

From Pastor Kleinschmidt

On the Second Sunday in Lent we will listen to Jesus teach Nicodemus from John 3:1-17. Of course, this section of John's Gospel is well known because it includes the often memorized verse, John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

But perhaps even more interesting is the discourse that Jesus has with the Pharisee, Nicodemus. Pharisees rightly get a bad rap in the Gospels but here is one that inquisitive of Jesus and wants to learn from him. Jesus speaks to him about being born again. "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Another way of translating that phrase 'born again' is 'born from above.' The phrase 'born again' has been used a lot in American Christianity in the last 50 years as a way of talking about a certain strain of Christianity. It emphasizes a conversion experience that shows how a person went from terrible and manifest sins to a holiness of living. Some denominations emphasize this with the question that they address to people, "Are you born again?" They want to know if the person has had a conversion experience and now believes in Jesus.

However, we can look at the context of Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus and understand that this language of being born again isn't about leaving sin behind and living a holy life.

The conversion experience that Jesus speaks of is baptism. He says, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." A birth of water and Spirit...he is describing the water of baptism and the Word of God, the Name of God in which the Holy Spirit is present and active.

You have been born again; that is born from above when you have been baptized. Your conversion happened when you received the gift of faith in your baptism. You don't have to constantly be seeking out some dramatic conversion experience to determine if you are a Christian or not. Instead, you have the sure and certain promise and working of God in Holy

Baptism. You are a newborn child of God that has been born from above by the working of your Heavenly Father.

And yet, during this holy season of Lent, we should recognize that there is to be a daily renewal and conversion in the life of the Christian. As Luther explains in the Small Catechism, "[Baptism] indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever." We are to daily return to our baptism, repent of our sins, and let Jesus live in us and through us.

Lent is a wonderful time for self-reflection and striving for holiness of living. This is not because we are seeking the Lord's salvation or earning heaven. Instead, we know the truth of God's holy Word and his siren call to holiness.

We are to be daily born from on high. This renewal happens by the connection we have with Jesus by virtue of the faith that we have received through Holy Baptism. This new life that you have is based upon the suffering, death, and resurrection

of Jesus Christ.

So, during the first weekend of March, the Second Sunday in Lent, listen to the beautiful way that Jesus describes the new life that we have in him. You, who have faith in Jesus, have eternal life. This life you have also forms the way that you live your life today. In the beloved Son of God,
-Pastor Kleinschmidt



ST. JAKOBI NEWS & EVENTS

LENT SERVICES

Lent services will continue on Wednesday evenings at 6:30. A meal will be served in the Fellowship Hall before each service, starting at 5:00.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

3/5 Jonah
3/12 God Calls Isaiah
3/19 Israel Goes into Exile
3/26 Hezekiah

PICNIC COMMITTEE

Although the church picnic isn't until June, we are looking for volunteers to work together to plan this event. If you are interested, you can sign up on the sheet located on top of the Memorial Cabinet in the Narthex. Watch future bulletins for the meeting date. The planning of the picnic will include deciding on the food that will be served, and the games/entertainment that will be provided.

ST. JAKOBI BOOK CLUB

Book Club: Following is the list of books chosen for the upcoming months: March 7th - *The Secret Lives of Bees*; April 4th - *House of the Living Stones*; May 2nd - *The Choir Immortal*; August 1st - *The Harvest Raise*. There will be no book club in June and July.

SUNDAY SNACK SIGNUP

If you would like to bring a snack to share on Sunday after church, then you can sign up on the counter by the kitchenette in the Narthex.

LENT MEALS

Lent is here. We will again have a meal before the evening Lent services this year. It will be served from 5-6pm in the new Fellowship Hall. The following will be in charge of the meals:

March 1st - Elders
March 8th - Evangelism
March 15th - Trustees
March 22nd - Higher Things Youth
March 29th - Board of Education

MEN'S NIGHT

March Men's Night: All men of the congregation are invited to join us for a night of fun and fellowship on Thursday, March 9th at 6:30 p.m. at church. The board will be set up at 5:30 if you would like to practice before. Bring your own beverage and if you desire, a snack to share. Any questions, please contact Mark Schuster at 715-823-4393. Hope to see you there!

LOOKING AHEAD

Palm Sunday is April 2nd, Easter is April 9th, Confirmation Sunday is May 28th and the Outdoor service and church picnic is planned for June 18th.

READINGS AT CHURCH

March 5th: Genesis 12:1-9
 Romans 4:1-8, 13-17
 John 3:1-17
March 12th: Exodus 17:1-7
 Romans 5:1-8
 John 4:5-26
March 19th: Isaiah 42:14-21
 Ephesians 5:8-14
 John 9:1-41
March 26th: Ezekiel 37:1-14
 Romans 8:1-11
 John 11:1-45

GIVING OPTIONS

Contact the church office for a monthly direct giving form. You can also donate online at <http://bit.ly/DonateStJakobi>. This can be setup as a one-time donation or a recurring donation.


EASTER FLOWERS

Let's Celebrate! Please feel free to bring a plant to beautify our church for Easter! It can be an Easter lily, hyacinths, tulips, a pot of bright daisies or hydrangea; whatever you would like. Bring them on Saturday April 8th and we will have them on display for Easter Sunday! Please be sure and have your name on the bottom of the plant. After the 9:00 service on Easter Sunday you may take your plant home or, if you like, you may leave them in church! Thank You! St. Jakobi Altar Guild.

ST. JAKOBI ON FACEBOOK

St. Jakobi has a [Facebook page](#). Stay up to date on happenings at church by liking the page.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

If you are a Thrivent Member,  *Thrivent Financial for Lutherans* **Let's thrive!** you may have choice dollars that you can designate to be given to St. Jakobi, or Wolf River Lutheran High School. You can designate by calling 800-847-4836 (Mon-Thu 7:00am—8:00pm, Fri 7:00am—5:00pm, best to call between 5pm—8pm) or go on line to www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to make your designations.

SPRITUAL OUTREACH

Thank you to all who helped us at our first craft meeting. We had a great time making angels for our craft sale in November. Our next meeting will be on March 11th, at 9:00 am. We'll discuss whether we want to have another day of crafts in April.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Plans are being made for VBS to be held the week of **June 12th - 16th** in the mornings.

The theme this year is God's Living Water; Covered in Jesus' Grace. The

week of VBS is the week after school gets out and the week before Summer School begins. Make plans now to have your children attend, help, or tell your grandkids and friends about this great opportunity to learn about Jesus. Look for registration material in the coming months.

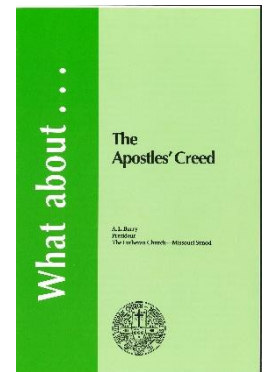


EASTER VIGIL

We won't have service on the night before Easter, but you can still attend a special service. The Easter Vigil will be held at Zion Lutheran Church, Embarass. Nine area congregations will be represented by their pastors. The service will begin at 6:30pm on April 8th. You are invited to attend.

WHAT ABOUT...

Each month we'll be highlighting a tract that can be picked up in the narthex by the guest book. There is a series that was written by the former President of the LCMS, Rev. A. L. Barry. They cover a multitude of topics. This month we look at **The Apostles' Creed**. The pamphlet answers questions about God and why we confess creeds.



CONSIDERING A LUTHERAN SCHOOL?

St. Jakobi has funds available to help pay for tuition at [St. James Elementary School](#), [Wolf River Lutheran High School](#), or a Concordia University if your student is majoring in a church-work field. Don't let tuition be a stumbling block to a Lutheran school education. Also available for students enrolled at Wolf River Lutheran High School is a \$1000 discount for each student. Talk to Pastor if you need assistance or have questions.

PALM SUNDAY - APRIL 2ND

At the Palm Sunday Service the Sunday School children will sing and process into church with Pastor while they carry Palm branches. Be sure to have the children here early so they can get lined up to walk in and then sing.

SPRING FORWARD!

Daylight Savings Time begins on March 12th. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour so you will be at church on time Sunday morning.

WRLHS TRIVIA EVENT

The Wolf River Lutheran High School will be holding the ninth Annual Trivia Event on Sunday, March 19th, in the high school gymnasium. This year's theme is '#1 Sports Fan'. Teams can have up to 8 people. The cost is \$10 per person in advance, or \$12 per person at the door. If you sign up by March 10th, you can get a table of 8 members for \$70. For more information and sponsoring information, see the poster on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

2 - Marcia Buettner
2 - Mark Buettner
2 - Michael Waldvogel
4 - Matthew VanBuren
4 - Darlene Wendorff
6 - Jennifer Murdock
6 - Sabrina Schmidt
7 - Oliver Buntrock
8 - Elizabeth Buettner
8 - Grayson Schmidt
8 - Allyssa Verstoppen
9 - David Buettner
9 - Grant Riesenber
10 - Ethan Pleshek
10 - Lucas Schoenike
11 - Tabb Magee
11 - Ella Stuber
11 - Cassius Tuma
12 - Robert Behrens
12 - Kadence Meyers
12 - Lynn Trochil
12 - Jesse Waldvogel
13 - Joel Buettner
13 - Jessica McDowell
14 - Patti Burr
14 - Sandy Wendorff
15 - Darwin Drake
15 - Josh Ladwig
15 - Kaden Marcell
15 - Payten Thompson
15 - Kelsie Wendorff
17 - Payton Skalitzky
17 - Braden Teetzen
18 - Robert Buettner
19 - Allyson Popp
19 - Carson Popp
20 - Lindsey Cumberland
20 - Betty Lemke
20 - Ethan Magee
21 - Doug Berkhahn
21 - Oaklyn Gast
22 - Randy Schroeder
23 - Emily Pleshek
24 - Emma Prodel
24 - Josh Trochil
25 - Connor Stuber
26 - Westin Buntrock
27 - AJ Bedroske
27 - Revin Buntrock
27 - Luke Lindner
28 - James Felckowski
28 - Danielle Kuhn
28 - Zoey Riesenber
29 - Michael Bohm

A BIRTHDAY PRAYER

Heavenly Father, our times are in Your hands. Look with favor on name as he/she celebrates his/her birthday. Grant that he/she may continue to grow in wisdom and grace. Strengthen his/her trust in Your goodness and bless him/her with Your abiding love all the days of his/her life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

01, 2008 - Justin & Sarah Engel
02, 1996 - Chris & Jamie Popp
03, 2014 - Bruce & Lena Johnson
03, 1973 - Wilbur & Connie Steinke
08, 1997 - Jason & Janelle Lange
11, 1994 - Carl & Holly Montoure
19, 2010 - Michael & Debra Daley
25, 1995 - Scott & Kerry Breitrick



AN ANNIVERSARY OF MARRIAGE PRAYER

O Lord Jesus, Your mercies are new every morning. We thank You for another year of married life together for name and name. Open their hearts always to receive more of Your love that their love for each other may never grow weary but deepen and grow through every joy and sorrow shared; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Contact the Church Office if you find anything in need of correction to the Birthdays and Anniversaries.

MARCH 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Elders: Sat: Jamison Yorton Sun: Mark Schuster Bob Behrens Special: Brian Sperberg			1 4:15 Catechism 5:00 Lent Meal 6:30 Service <i>Acolyte:</i> Colbie Reinke	2 1:00 Bible Study	3	4 6:30 Service (HC) <i>Acolyte:</i> Harper Rettke
5 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Education Hour <i>Acolyte:</i> Noah Wendorff	6 6:15 Choir 7:00 Altar Guild	7 1:00 Book Club 5:00 Elders	8 4:15 Catechism 5:00 Lent Meal 6:30 Service <i>Acolyte:</i> Tristan West	9 1:00 Bible Study 5:00 Landscaping Meeting 6:30 Men's Night	10	11 9:00 Spiritual Outreach 6:30 Service (HC) <i>Acolyte:</i> Kavion Franklin
12 <i>Daylight Savings Time</i> 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Education Hour <i>Acolyte:</i> Jaelyn Hietpas	13 6:15 Choir	14	15 4:15 Catechism 5:00 Lent Meal 6:30 Service <i>Acolyte:</i> Nolan Kleinschmidt	16 1:00 Bible Study	17	18 6:30 Service (HC) <i>Acolyte:</i> Brooklyn Krueger
19 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Education Hour <i>Acolyte:</i> McKenzie Kuhn 1:30 WRLHS Trivia Event	20 6:15 Choir	21	22 4:15 Catechism 5:00 Lent Meal 6:30 Service <i>Acolyte:</i> Colton Peters	23 1:00 Bible Study	24	25 6:30 Service (HC) <i>Acolyte:</i> Connor Stuber
26 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Education Hour <i>Acolyte:</i> Blake Weishoff	27 6:15 Choir	28	29 4:15 Catechism 5:00 Lent Meal 6:30 Service <i>Acolyte:</i> Khloe Wendorff	30 1:00 Bible Study	31	Altar Guild: Mary Theis Roxy Martzke Betty Szucs Donna Ward

St. Jakobi Lutheran Church

W 8089 County Rd. A
Shawano, WI 54166
715-524-4347
www.stjakobi.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

“We Preach Christ Crucified”



Church Services:

Saturday at 6:30pm and Sunday at 9:00am

Bible Study:

Wednesday at 6:30pm, Thursday at 1:00pm, and Sunday at 10:30am.

Sunday School:

Sunday at 10:30am

