

Today 2/21 9:00a Worship 10:15a Bible Class & Sunday School 11:15a Public School Confirmation	Mon. 2/22 	Tues. 2/23 No School	Wed. 2/24 7:15p Midweek Lent Worship
Thur. 2/25 10:00a Bible Class 6:00p Bible Information Class	Fri. 2/26 No School 5:30p VB @ Christ, Shields 6:00p Board of Outreach	Sat. 2/27 <u>Clean Church</u> *Chad & Jenny Terry Matthew & Bridget Stob	Sun. 2/28 9:00a Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:15a Bible Class & Sunday School 11:15a Public School Confirmation

Lent is for Sinners...Who Repent

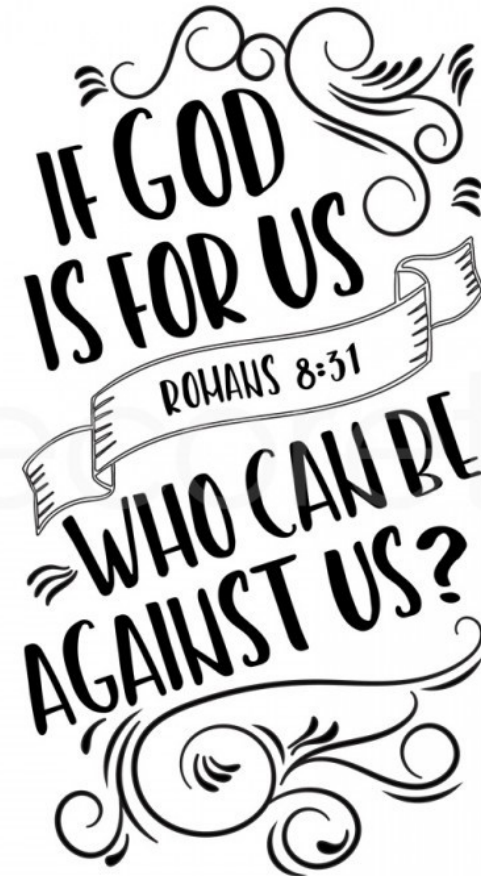
1st Sunday in Lent

February 21, 2021

- THANK YOU, CLEANERS:** *Sue Emry
Meredith DeCaire
Alex Emry
Hope DeCaire
- **Cleaners for Feb. 28:** *Chad & Jenny Terry
Matt & Bridget Stob
 - **Cleaners for Mar. 7:** David & Krista Scharrer
David Jeschke
 - **Cleaners for Mar. 14:** *Sam & Marybeth Penkala
Laura Chadwick

HEARING HIS WORD LAST WEEK IN WORSHIP: 74
AT THE LORD'S SUPPER: 56

Church email address: stjohnshemlock@gmail.com





ST. JOHN

LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

2290 Pretzer Road, Hemlock, MI 48626
www.stjohnhemlock.com
989-642-5178

Pastor Philip Loescher Mr. Matthew Stob, Principal
pastor.philiploescher@gmail.com stobm@stjohnhemlock.com
(262) 305-8769 (cell) 715-494-9597

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT FEBRUARY 21, 2021

WELCOME! At the burning bush, the LORD told Moses, "Take your sandals off your feet, for the place you are standing is holy ground" (Exodus 3:5). In the Divine Service, we too stand on holy ground. At His own gracious invitation, we sinners stand before God's presence as He makes Himself known to us in His holy Word, confident that He will graciously receive us for the sake of His Son's perfect life and atoning death in our place.

We come in holy reverence, humbly confessing our sin, and therefore, our need for God's mercy and forgiveness. We come in holy awe, humbly trusting God's gracious promises to do great and wondrous things for us. Since God is pleased to distribute His mercy and forgiveness through His Word and Sacraments, that is the purpose our for gathering.

If you have no church home, we invite you to give consideration to St. John Lutheran. Please worship with us again! If you have questions about our congregation, or would like more information about membership, please speak with our pastor. If you have questions, or would like more information about our Lutheran Elementary School, please speak with our principal.

Member Testimonials – We are looking for Testimonials about our school. Any member is welcome to give a testimonial. Please email the testimonial to Mr. Stob or write it and put it in Mr. Stob's mailbox in the office by the end of February. Please answer these two questions:
WHAT DOES CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MEAN TO ME?
WHAT DO I LIKE MOST ABOUT ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL?

MLS News

- **MLS Play** – MLS fall play (now winter play), In-Laws, Out-laws, and Other People (That Should Be Shot), has one more performance this afternoon at 2:30PM. Tickets for the in-person show are \$10 for general admission. You can reserve your tickets or your very own **free streaming pass** at www.mlsem.org/fall-play. All sales will end one hour before the show so we have time to send out passwords.
- **MLS Sports Livestream** – All MLS conference games, both home and away, should be available to view via livestream. All of the home events can be viewed free via CardinalCast (https://cardinalapp.mlsem.org/cardinal_casts/). Away games can be viewed through the NFHS Network (<https://www.nfhsnetwork.com/.../michigan-lutheran...>). This is a subscription-based service and costs \$10.99 a month, but includes all away games that they are playing in. Just click FOLLOW to be notified when an MLS game is coming up.
- **MLS Foundation's 18th Annual Action** – This year's MLS Auction is being conducted online. Visit <http://mlsfoundation.afrogs.org/> to participate. The bidding is standard, where you bid a set amount for an item. The only difference is you are doing everything electronically. You can register your mobile phone number to receive notifications if you are outbid. Bidding opened today at 9:00AM and closes on Sunday, February 28 at 9:00PM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Meetings/Events

Feb. 17	7:15 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Worship w/ Holy Communion
Feb. 24	7:15 p.m.	Midweek Lent Worship
Feb. 26	6:00 p.m.	Board of Outreach
Feb. 26-March 1		No School—Mid Winter break

Bible Study continues today with our series on idolatry. We would love for you to join us! “The Idols We Never Knew We Had” takes us into Scripture to help us determine where in our lives we need to watch out for the temptation to fear, love, or trust in anything other than the true God. Today’s lesson helps us understand how sports can tear our attention away from what is most important—God.

The **Lenten Season** requires extra cleaning. If you can take an extra 5-10 minutes after one of our services to help with cleaning highly used surfaces, please sign up to help us in this way. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex by the sink. Thank you!

Bible Information Class – If you know of anybody interested in learning more about our faith or becoming a member here, there are a few opportunities throughout 2021! Take a *Faith Foundations* postcard with you (found next to the *Meditations*) and invite those people to attend the next bible information class beginning Wednesday, May 5 at 6pm. These classes are also a great opportunity for you to refresh yourself on the doctrines of our faith.

Pastor Availability

Pastor will usually be in his church office Tuesday-Thursday 9am - 4pm or his home office on Friday from 9am - 4pm. If you want to meet with him, the best option is to schedule a visit to make sure you won't miss him. Pastor's contact information is as follows:

Email: pastor.philiploescher@gmail.com

Church: (989) 642-5178

THEME: LENT IS FOR SINNERS...WHO REPENT

The call to sinners in Lent is a serious call to struggle. While we throw out and leave behind the trivial outward Roman type practices of Lent, let's not throw out repentance in the process. Let's not replace the trivial externals with something even worse: assurances that we are so forgiven that we need not bother anymore with repentance.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Lord, I approach this season with mixed feelings. First, I feel terrible that I have sinned so severely to cause you such pain and suffering. I see your tortured body and think of the sins my hands have committed, the sinful thoughts I have had, the sinful words I have said, and the sinful things my eyes have beheld. For all my sins I am very sorry. Second, I feel good to know that you would take all my sins on yourself and give your life as a payment for them. For your forgiveness and my salvation, I am very happy. Should you wish for me to follow you in suffering, let me have the strength to bear it bravely, knowing that in the end I will have everlasting glory because you suffered and died for me. Amen.

STEWARDSHIP ENCOURAGEMENT

Mark 1:13 – “And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.” God the Father cares for Jesus even in the midst of his temptation in the wilds. God cares for us in every situation as well. Jesus realized this and always acted from the basis of trust in God the Father's provision. This is likewise the basis for our life lived in Christ: God cares for us, so we need not act out of fear or greed.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

OPENING HYMN: CW 714 "The Lamb"

**The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where' the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price!**

**Refrain: Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me his own!
The Lamb is reigning on his throne.**

**The Lamb, the Lamb, One perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n his praise to sing.
Refrain**

**The Lamb, the Lamb, As wayward sheep their shepherd kill
So still, his will, On our behalf the law to fill.
Refrain**

**He sighs, he dies, He takes my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives, He gives me his own righteousness.
Refrain**

**He rose, he rose, My heart with thanks now overflows.
His song prolong 'Til ev'ry heart to him belong.
Refrain**

STAND

M: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

CLOSING HYMN:

CW 449

"Children of the Heavenly Father"

**Children of the heav'nly Father
Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird or star in heaven
Such a refuge ne'er was given.**

**God His own doth tend and nourish;
In His holy courts they flourish;
From all evil things He spares them;
In His mighty arms He bears them.**

**Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth,
And their sorrows all He knoweth.**

**Though He giveth or He taketh,
God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy.**

+++++

SERVING THE LORD BY SERVING HIS PEOPLE TODAY:

Presiding Minister/Preacher: Pastor Philip Loescher

Organist: Ryan Davidson

Altar Guild: Chris Garno

All Scripture readings from The Holy Bible: Evangelical Heritage Version (EHV) © 2017 The Wartburg Project. All rights reserved

LORD'S PRAYER

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

CLOSING PRAYER

M: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

M: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us Pray.

Lord our strength, the battle of good and evil rages within and around us, and our ancient foe tempts us with his deceits and empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your Word, and when we fall, raise us up again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BE SEATED

THE WORD

First Lesson

Genesis 22:1-18

22 Some time later God tested Abraham. He called to him, "Abraham!"

Abraham answered, "I am here."

² God said, "Now take your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah. Offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains there, the one to which I direct you."

³ Abraham got up early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, along with Isaac his son. Abraham split the wood for the burnt offering. Then he set out to go to the place that God had told him about. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance.

⁵ Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go on over there. We will worship, and then we will come back to you." ⁶ Abraham took the wood for the burnt

offering and loaded it on Isaac his son. He took the firepot and the knife in his hand. The two of them went on together.

⁷ Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father?"

He said, "I am here, my son."

He said, "Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"

⁸ Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them went on together. ⁹ They came to the place that God had told him about. Abraham built the altar there. He arranged the wood, tied up Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.

¹¹ The Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, "Abraham, Abraham!"

Abraham said, "I am here."

¹² He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy. Do not do anything to him. For now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."

¹³ Abraham looked around and saw that behind him there was a ram caught in the thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ Abraham called the name of that place "The LORD Will Provide." So it is said to this day, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."

¹⁵ The Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶ and said, "I have sworn by myself, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will bless you greatly, and I will multiply your descendants greatly, like the stars of the sky and like the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the city gates of their enemies. ¹⁸ In your seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to liberate us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

C: We confess that without your love we are lost.

M: Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

C: Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or cost.

M: Let us pray for those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and their values as Christians.

C: By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.

M: Let us pray for those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, those victimized by war and injustice, and all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

C: Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guarding and friend, their comfort and hope.

M: Let us pray for those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

C: Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.
Silent prayer.

M: Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

O my God, my Rock and Tower,
Grant that in your death I trust,
Knowing death has lost his power
Since you crushed him in the dust.
Savior, let your agony
Ever help and comfort me;
When I die be my protection,
Light and life and resurrection.

SERMON:

Romans 8:31-39

"If God is for us, Who can be Against Us?"

STAND

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PSALM 6

(Sung in unison.)

**Refrain: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.**

**O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger*
Or discipline me in your wrath.**

**Be merciful to me, Lord, for I am faint;*
O Lord, heal me, for my soul is in anguish.**

**Turn, O Lord, and deliver me;*
Save me because of your unfailing love.**

Refrain

**I am worn out from groaning.*
My eyes grow weak with sorrow.**

**Away from me, all you who do evil,*
For the lord has heard my weeping.**

**The Lord has heard my cry for mercy;*
The Lord accepts my prayer.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, *
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

Romans 8:31-39

³¹ What then will we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² Indeed, he who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also graciously give us all things along with him?

³³ Who will bring an accusation against God's elect? God is the one who justifies! ³⁴ Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus, who died and, more than that, was raised to life, is the one who is at God's right hand and who is also interceding for us! ³⁵ What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will trouble or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or

sword? ³⁶ Just as it is written:
For your sake we are being put to death all day long.
We are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through
him who loved us.

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels
nor rulers, neither things present nor things to come, nor power-
ful forces, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in crea-
tion, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ
Jesus our Lord.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: It is written: "Worship the Lord your God, and serve him
only." (Matthew 4:10b)

STAND

GOSPEL

Mark 1:12-15

¹² The Spirit immediately sent Jesus out into the wilderness. ¹³ He
was in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He
was with the wild animals, and angels were serving him.

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went to Galilee, preaching
the gospel of the kingdom of God. ¹⁵ "The time is fulfilled," he
said. "The kingdom of God has come near! Repent, and believe in
the gospel."

BE SEATED

HYMN

CW 121

"Jesus, Grant that Balm and Healing"

**Jesus, grant that balm and healing
In your holy wounds I find,
Ev'ry hour that I am feeling
Pains of body and of mind.
Should some evil thought within
Tempt my treach'rous heart to sin,
Show the peril, and from sinning
Keep me from its first beginning.**

**Should some lust or sharp temptation
Fascinate my sinful mind,
Let me think about your passion,
And new courage I shall find.
Or should Satan press me hard,
Let me then be on my guard,
Saying, "Christ for me was wounded,"
That the tempter flee confounded.**

**If the world my heart entices
With the broad and easy road,
With seductive, sinful vices,
Let me think about the load
You were willing to endure;
Then I'll flee all thoughts impure,
Mastering each wild temptation,
Calm in prayer and meditation.**

**Ev'ry wound that pains or grieves me
By your wounds, Lord, is made whole;
When I'm weak, your cross revives me,
Granting new life to my soul.
Yes, your comfort renders sweet
Ev'ry bitter cup I meet;
For your all-atoning passion
Has procured my soul's salvation.**