

MAKING DISCIPLES

LWML Rum River Zone Spring Rally

APRIL 28, 2018

Joy Lutheran Church, Cambridge, MN

For directions go to: www.joylutheran.net



CALMS

Come and learn about Pastor Jacob Gillard's experiences in Guatemala, Nicaragua and Panama with the Central America Lutheran Mission Society (CALMS).

Ingathering: Spanish language Arch Books (available from Concordia Publishing House – cph.org).

Join us for fellowship, food, and fun!!

Registration is at 8:30 AM Program starts at 9:00 AM

The cost is \$6

“Go and make disciples of all nations ...” Matthew 28:19a



St. John's Lutheran Church

A Member of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

980 West Fourth Street

P.O. Box 368

Rush City, MN 55069

Secretary: Karen Peterson

Church Phone/Fax: (320) 358-3623

Church Email: stjohns@midco.net

Church Website:

www.stjohnsrushcity.org

Normal Office Hours:

Tues., Thurs., & Fri. 8am-2pm

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

A Member of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

400 SE 8th Street

Braham, MN 55006



Secretary: Char Renstrom

Church Phone/Fax: (320) 396-3103

Church Email: ststephens1913@msn.com

Church Website: www.ststephensbraham.org

Normal Office Hours:

Mon.-Thurs. 1-4 pm

Rev. Tim Renstrom

Residence Phone: (320) 396-0382

Email: stmypastor@hotmail.com

March 2018

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I have been very interested in Christian outreach for many years. You know, the commission our Lord and savior has given to all of us: “As you are going, make disciples of all nations...” As a result of that interest, after a significant amount of study, I came up with “my” 3-legged stool of evangelism (telling the good news) training:

1. The foundation is the Word of God
2. One leg of the stool is prayer
3. A second leg of the stool is patience
4. And the third leg of the stool is relationships
5. All of which, then, give a structure to tell others about Jesus' love!

I've been teaching this for well over 12-15 years. Just ask Charlotte! (She gets tired of hearing me say the same thing over and over and over and over...)

I was delighted to see that our Synod is trying to also say somewhat the same thing. In a blog with a long title, “‘Relationships, not programs’: Youth Ministry shares research on young adults” (<https://blogs.lcms.org/2018/relationships-not-programs-youth-ministry-shares-research-on-young-adults>), Cheryl Magness reported on a symposium held this January in St. Louis and shared the following information:

Factors that were identified in the LCMS study as positively influencing retention [of millennials] included:

- * having adults on staff who work with youth (not necessarily paid);
- * having a Lutheran school;
- * having the same pastor over a long time; and
- * involving young people in church leadership.

Continued on next page

When [2,000 young adults, ages 18-35, that have at some point had a connection to the LCMS were] asked who has had the greatest influence on them spiritually, they responded as follows:

- * 29 percent – parents;
- * 13 percent – pastor of home church;
- * 12 percent – other family members;
- * 12 percent – teacher;
- * 11 percent – another pastor; and
- * 10 percent – youth minister.

The majority of respondents in the Young Adult survey (around 1,400) are still active members of LCMS congregations. Commonly reported factors in this group were:

- * parents who actively practice the faith;
- * healthy relationships in which they were comfortable talking with parents about faith and doubts;
- * a pastor who showed personal care for them;
- * attendance at an LCMS Gathering and/or Lutheran camps;
- * remaining geographically close to their home church; and
- * involvement in LCMS campus ministry (either a Concordia or another LCMS congregation or campus ministry) during college.

Of those surveyed who no longer identify as LCMS (around 375), the following were given reasons for leaving the LCMS:

- * lack of care for them by their church at a time of crisis;
- * feeling that the LCMS is exclusionary, unwelcoming or dismissive, including to them personally;
- * disagreeing with the LCMS on social issues;
- * lack of support/opportunities for them to get involved;
- * preferring a different kind of worship; and
- * finding people in the LCMS to be “inauthentic.”

I invite feedback to hear what you think of the article and its findings. And I have some questions for us to ponder: Are we building relationships with our youth (at very young ages) so that they want to come to church with us? Even when it’s hard to do so? (Who’s the adult and who’s the child?) Parents...how do we talk about church when we are at home with our spouse (children over-hearing the conversation) or with our children...or with our friends?

Probably the best summary statement that comes from the article: “Young people don’t want more to do. They want safety, authenticity and the sacred” (Dr. Kevin Borchers). What do you think?

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Tim J. Renstrom



Minnesota Food Share—March Campaign



For 35 years, Minnesota FoodShare has coordinated the March Campaign—the annual food and fund drive that provides more than half the food distributed by 300 food shelves throughout the state.

Day in and day out, thousands of Minnesotans are fighting to put food on the table. Last year alone, there were more than 3 million visits to our state’s food shelves.

Help families in our community who may be struggling to put food on the table. Bring cash or items to either church during this month to help stock the shelves at our local food shelves. Here is a list of ideas on what may be brought. Thank you for your help!

Breakfast:

Canned Fruit Juice, Hot and Dry Cereal, Dry Powdered or Canned Milk

Lunches/Dinners:

Hearty Soup or Stew, Tuna, Canned Beef or Chicken, Peanut Butter, Canned Fruit or Vegetables, Canned or Boxed Main Dishes, Rice, Pasta and Pasta Sauce, Baked Beans, Canned Chili, Potato Buds

Food Staples:

Crackers, Sugar, Flour, Coffee, Tea, Hot Cocoa, Pancake or Biscuit Mix

Toiletries and Basics:

Toilet Paper, Kleenex, Bath Soap, Shampoo, Conditioner, Lotion, Feminine Sanitary Supplies, Laundry or Dish Detergent, Bleach, Tooth Brushes, Tooth Paste, Deodorant

Baby Items:

Diapers, Baby Shampoo, Infant Formula/Powered Milk, Baby Oil, Bath Powder, Wipe Towels, Baby Food

Special Treats:

Cake/Cookie/Muffin Mix, Granola Bars, Pudding or Jello Mix, Graham Crackers, Packaged Cookies

Special Needs:

Seniors, Diabetics and ethnically diverse families require special items. Please call your local food shelf for specific donation request.



THANKS FOR YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT!

Easter Plants 2018

You are invited to make contributions toward Easter Plants for Easter. The flowers purchased from your contributions and flowers that you bring from home will be used to decorate the sanctuary, *and then you may take them home with you after the 8:45 a.m. Worship service on Easter Sunday.*

Easter plants available for purchase through the Altar Guild are Begonias, Chrysanthemums, Tulips, Hydrangea, Hyacinths and Easter Lily. **(PLEASE NOTE: we do have members that have allergies to Easter Lilies).**

You may submit your donation along with the form below to the church office or to any Altar Guild member. Information for the Easter bulletin will be taken directly from this form. Please PRINT clearly and list exact information as you wish it to appear in the bulletin.

Whether you order a plant or bring one, **please have the form and contribution in by Sunday, March 11.** If bringing a plant, please leave your form at the church **on or before Saturday, March 31.** Please make checks out to **St. John's Lutheran Church** and put **"Easter Plants"** on the memo line. Thank you!

.....
 ____ Begonia (\$17.00) ____ Tulip (\$17.00)
 ____ Hyacinth (\$17.00) ____ Chrysanthemum (\$17.00)
 ____ Hydrangea (\$23.00) ____ Easter Lily (\$14.00)

____ I wish to make a cash contribution of \$ _____

____ I will bring a plant for the sanctuary.

____ Anonymous

____ In memory of _____

____ In honor of _____

From: _____



WORDS OF APPRECIATION

are expressed to:



- * those who serve weekly in worship: pastor, musicians, lay readers, ushers, greeters, PA technicians, acolytes, elders and altar guild.
- * those who counted and posted the offerings.
- * those who brought refreshments on Sunday mornings.
- * those who faithfully serve on the council, committees and boards.
- * those who brought food for and/or worked for Marilyn Rosty's funeral.
- * those who served the Lenten Soup & Sandwich supper on February 21.
- * Waste Management who provides free refuse and recycling service for SJLC.
- * those who helped to assemble this newsletter.
- * our gracious God who makes all these things possible through the priceless gift of His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Our Christian Sympathy is extended

... to the family of Marilyn Rosty who died on February 5. The funeral service was held at St. John's on February 12.



May the Lord bring His comfort in Christ to all who grieve.

Winter Weather Cancellations



In the event of winter storms, listen to WCMP (1350 AM or 100.9 FM) for cancellation notices.

We will also place an announcement on the church FaceBook page and the church website not less than one hour before the activity or event.

This Month's Worship Assistants

Elder: Gary Wendorf

Altar Guild: Bernice Moreau & Lynette Downing

Acolyte: Hailey Volk

Greeters: Brian & Bernice Moreau

Usher Captain: Bob Downing

Readers:

March 4 — Diane Buehring
 March 11 — Bernice Moreau
 March 18 — Les Orvis
 March 25 — Brian Moreau

PA Techs:

March 4 — David Haley
 March 7 — David Haley
 March 11 — Roxanne Orvis
 March 18 — Gary Wendorf
 March 21 — Roxanne Orvis
 March 25 — David Haley
 March 30 — Roxanne Orvis

Musicians:

March 4 — Cindy Wendorf
 March 7 — Sue Haley
 March 11 — Sue Haley
 March 18 — Cindy Wendorf
 March 21 — Cindy Wendorf
 March 25 — Sue Haley
 March 30 — Katie Downing

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Brandi Lewis
- 10 Rustin Hahn
- 11 Gary & Susan Scheff
- 17 Richard & Diane Friday
- 18 Taniel Schellbach
- 19 Odin Brown, Marlene Reiser
- 25 Bill Volk
- 27 Pastor Tim & Char Renstrom
- 28 Kyle Blomquist
- 31 Michelle Volk



Worship on the radio!

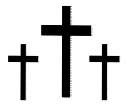
If you are unable to attend worship either at St. John's or St. Stephen's, don't worry, you can still hear the service!



The service is taped at the 8:45 am worship service at St. John's and broadcast at 11:00 am on WCMP 106.5 FM or 1350 AM out of Pine City.

The sermons are also available on the St. John's website under the worship tab or the St. Stephen's website.

Notes from The Island



Lutheran Island Camp

45011 230th Street
Henning, MN 56551

Website: www.islandcamp.org

Email: info@islandcamp.org

Phone: 218-583-2905

Camping season is almost upon us! LIC has their 2018 brochures with registration forms available at church. Pick up your copy today!

The theme for this year is *"by FAITH"*. The theme verse is



"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." *Hebrews 11:1.*

Parents, Grandparents, Aunts & Uncles—pick up a copy and see what works to send your children to camp this year! There are opportunities for children age 3 and up, for families and adults.

The Lutheran Hour

Sundays at 6:05 am
on WCCO 830 AM)



March 4

"When God's Darkness Surrounds You "

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer

When times are darkest, God wants you to know how close He really is. It's in those threatening times that you can especially learn and live in His love. (*Exodus 20:1-17*)

March 11

"Condemned Already"

Speaker Emeritus of TLH: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus

Some things just work better in the dark. You know, things like watching for shooting stars and getting a good night's sleep or dreaming about the future. People love the darkness for a lot of reasons, and not all of them are good.

(*John 3:19-21*)

March 18

"Thrown into the Arms of God"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer

The desire to advance your own interests can alienate you from others and God. Serving others without thought of reward is God's way forward for followers of Jesus. (*Mark 10:32-45*)

March 25

"And They Crucified Him"

Speaker Emeritus of TLH: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus

Next week The Lutheran Hour celebrates the Savior's resurrection. Today we mourn the unjust murder of the Savior by considering the text: "And they crucified Him." (*Mark 14:24a*)

Radio Ministry



If you would like to sponsor one of the Radio Broadcasts for \$75, or go in with someone else, please contact the church office. There are many dates available for sponsorship.

Save the Date:

The Progressive Supper Fundraiser for "A Place for You" will be Friday, April 27 beginning at 5:30. Details coming soon!

Find us on the internet at:

Website: www.stjohnsrushcity.org

Our weekly sermons can be found on the worship page of the website. Check it out!

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/SJLCRushCity>

Lent Continues

Lenten midweek services on each

Wednesday at 7:00 pm

alternating between the two churches.

March 7 at St. John's

March 14 at St. Stephen's

March 21 at St. John's

March 29 (Maundy Thursday) at St. Stephen's

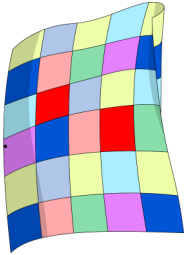
March 30 (Good Friday) at St. John's

April 1 (Easter Sunday)

6:00 am - St. Stephen's; 8:45 am - St. John's

Silent Quilt Auction!

The Women of St. Stephen's are having a silent quilt auction during the Lenten season and you are Invited to participate in the auction. The funds from the auction will help in the mission of the organization.



There are several ways in which you can participate. You can stop in during the weekday afternoons, or call the church office, or you can do it when attending a Lenten Service at St. Stephen's or check it out on-line. The table with the auction sheets is by the guest book. If there is a quilt you really like, keep tabs on that auction sheet as someone may try to outbid you. You can view the quilts on their webpage at: www.ststephensbraham.org. The end date of the auction is Thursday, April 5 at 12:00 noon.

Quilts will be ready for pick up from Sunday, April 8—Sunday, April 15. For pick up, call Ruth at (320) 396-3267.

A Measure of our Discipleship Together in Christ

Week of	Worship Attendance	Communed	Offering	Rise & Shine Bible Study	Sunday School Students/Staff	Longer Look Bible Class
1-28-2018	61	-----	\$4,717.00	14	5 + 2	4
2-4-2018	58	49	\$1,671.00	19	No Class	5
2-11-2018	55	-----	\$2,871.50	12	8 + 1	No Class
2-18-2018	52	40	\$1,104.00	13	5 + 2	5
2-21-2018 Lent Service	45	-----	\$276.00	-----	-----	-----