



MARCH CHURCHLETTER

From the Pastor

Hello Church [*Matthew 4.4*],

There are three elements that are almost always part of Lent: prayer, giving something up, and giving something back. — Elizabeth Hyndman.

We are at the starting gate of the spiritual journey of preparation referred to as Lent. Perhaps *starting gate* isn't the best descriptor – how about *gateway*? As believers we are mindful that there are ancient practices of preparation by which we reconnect in meaningful ways life, death and resurrection of Jesus – prayer, worship, fasting and almsgiving. We bring to life the stories of Jesus and of the early church as the story of salvation becomes our personal story as well. All this is to prepare ourselves and others for the glorious celebration of Resurrection Sunday when our Savior and Lord was victorious over death. *Where, O Death, is your victory? Where, O Death, is your sting?*

Some context – Lent has from the beginning in the early third century has been a time for devoted Christians to engage in various acts of preparation. The most common personal devotion was to fast from food. At first, the fast was observed for two days before Easter Sunday in imitation of Jesus' time entombed before rising to new life from the grave. By the seventh-century Lent had evolved into a forty day season of preparation as the Wednesday before *the first Sunday in Lent* became identified as the beginning of Lent (Ash Wednesday). Please take note that Sundays are celebrated as mini-Easters, so they are referred to as Sundays **in** Lent and not Sundays **of** Lent.

While many of the universal church's traditions are etymologically connected to Latin, the term Lent can be traced back to the Old English word *lencten* or *lengthen*, which means to *lengthen*. This makes sense as Lent is a season that parallels Spring – a time when the days and daylight are growing longer.

Most of us have a practice of praying regularly, so I will not belabor the point, except to say that Lent is always gives us an meaningful and purposeful opportunity to revitalize our prayer life.

Circling back to the discipline or practice of fasting, let us think about the value of fasting for each of us as individuals, as a church and as a society. Of course, no one should engage in food fasting if one has a medical concern that maybe negatively impacted by lack of food intake. A historically common practice of fasting was to refrain from eating until early evening. As the body desired food to satisfy its need for nutrition,

believers were to exert control over the body and concentrate instead on God and God's Word. This continues to be a valid and valuable practice for Christians to this day. Personally, during Lent I fast from sundown Tuesday until sundown Wednesday each week.

Often connected to fasting is the devotion of almsgiving. Fasting believers set aside the money saved while fasting and then give that money as a love offering to the church, a local soup kitchen or food shelf.

Lenten disciplines have both individual and communal implications. Some believers choose to *go it alone*, while some prefer to covenant with others a form a relationship of accountability and support for the duration of the Lenten journey. I encourage you to find a Lenten process of preparation that will prepare you for the celebration of life on Resurrection Sunday, April 17th.

Pastor Jef

Exodus 16

The office phone number is (507) 330-0025. You can also reach the churches by email at: st.johnsuccwheeling@gmail.com or NerstrandUMC@gmail.com Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time.



Notice: Please direct all prayer chain requests to **Becky Tatge (507) 210-1214** or **Mary Kindseth 507-789-6879**. Messages can be left on either of the phones. If you want to make any changes on how you are contacted or add your name to the list, you can be on the email or phone list. Let's keep this available to our community.

Please send **bulletin (deadline-9am Thurs)** and **newsletter (deadline-20th of month)** information to: st.johnsuccwheeling@gmail.com (Lynn Hirschey will be monitoring this email). Phone number 507-330-1831. Notes in the mail are also welcome if you prefer.

Nerstrand Community Men's Choir will have their first rehearsal on Mon., March 7th at Grace Lutheran Church at 7:30 pm. All subsequent rehearsals will be held on Monday at the host church for the midweek Lenten service at 7:30pm.

Loving Thoughts and Prayers Surround:

New Perspective
Joan Schwake
Pleasant View Estates
Shirley Bauer
Lois Bauer
Faribault Senior Living
Mildred Tatge
Milestone
Marjean Smith
At Home
Jean Pederson
Donovan Mueller
Doris Hildebrandt
Arlene Shaske
Arlene Bultman
Kaye Spike

Joys and Concerns

Thank you for all the beautiful greeting cards, best wishes, letters, phone calls and prayers on my 90th birthday. My family is planning to do something at church later this spring or summer. God's Blessings to all. ——— Jean Pederson

Our Christian sympathy to the family and friends of Nelda (Wolf) Bollenbach. Nelda, age 94, passed away February 16 at an assisted living facility in Columbia, Mo. Funeral services are being held at the Nerstrand United Methodist Church on Feb.28. Burial is at the Nerstrand Evangelical Cemetery.

Our Christian Sympathy to the family of Edwin Miller. Edwin passed away February 18 at age 91 at the Three Links Care center in Northfield. Funeral services were held Feb. 23 in Northfield with burial at the fort Snelling Cemetery. Edwin was the father of sue (Paul) Wolf.

Notice:

Prayer chain and worship service link emails:
Becky Tatge has been regularly sending emails with the worship service link and/or prayer chain requests. If you have not been receiving them and would like to, please contact Becky at (507) 210-1214
From the St. John's COVID committee: Due to the continuing high rate of COVID cases in the community, facemasks will be available at the church.

Combined Ash Wednesday services with NUMC at St Johns at 7pm. March 2nd. Bars and coffee to follow.

Sun, Mar 20, 11:45am-12:15pm – Ahmed Bouabid, exchange student hosted by Todd Lien & Annie Klawiter, will give a presentation about his home country of Tunisia. All are welcome; invite a friend to join us at St. John's that day!

Wednesday Wear at Nerstrand UMC
Hours: Wed. 1-5 pm Sat. 9-noon
Wednesday Wear 2021 Report

Wednesday Wear had a better than ever year. Thanks to everyone who helped make it possible: shoppers and those who donated both items and/or money. Special thanks to our volunteers: Janet, Marlene, Verna, Hazel, Jackie, Jennifer and Rolf. Couldn't do it without this faithful group.

For the year of 2021 we took in \$3,373.50. We gave \$2,635.00 to the church budget. For missions we gave \$200.00 to Cru (Crusade for Christ), \$100.00 to food shelf, \$50.00 to Jesus Food, and delivered four Welcome Baskets to Emma Norton.

Number of people coming in:

2019	1639
2020	1283 (closed for three months for covid)
2021	1562

Have a great 2022 and come and see us.
Submitted by Linda Kispert

Sunday school

St. John's Sunday School meets from 9:30-10:20am, at church. Children Pre-K (age 4) through 8th grade are invited to join us – whether once or weekly! Contact Carrie Hess with questions or if you would like to assist as a substitute teacher; littlehesshouse@gmail.com or 651-775-5594. There will be NO Sunday School on March 27.



St. John's UCC Cleaning Committee

The St. John's UCC will have cleaning committees every other month.



St John's UCC council

February 8, 2022

The February meeting of St John's council was called to order by Moderator Gloria Karl. Pastor Jef led the council in a brief meditation.

Kim Keller reported for the SPRC committee. Kim reported that the UCC Conference has not supplied us with any candidates for our pastor position. The United Methodist Conference has a candidate for a three quarter time pastor. After much discussion a motion was made and passed to have the SPRC committee interview this candidate.

Secretary and Treasurers reports were read and approved.

Trustees reported that our property insurance is now with Church Mutual Insurance Company. The locks on all three entrance doors use the same key now.

The monthly newsletter was discussed. The number of monthly newsletters we now mail make bulk mailing difficult. E-mailing to those who can get e-mail and sending the rest of the newsletters out with first class is being thought about. More information will be coming soon.

Gloria informed the council of an international Exchange group that need a place to stay while they are here doing their music ministry in our area. Gloria would like to offer the parsonage to this group as a mission and outreach opportunity for our congregation. The council okayed checking out the possibilities of this project.

The Last Supper Drama will be held this year in person on Palm Sunday evening, April 10th.

The next council meeting will be held March 7th at 7:30pm.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm. Council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Secretary, Keith Keller

Elders: Gloria Karl, Todd Lien, Barb Kleve
Deacons: Gordie Wiegrefe, Brian Homier, Keith Keller
Trustees: Matt Schwake, Paul Meyer, Dennis Tatge Cemetery
Board: Brian Bauer, Al Meyer, Kyle Keller

Nerstrand UMC council

Next meeting will be on Jan. 5 at 5:00pm
Chairman-Duane Bailey
Secretary -Debbie Kerr

Second Saturday Quilters

We will have our meeting at St. John's on Saturday, March 12th starting at 9:00 AM.

This will be an all day meet with meeting & lesson in the morning, breaking for lunch, and working on your own project for the afternoon. Cindy will be teaching the Fast Fuse Method of piecing. You will need your sewing



machine, general sewing supplies, iron, and a special 2" grid interfacing and 2" squares of fabric.

In April we will be attending the New Ulm Quilt Show as a group and will not be sewing. We'll be carpooling from various locations, to be discussed at the March meeting. Tool of the Month is open.

History Bits - Deb'

Snack by Vicki P.

SSQ is open to people of all churches and their friends.

For more info contact Deb Wille

at: debwille123@gmail.com or 507-323-4813

Special notices. Save the dates. Surround in

Prayer:

March 6 Congregational Meeting after service

March 20 Presentation at SJ-Tunisia by Ahmed Bouabid

11:45am-12:15pm

Lenten Service schedule:

March 2 Ash Wed. 7:00 pm-SJ

March 9 Community Lenten Service -Grace-7:00pm

March 16 Community Lenten Service-NUMC-7:00pm

March 23 Community Lenten Service -Grace-7:00pm

March 30 Community Lenten Service -SJ-7:00pm

April 6 Community Lenten Service -NUMC-7:00pm

April 10 Last Supper Drama-SJ -8:00pm

April 15 Good Friday Service-SJ-7:00pm

From 8 a.m. to 12 noon on Sunday, March 6th, Christ Lutheran is having an omelette bar breakfast at the American Legion. Tickets are \$12 per person older than 10 years old and \$6 per person ten years old and younger. Hope Center, Big Brother/Big Sister, and Habitat for Humanity will receive the proceeds from the breakfast.

Service Schedule for 2022: Sundays

(Communion on first Sunday of month)

9:00 AM WORSHIP AT NERSTRAND UNITED

METHODIST CHURCH

12 Maple Street, Nerstrand, MN 55053

E-mail: stjohnsuccowheelino@gmail.com

Website: <https://nerstrandumc.org>

Phone: 507.332.4089



10:30 AM WORSHIP AT ST JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

19086 Jacobs Ave, Faribault, MN 55021

E-mail: stjohnsuccowheelino@gmail.com

Website: <https://stjohnsunitedchurchofchrist.info>

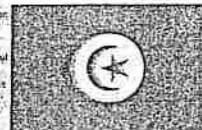
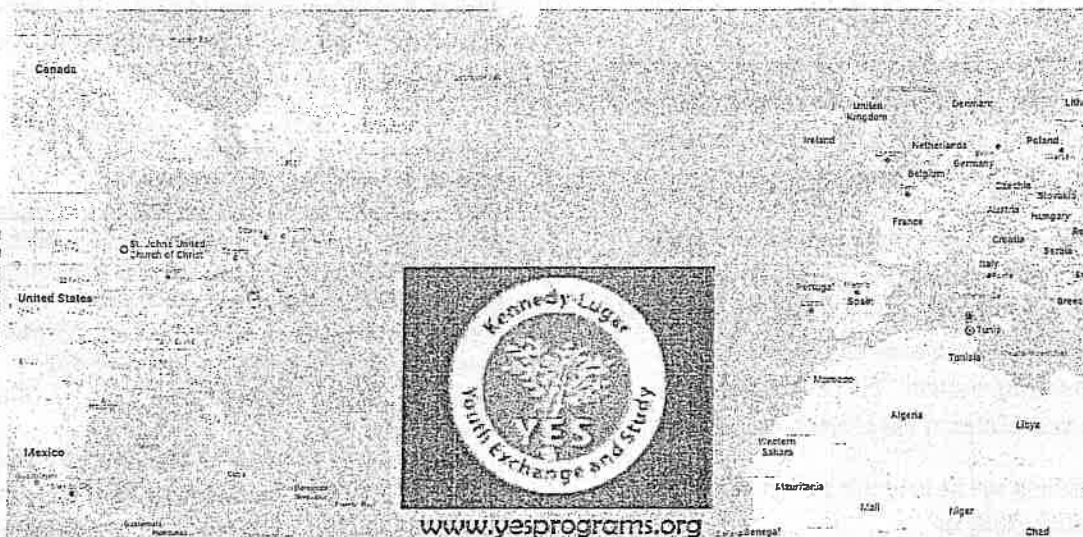
Phone: (507) 330-0025



All the People, Ministers
Interim Pastor- Jef Olson

Join Us for a Talk about Tunisia!

Come listen to local high school exchange student,
Ahmed, talk about his life at home in Tunisia.



Sunday, March 20, 2022

11:45am-12:15pm

**St. John's United Church of Christ
19086 Jacobs Avenue, Faribault, MN 55021
www.stjohnsunitedchurchofchrist.info**

All Are Welcome!

Join us for any or all the following:

Sunday School (9:30-10:20am for children PreK to 8th grade)

Sunday Worship (10:30-11:30am)

Ahmed's Presentation (11:45am-12:15pm)

Masks are very welcomed but not required.