

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,

It is easy to understand why Egypt is associated with Lent. It was in Egypt that Israel was held in bondage and was only delivered by a mighty act of God during the Passover. The Passover and the Exodus out of Egypt are what established Israel as a people. Some scholars suggest that the Book of Exodus was the first book or writing in Israel's history. Not the Book of Genesis. Israel first entered Egypt because Joseph the son of Jacob had been sold into slavery to an Egyptian bound caravan by his envious brothers. While it was devastating to Joseph to serve as a slave in Egypt, God was at work behind the scenes and caused him to rise in rank until he occupied a political position second only to Pharaoh. A multi-year famine forced the clans of Jacob to settle in Egypt where they were reconciled with Joseph. There they prospered for a while until a new Pharaoh ascended the throne who did not remember the services of Joseph and subjected Israel to attempted genocide and slavery. This is where Moses enters the picture.

(continued on page 2)

Table of Contents

Life Together	- 1
Prayer Concerns	- 2
Winter Banquet	- 3
Lenten Mid-Week	- 3
Daylight Savings Time	- 3
Annunciation of Our Lord	- 4
Patrick, Missionary	- 4
Joseph, Patriarch	- 4
Lectionary Readings	- 5
Servers for the Month	- 5
Worship Service Times	- 5
The Church Mouse	- 6
a little lutheran levity	- 6
Holy Week Services	- 6
Amazing Grace	- 7
Stewardship Report	- 8
Special Birthdays	- 8
Opportunities for Ministry	- 8
Calendar	- 9
Celebrations	- 9
Contact Information	- 10

(Life Together, continued from page 1)

Moses was born to Hebrew parents, but was raised in the house of Pharaoh. When he reached adulthood, he grieved the plight of his people and killed an Egyptian who was abusing a Hebrew. For doing so he was forced to flee Egypt. While he was in exile he encountered the God of his people who sent him back to Egypt to lead them out of slavery. This set up the dramatic confrontation between the God of Israel and the gods of Egypt represented by Pharaoh. After a series of devastating plagues on Egypt culminating in the Passover, Pharaoh relented and allowed Israel to leave so that they could worship God in the wilderness. When Pharaoh changed his mind and pursued Israel his entire army was destroyed in the waters of the Red Sea.

Symbolically, Egypt becomes the place of slavery and death. Like Israel we are subjected to powerful forces such as sin and death from which we cannot free ourselves. We become slaves not of brick making and building the cities of Pharaoh, but of sinful habits which prevent us from fully living for God. It is Christ who delivers us from the power of the devil and death. Christ is our Passover Lamb whose blood frees us from sin. As Pharaoh's army was destroyed in the Red Sea, so Christ destroys the enemies' power in the waters of Baptism. In one of his commentaries on the Psalms, St. Augustine poses the question of who it was who pursued Israel. The answer of course is Pharaoh, but Augustine doesn't say this. Instead he answers by saying it is the same enemy

(continued on page 3)

Prayer Concerns

Please be praying for these friends and church family members.

Those with health concerns:

*Brian Wining (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)
 Jane Person (friend of Duane Mann)
 Jim Leistner (friend of Goldman family)
 Joan Haag (mother of Tony Haag)
 Joseph Hart (friend of Barbara Prince)
 Keith Greenwell (friend of Wanda Smith)
 Ladema Welton (friend of Julinda Adams)
 Lee Sipes (brother of Tammy Wining)
 Marg Otto (friend of Barbara Prince)
 Pam Bullock (friend of Linda Goldman and others)
 Steve Deckard (friend of Hilbert Fuhrman)
 *Verneeda Roach (church member)

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)

who always pursues the people of God:
The devil.

Where God used Moses to establish a covenant Himself and Israel, so Christ gives us the New Covenant in His blood, and creates a new people of God: the Church. Easter is our Passover from death to life with Christ as our new Moses and Lawgiver and deliverer.

In Christ,
Pr. Fleace

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!" Let the sea resound, and all that is in it; let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them!
1 Chronicles 16:31-32

Winter Banquet

The WINTER BANQUET will be held on Saturday, 21 March 2026, at 6:30 PM in the lower level of the St. John's Catholic Center! **All of you are invited to attend and it is free of charge.** Every person will enjoy a wonderful meal, and each family will receive two bags of groceries if they so desire. If you would like to volunteer, you could help set up on Friday at 5:00 PM and/or serve the meal on Saturday. Desserts are needed and can be dropped off at the center after 2:00 PM on Saturday. For questions, call Paula Ringwald at 812-709-0264.

You are INVITED!

The Midweek Lenten services at St. John Lutheran Church in Dubois will be focused this year on Spiritual Warfare, specifically on repentance, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving or works of mercy. These are the disciplines that we can use to fight against the world, the flesh, and the devil. These are devious and deceptive enemies, and we cannot fight them on our own. Only with the grace of God are we able to fight against these enemies. With God's grace let us keep a Holy Lent and pray that this becomes a way of life for us the rest of the year. **The services at Dubois begin at 6:30 PM with a soup supper at 5:30 PM each evening before the service.**

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

4 March	Pastor Fleace
11 March	Pastor Kraemer
18 March	Pastor Holt
25 March	Pastor Ruschau



Don't Forget!!



On Saturday night, 7 March, move your clocks forward one hour before going to bed!!

(you will lose an hour's sleep.)



Keep me safe, O God, for in you I take refuge. Psalm 16:1

The Annunciation of Our Lord Feast Day March 25

"The angel Gabriel appears to Mary and announces that God has shown her favor and will use her as the means for the Messiah's birth. So Mary conceives Jesus when the angel says: 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you' (Luke 1:35). This same Spirit who hovered over the waters and brought forth creation (Genesis 1:2) will now 'hover over' the waters of Mary's womb to conceive the creation's Redeemer. As the Holy Spirit comes upon Mary, she conceives Jesus 'through her ear' (as Martin Luther says). The one who is conceived is called Holy, the Son of God. This is the moment of the incarnation of our Lord. The date of the Annunciation falls on March 25, because the Ancient Church believed the crucifixion occurred on that date. In antiquity, people linked the day of a person's conception with the day of his or her death. Thus, in the Annunciation, the Church joined together both the incarnation of Jesus and the atonement He accomplished."



Patrick, Missionary to Ireland Commemoration Day March 17

"Patrick is one of the best-known of the missionary saints. Born to a Christian family in Britain around the year AD 389 he was captured as a teenager by raiders, taken to Ireland, and forced to serve as a herdsman. After six years, he escaped and found his way to a monastery community in France. Ordained a bishop, it is believed that Patrick made his way back to Ireland in the summer of 433, and there spent the

rest of his long life spreading the Gospel and organizing Christian communities. He strongly defended the doctrine of the Holy Trinity in a time when it was not popular to do so. His literary legacy includes his autobiography, Confession, and several prayers and hymns still used in the Church today. At least one tradition states that Patrick died in Ireland on March 17 around the year AD 466."



Joseph, Patriarch Commemoration Day March 31

"Joseph was the son of the Patriarch Jacob and Rachel. The favorite son of his father, Joseph incurred the jealousy of his older brothers, who sold him into slavery in Egypt and told their father he was dead (Genesis 37). In Egypt, Joseph became the chief servant in the home of Potiphar, a military official. Because Joseph refused to commit adultery with his master's wife, he was unjustly accused of attempted rape and thrown into jail (Genesis 39). Years later, he interpreted dreams for Pharaoh, who then freed Joseph from prison and placed him in charge of the entire country. When his brothers came from Canaan to Egypt in search of food because of the famine in the land, they did not recognize Joseph. He eventually revealed his identity to them, forgave them, and invited both them and his father to live in Egypt. Joseph is especially remembered and honored for his moral uprightness (Genesis 39) and for his willingness to forgive his brothers (Genesis 45 and 50)."

Lectionary Readings for March

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 Genesis 16:1-9, 15-17:22; Mark 6:1-13
- 2 Genesis 18:1-15; Mark 6:14-34
- 3 Genesis 21:1-21; Mark 6:35-56
- 4 Genesis 22:1-19; Mark 7:1-23
- 5 Genesis 24:1-31; Mark 7:24-37
- 6 Genesis 24:32-52, 61-67; Mark 8:1-21
- 7 Genesis 27:1-29; Mark 8:22-38
- 8 Genesis 27:30-45, 28:10-22; Mark 9:1-13
- 9 Genesis 29:1-30; Mark 9:14-32
- 10 Genesis 35:1-29; Mark 9:33-50
- 11 Genesis 37:1-36; Mark 10:1-12
- 12 Genesis 39:1-23; Mark 10:13-31
- 13 Genesis 40:1-23; Mark 10:32-52
- 14 Genesis 41:1-27; Mark 11:1-9
- 15 Genesis 41: 28-57; Mark 11:20-33
- 16 Genesis 42:1-34, 38; Mark 12:1-12
- 17 Genesis 43:1-28; Mark 12:13-27
- 18 Genesis 44:1-18, 32-34; Mark 12:28-44
- 19 Genesis 45:1-20, 24-28; Mark 13:1-23
- 20 Genesis 47:1-31; Mark 13:24-37
- 21 Genesis 49:29-50:7, 14-26; Mark 14:1-11
- 22 Exodus 1:1-22; Mark 14:12-31
- 23 Exodus 2:1-22; Mark 14:32-52
- 24 Exodus 2:23-3:22; Mark 14:53-72
- 25 Exodus 4:1-18; Mark 15:1-15
- 26 Exodus 4:19-31; Mark 15:16-32
- 27 Exodus 5:1-6:1; Mark 15:33-47
- 28 Exodus 7:1-25; Mark 16:1-20
- 29 Exodus 8:1-32; Hebrews 1:1-14
- 30 Exodus 9:1-28; Hebrews 2:1-18
- 31 Exodus 9:29-10:20; Hebrews 3:1-19

Worship Service Times

January - April 2026 - 9 AM

May - August 2026 - 11 AM

September - December 2026 - 9 AM

Servers for March

1 March Lent 2

Lector/Communion Asst: **Tammy Winger**
 Acolyte: **Tammy Winger**
 Communion Helper: TBD
 Greeters: **Dick & Kay Barber**
 Nursery: TBD
 Color: **Purple**

8 March Lent 3

Lector: **Hannah Davis**
 Acolyte: **Hannah Davis**
 Greeters: **Brian & Tammy Winger**
 Nursery: **Drew Davis**
 Color: **Purple**

15 March Lent 4

Lector/Communion Asst: **Ross Adams**
 Acolyte: **Ross Adams**
 Greeters: **Bill & Karen Whorrall**
 Nursery: **Sarah Adams**
 Color: **Purple**

22 March Lent 5

Lector: **Duane Mann**
 Acolyte: **Duane Mann**
 Greeters: **Deron & Angie Steiner**
 Nursery: **Barbara Prince**
 Color: **Purple**

29 March Palm Sunday

Lector: **Barb Duzan**
 Acolyte: **Barb Duzan**
 Greeters: **Ross & Sarah Adams**
 Nursery: **Tammy Winger**
 Color: **Purple**

 Financial Assistant: TBD
 Church Cleaning: **Tammy Winger**

The Church Mouse

It finally warmed up some! I had a good vacation to warmer places...the beach, and the beach! I hope you all have enjoyed the cooold weather!

I missed Ash Wednesday.....or uhmm, actually Ash Thursday, but I am still giving stuff up for Lent. I've decided to give up Lent for Lent...hahahaha, no, actually I'm giving up cheese for Lent. I can't tell you what a big sacrifice that is. A little mouse loves cheese.

I noticed when I got back that Duane & Karen Mann are both getting better after surgery. Man, I leave and everyone falls apart!!

a little lutheran levity!



"We always have pizza for Easter dinner because that's what my mom gives up for Lent."

Holy Week Services

@ Loogootee and Dubois

- **Palm Sunday @ Loogootee**
March 29 - 9:00 AM worship

- **Palm Sunday @ Dubois**
March 29 - 11:00 AM worship

a service of celebration to honor Jesus' victorious entry into Jerusalem. Also known as Passion Sunday as it is the Sunday before Jesus is crucified.

- **Maundy Wednesday @ Dubois**
April 1 - 6:30 PM worship
- **Maundy Thursday @ Loogootee**
April 2 - 6:30 PM worship

this service commemorates the last supper of Jesus with his disciples where he initiates the Eucharist and washes the feet of his disciples.

- **Good Friday @ Loogootee**
April 3 - 3:00 PM worship

- **Good Friday @ Dubois**
April 3 - 6:30 PM worship

a solemn service to commemorate the crucifixion and death of Jesus.

- **Easter Sunday @ Loogootee**
April 5 - 9:00 AM worship
- **Easter Sunday @ Dubois**
April 5 - 11:00 AM worship

a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus after being in the tomb for three days. He has forgiven our sin and has conquered death. He gives us the hope of new life!

Amazing Grace

1779

It's hard to shake off a mother's influence. John Newton's earliest memories were of his godly mother who, despite fragile health, devoted herself to nurturing his soul. At her knee he memorized Bible passages and hymns. Though she died when he was about seven, he later recalled her tearful prayers for him.

After her death, John alternated between boarding school and the high seas, wanting to live a good life but nonetheless falling deeper and deeper into sin. Pressed into service with the British Navy, he deserted, was captured, and after two days of suspense, was flogged. His subsequent thoughts vacillated between murder and suicide. "I was capable of anything," he recalled.

More voyages, dangers, toils, and snares followed. It was a life unrivaled in fiction. Then, on the night of March 9, 1748, John, 23, was jolted awake by a brutal storm that descended too suddenly for the crew to foresee. The next day, in great peril, he cried to the Lord. He later wrote, "That tenth of March is a day much remembered by me; and I have never suffered it to pass unnoticed since the year 1748 – the Lord came from on high and delivered me out of deep waters."

The next several years saw slow, halting spiritual growth in John, but in the end, he became one of the most powerful evangelical preachers in British history, a powerful foe of slavery, and the author of hundreds of hymns.

Here are some things you may not know about Newton's most famous hymn. His title for it wasn't originally "Amazing Grace" but "Faith's Review and Expectation." It is based in Newton's study of 1 Chronicles 17:16-17: "King David...said: 'Who am I, O Lord God? And what is my house, that You have brought me this far? And yet...You have also spoken of Your servant's house for a great while to come, and have regarded me according to the rank of a man of high degree...'"

And here's a nearly forgotten verse that Newton added near the end of "Amazing Grace." Try singing it for yourself:

*The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
the sun forbear to shine;
But God, Who called me here below,
shall be forever mine.*

Budget Report for January 2026

General Fund:	Balance on 1/1/26	\$40,642.90
Total Receipts	\$10,789.88.....	\$51,432.78
Disbursements		
Salaries	\$3,341.68	
Worship	\$432.19	
Office	\$130.00	
Utilities	\$1,990.00	
Rep/Main	\$0.00	
Misc.	\$3,989.05	
Total Disbursements.....		\$9,882.92
	Balance on 1/31/26	\$41,549.86

Special Funds:

Building Fund	\$26,393.43
Good Samaritan Fund	\$1,194.04
Synod Mission Support	\$400.00
Memorial Fund	\$9,286.99
Grace LC Legacy Gift	\$1,608.37

Stewardship Report January 2026

Date	Attendance	Offering
Sunday, January 04	30	\$802.00
Sunday, January 11	24	\$1283.00
Sunday, January 18	24	\$3550.00*
Sunday, January 25	00	No church today

*Needed weekly to meet the budget \$1190.63
400 Mission Support



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

Bill Stewart
(March 4, 1938)
13512 Chicken Farm Road
Shoals, IN 47581

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

**When words are many,
sin is not absent,
but he who holds his
tongue is wise.**

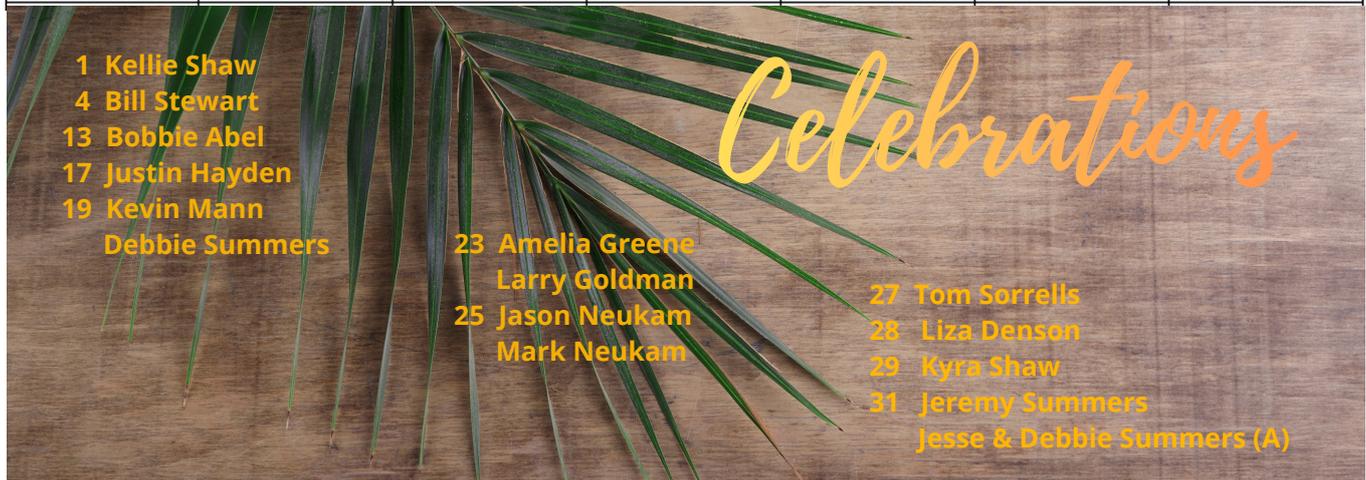
Proverbs 10:19

Opportunities for Ministry

- **Cleaning and Financial Assistant** schedules are posted in the back hallway awaiting your signature. Please help where you can.
- **Nursery help is needed!** If you are able to help in the nursery once in a while, please let Barbara Prince know. Thank you!
- **Christ in Our Home** devotional booklets for April, May, and June are available in the basket in the narthex. Please feel free to take one home.
- **Linger Longer** is the fourth Sunday of each month, except for November and December. Please join us!

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 The Divine Service 9 AM Lent 2	2	3	4	5	6	7 Change your clocks tonight!  Commemoration Day for Perpetua and Felicitas, Martyrs
8 The Divine Service 9 AM Lent 3	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 The Divine Service 9 AM Lent 4	16	17 Commemoration Day for Patrick, Missionary to Ireland	18	19 Feast Day for Saint Joseph, Guardian of Jesus Church Council 6 PM	20	21 Winter Banquet 6:30 PM St. John Catholic Center
22 The Divine Service 9 AM Lent 5 Linger Longer	23	24 St. John's Journal Items are due today. Thank you!	25 Feast Day for the Annunciation of Our Lord	26	27	28
29 The Divine Service 9 AM Palm Sunday 	30	31 Commemoration Day for Joseph, Patriarch				



Celebrations

1 Kellie Shaw
4 Bill Stewart
13 Bobbie Abel
17 Justin Hayden
19 Kevin Mann
Debbie Summers

23 Amelia Greene
Larry Goldman
25 Jason Neukam
Mark Neukam

27 Tom Sorrells
28 Liza Denson
29 Kyra Shaw
31 Jeremy Summers
Jesse & Debbie Summers (A)

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

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