

St. John's Lutheran Church  
55203 854 Road / Pierce, NE 68767 \*\* 402-329-4298

Email: [Office@stjohnspierce.org](mailto:Office@stjohnspierce.org)

Pastor Jacob Tuma \*\* Email: [PastorTuma@stjohnspierce.org](mailto:PastorTuma@stjohnspierce.org)

**Sunday Morning Worship @ 9:00 AM \*\*Bible Study--Youth/Adult 10:15 AM**

**Sunday School 10:15 AM**

Newsletter – Issue 16 – March 2021

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## ***From the Pastor...***

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Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The theme for our Midweek Lent Services this year is “Return to the Lord.”

When I first spotted this theme, I figured it was a fitting one for Lent. After all, Lent is a season that emphasizes *repentance*, and *repentance* literally means “turning.” Throughout the Bible, as God called His people to repent, He was calling them to *turn around*. He was calling them to return to Himself.

At one point in Joel 2:13 He said, **“Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.”**

It is as if God is saying, “Return to me.” Why? “Because of who I am. I am not like the sin you have fallen into. I am not like the deceptions you have chased. I do not lead to your destruction but give you life. In fact, I am **gracious**. I am **merciful**. I am **slow to anger**. I am **abounding in steadfast love**.”

We don't want to forget this.

Because I think that when we hear the word *repentance*, there are a few things that we “get” right away.

Repentance is not easy. It means change. It means facing hard truths. Repentance means turning away from sin.

But there is more to repentance than despairing over our sin and feeling guilty. There is forgiveness in Jesus. There is restoration through Jesus. There is the joy of life with God now and forever. Some Lutherans long ago said it this way:

“Now, properly speaking, **repentance consists of two parts: one is contrition or the terrors that strike the conscience when sin is recognized; the other is faith, which is brought to life by the gospel or absolution.”**

They go on: **“*This faith believes that sins are forgiven on account of Christ, consoles the conscience, and liberates it from terrors.* Thereupon good works, which are the fruit of repentance, should follow.”**<sup>1</sup>

In other words, repentance doesn't leave a person feeling bad. It leaves us forgiven by Jesus and gives us a good conscience. Repentance doesn't just turn us away from sin. It turns us in faith to God, and leads us to live in the life He gives. As we hear the call to “Return to the Lord” in the next weeks, may we not forget this: repentance is good because it turns us to the Lord, and He is good. He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

May the Lord Jesus turn us and others back to Himself during these days.

In Christ,

Pastor Tuma

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<sup>1</sup> Quoted from Article 12 of *The Augsburg Confession*. If you want to know more about this, ask Pastor. It would make his day!



Thank you members of St. John's for joining JOY Circle (LWML) collecting **new** fleece blankets and **new** stuffed animals for first responders to hand out to **young children in crisis**. The project, "**Serving the Least of These**" was completed January 24 through February 14, 2021.

On February 18, 2021, LWML society JOY Circle President Janet Riedel and Rev. Jacob Tuma presented the collection to Pierce Fire and Rescue First Responders Karl Schultz, Josh Mattson and Rhonda Rowley.

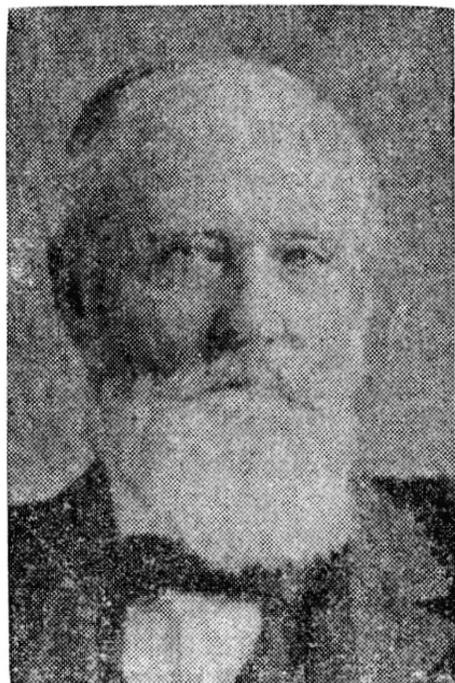


The collection included: 14 fleece blankets, 2 stuffed animals holding fleece blankets, 1 handmade, pieced and tied quilt, 2 handtied fleece blankets, and 8 stuffed animals. Thank you notes addressed to First Responders of the Pierce Fire and Rescue Squads were also delivered thanking them for their bravery and courage.

These Pierce Fire and Rescue men and women risk their lives, often leaving their own children, homes and jobs to rescue people from fires, accidents, and abusive situations. The darkness and the cold can be especially frightening to a child in crisis. Mrs. Rowley pointed out that "Meddie Teddies" from the State can be difficult to keep in stock due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

JOY Circle (LWML) provided a Gospel Focus: "And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me' (Matthew 25:40). The LWML devotion, "You Look Like Your Father," and a prayer were offered for guidance and direction for this ingathering, while lifting up those who serve these children.

# 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary News



**Rev. Ph. S. Estel**  
1874-1883

First Resident Pastor – Rev. Ph. S. Estel

In October 1873, it was decided by St. John's Lutheran Church congregation to purchase land and build a parsonage for the first resident pastor. That pastor, Rev. Ph. S. Estel, was called in January 1874. So what do we know about Pastor Estel? His given name was Philip Samuel Estel, (many times going by the name Samuel), born at Altenburg, Missouri on December 16, 1843. On October 16, 1868, at St. Louis, Missouri, he was married to Sophie Knapp. Apparently Rev. Estel had served several congregations prior to his arrival at St. John's, as his first four children were born in the states of Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri and Iowa. His next five children were born in Nebraska and baptized at St. John's. In 1882, the Estel's moved to Jacob, Illinois, where he became the pastor of Christ Lutheran Church serving until 1904. Unfortunately, not long after leaving St. John's sorrow overtook the family and within a two week period in 1883, four children were taken in a diphtheria outbreak. Rev. Estel lost his wife Sophie in 1889, after giving birth to

her tenth child; the baby was lost also. In 1904, Pastor Estel took a call to Trinity Lutheran Church in Nokomis, Illinois and served until the following year when he retired. He returned to Jacob, Illinois and lived with his son, Dr. Gottfried Estel. Rev. Estel died in 1920 and is buried in Christ Lutheran Cemetery in Jacob. Son, Theodore, also became a Lutheran minister and son, Gottfried, was a doctor of medicine and psychiatrist.

*(Additional References: Perry County (Missouri) Lutheran Historical Society)*



# Gourmet Popcorn Fundraiser

All funds raised go to St John's Lutheran Sunday School Class!!

50% of every sale goes directly to the group

Poppin' Delights is a locally owned company that uses locally grown kernels. Everything is made in small batches when the order is placed. Order is ready approximately 10 days after order is turned in!



**Caramel**— Sweet and crunchy goodness to fix your sweet tooth, made with real butter and brown sugar!!

**Cheddar**— Our jumbo kernels are coated in a rich cheddar cheese sauce sure to please any crowd or keep all for yourself!!

**White Cheddar**- Our jumbo kernels are tossed in our savory robust white cheddar sauce.

*Popcorn is in  
half gallon  
resealable bags,  
except Movie  
Butter!*

**Colored Corn**— Irresistible sweet sugary crunch in a rainbow of colors...not flavored, just colored!!

**Movie Butter**— A full gallon of our buttery white kernels may make it through the whole movie...but I would recommend getting 2 to be sure!!

**S'mores**- A campfire favorite just not as messy. Marshmallow popcorn coated in chocolate with marshmallows & graham crackers



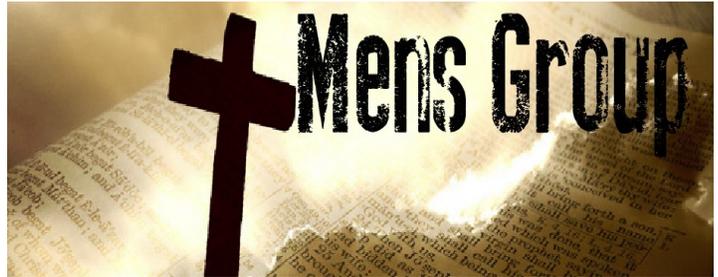
Fill out the order form at the back of the sanctuary. Payment is due at time of order. Orders will be taken through March 14<sup>th</sup> with delivery on Palm Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. Any questions see Kristy Rampone or Nichole Kuehler.



Next meeting dates for Youth Group:  
Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 3pm  
and  
Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 3pm

Men's Group Breakfast Meeting  
Saturday, March 20th  
at 8:00 am

All men welcome!



Wednesday  
*Lenten*  
SERVICES



Midweek Lent Service: March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm  
Midweek Lent Service: March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm  
Midweek Lent Service: March 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm  
Midweek Lent Service: March 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

## 2021 ALTAR FLOWERS



Altar flowers are so very special to all of us and we appreciate all who have shared them with us. We ask that if you would like to bring flowers to church for any special occasion, that you contact the church office and get on the schedule. We won't be having an actual sign-up sheet at the church this year, but we hope you will still share those special moments and memories with us.



### MARCH MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3/2: Jeremy Ferris  
3/3: Marcia Carrick  
3/5: Anthony Fehringer  
3/6: Gavin Ferris  
3/7: Bryce Henzler  
3/8: Gerald Kruger  
3/10: Marlin Zautke  
3/13: Tina Schilz  
3/15: Georgia Riedel  
3/16: Kerry Markowitz  
3/17: Pastor Tuma/Natasha Zamora  
3/18: Emerson Fehringer/Bruce Koehler/  
Jean Zautke  
3/19: Kaleb Zamora  
3/22: Chastity Scott  
3/23: Joe Hoppe  
3/28: Brenda Sporleder  
3/30: Lyndon DeJong  
3/31: Michele Sporleder

A graphic with the words "March Anniversaries" in a purple and pink cursive font. The text is enclosed in a white square with a purple border. The background is a blurred green and yellow bokeh.

March  
Anniversaries

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

3/19: Marlin & Jean Zautke

### March's Church Servants

Elder: Nick Koehler

Acolytes:

3/3 - **Wed Lent** Kyle Kuehler  
3/7 - Natasha Zamora  
3/10 - **Wed Lent** Natasha Zamora  
\*3/14 - Alexis Asmus  
3/17 - **Wed Lent** Alexis Asmus  
3/21 - Isabelle Kuehler  
3/24 - **Wed Lent** Isabelle Kuehler  
\*3/28 - **Palm Sunday** Brentyn Rampone  
\*Communion is held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>  
Sundays of each month.

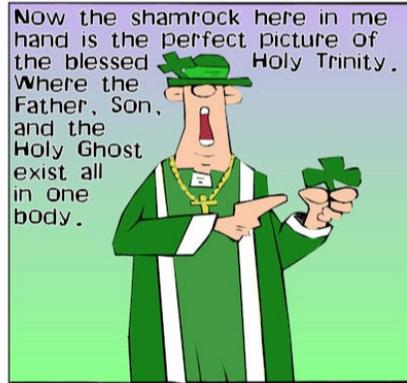
*Don't forget to call the church office if you have switched with someone.*

# KIDS CORNER



## The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

Now the shamrock here in me hand is the perfect picture of the blessed Holy Trinity. Where the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost exist all in one body.



A great Object lesson presented by **Old St. Paddy**

## The Triumphal Entry

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"  
Luke 19:38 (NIV)



S P R E A D O D E A E E Q R X  
 Y K I D D Y E R S S Y D K C S  
 H U M W Y S K E I H V V T G M  
 L N O U S T L A L D I O H A V  
 X R Z E F P R N O E L I M X F  
 C E L T I P M X R D L C U U Y  
 C B L C N P P R D N A E B R C  
 H O S L X A V E L V G S O P L  
 C I O U Z F M R A P E L F E O  
 D U G R O A D E N C G W I O A  
 S X I H H E A V E N E H E P K  
 B S Y D E J E S U S M H U L S  
 X U D Z C S C Y V A H N I E V  
 B F A V Y J T K C R O Z H L P  
 N Y B M I R A C L E S T C K L

BLESSED	MIRACLES	HIGHEST	HEAVEN	CROWD
SPREAD	GLORY	PRAISE	VILLAGE	PEOPLE
DISCIPLES	CLOAKS	VOICES	LORD	PEACE
NAME	ROAD	JESUS	HILL	COLT

## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Adult Bible Study has been moved back to Sunday following worship. It's a great time to fellowship and talk more in depth about the sermon and also study God's Word.

**2 Timothy 3:16** - All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

### COVID Reminder

Due to the Covid Virus, if you are uncomfortable joining us in church for Sunday worship, you can still worship with us outside in your car on our radio station 88.9 fm. You must be at the church to hear this station. Bulletins will be provided at your car!

If you wish to wear a mask inside the church, you are encouraged to do so. Social distancing is still being recommended at this time. Don't miss out on God's word!

You can LIKE us on Facebook:

St. John's Lutheran Church Pierce Nebraska



Video Sermons are being posted each week!

***ALL Church Members – please join the Facebook group  
“St John’s Member Information”  
as this is the best way to stay up to date on any schedule changes and  
help fellow members out with questions.***

April Newsletter items due to the office by  
March 19<sup>th</sup> please.

We couldn't do this newsletter without you!  
Thanks for all the submissions!