

ST. JOHN'S JOURNAL

The monthly newsletter for
St. John Lutheran Church
Loogootee, IN

LIFE TOGETHER

BY PASTOR TIMOTHY FLEACE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are looking at geographical places in the Bible and the theological and spiritual meaning they carry. The season of Lent, which begins on 18 February with Ash Wednesday, has long been associated with three geographical locations in the Bible: the desert, Babylon, and Egypt. These three locations are remembered as places of trial, exile, oppression, temptation, and struggle. This month we will look at the desert and Babylon; next month we will consider Egypt.

The Gospel for the first Sunday of Lent is the story of Jesus spending 40 days in the desert being tempted by the devil. The desert was considered a place of trial and the dwelling place of evil spirits. It was the place where Israel was led by God for 40 years to test her to see if she would be faithful to God by trusting Him and following His commandments. That generation of Israel failed the test. When Christ enters the desert he will remain faithful to his Father trusting Him to provide what he needs. He

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will fast and go without bread, but he will be sustained by every word which comes from the mouth of God. The life of God is more important than food.

Sometime around 587 B.C., the armies of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, conquered Jerusalem, tore down its walls, and laid waste the Temple that Solomon constructed. The conquest was brutal; you can read about some of the brutality in Psalm 137. A sizable portion of the Jewish population was taken captive and forced to live in exile in Babylon. Because of the devastating nature of that conquest, Babylon would become a symbol of corruption and evil in the eyes of the people of God. As Psalm 137 describes her, Babylon is a devastator.

In the Book of Revelation, Babylon becomes a symbol of Rome. In chapter 17, Rome/Babylon is depicted as a harlot seated upon a great beast. She is the source of abominations, luxury, blasphemy, and temptation. Chapters 17 and 18 depict the fall of Babylon and the rejoicing among the people of God when Babylon is no more. For our purposes, picture Babylon as a symbol as well. It is the source of greed, political corruption, the porn industry, lust for fame and power, lies, and pride. It thrives in social media, instability, and lack of religious faith. It is the full public expression of the sin that lies in the human heart and is empowered by demons.

During our midweek Lenten services this year we will be looking at spiritual

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Prayer Concerns

Please be praying for these friends and church family members.

Those with health concerns:

*Brian Wininger (church member)
 *Bryan Adams (church member)
 Chris Haag (brother to T. Haag, cousin to J. Love)
 Dave Harder (friend of Linda Goldman)
 David Welch (brother-in-law of Doug & Rita Denson)
 Eva Carson (niece of Matthew & Madeline Fleace)
 Helen Bauer (wife of Augie Bauer)
 George Payne (cousin to Julinda Adams)
 Jane Person (friend of Duane Mann)
 Jim Leistner (friend of Goldman family)
 Joan Haag (mother of Tony Haag)
 Joseph Hart (friend of Barbara Prince)
 Ladema Welton (friend of Julinda Adams)
 Lee Sipes (brother of Tammy Wininger)
 Marg Otto (friend of Barbara Prince)
 Pam Bullock (friend of Linda Goldman and others)
 Steve Deckard (friend of Hilbert Fuhrman)

Those in the nursing home and homebound:

*Phyllis Lynch (Gentry Park, Bloomington)
 *Verneeda Roach (her home)

Our College/Graduate Students:

*Alex Adams, Ivy Tech, Bloomington
 *Carson Shaw, University of Evansville
 *Isaac Eagle, University of Southern Indiana
 *Kenley Shaw, University of Southern Indiana
 *Olivia Harker, University of Southern Indiana

Our Military Personnel:

*Kody Neukam-Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota

Other concerns:

The spiritual state of our nation and churches
 The leaders in our nation and world
 Our church and leaders of our church
 Our sister church in Dubois and leaders
 Our own individual spiritual state
 Those experiencing war, unrest, and persecution
 Those who suffer depression & mental illness
 Staff and students at our local schools

** denotes church member*

(Life Together, continued from page 2)

discipline as a way to resist Babylon and grow more faithful during our sojourn in the wilderness of this age.

We will lament the addictions, the divisiveness, the acedia, the despair, and the nihilism that haunts our society. All of these are the stock and trade of Babylon. We will also rejoice on Easter Sunday morning when Christ will rise from the dead triumphing over the armies of Babylon and the kingdom of death.

In Christ,
Pr. Fleace

**Worship Services will
begin at 9 AM starting
in January 2026 and
continue at that time
until the end of April.**



Welcome!! Beck Victoria Myers

Beck was born on January 16, 2026, at 10:43 AM, weighing 7 lbs 10 oz and measuring 21 inches long! Congratulations to parents Summer and Austin Myers!!

The proud grandparents are Larry and Annette Shaw. Doting aunt is Cassidy Shaw and excited great grandmother is Carla Braun!

Your family at
St. John Lutheran Church
is happy for all of you!



Thank You

Dear St. John Lutheran Church,
Thank you for ringing bells at IGA for the Salvation Army. A donation of \$122.57 was collected during your time or ringing the bells. A total of \$3256.47 was collected at IGA. a total of \$4090.20 was donated from IGA and other red kettles at businesses and donation.

Thanks again,
Jean Survance,
Salvation Army Red Kettle Coordinator



Dear St. John Lutheran Church,
Thank you so much for your contribution to the Martin County Toy Store! We greatly appreciate your contributions!
Pam Loughmiller & Curt Johnson



Dear St. John Lutheran Church,
Thank you for opening your heart and home to Indiana's children. The best gift you could give a child is a loving and safe place. Our reason to celebrate this season is you.

Happy Holidays,
The Indiana Department of Child Services

**My child, do not regard lightly
the discipline of the Lord, or lose
heart when you are punished by
him; for the Lord disciplines
those whom he loves, and
chastises every child whom he
accepts. Hebrews 12:5-6**

**Silas, Fellow Worker of
St. Peter and St. Paul
Commemoration Day February 10**

"Silas, a leader in the Church at Jerusalem, was chosen by Paul (Acts 15:40) to accompany him on his second missionary journey from Antioch to Asia Minor and Macedonia. Silas, also known as Silvanus, was imprisoned with Paul in Philippi and experienced the riots in Thessalonica and Berea. After rejoining Paul in Corinth, Silas apparently remained there for an extended time. Sometime later he apparently joined the apostle Peter, likely serving as Peter's secretary (1 Peter 5:12). Tradition says that Silas was the first bishop at Corinth."



**Valentine, Martyr
Commemoration Day February 14**

"A physician and priest living in Rome during the rule of Emperor Claudius, Valentine became one of the noted martyrs of the third century. The commemoration of his death, which occurred in AD 270, became part of the calendar of remembrance in the Early Church of the West. Tradition suggests that on the day of his execution for his Christian faith, Valentine left a note of encouragement for a child of his jailer written on an irregularly shaped piece of paper. This greeting became a pattern for millions of written expressions of love and caring that now are the highlight of Valentine's Day in many nations."

**Philipp Melanchthon (birth),
Confessor
Commemoration Day February 16**

"Philipp Melanchthon (1497-1560) was a brilliant student of the classics and a humanist scholar. In 1518, he was appointed to teach along with Martin Luther at the University of Wittenberg. At Luther's urging, Melanchthon began teaching theology and Scripture in addition to his courses in classical studies. In April 1530, Emperor Charles V called an official meeting between the representatives of Lutheranism and Roman Catholicism, hoping to effect a meeting of minds between two opposing groups. Since Luther was at that time under papal excommunication and an imperial ban, Melanchthon was assigned the duty of being the chief Lutheran representative at this meeting. He is especially remembered and honored as the author of the Augsburg Confession, which was officially presented by the German princes to the emperor on June 25, 1530, as the defining document of Lutheranism within Christendom. Melanchthon died on April 19, 1560."



**Polycarp of Smyrna,
Pastor and Martyr
Commemoration Day February 23**

"Born around AD 69, Polycarp was a central figure in the Early Church. A disciple of the evangelist John, he linked

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Lectionary Readings for February

Please find below the daily lectionary readings for this month. Reading the Bible every day will increase your spiritual health in the same way that exercise helps you physically to stay well. We encourage you to make time in your day for the care of your soul.

- 1 Zechariah 11:4-17; 2 Timothy 4:1-18
- 2 Zechariah 12:1-13:9; Titus 1:1-2:6
- 3 Zechariah 14:1-21; Titus 2:7-3:15
- 4 Job 1:1-22; John 1:1-18
- 5 Job 2:1-3:10; John 1:19-34
- 6 Job 3:11-26; John 1:35-51
- 7 Job 4:1-21; John 2:1-12
- 8 Job 5:1-27; John 2:13-25
- 9 Job 6:1-13; John 3:1-21
- 10 Job 6:14-30; John 3:22-4:6
- 11 Job 7:1-21; John 4:7-26
- 12 Job 8:1-22; John 4:27-45
- 13 Job 9:1-35; John 4:46-54
- 14 Job 10:1-22; John 5:1-18
- 15 Job 11:1-20; John 5:19-29
- 16 Job 12:1-6, 12-25; John 5:30-47
- 17 Genesis 1:1-19; Mark 1:1-13
- 18 Genesis 1:20-2:3; Mark 1:14-28
- 19 Genesis 2:4-25; Mark 1:29-45
- 20 Genesis 3:1-24; Mark 2:1-17
- 21 Genesis 4:1-26; Mark 2:18-28
- 22 Genesis 6:1-7:5; Mark 3:1-19
- 23 Genesis 7:11-8:12; Mark 3:20-35
- 24 Genesis 8:13-9:17; Mark 4:1-20
- 25 Genesis 11:27-12:20; Mark 4:21-41
- 26 Genesis 13:1-18; Mark 5:1-20
- 27 Genesis 15:1-21; Mark 5:21-43
- 28 Genesis 16:1-9, 15-17:22; Mark 6:1-13



(Polycarp of Smyrna, continued from page 4)

the first generation of believers to later Christians. After serving for many years as bishop of Smyrna, Polycarp was arrested, tried, and executed for his faith on February 23, in AD 155 or 156. An eyewitness narrative of his death, The Martyrdom of Polycarp continues to encourage believers in times of persecution."

Servers for February

1 February Epiphany 4

Lector/Communion Asst: **Deron Steiner**

Acolyte: **Deron Steiner**

Communion Helper: **Angie Steiner**

Greeters: **Ross & Sarah Adams**

Nursery: **Tammy Wininger**

Color: **Green**

8 February Epiphany 5

Lector: **Leanne Love**

Acolyte: **Leanne Love**

Greeters: **Dick & Kay Barber**

Nursery: **Drew/Hannah Davis**

Color: **Green**

15 February Transfiguration of Our Lord

Lector/Communion Asst: **Tammy Wininger**

Acolyte: **Tammy Wininger**

Greeters: **Glenn Crim, Leanne Love**

Nursery: **Sarah Adams**

Color: **White**

19 February Ash Thursday 6:30 PM

Lector/ Communion Asst: **Tammy Wininger**

Acolyte: **Tammy Wininger**

Communion Helper: **Brian Wininger**

Greeters: **Glenn Crim, Leanne Love**

Nursery: **No nursery tonight**

Color: **Purple**

22 February Lent 1

Lector: **Karen Whorrall**

Acolyte: **Karen Whorrall**

Greeters: **Jim & Barb Duzan**

Nursery: **Barbara Prince**

Color: **Purple**

Financial Assistant: **Leanne Love**

Church Cleaning: **Prince**

The Church Mouse

It's soooooooo cold here. I will be back when it warms up some. Enjoy this weather!! See ya!!!

• • ——— ♡ ——— • • **LENTEN SEASON**

The season of Lent has long been understood as a time of repentance. It is the Spring cleaning for a human soul that has become drab and musty with neglect and sin. The ancient terminology for this return to the Lord is Spiritual Warfare.

Modern Christians are squeamish with terms like warfare being applied to following Jesus, but it was familiar to St. Paul who describes Christian life as putting on the armor of God (Ephesians 6). The enemies we face are threefold: the world, the flesh, and the devil. They are formidable and we will be overrun by them without the grace of God. But we are also called to struggle against them and our weapons are the Christian disciplines of repentance, prayer, fasting, and works of mercy or almsgiving. The mid-week Lenten services this year will focus on these disciplines and the keeping of a Holy Lent which by God's grace will become a natural way of life for us for the rest of the year. All services will be at 6:30 EST.

The schedule for St. John's Dubois will be:

25 February: Pr. Fleace

4 March: Pr. Fleace

11 March: Pr. Kraemer

18 March: Pr. Holt

25 March: Pr. Ruschau

Pastor Fleace's schedule will be:

25 February: St. John's Dubois

4 March: St. John's Dubois

11 March: St. John's Boone Township

18 March: St. Paul's Haysville

25 March: Christ Lutheran Haysville

a little lutheran levity!

Did Adam and Eve ever have a date? *No, they had an apple!*

What did the flame say to his buddies after he fell in love?
I found the perfect match!



✝ **ASH THURSDAY**

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the penitential season of Lent in which we, through prayer and fasting, reflect on the passion of our Lord. It is a reminder of our mortality and our need for forgiveness and reconciliation with God. This is a wonderful time to reflect on where we are in our spiritual pilgrimage. **Our Ash Wednesday service will actually be on Thursday this year, 19 February, at 6:30 PM.** We pray that you will join us as we begin our journey into Lent.

Highlights from St. John's Lutheran Church Council Meeting January 2026

The St. John's Lutheran Church Council met on Thursday, January 15, 2026, at 6:00 PM in the church social room. Members present were Deron Steiner, Barbara Prince, Pastor Tim Fleace, Tammy Wininger, Duane Mann, and Angie Steiner. Absent: Karen Mann

Chairman Deron Steiner called the meeting to order. The minutes from the December meeting were approved as printed in the St. John's Journal, per a motion made by Tammy Wininger, seconded by Duane Mann. The motion carried.

Treasurer Duane Mann presented the financial report for December. As of December 31, 2025, the report shows an ending balance of \$40,642.90. Duane reported that finances are similar to previous months and that Christmas giving was greater than last year. Duane sent the 2025 financial report to the treasurer at Dubois and is waiting to receive a copy of their report. Tammy Wininger moved to accept the financial report, seconded by Barbara Prince. Motion carried.

- Financial Trustee Report – Giving was steady with the addition of the Christmas service offering.
- Property Trustee – vacant
- Worship Deacon – Tammy and Pastor Tim discussed worship times and communion details for upcoming Ash THURSDAY services, which will be held on February 19, 2026.
- Youth Deacon – Barbara reported that we need to secure volunteers to oversee the nursery on Sunday mornings. She will continue to ask parishioners to help.
- Pastor's Report - Pastor Tim combines activities for both churches in his report for December. He made twelve pastoral calls, attended two meetings, led three Bible study sessions, led four confirmation classes, and performed one funeral service. He was pleased with the attendance and participation at our Christmas Eve service. The joint council session went well. Both councils are very supportive of the shared ministry arrangement. The theme for mid-week Lenten services is spiritual or Lenten disciplines. He will be attending a Conference Lenten retreat on February 5 and 6.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of a "bat box" and/or modifications to the exterior cross is tabled until spring.

NEW BUSINESS

Barbara reported that the copiers in the office are using toner faster, and the cost of the toner is concerning. Duane and Deron will research options to replace our current equipment.

Tammy will take the vacuum we use in the church to a local repair shop.

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 19 – Ash Thursday Service 6:30 pm

Tammy Wininger moved to adjourn, seconded by Duane Mann. The meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Submitted by,

Angie Steiner, Council Secretary

Budget Report for December 2025

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| General Fund: | Balance on 12/1/25 | \$42,102.74 |
| Total Receipts | \$11,597.88..... | \$53,700.62 |
| Disbursements | | |
| Salaries | \$3,268.24 | |
| Worship | \$333.75 | |
| Office | \$126.00 | |
| Utilities | \$1,424.60 | |
| Rep/Main | \$1,438.69 | |
| Misc. | \$6,466.44 | |
| Total Disbursements..... | | \$13,057.72 |
| | Balance on 12/31/25 | \$40,642.90 |

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Special Funds: | |
| Building Fund | \$26,393.43 |
| Good Samaritan Fund | \$1,194.04 |
| Synod Mission Support | \$300.00 |
| Memorial Fund | \$9,286.99 |
| Grace LC Legacy Gift | \$1,591.77 |

Stewardship Report December 2025

| Date | Attendance | Offering |
|---------------------|------------|--------------|
| Sunday, December 07 | 35 | \$1610.00* |
| Sunday, December 14 | 17 | \$1445.00 |
| Sunday, December 21 | 32 | \$1465.00** |
| Sunday, December 24 | 68 | \$1937.00*** |
| Sunday, December 28 | 21 | \$375.00 |

Needed weekly to meet the budget \$1190.63

*300 Jasper Engines

** 100.00 Building Fund

*** 12 Chili Day

- **Linger Longer** is the fourth week of each month. Please join us!
 - **Cleaning and Financial Assistant** schedules are posted in the back hallway awaiting your signature. Please help where you can.
- **Offering Envelopes** are available for pick-up in the narthex.
 - **Nursery help is needed!** If you are able to stay in the nursery once in a while, please let Barbara Prince know. Thank you!



This month we have one special birthday to celebrate (members 80 years old and up). We hope you will help us "shower" Glenn with love by sending him a birthday card for his special day on the date listed with his name:

Glenn Crim
(February 11, 1937)
1018 State Road 550
Loogootee, IN 47553

Contact the church office if you know someone who is not listed above. We don't want to miss anyone. Thank you!!



Prayer of Martin Luther

Dear God, if only we were as diligent to pray, at least with a longing in the heart, as you are in coaxing, bidding, commanding, assuring, and constraining us to pray. Unfortunately, we are too lazy and ungrateful! Forgive us, dear Lord, and strengthen our faith. Since I cannot pay the penalty, and my name has no prestige, let satisfaction be made in the name of my Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

February 2026

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| 1 The Divine Service 9 AM Epiphany 4 | 2 Feast Day for the Purification of Mary and the Presentation of our Lord | 3 | 4 | 5 Commemoration Day for Jacob (Israel), Patriarch | 6 | 7 |
| 8 The Divine Service 9 AM Epiphany 5 | 9 | 10 Commemoration Day for Silas, Fellow Worker of St. Peter and St. Paul | 11 | 12 | 13 Commemoration Day for Aquila, Priscilla, Apollos | 14  Commemoration Day for Valentine, Martyr |
| 15 The Divine Service 9 AM Transfiguration of Our Lord Commemoration Day for Philemon and Onesimus | 16 Commemoration Day for Philip Melancthon, Confessor | 17 St. John's Journal Items are due today. Thanks! | 18 Commemoration Day for Martin Luther, Doctor and Confessor Ash Wednesday Service @ SJLC Dubois 6:30 PM | 19 Ash Thursday Service @ SJLC Loogootee 6:30 PM | 20 | 21 |
| 22 The Divine Service 9 AM Lent 1 Linger Longer | 23 Commemoration Day for Polycarp of Smyrna, Pastor and Martyr | 24 Feast Day for Saint Matthias, Apostle | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |

Celebrations

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 2 Janell Buchanan | 17 Lori Goldman |
| 4 Cassidy Shaw | Roger & Rosalie Abel (A) |
| Kenley Shaw | 18 Justin & Nikki Hayden (A) |
| 11 Glenn Crim | 19 Karen Baker |
| 13 Karen Mann | 24 Matthew Newkirk |
| 14 Keelan Hayden | 25 Terry Fuhrman |
| | 26 Tom Harker |

Church Council

Chairperson - Deron Steiner

Secretary - Angie Steiner

Treasurer - Duane Mann

Financial Trustee - Karen Mann

Property Trustee - vacant

Worship Deacon - Tammy Wininger

Youth Deacon - Barbara Prince

Contact Information

Pastor Timothy Fleace

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church email:

stjohnlutheranloogootee@gmail.com

church website:

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Church Secretary

Barbara Prince

812-296-8164

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