30 sack lunches and put in a decorated St. Patrick's Day "brown bag" made by St. John's Youth Group. Thank you Lindsey and all our Youth. You made a difference and brought smiles to many hearts.

On Saturday March 14, CAM served 30 men and 10 women clients. Unfortunately, we ran out of sack lunches. In April, the new 3-stall shower trailer will be up and running, which will make operations easier. We always need volunteers, especially males! Please consider joining in this worthy cause.

NEXT DATE OF ST. JOHN'S SERVICE: Saturday, April 11, 2020. NOTE: following CDC recommendations, CAM has asked for no volunteers over the age of 55 or under the age of 15 on their campuses.

Janet Grun, Coordinator

Adding to the Mosaic

Let me share a quick story from Mike Yaconelli's book, *Messy Spirituality*. I think you'll enjoy it.

Each year, the entire community of Moorhead, Minnesota prepares for and anticipates Concordia College's annual Christmas concert. Each December, a huge choir and a full orchestra give a musical performance in the concert hall at the college.

Every year, the people of the community create a unique background for the concert—a 130 foot mosaic. Beginning in the summer, about six months before the concert, the community designs a new mosaic, rents an empty building, and the painting begins. Hundreds of people, from junior high schoolers to senior citizens, paint the mosaic. They paint by number on a large-scale design that has thousands of tiny pieces. Day by day, month after month, one little painted piece at a time, the picture on the mosaic gradually takes shape.

When everyone has finished painting, an artist goes over the entire creation, perfecting the final work of art. When the mosaic is completed, they place it behind the choir. It has the appearance of an enormous, beautiful stained-glass window.

The weekend of the concert, those people who helped paint arrive early, along with their friends and neighbors. Throughout the building, you can hear people whispering such things as, "See that little green spot below the camel's foot? I painted it!"

Every year in the middle of the summer in Moorhead, Minnesota, thousands of unknown, ordinary people paint a tiny insignificant tile. Six months later, the result is a spectacularly beautiful masterpiece.

Thank you for the part which you play, the giving which you offer, which, when added next to one another's, creates the bigger picture of our mission and ministry here at St. John's.

Pastor Jim and your St. John's Stewardship Team

Mission Trip Sololá, Guatemala June 7 - 14, 2020

It is time to put our mission team together for a summer trip. If you are interested in being a part of this team or would like additional information, please contact:

Bea Imken at 210-878-7874 and/or beafitt@gmail.com





St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
502 East Nueva, San Antonio, Texas 78205
Ph: 210-223-2611 Fax: 210-223-5667
General E-mail: info@StJohnsSA.org

Address Service Requested



A Stephen Ministry Congregation

*Our Mission: Remembering our heritage
and reaching for the future by living in faith
and growing through worship, study and
service.*

Parish Staff

Rev. James Dew *Senior Pastor*

prjamesdew@hotmail.com ext. 2613

Eric Ryniker *Business Manager*

eric.ryniker@StJohnsSA.org ext. 1075

Tom Dannelley *Administrative Assistant*

tom.dannelley@StJohnsSA.org ext. 1076

Carolyn Myers *Bookkeeper*

carolyn.myers@StJohnsSA.org ext. 1077

Michael Bade *Director of Music*

michael.bade@StJohnsSA.org ext. 3019

Robert Jenkins *Organist*

rob.jenkins@StJohnsSA.org ext. 3019

Juan Diaz *Church Sexton*

Hazael Menchaca *Sunday Church Sexton*

