

March 2026

St John Messenger



COMMUNION

March 1, 2026
March 15, 2026
March 29, 2026

LIVESTREAM

YouTube
St John Lutheran, Athol

FACEBOOK

St John Lutheran, Athol

WEBSITE

stjohnlutheranathol.com

“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”
Proverbs 22:6

Dear Members of St. John,

Lent is a wonderful opportunity to grow closer to God and to each other as a family. By incorporating prayer, Scripture, and meaningful Lent ideas for families into your Lenten journey, you can create a season filled with faith, love, and connection.

This family connection might be the most important thing you do for your family! Surveys show that 7 out of 10 teenagers who used to frequently be part of their congregations drop out of attending church when they leave home, and never make their way back as regular attenders. One of the key reasons Christian youth leave the church is that many young people observe a disconnect between their parents' professed faith and their daily lives. If faith is confined to Sunday services or rote prayers, it can feel inauthentic. Engaging in meaningful spiritual conversations with children and grandchildren can change these statistics!

Here are some ideas for observing Lent as a family authentically:

- Create a family prayer time. Teach your children how to talk with God, sharing daily joys and frustrations. Use a prayer jar to write down prayers for others and draw them out each time you meet.
- Read Bible stories together and discuss them. There are also excellent Christian movies to watch together as a family.
- Do acts of kindness together.

In all of these activities, I encourage you to have constant conversations about God and why we serve Him. Your family will be blessed by this journey. (And keep going after Lent!). In his love,

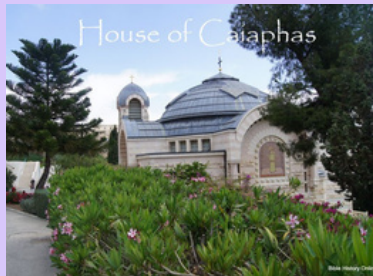
Pastor Ann

Prayer Concerns this Month

Blondina Kuhlmann
Virginia Engelke
Darlene Haun
Jenny Kramer
Bob Caspers
Roy Dean Bell
Tracy Oliver
Mike Hutchison
Pastor Bob & Deb
Betty Kirchhoff

Irish Kussmann
Dorothy Seems
Bob and Dorothy Wire
Evelyn Wilson
Lee Oliver
Armi McPherson
Andrew John Heller
Connie Francis
Joyce Giese Family

Please let Penny know if anyone needs added.
penny.mckenzie@yahoo.com



You are invited to:
A Journey to the Holy Lands!
Lenten Drama on Wednesday Evenings
Soup Supper - 5:30 PM
Pre-Tour with Pastor Ann - 6:00 PM
Lenten Service - 7:00 PM



Mar. 4th - Third Stop: Mount of Olives
Mar. 11th - Fourth Stop - Palace of the High Priest
Mar. 18th - Fifth Stop: Fortress Antonia
Mar. 25th - Sixth Stop: Skull Hill
Apr. 2nd - Maundy Thursday - The Upper Room
Apr. 3rd - Tennebrae Good Friday Service - The Cross
Apr. 5th - Easter Sunrise Service - The Empty Tomb



1000 Bibles for
Love Packages

#1000BiblesForLovePackages

Join Our Lenten Drive for Love Packages

“The containers we send are a mixture of bibles, Sunday School materials, and other Christian literature. It all works together to equip and build up the body of Christ all over the world.”

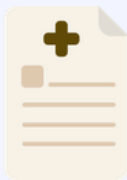
Steven Schmidt, Founder of Love Packages.

Bring your donations to our Love Packages Wagon in the Parish Hall!

Bibles



Tracts



Reference
Materials



Books



SS
Materials



Puppets
Nativity Sets



Magazines and
Devotionals



CD's
DVD's
Blue Ray



2026 SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Christmas Offering

Lutheran disaster assistance is a faith-driven effort to provide relief, recovery, and long-term support to communities affected by natural and human-made disasters.

Rooted in compassion and service, these programs respond to crises such as floods, hurricanes, wildfires, and earthquakes by offering emergency aid, rebuilding assistance, and emotional care. Beyond immediate relief, they remain committed to helping individuals and congregations restore stability and hope, reflecting the Lutheran mission of serving neighbors in times of deepest need.

Lenten Offering

MOSAIC Disability Ministry is a faith-based initiative dedicated to creating an inclusive, welcoming space for people of all abilities. It focuses on building community, fostering belonging, and celebrating the unique gifts of each individual. Through worship, fellowship, and supportive programs, MOSAIC empowers people with intellectual, developmental, and other disabilities to participate fully in spiritual life. At its heart, the ministry is about connection, compassion, and reflecting the love of God in ways that honor every person's dignity and worth.

Easter Offering

KPRD is a Christian radio station based in Hays, Kansas, broadcasting on 88.9 FM and serving much of Midwest Kansas. Operated by The Praise Network, Inc., it offers an uplifting mix of contemporary Christian music, Bible teaching programs, and inspirational talk shows. With a mission to help listeners not just know about Jesus but truly know Him, KPRD blends encouragement, faith-based content, and community connection to inspire hope and strengthen spiritual lives.

Advent Offering

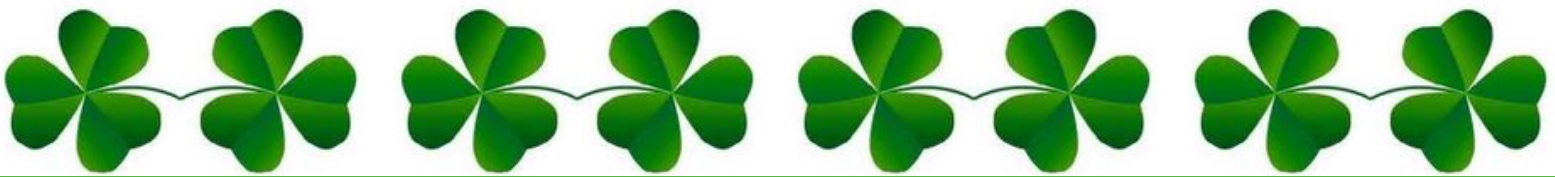
St. Paul Lutheran Seminary is dedicated to equipping pastors, church leaders, and missionaries with strong theological education and practical ministry skills. Rooted in the Lutheran tradition, it emphasizes biblical teaching, confessional integrity, and a mission-focused approach to serving congregations and communities. Through accessible programs—often offered online or in partnership with local churches—the seminary seeks to prepare leaders who can faithfully proclaim the Gospel and guide others in their spiritual growth.

Summer Harvest Offering

The Tartu Academy of Theology is a Christian higher education institution in Estonia dedicated to training pastors, chaplains, and pastoral care providers. It offers bachelor's and master's programs, as well as continuing education, to equip leaders for service in churches, hospitals, prisons, the military, and the community. Founded with a mission to share the Word of God in one of the most secular countries in the world, the academy plays a vital role in nurturing faith, compassion, and spiritual guidance across Estonia.

Thanksgiving Offering

Lutheran Indian Ministries is a nonprofit Christian organization dedicated to sharing the Gospel and providing holistic support to Native communities across the United States, Alaska, Hawaii, and parts of Canada. Rooted in Lutheran theology, it emphasizes faith in Christ as the foundation for hope, healing, and transformation. Beyond spiritual outreach, the ministry engages in leadership training, community development, and compassionate care, aiming to address both the physical and spiritual needs of individuals while honoring and respecting Native cultures.



Upcoming Events:

- March 3 - 6:30 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast
March 4 - 10:30 AM Communion Service Sunporch
5:30 PM Soup Supper
6:00 PM Pre-Tour with Pastor Ann
7:00 PM Lenten Service
March 8 - Daylight Savings Time - Spring Forward!
March 11 - See March 4th Evening Schedule
March 16 - 2:00 PM - Afternoon Women's Circle
March 18 - See March 4th Evening Schedule
March 25 - See March 4th Evening Schedule

Ongoing Events: Wednesdays 9:00 AM Women's Morning Circle
Thursdays 1:30 PM Bible Study at Sunporch



Our church website now includes the bulletin for services, including scripture texts and liturgy! If you are unable to attend church it will be available for you as you worship. The newsletter and a schedule of events is also posted!

March Member Celebrations

Birthdays

4 - Nancy Horning
6 - Dennis Jacobs
7 - Willa Frieling
11 - Kris Gerstenkorn
12 - TJ Lehmann
12 - Lynzee Frieling
12 - Brody Frieling
24 - Marsha Kuhlmann
28 - Lee Oliver
29 - Bob Caspers

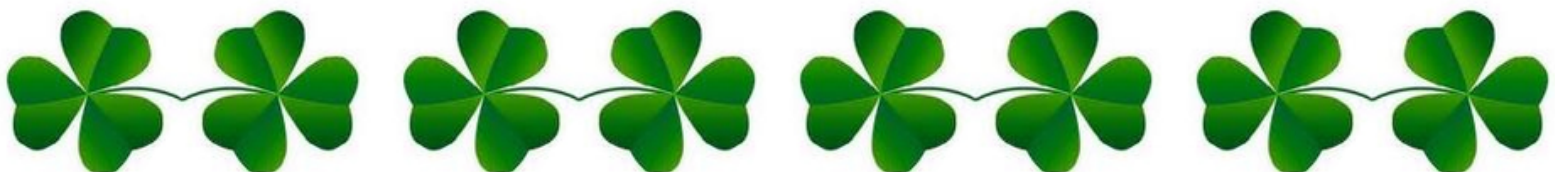
Baptismal Birthdays

12 - KadeLehmann

Anniversaries

11 - Mr & Mrs Stan Horning
17 - Mr & Mr Brandon Engelke

For additions or corrections, text
Penny 785-282-0216



March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Sunday School	2	3 6:30AM Men's Discipleship Breakfast 6:30PM Adult Bible Study	4 9:00AM Morning Circle 9:00AM Pastor's Bulletin 10:30AM Communion 12:00PM Soup Supper 5:30PM Pre-tour 6:00PM Lenten Sermon	5 1:30PM Bible Study at Sun Porch	6	7
8 Spring Forward 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Sunday School	9	10 6:30PM Adult Bible Study	11 9:00AM Morning Circle 9:00AM Pastor's Bulletin 12:00PM Soup Supper 5:30PM Pre-tour 6:00PM Lenten Sermon	12 1:30PM Bible Study at Sun Porch	13	14
15 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Sunday School	16 2:00PM Afternoon Circle	17 6:30PM Adult Bible Study	18 9:00AM Morning Circle 9:00AM Pastor's Bulletin 12:00PM Soup Supper 5:30PM Pre-tour 6:00PM Lenten Sermon	19 1:30PM Bible Study at Sun Porch	20	21
22 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Sunday School	23	24 6:30PM Adult Bible Study	25 9:00AM Morning Circle 9:00AM Pastor's Bulletin 12:00PM Soup Supper 5:30PM Pre-tour 6:00PM Lenten Sermon	26 1:30PM Bible Study at Sun Porch	27	28
29 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Sunday School	30	31 6:30PM Adult Bible Study	1 9:00AM Morning Circle 9:00AM Pastor's Office Hours 12:00PM Bulletin Deadline 6:00PM Confirmation	2 1:30PM Bible Study at Sun Porch	3	4