



St. John's Lutheran Church

A Lutheran Congregation in Mission for Christ



News & Notes

THE STRENGTHENING OF YOUR FAITH

In a sense, every day of life is a test of our relationship with God. But to each person come seasons of special joy or adversity. Both good times and bad times present opportunities for testing our trust in the Lord.

God is not watching us with grade book in hand, waiting to “pass or fail” us based on our performance. Since all have sinned, no human being on earth could pass such a test (Romans 6:23). Testing comes through the circumstances of our lives so that we can know our own hearts more insightfully and appreciate God’s grace more deeply. In such times of testing, we become aware of our thought, attitudes and emotions. Through this self-awareness, God shows us where we must yet yield to him in trusting obedience.

As the psalmist wrote, when God exposes our hearts through testing, he is leading us away from the ways of the world and into the way that is everlasting (Ps 139: 23-24). The same kinds of joy and adversity come to believers as to unbelievers. The unbeliever can make little sense of life and respond to it. The Christian can walk through the testing of life’s joys and sorrows with full assurance that in Jesus Christ we are becoming the person God created to be.

THE BEAR FACTS

What is going on with this weather? I am panting my wiggle butt off. I’m doing good and taking my medicine like I should. Mom got mad at me the other day cause she stepped on one of my hard chew bones and fell in the dining room hurting her knee. I gave her puppy kisses but I know she was made so I went and laid in my recliner. Later on she gave me human kisses and said she was sorry for yelling at me. Had a nice Valentine’s Day. Mom got me Valentine bones to eat and gave me a lot of love as usual. Take care until we bark again next month.

Hugs & Puppy Kisses,

Bear

UPCOMING EVENTS

LENTEN SERVICES:

MARCH 1- SUPPER @ 5:45, SERVICE @ 7P-ST. JOHNS

MARCH 8- SUPPER @ 5:45, SERVICE @ 7P-LIGHTHOUSE

MARCH 12- COFFEE HOUR

MARCH 15- SUPPER @ 5:45, SERVICE @ 7P-ST. JOHNS

MARCH 19-LAST DAY TO ORDER EASTER FLOWERS

MARCH 22-SUPPER @ 5:45, SERVICE @ 7P-LIGHTHOUSE

MARCH 29- SUPPER @ 5:45, SERVICE @ 7P-ST. JOHNS

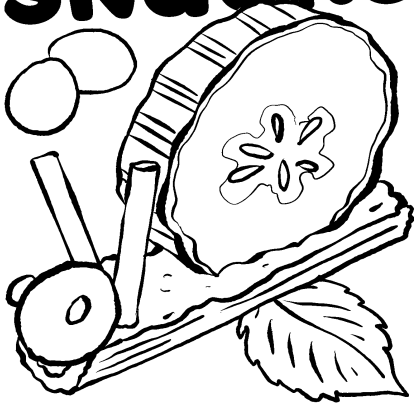
PALM SUNDAY-10:30AM-ST. JOHNS

APRIL 6-MAUNDY THURSDAY 7P-ST. JOHNS

APRIL 7-GOOD FRIDAY-NOON @ST.JOHNS, 7P-
LIGHTHOUSE

APRIL 9-EASTER BREAKFAST,SERVICE @10:30 ST. JOHNS

SPRINGTIME SNACKS



Whip up a plate of these cute, healthy treats!

What you need:

- Celery sticks
- Cherry tomatoes
- Cucumber circles
- Olives
- Cream cheese spread
- Fresh basil leaves (optional)
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Have an adult help you wash and cut the veggies.
2. Spread cream cheese inside the celery rods.
3. Place a cucumber circle upright in the cream cheese to make a bug body.
4. Add the tomato as a head.
5. Arrange basil leaves on a plate and place the veggie bugs on them.
6. Making different-shaped veggies. Enjoy!


PUZZLE





A seasonal reminder


Signs of spring remind us of God's promises.


Directions: Use the picture code and clues to complete Isaiah 61:11, NIV.


 plants grow here

 to coil and jump
(also a season of the year)

 to expand and get bigger



 seeds are planted in this

 when watered, these make plants

 another word for seedling

For as the _____ makes the _____

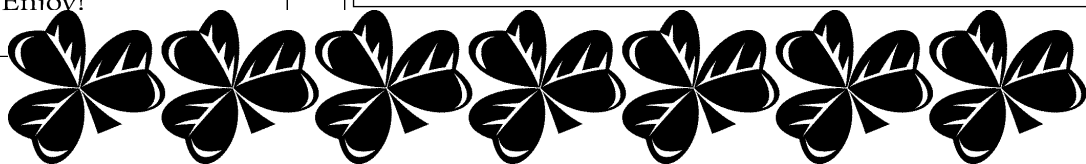
_____  come up and a _____  causes

_____  to _____ , so the

Sovereign LORD will make righteousness

and praise _____  up before all nations.

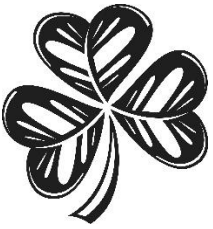
ISAIAH 61:11, NIV





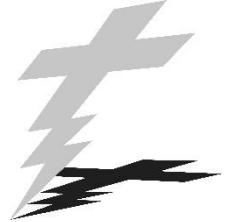
**For God so loved the world
that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes
in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

John 3:16



Christian Symbol - SHAMROCK — St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach people about the Godhead. Holding up a shamrock, he challenged them, “Is this one leaf, or three?” Inevitably, people replied that it was both, prompting St. Patrick to draw the analogy that so, too, is God: one God in three Persons — the Holy Trinity.


Come be energized - After some time away from the church, author Donald E. Miller returned to the fold. He writes: “One thing that brought me back ... was asking simply: What are the alternatives to the church? Where are the communities that sanction the pursuit of meaning and truth as a legitimate enterprise? that have material and personal resources to assist in this search? that provide regular occasions for confession of failures? that renew and inspire? that provide a setting where children are nurtured? where family members can be buried? where births can be celebrated? where social issues can be debated?” Miller concludes: “There are a number of institutions that deal with one or several of these questions, but historically the church has demonstrated its ability to energize all of these activities.”



Bible Quiz

In the Gospels, Jesus raised several people from death. Which of the following was not one of them?

- A. Tabitha
- B. Jairus's daughter
- C. A widow's son
- D. Lazarus



Answer: A (See Acts 9, Mark 5, Luke 7, John 11.)



Prove it! - In *Jesus Christ, Superstar*, King Herod mocks the bound prisoner who's brought to his courtyard. “So, you are the Christ. You're the great Jesus Christ!” he sings. “Prove to me that you're no fool: Walk across my swimming pool!” Likewise, the Pharisees demand evidence that Jesus is speaking for God (see Matthew 12:38). It's easy to poke fun at them, but have you ever faced a tough decision and thought, “If only God would give me a sign”?

Jesus tells the religious teachers about the “sign of Jonah,” a metaphor for his upcoming death and resurrection. Though it's meant to be a sign for all, not everyone accepts it as truth. Luke 16:31 notes that if the rich man's brothers weren't predisposed to listen to Moses and the prophets, then “they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead” (NIV). Signs are useful only to people who accept their messages and act accordingly.

