

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Welcome to our guests.** We are glad you have joined us in worshipping our Lord and Savior. We trust you will draw strength, peace, and hope as together we hear God's Word spoken here today. So that we may serve you better, we ask that you fill out a yellow attendance card located on the back of the pew, including your address and noting that you are a visitor. If you would like information on becoming a member at St. John's, please mark the yellow card accordingly, and we will contact you.

**ETERNAL CANDLE** This warm, steady glow, encourages us to offer our thanks to our faithful Lord and God especially for all who serve in special ways such as serving on the Altar Guild; taking the time to beautify the Altar as well as prepare and clean up after Holy communion.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** As Lent is a solemn time of repentance and reflection on Jesus' sacrifice, we will refrain from adorning the Altar until Easter.

**LENTEN DEVOTIONS** There are Lenten devotional booklets provided by LHM on the Information table. They are free— please take one to enrich your season of Lent!

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS** *February 22 – First Sunday in Lent Matthew 4:7 – “Jesus said to him, ‘Again it is written.’”* Jesus defeats Satan in our place, not by using His power as God, but by His perfect obedience in His perfect humanity. Jesus defeats Satan not by miracles, but by quoting the Scriptures and living according to them. This should cause us great joy for two reasons. First, we see Jesus win the victory for us. Second, here Jesus shows us how to stand in that victory: on the Word of God alone.

**BOOK OF CONCORD ONLINE!** Concordia Publishing House (CPH) has announced the launch of an online version of the *Book of Concord (BOC)*, available at no cost at [bookofconcord.cph.org](http://bookofconcord.cph.org). “The *Book of Concord*’s faithfulness to the Holy Scriptures allows it to be central to the teaching and witness of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod,” said the Rev. Dr. Jacob Corzine, vice-president of publishing for CPH. “By making it available online, we hope to encourage faithful teaching and study, and bold confession of the Christian faith.”

**SAVE THE DATE** Rev. Tim Bickle will be visiting us on March 7th and 8th. On Saturday, he will be our guest preacher, and on Sunday, he will be giving a presentation of his work with POBLO (People of the Bible Lutheran Outreach) during the Bible study hour. Please attend if you can— this should prove a very informative and interesting presentation!

**ALTAR GUILD** St. John's Altar Guild is in need of members who wish to volunteer their time to serve God in assisting to prepare communion and to clean up after service. The Altar Guild usually only meets twice a year, and training and help is readily available. Please let Margie Schaefer, Kathy Ahrens, or Flo Moore know if you are interested in helping or have any questions.

**POSTPARTUM DOULA WORKSHOP** Many families are blessed to have relatives and friends nearby when a new baby arrives, but others may not have that support or may need additional guidance during this tender transition. Postpartum doulas provide practical, emotional, and evidence-based support that can make a significant difference in a family's early weeks in the family's home. We teach postpartum doulas, birth doulas, and childbirth educators in a way that is practical, grounded, and deeply human. At Baby Matters, training focuses on real-world skills, thoughtful communication, and confidence built through experience. If you would like to participate in a doula training workshop, please see the flyers on the Information Table for more details.

**THANK YOU** Chuck & Bev Brokaw would like to thank everyone for the cards, calls and visits following Chuck's car accident. He is very happy to be able to attend worship again and see all of his church family!

**EASTER LILIES** We will once again be ordering Easter lilies to beautify our sanctuary for Easter. The cost is \$12. We need 30 plants to fill our crosses. Please make checks payable to: Altar Guild. There is a box and envelopes on the Sign-Up Station. Thank you in advance.

**ACTIVITIES ROOM** During the season of Lent we will NOT be meeting on Wednesdays' to play dominoes. We will resume after Easter.

**MARCH FOR LIFE** The 2026 Illinois Pro-Life March is Thursday, March 19, in Springfield. The rally begins at 1 p.m., and the march is at 2 p.m. We look forward to seeing you as we witness to the sanctity of life. More information will be coming soon.

## *February 21st and 22nd, 2026 First Sunday in Lent Divine Service Setting III*

Prelude—The Guitars Group <i>“How Deep the Father’s Love”</i>	
Congregation invited to sing along: <i>“Old Rugged Cross”</i> <i>see insert</i> <i>“There Is a Redeemer”</i> 971	
<b>“Sing Praise to God”</b>	<b>819</b>
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## *The Lord's Week*

### **Sunday, February 22nd**

9:00am– Worship  
10:30am– Bible Study/Sunday school  
10:30am– Confirmation Instruction

### **Monday, February 23rd**

1:30pm– Activities Room– dominoes  
6:00pm– Cherub Chimers rehearsal  
6:30pm– Heavenly Ringers rehearsal

### **Tuesday, February 24th**

10:00am– Food Pantry  
6:30pm– Guitar Jam

### **Wednesday, February 25th**

10:00am– Women's Bible study  
5:30pm– Lent Supper  
6:30pm– Lent Worship

### **Saturday, February 28th**

8:00am– Men's Bible study  
9:30am– Choir rehearsal  
5:00pm– Worship  
(Pastor Astrowski)

### **Sunday, March 1st**

9:00am– Worship w/Communion  
10:30am– Bible Study/Sunday school  
10:30am– Confirmation Instruction

### **Sunday, March 8th**

**10:15am-POBLO presentation with Rev. Tim Bickle**

## *Bible Study Opportunities*

### **Sundays, 10:15am**

Join Pastor Anderson in the Janssen rooms following worship- we are studying the Acts of the Apostles, looking at the beginnings of the Christian Church, and how the Church two millennia later still bears the imprint of that first Church.

### ***Holy Land Geography, Customs & History***

Join Clark Stojan in the Keyl room, as he leads us to explore the world of the Bible along with select events recorded in Scripture.

***Coffee with Christ– Myth or Faith?*** There are plenty of misconceptions about Christianity in today's society. From false rumors to biblical teachings that are heavily distorted from their subject matter, there's no lack of myths to find. Do you know how to respond to them? More importantly, do you know the **truth** backed up by God's Word and teachings?

### **Wednesdays, 10am**

Beginning Wednesday, February 18th, we will begin using the "*Lenten Bible Studies for God's Stewards*" by Ronald J. and Phyllis J. Chewning. These Bible studies are based on the readings in Psalms as printed in the lectionaries for Lent.

### **Saturdays, 8am**

#### ***Men's Bible study***

We are doing a chronological study of the Gospel.

### **Weekly Memory Verse** ***Romans 5:8***

*God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners,  
Christ died for us.*

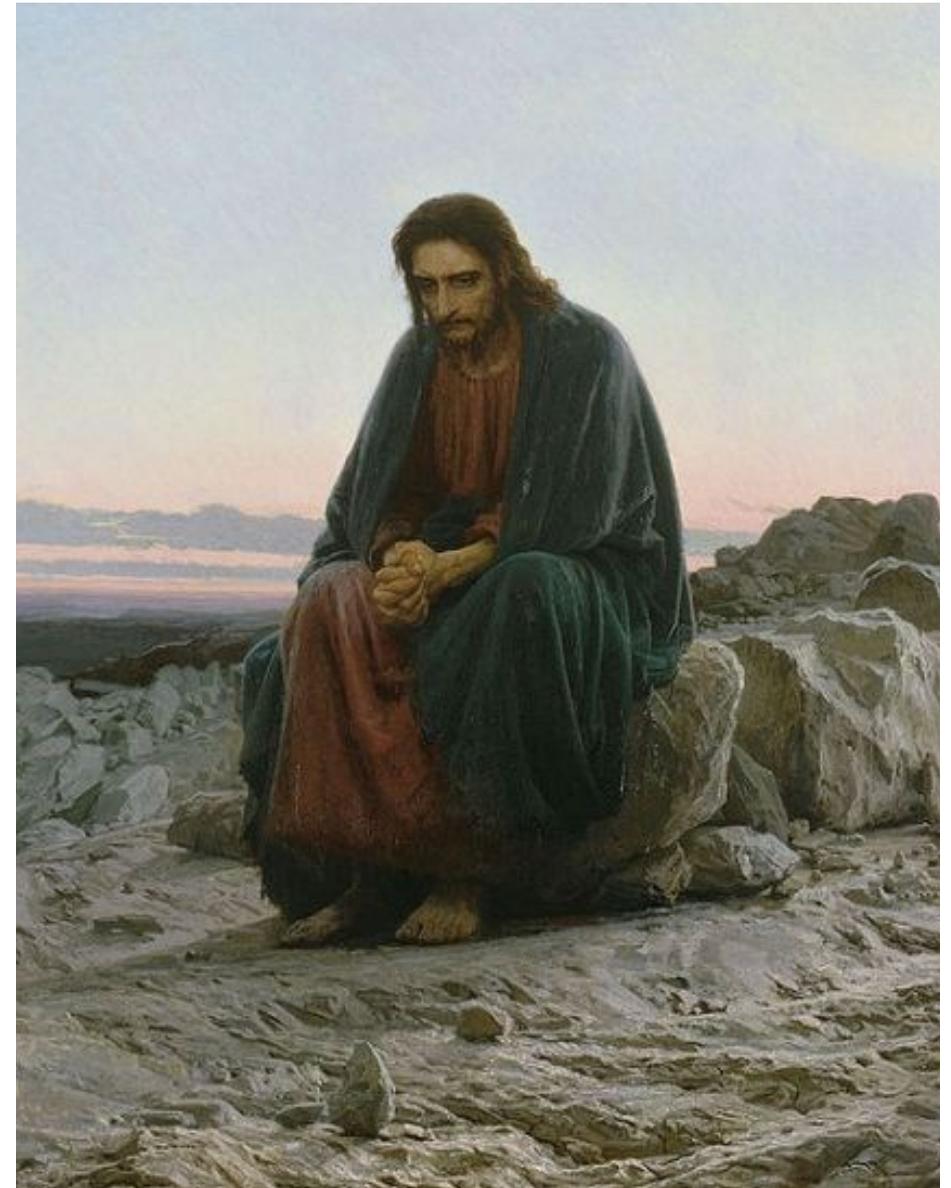
### **Serving the Lord this Week:**

**Organist:** Christine Engebrecht

**Greeters:** *(Sat.)* Chuck Brokaw  
*(Sun.)*

**Ushers:** *(Sat.)* Greg Burke, Todd Miller, & Larry Ripka  
*(Sun.)* Evan Antolik and family

**Acolyte:** Henry Schmidt



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#### **Vacancy Pastor**

Rev. Steven Anderson

**Music Director** Christine Engebrecht

**Secretary** Annie Churchill

rev@focusonthegospel.com

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(309) 269-5276

(309) 738-2797

### **Introit**

**P** When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him.

**C** **With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.**

Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place—  
the Most High, who is my refuge—

**no evil shall be allowed to befall you,  
no plague come near your tent.**

For he will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways.

**On their hands they will bear you up,  
lest you strike your foot against a stone.**

You will tread on the lion and the adder;  
the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

### **LSB 186– Gloria Patri**

#### **Readings**

**P** The Old Testament reading is from Genesis, the third chapter.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.” And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you

were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them. (*Gen. 3:1-21*)

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**P** The Epistle reading is from Romans, the fifth chapter.

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man’s trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. If, because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous. (*Rom. 5:12-19*)

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

#### **LSB 190– ♪ Alleluia**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

**C** **♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written, “‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, “‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and “‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’” Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’” Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him. (*Matt. 4:1-11*)

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **♪ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

**ST. JOHN'S PRAYER CARD**

February 21st and 22nd, 2026

*Please remember the following in your prayers this week...*

**Sister Congregation**

Rev. Marcus Manley  
Bethlehem Lutheran  
Altamont, IL

**Members**

James & Carole Vrban  
Janet Wachs  
Regan Walston  
Jim, Desyree, Jonathan, Evelyn,  
and Owen Weakley

**Missionaries Serving**

Vicar Joshua Wareham-  
Dominican Republic

**Military Chaplains**

MAJ Chad Czischke

**Ill & Hospitalized**

**Prolonged Illness &**

**Special Needs:**

Joan Britton  
Bev Brokaw  
Chuck Brokaw  
Hoa Cooper (Lucille's daughter  
- cancer)  
Steve Fors  
Duane Gosa  
Nancy Gosa  
Kevin Green- cancer  
Jerry Hill  
Kay Iwen  
Dale Johnson  
Merle Loete  
Reid McDonald  
RaeJean Murphy  
Tom Nielsen  
Robin Passman  
Brenda Roggendorf  
Earl Schaefer  
Karen Schmidt  
Kathleen Schmidt  
David Sountris  
Ken Weidenbach  
Cora Whipple

**Homebound Members:**

Nancy Bonow  
Ann Bowman  
Don, Wanda, and Jason Cass  
Darlene Dopson  
Mary Ann Eckert  
Rick & Sylvia Fauser  
Angie Fischer  
Peg Heitzman

Kathy Herron  
Christopher Higgins  
Ingrid Hodshire  
Lori Hopkins  
Mary McGee  
Nancy Smart  
Terry Tipsword  
Barbara Veskauf