

WORDS FROM THE BISHOP

This has been a tough winter. Many congregations have had to cancel services on one or more Sundays. We Live in hope that the higher than normal snow-pack will lead to good harvest and provide relief from last summer's fire season.

As you know, people living in isolation and in poverty have been adversely affected by the snow. They are running out of food and fuel. Some of you may have read of the needs on the Blackfeet Reservation. Our full communion partners, the United Methodists, have provided a grant and are coordinating response.

The Montana Synod is working to provide food and firewood to the Northern Cheyenne. We have sent a semi of food, enough to feed 600 families for 5 days. We need to raise \$5000 to pay for the food and transportation. When Montana was on fire last summer, other synods sent us disaster assistance. Now we need to ask you, the congregations of the Synod, to reach into your pockets and help our Northern Cheyenne neighbors.

I ask you to keep the Northern Cheyenne and all others experiencing hunger and deprivation in prayer. And I ask you to open your hearts and your wallets to help the Northern Cheyenne now. Please send checks to the Montana Synod and write "disaster" on the memo.

Thank you for your generosity. Jessica Crist, Bishop

Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Statement

Saint John's Lutheran Church is called by God to be:

Centered in Word and Sacrament

Identifiably and theologically Lutheran

A multi/intergenerational congregation

An inviting congregation in which people are easily involved

Alive with responsive and creative programs that provide opportunity for people

to grow in their faith.

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

1000 HELENA AVE., HELENA MT 59601 (406) 442-6270

www.helenastjohns.org saintjohns@helenastjohns.org

"Growing in Grace, Walking by Faith, Serving in Love"

Sunday, March 11, 2018 – Lent IV

Opening Hymn: "Beneath The Cross Of Jesus" #338

Hymn of the Day: "My Faith Looks Up To Thee" #759

Sermon: "Gods Tenacious Love"

Special Music:

"Agnus Dei" by B. Kallinikoff
St. John's Sanctuary Choir

Ministering in Worship

Preaching & Presiding	Pastor Bradley Ulgenes
Organist	Dodie Walsh
Choir Director	Connie Conley
Bell Choir Directors	Renee Slocum and Christina Tielking
Acolyte	
Lectors	Rebekah French
Greeters	Erma Polich and Mildred Twingley
Communion Servers	Alex and Kari Ceaicovschi Paul Hilchen, Amy Smiedala
Altar Guild	Jan Forseth, Marlys Mattfeldt, Laura Nachtsheim, Karen Sturm
Ushers	Paul Evanson and Jens Jensen
Bulletin Folders	Erma Polich and Mildred Twingley
Witness to the Gospel	Members of St. John's Lutheran Church

LENT AT ST. JOHN'S

Soup Suppers return during the season of Lent on Wednesdays at 5:30 pm down in the Fellowship Hall. A special offering will be taken each week for designated ministries. Worship will follow at 6:30 pm with the singing of Holden Evening Prayer and we will walk with James the Lesser and his family.

MIDWEEK SOUP SUPPER/LENTEN OFFERINGS

Mar. 14 Seafarers International House in NYC

An amazing ELCA ministry for seafarers and immigrants in the Union Square neighborhood of New York City. Tourists are welcome to stay there as well, thus helping to support this 'Harbor of Hospitality'. sihnyc.org

Mar. 21 Senegal and The Gambia: Growing the Church

The young Evangelical Lutheran Church of The Gambia has 2000 members in nine congregations. With a \$100,000. goal, the ELCA plans to establish two Lutheran education centers for training of evangelists, office space, and staff stipends. elca.org

Each week different committees provide the soups and help with kitchen duties. We can always use extra hands on deck! Please contact Laura Nachtsheim if you would like to help.

PIZZA NIGHT A SUCCESS!

Thank you to the congregation for helping promote our pizza night at MacKenzie River on 2/26. \$183.16 was raised and all money will go towards our Houston trip in June.

DEADLINES

Please submit any announcements that you would like included in the weekly bulletin by Wednesday at Noon. The deadline for the April Herald is Friday, March 17th at noon. Thanks!

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Attendance for Sunday 3/4 was 114 and Wednesday 3/7 was 65.

WOMEN'S SPRING RETREAT

The Great Divide and 5 Valleys Clusters of the Women of the ELCA will be holding their spring retreat on April 20-22, 2018, at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. The deadline for early bird registration is March 31, 2018. Registration information is available on the table in the Narthex.

31 PARTY HOSTED BY JOLENE ROSZEL

Do you love fashionable purses, bags and organizers? Do you love supporting our youth? Combine the two and you have a FUNdraiser to support the youth trip to Houston. Now through March 26th, place an order and 25% of the total sales goes to the youth group. Want to know more?

Visit <https://www.mythirtyone.com/info/gives> about Thirty-One's charitable contributions. To Order, visit <https://www.mythirtyone.com/1972054/info/party/parties> and click on "Jolene's Fundraiser" or contact Jolene or Gwen Roszel for a catalogue. Orders must be placed by March 26th.

DIRECT THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS® BY MARCH 31

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have available Choice Dollars® have until March 31, 2018, to direct them. Don't miss this opportunity to recommend that Thrivent Financial provide outreach funding to St. John's Lutheran Church (or other ministries of your choice). Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to direct your Choice Dollars®. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt. If you have questions call Autumn Keller, Thrivent Financial at 442-6091. Thank you to those who have directed Thrivent Choice Dollars to St. John's. To date we have received \$422.

CANS

To those of you who separate the steel cans from the aluminum cans...thank you! It is a real time saver. Just place them in the barrel by the kitchen door or beside the barrel if it is full. Thank you—Cliff & Linda Roessner

FAIR TRADE COFFEE

Fair trade coffee and chocolate is available for sale in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday's or anytime by contacting Laura Nachtsheim.

Welcome and God's peace be with you. We are thankful you are here and pray that you will experience the presence of Christ in this congregation.

- * Individual listening aids are available from the ushers.
- * Children are always welcome to worship at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Please ask one of our ushers or greeters for a Children's Worship Bulletin and activity bag. A nursery is available for children ages 0-4 during the service.
- * All who are baptized are welcome to receive the forgiving and gracious presence of Christ in communion. Those who prefer not to commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.
- * Please join us in the fellowship hall downstairs following the service for a time of fellowship. All are welcome!

On The Occasion of Their Baptism:

Brecken Clay Bignell

For Healing:

For those suffering devastation from hurricanes, earthquakes, forest fires, and violence, Jean Buckingham, the Northern Cheyenne and those adversely affected by the snow, Violet Kerr, Randy Holmes, Doris Crider, Emma Van Doorn, Sabrina Jensen, The Bernstein Family, Joe Munzenrider, Tom Morrow, Debbie (Barb Muir's daughter), Doug and Becki Watkins, Jim Kembel, Jim Moe, Dave Hanson (Mildred Twingley's Son-in-Law), Zoe B., Barb Knutson, Kris Olson, Lester Anderson, Luke Almas, the children at Intermountain, for those who are alone, for those who suffer from depression, and for all who seek health and wholeness

For The Family And Friends Of Those Who Mourn:

Theresa Lindgren, Donna Muffick, Karen Sloan

For Those In Residential Living Centers, Extended Care

Or Homebound: Pat Tyanich, Esther Fuehrer, Bob Hanson, Dr. Bob & Evelyn Whitesitt, Ken Bolland, Annie Stegmann, Jean E. Munding, Ada Harlen, Maury Knutson, Marge Mihelish, Audrey Anderson, Irene Crawford, Dan Brosten (in Columbia Falls), Phillip Kerr, Doris Crider

Missionaries: Willie, Anne, and Micah Langdji in Cameroon;

Mark and Marina Dotson in Russia

Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

(Romans 12:12)

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, March 11th:

9:30 am-Worship with Holy Communion

10:30 am-Fellowship, Adult Forum, Sunday School

10:30 am-Social Ministry Committee

3:00 pm-First Communion Class

Monday, March 12th:

6:00 pm-Venture Scouts

6:30 pm-Bells Rehearsal

Tuesday, March 13th:

10:30 am-Staff Meeting

Noon-Finance Committee

Noon-WOSJ's Lunch

Wednesday, March 14th:

9:00 am-Noon-Quilters

1:30 pm-Executive Committee

5:30 pm-Lent Soup Supper

6:30 pm-Worship

Thursday, March 15th:

7:00 pm-Sanctuary Choir

Friday, March 16th:

3:00 pm-Communion Service at Masonic Home

Saturday, March 17th:

LOOKING AHEAD

Monday, March 19th:

6:00 pm-Men's Group

Tuesday, March 20th:

6:30 pm-Church Council

Wednesday, March 21st:

1:30 pm-Book Club @LCPL

Friday, March 23rd:

GRETCHEN AWAY 3/23-27

6:00 pm-Fellowship Friday at Perkins

Thursday, March 29th: MAUNDY THURSDAY

5:30 pm-AGAPE Meal and Worship in Fellowship Hall

Friday, March 30th: GOOD FRIDAY

7:00 pm-Good Friday Worship Service

BAPTISM

Today we warmly welcome Brecken Clay Bignell and his family on the special occasion of his baptism. May God keep you in His tender care.

HELP!

The quilters are in need of more sheets-specifically any size flat sheet made out of cotton. Questions? Speak with Linda Roessner or Mildred Twingley.

EASTER LILY ORDERS

Easter Lilies "*in Memory of*" or "*in Thanksgiving for*"...will decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday and are once again available to order. Contact the church office or complete an order form found in the narthex by Sunday, March 25th. Plants are \$10 and checks can be made out to St. John's with "flowers" in the memo.

EASTER CARDS

TODAY YOU CAN PURCHASE EASTER CARDS!! Packages of 12 cards will be available in the Narthex and downstairs at the coffee hour. Also.....raffle tickets for the EASTER BASKET are being sold for \$1 apiece or 6/\$5. The drawing for the basket will be next Sunday! I have GENERAL ASSORTMENT cards as well for \$5 a package. Proceeds from CARDS 4 KIDS go toward our many Youth programs here at the church which includes Sunday School, VBS and outside activities. Your generous contributions toward this ministry are greatly appreciated. Janice Larison

YOU CAN HELP WITH A SUNDAY SCHOOL PROJECT!!

Please collect brown paper grocery bags from VAN'S when you go shopping. We will be using the blank side of the bag. You can put them in the Sunday School room or give them to Janice Larison.
I NEED THEM BY MARCH 31!!! THANKS A LOT!

LENTEN MIDWEEK OFFERING

The offering total raised for Intermountain Children's Home on Wednesday, February 28th was \$674. Thank you for your generosity.