

***St. John Lutheran Church*** <sup>*of*</sup>  
***Cat Spring***  
[www.stjohncatspring.org](http://www.stjohncatspring.org)

**Ministers**  
**The People of St. John  
Lutheran Church  
of Cat Spring**

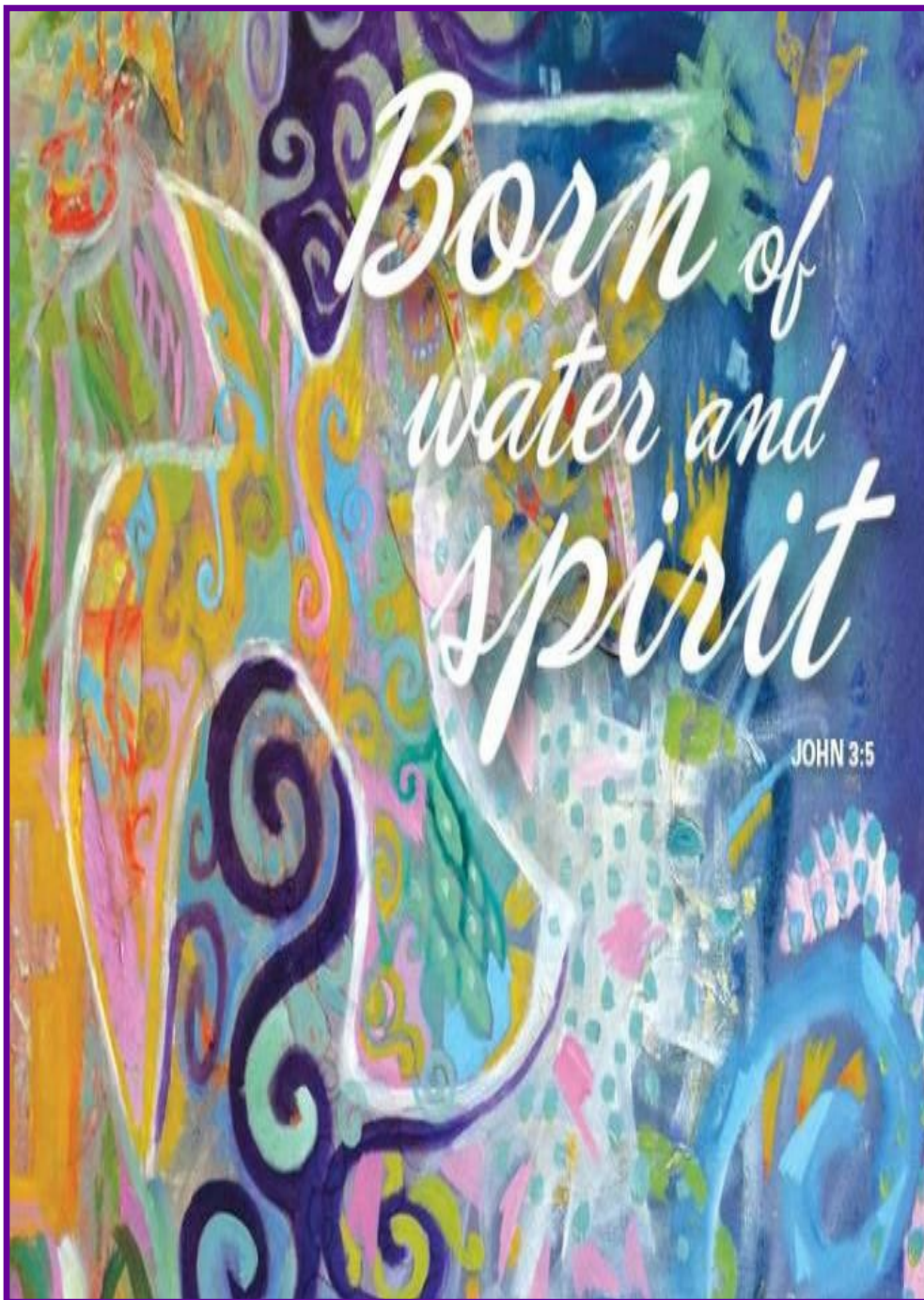
**Pastor Stephanie Stark**  
[pastor@stjohncatspring.org](mailto:pastor@stjohncatspring.org)

**Youth Director  
Christa Klar**  
[youth@stjohncatspring.org](mailto:youth@stjohncatspring.org)

**Business Manager  
Jheri Sell**  
[finance@stjohncatspring.org](mailto:finance@stjohncatspring.org)

**Secretary  
Sally Nergaard**  
[secretary@stjohncatspring.org](mailto:secretary@stjohncatspring.org)

**Accompanist  
Janet Allphin**



***March 5, 2023***

**480 Ross Street  
Cat Spring, TX 78933  
Office Phone & Fax  
(979) 865-5444**

[www.stjohncatspring.org](http://www.stjohncatspring.org)

We welcome all people from all walks of life to join us; whether you are seeking answers to questions about faith, or already have a strong relationship with Christ. We are a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. In keeping with the teachings of Jesus and the witness of Martin Luther, we acknowledge that we are both sinners and saints in need of the grace and love of God. Council members on duty will be glad to answer any of your questions.

## WELCOME

### Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who journeys with us these forty days,  
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

**Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another  
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,  
**we confess to you our faults and failings.**  
**Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;**  
**we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;**  
**we spoil rather than steward your creation;**  
**we cause hurt though you call us to heal;**  
**we choose fear over compassion.**  
**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**  
**as we seek to follow in your way of life.**  
**Amen.**

Hear the good news:  
God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,  
so that all may receive life.  
This promise is for you!  
God embraces you with divine mercy,  
† forgives you in Christ's name,  
and revives you in the Spirit's power.  
**Amen.**

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

**Kyrie**

**ELW 147**

**Prayer of the Day**

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**First Lesson:**

**Genesis 12:1-4a**

The First Lesson is from the twelfth chapter of Genesis

Now the Lord said to Abram, ‘Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

**Second Lesson:**

**Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

The Second Lesson is from the fourth chapter of Romans

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? ‘Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.’ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, ‘I have made you the father of many nations’)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

**R:** The word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

Gospel:

John 3:1-17

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the third chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? 'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### Children's Sermon

Sermon

Bishop Mike Reinhart

Hymn of the Day

*"Just as I Am, Without One Plea"*

ELW 592

### Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen**

**Prayers of Intercession**

**P:** Merciful God

**C:** Receive our prayer

**The Sharing of the Peace**

**Special Music**

*“Holy God We Praise Thy Name”*

**Handbell Choir**

**Offering Hymn**

**“Doxology”**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him all creatures here below,  
Praise Him above ye heav’nly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**Offering Prayer**

God of good gifts,  
receive these and all our offerings  
as we present them in faithful service  
for the sake of your gospel.  
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal  
as you pour out your very presence  
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.  
**Amen.**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

**Page 129**

**Preface**

**Holy Holy Holy**

**Page 130**

**Words of Institution**

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**The Distribution**

*All who believe in the Real Presence of Christ in Holy Communion are welcome to partake. Please fill out an attendance card to indicate your intention to participate and hand it to the usher.*

**Prayer after Communion**

Embodied God,  
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.  
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,  
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors  
and touch the world with your love.

**Amen.**

**Blessing**

The world now is too dangerous and too beautiful for anything but love. May your eyes be so blessed you see God in everyone. Your ears, so you hear the cry of the poor. May your hands be so blessed that everything you touch is a sacrament. Your lips, so you speak nothing but the truth with love. May your feet be so blessed you run to those who need you. And may your heart be so opened, so set on fire, that your love, your love, changes everything. **Amen.**

**Announcements**

**Sending Hymn**

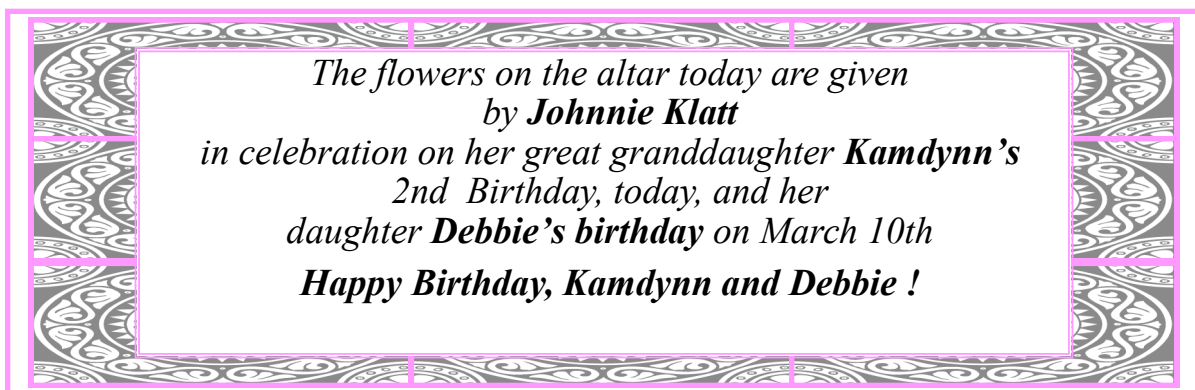
“Lift High the Cross”

ELW 660

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Serve in love

C: **Thanks be to God.**



**Weekly News March 5-11, 2023**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

- 5 Randall Tipp
- 6 Doug Neva
- 7 Lesia Schwarze

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

- 11 Randy and Shirley Dahl

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- 3-6 St John Quilting Ministry 8:30 am
- 3-7 St John Prayer Shawl Ministry 9:30
- 3-8 Supper 6-6:30 pm  
Lenten Service 6:30 pm
- 3-9 Handbell Choir Practice
- 3-12 St John Singers resume practice  
9:15 am –9:45 am
- 3-15 **Senior Service 1100 am**  
Supper 6-6:30 pm  
Lenten Service 6:30 pm

**THOSE IN OUR PRAYERS**

- Gloria Tipp
- Tomas Divin
- Mike Mueller
- Allan Boehm
- Cindi Harrison
- Elrose Kollatschny
- David Wilkenson
- Fay Rice
- Susan Boyett
- Richie Butler
- Colin Brock
- Deana Keller
- Paulette Miller
- Deanna Ling
- Sharon
- Bubba Bencal
- Darrell Grasb
- James and Carol Wenzel
- Kermit Dittert
- Florine Stuessel
- Mike Klar
- Katherine Ludwig
- Dorothy Mersmann
- Gloria Havemann
- Claire Venghaus
- Hart Oshman
- Sharon Koehne
- Treva Forrester
- Johnny Griffin
- Don and Janet Allphin
- Nancy Hartmann
- Gwen Reichardt
- Mary Ann English
- Melinda Rodiek
- Chris Redman's Sons
- Rose
- Glenda Kloss
- Carolyn Rash

**Our weekly budgeted need: 3329.98**

Offerings **2-26-23.**

General Fund 1050.00  
 Total: 1050.00  
 Online Views 35  
 Attendance 53  
 Ash Wednesday 2-22-23  
 General Fund 1940.00  
 WELCA 200.00 T=2140.00

**MEMBERS IN OUR CARE**

**Argent Court –Brenham**  
 Cecil and Carrie Froebel  
**Kruse Village-Brenham**  
 Elaine Thielemann  
**Columbus Oaks**  
 Marilyn Wendt  
**HOMEBOUND:**  
 Katherine Ludwig  
 Katherine Washburn

**Wednesday, March 8th:**

Soup 6:00 pm  
 Lenten Service 6:30 pm

*Let it be so for me: Love is...  
 1 Corinthians 13:1-12*

*Pastor Jen Kindsvatter*  
 From Luther Hill



**Set you clocks ahead one hour before  
 you go to bed Saturday night,  
 on March 11th !**

**UPCOMING MINISTRY ASSIGNMENTS**

SUNDAY	March 5, 2023	March 12, 2023
Flowers:	Johnnie Klatt	Tamra Ordner
Council Duty	Chad and Robin	Kyle and Ryan
Reader	Chris Beckendorff	Confirmands
Acolyte	Riley Hewson	Bexley Nelson
Altar Guild	<b>Marsha/and Robin</b>	

**St John WELCA of Cat Spring**

**Calling all Cooks!**



**We need your recipes.  
We want your best recipes for the  
next St John cookbook.  
Send 1 or send 10!**

**Please email your typed recipes to  
finance@stjohncatspring.org**



**Questions? Talk to Jheri or Rachel.**

**Lenten Soup Suppers and Service**

Join us on Wednesday nights from March 1-29 at 6:00pm for Soup. We need two soups/main dishes per week and drinks; **a sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.**

**At 6:30pm move on over to the Sanctuary for our Lenten Series: "Amen! Let it be so".**

**March 1st:** Let it be so forever: The Lord's Prayer; Luke 11:1-13

**March 8th:** Let it be so for me: Love is... 1 Corinthians 13:1-12

**March 15th:** Let it be so for direction: Jeremiah 29:1-13

**March 22nd:** Let it be so for enough: Manna, Quail, Water; Exodus 16:1-18, 17:1-7

**March 29th:** Let it be so for mercy: Jonah 2:1-10

Everything you need to order your Easter flowers can be found in the Narthex. Deadline to order is April 2nd.

**Senior Service**

March 15th 11:00 am

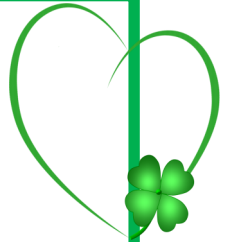
**St Paddy Day Party**

**Wear Something Green !**

**Fried Chicken, Potato Salad,  
Baked Beans Provided,**

*If you wish, bring a side or dessert to compliment the meal !*

*Hope to see YOU there*



**WELCA Announcements:**

A **HUGE** thank you to everybody who baked for the Valentine's cookie exchange. A **SUPER HUGE** thank you for all that purchased cookies.

The next WELCA meeting will be **Thursday, March 30 at 6:30 pm.** We will be Planting with Sherry. **Bring a big planting pot** with you. Sherry will bring the plants. If the weather is nice, we will meet at the concrete picnic table.

*Thank you*



Thank you for your support during this difficult time of the passing of my father. Your prayers, thoughtful deeds, and cards have been a comforting blessing and I cannot adequately express how much I appreciate my family here at St. John.

Your kindness will be remembered.

Christa Klar and family

*Robert M. Klar*

*October 15, 1934-February 2, 2023*

The St. John Singers will resume rehearsals on Sunday, March 12th, 9:15-9:45 and meet weekly.

All are welcome!!

Contact Janet Allphin at 979.877.5643 if you have questions.