

# Good News Journal March 2023

## St. John Lutheran Church of Cat Spring

480 Ross Street Cat Spring Texas 78933 979-865-5444 www.stjohncatspring.org

### SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDEULE

9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service

*Reverend Stephanie Stark*

### From the Desk of Stephanie Stark:

Lent is here! Truthfully, this is not my favorite time of year. Focusing on my mortality and all the ways in which I fail God on a daily basis is just depressing. Not to mention that what comes with Lent has been a long-time practice to “give up” something for these 40 days. Lent already feels like I’m being asked to give up my joy, now I have to give up something else like chocolate or tv?!?

How many of you feel this way? It’s not just Catholics and Protestants that journey through this season of Lent. Have you noticed that food places like Chick-fil-a and Popeyes are offering a fish sandwich in addition to their chicken?

Lent is our journey with Jesus to the cross; that place where hope seems lost, but the very place our hope was birthed. Instead of focusing on the more depressing side of Lent I am choosing to focus on the hope that is coming. That hope that says each day I am made new; that out of the dust springs eternal life; out of the sacrifices that seem to dry up any joy comes a new appreciation for the simple things. Whether you give up something up for Lent or not, may this season be a time to remember that the death of Christs matters, but it’s the Easter that’s coming that we cling too.

### Senior Service Valentine Party

Music by Don Allphin

Hostesses with the Mostesses!

Pastor Stark giving Communion



# YOUTH GROUP NEWS

# March



“Don't miss the boat” BIBLE STUDY IN SUNDAY

SCHOOL HAS COME TO AN END WITH THE STORY OF MOSES AS A BABY. WAS MOSES ON A BOAT? 🤔



WE CONTINUE OUR STUDY OF MOSES AS WE HAVE LEARNED SO FAR:

THE ISRAELITES BECOME SLAVES • MOSES GROWING UP IN THE HIGHEST EGYPTIAN NOBILITY • MOSES' FLEE AND BECOMES A SHEPHERD • THE BURNING BUSH

IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL YOU CAN SEE OUR ARTWORK, BRICK MAKING AND PHAROAH'S PALACE.

UP AND COMING : PLAGUES AND THE RED SEA • WONDERING IN THE WILDERNESS • TEN COMMANDMENTS • CROSSING THE RIVER JORDAN



## March 26th after worship is Movie and Pizza Day!

Youth will watch the 1956 Ten Commandments. Pizza and snacks will be provided. Bring your Pillow and blanket for a comfy movie day.



This past September our youth made a special cross during our “Rocky Railway” series. This cross was made from the cedar planks that was the barn structure for the manger scene in our Christmas plays. Our youth will be making more of

these crosses as a fundraiser. The cross will soon be on display for pre orders! Cost:\$20



**Acolyte Schedule: March 5 Riley Hewson 12th Bexley Nelson 19th Addilyn Divin  
26th Marissa Divin  
April: 2nd Brooklynn Logan 9th Marissa Divin & Riley Hewson 16th Bexley Nelson  
23rd Brooklynn Logan 30th Addilyn Divin**

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**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDEULE**

9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service

*Pastor Stephanie Stark*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Supper 6-6:30 pm Service 6:30 pm  <b>Let it be so forever: The Lord's Prayer; Luke 11:1-13</b>	2	3	4
5 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am <b>Bishop Rinehart Luncheon</b> following Handbells perform	6 St John Quilting Ministry 8:30 am  Staff Meeting 10:00 am	7 St John Prayer Shawl Ministry 9:30 am	8 Supper 6-6:30 pm Service 6:30 pm  <b>Let it be so for me: Love is... 1 Corinthians 13:1-12</b>	9  Handbell Choir Practice 530 PM	10	11 <b>Before you go to bed!</b> 
12 9:15 Choir Practice Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am  Handbell Choir Performs	13	14  Staff Meeting 10:00 am	15 <b>Senior Service 1100 am</b>  Supper 6-6:30 pm Service 6:30 pm  <b>Let it be so for direction: Jeremiah 29:1-13</b>	16  Handbell Choir Practice 530 PM	17	18
19 <b>Noisy Offering</b> 9:15 Choir Practice Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am 	20 St John Quilting Ministry 8:30 am  Staff Meeting 10:00 am	21  <b>Council 615 pm</b>	22 Supper 6-6:30 pm Service 6:30 pm  <b>Let it be so for enough: Manna, Quail, Water; Exodus 16:1-18, 17:1-7</b>	23  Handbell Choir Practice 530 PM	24	25
26 9:15 Choir Practice Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Handbell Choir Performs	27 Staff Meeting 10:00 am	28	29 Supper 6-6:30 pm Service 6:30 pm  <b>Let it be so for mercy: Jonah 2:1-10</b>	30 Handbell Choir Practice 530 PM  WELCA 6:30 p m	31	

# ★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

# Prevailing Prayer



2 Angela Wendt  
Valasquez  
Ralph Grinde  
5 Randall Tipp  
6 Doug Neva  
7 Lesia Schwarze  
13 Ashley Hewson  
Herbert  
Kollatschny  
16 Carol Kudlacek  
17 Faith Haugen'  
18 Milton Dittert  
23 Ryan Reibenstein  
27 Elfi Weber  
29 Amanda Blezinger  
Hayden Herzog  
30 Cameron Dittert  
31 Courtney Rabius

11 *Randy and Shirley  
Dahl*  
14 *Ralph Grinde and  
Elaine Thielemann*  
15 *Randy and Denise  
Lange*  
19 *James and Jheri Sell*  
30 *T.J. and Brenda Menke*  
31 *Kenneth and Charisse  
Blezinger*

## 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

## 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  
Trevia 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

## 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

**CAT SPRING  
FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**BAR-B-Q**  
AUCTION • AUCTION • AUCTION  
Saturday, April 15th  
Cat Spring - Agricultural Society Hall  
Come On Over And Join Us For Food And Fellowship  
**Beef & Sausage**  
Serving from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
Meal Tickets: All \$15.00  
Children <10 yrs \$10.00  
Auction at 6:30 P.M.  
Gun Raffle  
Kids Activities by Millheim 4H

March 2023 Worship Service

Ministry Schedule

Readers

3-5 Chris Beckendorff  
3-12 Confirmands  
3-19 Ralph Grinde  
3-26 Gwen Reichardt

Acolytes

3-5 Riley Hewson  
3-12 Bexley Nelson  
3-19 Addilyn Divin  
3-26 Marissa Divin

Worship Attendance



Date	In Person	Online Views
2-5	65	113
2-12	64	27
2-19	58	38
2-22	56	27
2-26	53	33

March 2023 Altar Flowers

3-5 Johnnie Klatt  
3-12 Tamra Ordner  
3-19 Open  
3-26 Johnnie Klatt

March 2023 Council On Duty

March 1: Jennifer

March 5: Chad and Robin

March 8: Chad

March 12: Ryan and Kyle

March 15: Cheryl

March 19: Jennifer and Cheryl

March 22: Chad

March 26: Kyle and Ryan



March 2023 Altar Guild

*Marsha Tipp and Robin Haugen*

*Flower Guild: Ruth Walker*



St John is excited to announce that we will host **Bishop Michael Rinehart** during the 10:00 communion service on **March 5th.**

Please join us.

***Luncheon immediately following***

Lunch will be provided

***Desserts Welcomed !***

**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*





St. John Lutheran Church – Cat Spring

Council Meeting Minutes February 13, 2023

Page 1

The meeting was called to order by Jennifer Logan at 6:22 P.M.

Opening Devotional: Led by Pastor Stephanie Stark. John 3:16. Discussed the book "Belonging" and that God loves *everyone*.

Members Present: Jennifer Logan, Robin Haugen, Cheryl Mellenthin, Chad Divin and Pastor Stephanie.

Members Absent: Ryan Reibenstein and Kyle Eckhardt.

Guest: Christa Klar

Motion made to accept the agenda by Pastor Stephanie and seconded by Jennifer Logan. Passed unanimously.

Minutes of January meeting approved unanimously via email or text.

Treasurer report: Report sent by Jheri Castic- Sell. There is one reimbursable expense: A payment was inadvertently made to the IRS that will be reimbursed. Taking that into account, income was \$704.36 under budget for January. There was a water leak outside that caused the water bill to be \$196.60 instead of the usual \$83. Motion made to accept the treasurer report by Robin and seconded by Cheryl. Motion approved unanimously.

Pastor Report: Pastor Stephanie had several visits and meetings In January. She attended the Conference Gathering in LaGrange and a System's Theory Class. She will be at St. John on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22. March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 she will be doing Lent services at various churches as part of a Conference Gathering Lenten Service Rotation. Pastors from those various churches will be doing Lent Services at St. John, with a different pastor each week. Addendum to the minutes: the Bishop will be visiting St. John on March 5. There will be luncheon after the service. Motion to approve Pastor's report by Jennifer, seconded by Chad, passed unanimously.

**Committee Reports:**

Youth: Christa is working on summer camp for first time campers, a possible summer work program, fundraisers (Wall crosses made from the old manger that used to be in the Christmas program, Camp Café or chili cookoff), Ten Commandments movie night, Smash Burger night, Cosmic Air, and Roller or Ice Skating. The "Boat" series is finished and a study of Moses will begin.

Cemetery Report: given to Robin from Ken Wienken. Tree trimming and brush removal in progress.

House and Grounds: Report given to Jennifer from Kyle: Ceiling tiles in choir area have been changed out, but leak still appears to be there, despite it being worked on. Will have that looked at again. Kloss Electric is being contacted about outdoor security lights. The heater by the kitchen and classrooms needed a part.

**Old Business:**

Audit Committee report by Chad: members were Bill Barr, Laurie Eckhardt and Brenda Menke. They met on Feb. 5 to complete the audit. Quilters closed their bank account, and it is now included in the St. John books.

Bank accounts have been updated with new council member signatures. Industry Bank CD renews in June.

As Jennifer will be out of town, Robin will handle the Annual Congregational Report meeting on Feb. 19. There is no quorum required for this meeting.

**New Business:**

Reviewed Rental Policy and Rates for the sanctuary and fellowship hall. New rates are as follows: Fellowship Hall: Groups of 40 or less: \$50 for members and \$200 for nonmembers. For 41+ people it will cost members \$100 and nonmembers \$250. There will be a \$20 per hour additional charge per hour for more than four hours. Nonmembers will have a \$200 refundable deposit if facilities are not left in disrepair. . Additional charges will be assessed if there are damages to the property.

**See Page 2 of minutes**



Sanctuary: no charge for members, \$200 for nonmembers. There is no charge for the Fellowship Hall or Church for funerals if the pastor of St. John conducts the funeral. The pastor can receive an honorarium. If using our organist, the cost will be \$100. There will be a \$100 cleaning fee for the church and fellowship hall. Bulletins will cost \$50 if the church needs to provide them. Cheryl moved to accept the changes, Robin seconded, unanimously approved.

Cheryl passed out updated information sheets with phone numbers/email addresses and committee information. Motion to grant permission to tape the meetings for accurate minutes made by Jennifer, seconded by Chad, passed unanimously.

Reviewed and signed agreement with Austin County to use the fellowship hall for voting on May 6 and Nov. 7 in 2023, and March 5, May 4 & 28, and Nov 5 in 2024.

Jheri Sell will be in charge of money counters in the future. Council recommended that the current form used to count money be updated to make it more user friendly.

Council discussed current altar flower situation (lack of people signing up to bring flowers). There are no guidelines for flowers in the church bylaws or Altar Guild information sheets. Either one or two arrangements can be on the altar - both are acceptable.

**March 2023 council assignments:**

Feb. 22 (Ash Wednesday): 6 P.M. with communion: Jennifer and Robin

March 1: Jennifer

March 5: Chad and Robin

March 8: Chad

March 12: Ryan and Kyle

March 15: Cheryl

March 19: Jennifer and Cheryl

March 22: Chad

March 26: Kyle and Ryan

March 29: Robin

Reviewed the March 2023 calendar. Due to conflicts with Spring Break, the Council meeting was changed to Tuesday, March 21

Future Agenda Items: Consider streamlining benefits with employees.

Motion made by Cheryl and seconded by Robin to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 P.M. and closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Cheryl Mellenthin

Senior Service Valentine Party was a blast! Don and Janet and Ralph Entertained Us ! Valentines Galore !



St. John Lutheran of Cat Spring, Tx

Statement of Activity  
January 2023

	TOTAL
Revenue	
CSB MM Interest	15.75
CSB Operating Account Interest	28.12
General Fund Contributions	13,268.19
Memorial Fund Contributions	70.00
Senior Day	50.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$13,432.08</b>
GROSS PROFIT	<b>\$13,432.08</b>
Expenditures	
Auto Reimb	28.52
CONTRACT SERVICES-PIANO ACC	500.00
Education - Youth Curriculum	16.23
Electricity	753.91
Employee Contributions	30.35
Garbage	71.57
Office Supplies & Equipment	841.46
Online Giving Expense	14.25
Pastor Housing Equity Fund	250.00
Pastor Pension-Medical-Dental	2,597.25
Payroll Expenses	
SALARY - MUSIC DIR	100.00
SALARY-BOOKKEEPER	720.00
SALARY-HOUSEKEEPING	660.00
SALARY-PASTOR	3,846.16
SALARY-SECRETARY	932.32
Salary-Youth Director	1,332.70
Taxes	580.72
<b>Total Payroll Expenses</b>	<b>\$11,171.90</b>
Propane	203.00
Reimbursable Expenses	1,719.62
Supply Pastor	250.00
Telephone	23.61
Water	196.60
Worship Supplies	186.77
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$15,868.04</b>
NET OPERATING REVENUE	<b>\$-2,435.96</b>
NET REVENUE	<b>\$-2,435.96</b>

St. John Lutheran of Cat Spring, Tx

Statement of Financial Position  
As of January 31, 2023

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
AUSTIN COUNTY STATE BANK - CEMETERY OP	15,749.33
Citizen's State Bank	56,091.19
Citizen's State Bank - Building/Property	364.12
Citizen's State Bank - ELCA Benevolence	540.00
Citizen's State Bank - ELCA Disaster	150.00
Citizen's State Bank - LYO	6,091.44
Citizen's State Bank - Music Fund	493.84
Citizen's State Bank - Prayer Shawl	622.52
Citizen's State Bank - Scholarship Fund	6,805.24
Citizen's State Bank - Sealy Pantry Fund	0.00
Citizen's State Bank - Thrivent Choice	1,573.00
Citizen's State Bank - Wedding Fund	1,833.05
Citizen's State Bank-Cemetery	0.00
Citizen's State Bank-Memorial Fund	9,988.77
Citizen's State Bank - Patio Fund	0.00
Citizen's State Bank - WELCA	50.00
Citizen's State Bank-Community Care Fund	6,885.54
Citizen's State Bank-Senior Day	1,790.82
<b>Total Citizen's State Bank</b>	<b>93,479.53</b>

*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*

**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.**

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





**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.

**save THE DATE**

**WHEN:** Saturday, June 10, 2023 (Time will be announced soon.)

**WHERE:** Fellowship hall of St John Cat Spring

**WHO:** Women (and young ladies) of St John Cat Spring & their friends

**WHAT:**

In His Hands  
Jeremiah 18:6



Rachel Norris is not surprised that she is a potter, but she is amazed at how God has used pottery in her life. She has been making pottery for over twenty years now. She and her husband own Joy Pottery in Bryan, Texas where they make and sell handmade, functional, stoneware. She loves to work with clay because it is an incredibly versatile material, so very individual and universal at the same time.

You are invited to come and learn more about the Heavenly Father by exploring a word picture He provides in His Word. Discover the richness of the layers of meaning in the portrayal of the potter and the clay by observing the work of a potter firsthand. You will be awed and amazed by the insights into the hand of God in your own life through this experience.

Questions: See Rachel Divin. Call or text at 281 750 1135.



**St. John Lutheran Church  
of Cat Spring**

**Our Lenten Series**  
*"Amen! Let it be so".*

**Dinner at 6:00 pm and Worship at 6:30pm**

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

**Join us for Holy Week 2023**

<u>Sunday</u>		
April 2	Palm Sunday Worship Service	10:00 am
April 6	Maundy Thursday Service	6:30 pm
April 7	Good Friday Service	6:30 pm
April 9	<u>Easter Sunday</u>	
	Men in Mission's Easter Breakfast	9:00 am
	Easter Egg Hunt	9:30 am
	Worship Service	10:00 am

*Bring a handful of flowers if you wish to help flower the cross on Easter !*  
480 Ross Street Cat Spring, Texas 78933 979-865-5444



## *Easter Lily Order*

*We will place Easter Lilies /Boston Ferns in the Sanctuary again this year. To purchase one or more, complete this form and place it, along with your payment of \$10 per flower, in the box provided on the table in the Narthex. Thank You!*

The deadline to order is Sunday , April 2.

**In MEMORY of**

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**In HONOR of**

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*You can also order plants To the Glory of God, in addition to those ordered above. Please list the number To the Glory of God here \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Purchased by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL FLOWERS ORDERED:** \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL PAID: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

*Total Flowers Ordered includes In Memory/In Honor/To the Glory of God.*

Extra forms will always be available on the table in the Narthex, if you need more room to order. Be sure to include the order form with your payment.

*Make checks payable to St. John Lutheran WELCA.*

*Please pick up your flowers on April 9th after the 10:00 am Easter Service.*