

ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH

March, 2020



Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Recently, I ran into a friend at the grocery store and she had her little 6-year-old with her. This little girl was so eager to tell me a joke, an elephant joke. I haven't heard an elephant joke since high school. Anyway, it made me think of the well-known story of the elephant and the blind men. The version I remember is that a group of blind men all touch an elephant to learn what it is like. Each one touches a different part of the animal. Based on the part that each one touched, they try to come to a larger picture, or truth, about what the whole elephant is like. For example, one touched the ear and decides the elephant is a wicker basket. To the one who touched the head, the elephant was a pot. One touches the tip of the tail and concludes the elephant is a brush. To another who touches the leg, the elephant is a tree. You get the idea. When they get together and compare their experiences and conclusions, they discover they disagree on what an elephant is like. Each blind man has his own view of reality, depending upon where he touched the elephant. I am not sure if there is a moral to this story, but someone once said that truth is like an elephant surrounded by blind men.

As Christians we say GOD is truth. We might use the above image to say God is like an elephant surrounded by blind men. Each one is trying to find the reality of God only in what we see and touch.

I believe he was thinking of the story of the blind men and the elephant when Edwin Friedman wrote, "I touch the elephant wherever the elephant appears." I think he was trying to say that the elephant is so large that it is impossible for anyone to comprehend the whole animal. Or that one can only observe what is in front of him or her. The elephant is too huge to handle in its entirety. It can only be described by what is experienced in the moment.

So many times, we try to discover everything about God by looking in all the places we are not sure God is. We look at the tragedies of our world, for example, and wonder where God could be in the face of such a thing. We often try to define who God is by what we feel or think or deduce from our own experience. We create the whole of God from our small bit of perception. Some of the time we try to put our own perceptions together with that of others. Who does the world say God is or should be? Who do others say God is based on their experience? Yet even then, God is too large in His entirety for us to handle.

Each week, I encounter many people from our surrounding churches in the community and here at All Saints as we gather for worship. What I have discovered is that I touch God wherever God appears. (Better yet, God touches me wherever God appears.) God is only known from what God chooses to reveal to us. We know what is at hand because God is at hand. This is the beauty and mystery of our worship. God appears. God promises to appear when we gather around God's word and sacraments. No guessing. Here the wholeness of God is set aside in the "for you" of the Gospel promise. "I baptize you into the body of Christ. This is my body, my blood, given for you. I forgive you all your sins." This is not your view of God as you grope and search for and touch it. This is the reality of God touching you.

Remember that our Lord is the one who opened the eyes of the blind, even those eyes who weren't looking for sight. How sad it is, that so many in our culture have abandoned worship as meaningless (or at least not as meaningful as other things) because they feel like they don't get anything out of it. Is this a blind man's view of reality? What could be more real and meaningful than being touched by an elephant, OR by the living God? Perhaps we should think more on this come Sunday morning.

O.K. O.K. I know you are dying to know what the elephant joke is.

Q: Why did the elephants wear sunglasses?

A: With all the bad elephant jokes going around, they did not want to be recognized. Hmmmmmm

Blessings to you as enter into these 40 days of Lent.

Servants together, Pr. Paul <><

p.s. Did you know? A few years ago, instead of giving something up, I brought up the idea to practice 40 days of kindness. Find a way to do something simple each day in an unexpected way: spending time with others, extending generosity and compassion. Remember Jesus' promise that when you care for others, you care for him (Matthew 25:31-46). Only you know what is realistic but a Lent discipline needs to be something that will challenge you and help you to remember what God has done for you and continues to do for you.

p.s.s. - Did you know that Luther said. . . ??? "When I look at myself, I don't see how I can be saved. But when I look at Christ, I don't see how I can be lost."

Council Meeting Highlights February 11, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Don McMillan. Don shared devotions.

Members present: Sharon Johnson, Marilyn Liebetrau, Joel Magnuson, Don McMillan, Don Ranta, Pastor Paul, Marj Seely and Wyatt Smith.

The meeting agenda was approved.

The January minutes were approved.

Praise be given to Gigi McMillan for the way she handled Sunday School when our guests with autistic children attended worship. The children's mother was most grateful.

Committee Reports were given.

- Plans for Lent and soup suppers are underway.
- The front door is still a few weeks away.
- Security cameras have been purchased and will be installed soon.

Sharon Johnson presented the treasurer's report. It was moved and seconded to approve. Motion passed.

January 1, 2020 through January 31, 2020

Total Income: \$10,718.00

Total Expenses: \$7,902.00

+\$2,816.00

Don McMillan is seeking help to revise the constitution and by-laws. Let Don know if you might be interested .

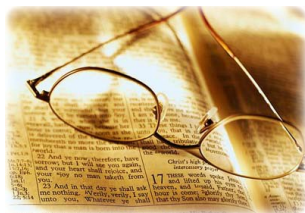
The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next council meeting is March 10 at 6:00 p.m.

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee is being guided by a book by J. Clif Christopher entitled **Not Your Parents' Offering Plate, A New Vision for Financial Stewardship**. This book offers many different ideas to conduct and improve financial stewardship including budgets, best practices, and habits to make and break. All Saints needs to have a plan that is designed to change and shape lives for the better. Periodic testimonials are strongly recommended to be part of the changes needed so the congregation understands how faith and the church are accomplishing this goal. Thus we began our monthly testimonial program last fall as a beginning. Other key ideas will be communicated in subsequent months.

Bible Study, March 10 at 2:00 p.m.



Read the Book of Jude and join in for a group-led discussion of the Book. If you have questions, ask Olinda, Carolyn or Janell.

Looking For a Way to Deepen Your Worship Experience?

For many people, looking at the Bible readings before Sunday helps put the message in the context of their lives. As you read the lessons, ask yourself: Is there anything in the readings that relate to your life right now? Is there anything that surprises you in the readings? Disturbs you? Try doing this and see if following this on a weekly basis strengthens your personal faith life, and deepens your worship experience.

The Lessons for Worship in March

These are the Bible readings that we will hear during our worship services this month. They are provided that you might use them for personal devotion and meditation.

March 1 – First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalms 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

March 8 – Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalms 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17

March 15 – Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-17

Psalms 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

March 22 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalms 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

March 29 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalms 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45



World Day of Prayer

March 5, 10:00

Observe a common **day of prayer** for peace, justice and service with the women of Zimbabwe who have prepared this year's program. The program begins at 10:00 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints In Cedaredge.

Men's Winter Retreat



Let's get together for a men's winter retreat for the men of All Saints and Joy Lutheran Churches. Mark your calendars for March 13 – 15 so you don't miss out. Pastor Rod Hank will be hosting the topics and discussion during the retreat. The retreat will be held at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp in Hillside Colorado. Rainbow Trail has been chosen for this year's winter retreat to avoid a last minute cancelation due to snow or weather conditions and reduce the time and logistics of getting everyone to Bret's cabin.

Retreat Detail Highlights:

How do I sign up: A signup sheet is on the table in the narthex. Sign up or request more information.

Who will be attending: Men of All Saints and Joy, sons and friends

Dates: March 13-15, 2020

Location: Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp , Hillside, Colorado

Driving Time: 3 h 15 m

Cost: \$80.00 (If the cost is an issue, scholarships are available. Please talk to Pastor Paul.)

A brochure and signup list are in the narthex. If you have any questions please contact Bret Specht (bretspecht@msn.com – 303.885.6241) or Pastor Paul.

Lenten Worship Opportunities

Plan now to maximize your personal Lenten experience by participating in worship, reflection and fellowship opportunities.

Ash Wednesday, February 26: All Saints will host an abbreviated service at 12:10 without communion. Communion will be served at the **7:00 p.m.** worship service.

Each Wednesday Lenten soup supper will begin at **5:30 p.m.** for soup with worship following at **6:15 p.m.**

- March 4 @ Cedaredge Community United Methodist Church
- March 11 @ Eckert Presbyterian Church
- March 18 @ All Saints Lutheran Church
- March 25 @ Cedaredge Community United Methodist Church
- April 1 @ Eckert Presbyterian Church

Palm Sunday Breakfast April 5, 8:45 a.m., followed by worship

Maundy Thursday, April 9, 7:00 p.m.at All Saints Lutheran including foot washing.

Good Friday, April 10, 7:00 p.m. at All Saints Lutheran.

Easter Vigil, April 11, 7:00 p.m.at St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

**ASLC Night at the Movies presents
"Son of God"
Thursday, March 19
6:30 p.m.**



Released in 2014, "Son of God" tells the life story of Jesus is told from his humble birth through his teachings, crucifixion and ultimate resurrection.

Mindy Smith receives DAISY Award

DAISY stands for Diseases Attacking the Immune System. After the loss of Patrick Barnes, his family formed the DAISY Foundation. The organization's goal was to ensure that nurses know how deserving they are of our society's profound respect for the education, training, brainpower, and skill they put into their work, and especially for the caring with which they deliver their care. Please pray for Mindy and her fellow health care professionals as they provide services to patients and their families.

Wyatt Smith attends ELCA

Rocky Mountain Synod Council Meeting

Wyatt Smith has been filling the vacated youth representative spot on the council (for the balance of her term) since he returned home from the church wide gathering in Milwaukee. The Bishop asked Wyatt to take on this additional responsibility. Wyatt has attended two synod council meetings. After the most recent meeting, Earline Bohlig (VP of Synod Council) texted the following to Pastor Paul: "Paul, I want to take a minute to share with you how amazing Wyatt was during our council meeting. He has such wisdom for a young man and shared in our difficult conversations over the weekend. Also, he accompanied 4 generationally gifted women on Friday evening, listened to all of our banter with grace and even said he enjoyed hearing the stories of such wise women. He gives me hope for our (sic) church into the future. I know that you already know this about him but thought you should hear it from someone else."

Please keep Wyatt in your prayers as he continues this journey

Miriam Circle Notes

Following the second session of "We are Called," the business meeting was called to order by Claudia Kellogg.

We are not going to draw for prayer sisters this year. Sonja Anders is working on repairing the Christmas Tree toppers. They would not light this year. We may be purchasing new ones for next Christmas. Elaine reported that the team that serves breakfast at Abraham Connection will be looking for additional team members for next year.

Please join us on March 4 at 10:00 a.m. for Bible study focusing on our call to serve. The business meeting will follow.

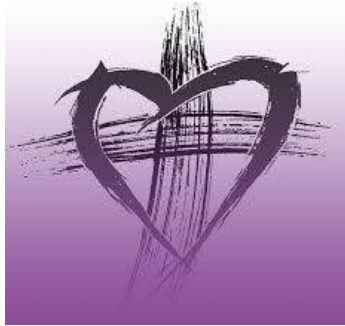
SONS OF NORWAY

Vestafjell Lodge, Sons of Norway, will meet on **Saturday, March 14**, with Social Time at 1:30 p.m. followed by the Lodge Meeting at 2 at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 3133 F Road, Grand Junction, CO. Lunch will be served. Our 'Ski for Light Gals' will share their experiences as Volunteer Guides for the blind and visually impaired skiers who participated in the recent international event in Casper, WY.



Your RSVP will help us in food planning for this day.

Guests interested in Scandinavian heritage and culture are always welcome. For more information call 245-5649, or 858-6702. Visit the lodge website, www.vestafjelllodge.org or on Facebook/Vestafjell Lodge 6-146 (Public



LENT- A Season for Fasting, a Season for Feasting

Fast from judging others; Feast on Christ living in them.

Fast from harsh words; Feast on words that build up others.

Fast from discontentment; Feast on gratitude.

Fast from anger; Feast on patience.

Fast from pessimism; Feast on optimism.

Fast from worry; Feast on God's care.

Fast from complaining; Feast on appreciation.

Fast from bitterness; Feast on forgiveness.

Fast from self-concern; Feast on compassion for others.

Fast from discouragement; Feast on hope.

Fast from facts that depress; Feast on facts that uplift.

Fast from suspicion; Feast on truth.

Fast from thoughts that weaken; Feast on promises that inspire.

Fast from idle gossip; Feast on silence with a purpose.

Fast from guilt; Feast on the mercy of God.

Lent is such a time for fasting and feasting! (Author unknown)

MARCH SUNDAY WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

	1 Communion	8	15 Communion	22	29
Worship Leader	Father Larry	Pastor Paul	Pastor Paul	Pastor Paul	Pastor Paul
Liturgy Assistant	Joel	Don	Joel	Diane	Marj
Communion Assistant	Rick		Wilma		
Communion Bread	Marj		Marj		
Organist	Don	Don	Don	Don	Don
Pianist	Olinda	Olinda	Olinda	Olinda	Olinda
Altar Guild	Shannon		Claudia		
Readers	Carolyn	Duane	Joel	Steve	Marj
Ushers	Lloyd	Jesse	Bret	Steve	Lee
Greeters	Marilyn	Carolyn	Michelle	Lenie	Carol
Stewards	Lloyd/Erich	Don R/Jack	Don Mc/ Rick	Claudia/ Janell	Erich/Rick
Fellowship	Marilyn	Carolyn	Janell	Lenie/ Marilyn	Wilma

To provide refreshments for Fellowship, please sign up on the white board by the kitchen window or call Janell, 835-3928. To usher or greet at worship, sign up on the white board on the cupboard in the back of the sanctuary. Help your congregation by offering your time.

This newsletter was made possible by contributions from: Carolyn Goller, Sharon Johnson, Claudia Kellogg, Marilyn Liebetrau, Joel Magnuson, Carol Martinson, Don McMillan, Olinda Patzer, Don Ranta, Niles Riese, Janell Riese, Cristi Rivero, Pastor Paul, Marj Seely, and Bret Specht.

All Saints Special Occasions for March

Birthdays: 3/2 Father Tom 3/8 Amber Morrow 3/19 Carolyn Golller 3/25 Pastor Paul

3/28 Anna Kenner

Baptismal Birthdays: 3/24 Marj Seely 3/26 Lee Martinson 3/28 Barb Cairns
Lloyd Liebetrau ???

Anniversaries:



ALL SAINTS QUICK INFORMATION

Church—(970) 835-3667

Church Email: PastorPaul@AllSaintsLutheranCO.org

Pastor Paul Rosin

Cell Phone: 303-564-0265

Council Officers & Committee Chairs:

Don McMillan, President and Building and Property
Joel Magnuson, Vice President and Worship Chair
Michelle Specht, Secretary
Sharon Johnson, Treasurer
Marilyn Liebetrau, Outreach Chair
Don Ranta, Stewardship Chair
Wyatt Smith, Education Chair
Marj Seely, Financial Secretary
Memorial Fund: Executive Committee
Finance Committee: Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and Executive Committee

Non-Council Committee Chairs:

Fellowship, Janell Riese
Readers, Olinda Patzer
Ushers and Greeters: Niles Riese and Bret Specht
Altar Guild: Alice Spika, Shannon Fritchman, Claudia Kellogg
Prayer Chain, Claudia Kellogg

Weekly Bulletin:

Carolyn Goller
Joel Magnuson
Janell Riese

Newsletter:

Janell Riese, Carolyn Goller and Claudia Kellogg

Marquee:

Joel Magnuson
Jesse Rosin

**Please notify Pastor Paul if you or someone
in your family is entering the hospital or needs pastoral care.**

CHURCH WEBSITE

www.allsaintslutheranco.org

CHURCH EMAIL ADDRESS

Info@allsaintslutheranco.org



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.