



The Herald

April 2019

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church~Helena, Montana

"Growing in grace, walking in faith, serving in love"



"A Living Picture of The Last Supper"

Maundy Thursday, April 18th at 6:30 pm

Free Admission

Come hear and see the dramatic story of the last supper
as possibly imagined through the eyes of Leonardo daVinci

****Featuring actors from St. John's Lutheran Church and
singers from the St. John's Lutheran Church Sanctuary Choir*

St. John's Lutheran Church, 1000 Helena Avenue, 442-6270

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- 4/14 **Palm Sunday**-9:30 am Worship Service
- 4/18 **Maundy Thursday**-6:30 pm DaVinci's
Last Supper Drama
- 4/19 **Good Friday**-Noon-Worship Service
- 4/20 **Easter Vigil**-8:00 pm at Our Redeemers
- 4/21 **Easter Sunrise Service**-6:30 am at Kleffner Ranch
- Easter Festival Worship**-9:30 am
- Easter Breakfast**-10:30 am (*hosted by SJLC Youth*)

EASTER LILIES

Easter Lilies are once again available to order to decorate the sanctuary for Easter. Plants are \$10 each and may be purchased in memory of or in thanksgiving for family and/or loved ones. Forms are available in the narthex or in the office. Deadline is Friday, April 12th at noon.

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR BRAD

Judas, Jesus and Christ's Resurrection

For the past several years I've played Judas in our DaVinci's Last Supper Drama. It's always a strange experience playing the one who betrayed Jesus. I've noticed when I've serve communion as Judas after the drama some of you have a hard time looking me in the eye when I serve you. I've come to a more sympathetic understanding of Judas from playing the part. On one hand he was trusted enough by Jesus and his disciples to be their treasurer. In the last supper he reclined beside Jesus, a place of trust, and Jesus dips his bread into the cup to identify him. He's an outsider as he's the only disciple that came from Judea in the south. His name in the Aramaic means false one, liar.

The reason for his betrayal is not clear. Some gospels say that he loved money and stole from the disciples' treasury for himself. He did receive 30 pieces of silver from the high priests for betraying Jesus but the money paid was not enormous. Some accounts say he was of the devil when he acted. To me, Judas betrayed Jesus because he had such high hopes for Jesus as the Messiah but was disillusioned that Jesus didn't use his power to overthrow the Romans, so he pushed Jesus into acting.

Some accounts have Judas leaving quickly when Jesus identified him as the betrayer. In Luke Judas seems to take part in the Last Supper and Holy Communion. To betray Jesus with a kiss heightens the drama and passion. In the song "Why?" the words go "Why did it have to have to be a friend, who chose to betray the Lord? Why did he have to use a kiss, that's not what a kiss is for. Only a friend could befriend a friend, a stranger has nothing to gain, only a friend comes close enough, to ever cause so much pain."

Every time we hear the Words of Institution in our communion liturgy it recalls Judas betrayal as it starts "In the night he was betrayed..." Yet, rarely do we recall Judas repentance. He does go back to the chief priests and admits his sin saying, "I have betrayed an innocent man." He tries to return the money but the Sanhedrin wouldn't accept it saying it was "blood money" and put it in a fund for the potter's field, a place to bury foreigners. Even the high priests knew the money was tainted and the deal shady. Feeling the weight of guilt and shame Judas went and committed suicide by hanging himself. Does God's forgiveness cover desperate acts of guilty disciples? I hope so.

All the disciples ran away as cowards when Jesus was arrested in the garden. Peter denies knowing Jesus three times. Only four women and John were present at Jesus' crucifixion. There is plenty of guilt and shame to go around. When we think about our lives and the times where we have denied Christ or betrayed Christ we too are guilty of the same sins. Yet, Jesus on the cross says, "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do? He forgives all who are complicit in turning against him, including the soldiers, the disciples, Judas and us. He forgave the thief on the cross and promised he would be with him in paradise.

After his resurrection Jesus forgives Peter and the disciples and welcomes them back as disciples. He says, "Peace be with you" and sends them forth as his disciples. I believe that Jesus' forgiveness restored Judas to his relationship with God, just as Jesus restores us when we come to him in baptism and the Lord's Supper. Christ resurrection is a miracle in more than one way. It makes all things and people new, including Judas and you and me. It would be shocking to meet Judas in heaven, but I wouldn't be surprised, because Christ's forgiveness and resurrection changes everything. The One who conquered sin and death is One who's mercy is great and steadfast love endures forever.

Betrayers, thieves, deniers and sinners, come and celebrate Christ's resurrection!

Being made new with you and Judas in Christ's resurrection,
Pastor Brad

Save-the-Date
The Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting
will be on Sunday, May 5th at 10:45 am
following worship
down in the Fellowship Hall.

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ST. JOHN'S WOMEN OF THE ELCA NEWS

General Meeting & Potluck Lunch – Tuesday, April 9 at Noon

Barb Muir will be hosting and anyone with time and skill should bring a salad or dessert. But don't let lack of time or skill prevent you from coming – there is always plenty of food. Our new treasurer (Gayle Grimsrud) will be presenting a proposed budget for the upcoming year. Please bring your suggestions for speakers for the September 2019 through April 2020 general meetings.

Meetings with Jesus

Morning and evening circles will be continuing the "Meetings with Jesus: Bible Study" from Gather.

Morning Circle meets at Touchmark on April 16 at 9:30. Noma Middlestead is hosting and Janice Larison is leading discussion. Evening Circle meets in the St. John's Guild Room on April 23 at 7:00 p.m. Alta Mae Jensen will be hosting and leading discussion.

Women's Spring Retreat at Flathead

This annual event, sponsored by the Great Divide and 5 Valleys Clusters, is scheduled for April 26 through 28 and promises to be a weekend of relaxation, rejuvenation, fellowship and inspiration with women of faith. You have until April 8 to make the "early bird" registration price of \$135. This price covers two nights lodging and five meals. Register on-line at <http://imluchurch.org/womensretreat>.

NEWS AROUND ST. JOHN'S

Save the Dates: School Bags and Quilts

Wednesday, April 24th:	1:00 PM-School Bag assembly line setup, help needed 5:30 PM-Dinner provided by Midweek Connection 6:00 PM-School bags assembled and boxed up. All ages needed!
Wednesday, May 8th:	9:00 AM-Quilts boxed up. Adults needed for this project
Friday, May 10th:	9:45 AM-Quilts and School Bags loaded onto the trucks. Adults-especially those with muscles, needed for this huge job.

Easter Cards 4 Kids

Send some LOVE this Easter to your friends and family the old-fashioned way.....with a card!! You will have the opportunity to purchase Easter cards on APRIL 7 AND APRIL 14. Cards will be packaged in groups of 10 for \$5 and will include both religious and non-religious types. Also for sale will be individual general assortment cards which can be purchased for 50cents apiece. I hope you will take some time to look at the various types of cards including sympathy, get well, thank you, blank notecards and anniversary. I also have a small group of Father's/ Mother's Day cards as well. All cards have been used with your recycled cards AND many I have completely designed and made myself. Cards will be available in the narthex and downstairs at the coffee hour. All proceeds from sales of cards go toward our various youth programs here at St. John's which benefit their activities throughout the year. Many continuing thanks for recycled Christmas cards, other holiday cards etc....along with stickers and envelopes!! This greatly helps this ministry to your youth!!!

Janice Larison, CARDS 4 KIDS

First Communion Celebration Sunday, April 7th

We celebrate with three students-Siri Fitterer, Carmelo Gresens, and Elizabeth Slocum who will receive their first communion and first Bible this month on Sunday, April 7th during worship. May they continue to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior.

Looking For Graduates

Graduation dates are just around the corner and we want to make sure we recognize all of our high school seniors as well as anyone from the St. John's family who is graduating from undergraduate/graduate school. Please speak with Gretchen or call the office for more information.

Gem & Mineral Show Tickets

The Helena Mineral Society presents their Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show in Helena on Saturday, 4/13 from 9:00 AM-6:00 PM and on Sunday, 4/14 from 10:00 am-4:00 pm at the Helena Civic Center. Thurston and Betty Dotson have provided comp tickets for our youth again this year--thank you for your generosity! Speak with Gretchen to pick up your tickets for this fun, family friendly event!

April 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	We
	<p>1</p> <p>6:00 pm-Venture Scouts 6:00 pm-Bells</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:30 am-Staff Meeting 6:00 pm-4H in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:00 am-Quilters LENT SOUP SUPP 5:30 pm-Dinner: W 6:30 pm-Worship: Pr. Kendra Wilde</p>
<p>7</p> <p>FIRST COMMUNION & FIRST BIBLE SUNDAY 9:30 am-Worship 10:45 am-Adult Forum 10:45 am-Sunday School 10:45 am-Stewardship Committee</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:00 pm-Venture Scouts 6:00 pm-Bells 6:30 pm-Property Committee</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:30 am-Staff Meeting Noon-WOSJ'S Lunch Meeting Noon-Finance Committee</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00 am-Quilters LENT SOUP SUPP 5:30 pm-Dinner: Q Volunteers 6:30 pm-Worship: Pr. Ken Duvall</p>
<p>14</p> <p>PALM SUNDAY 9:30 am-Worship 10:45 am-Adult Forum 10:45 am-Sunday School 6:30 pm-DaVinci rehearsal</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:00 pm-Venture Scouts 6:00 pm-Bells 6:00 pm-Men's Group</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:30 am-Morning Circle 10:30 am-Staff Meeting 6:30 pm-Church Council 6:30 pm-DaVinci Rehearsal</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:00 am-Quilters 1:30 pm-SJLC Book</p>
<p>21</p> <p>EASTER SUNDAY 6:30 am-Sunrise Easter Worship at Kleffner Ranch 9:30 am-Festival Worship Service 10:45 am-Easter Breakfast</p>	<p>22</p> <p>PASTOR AWAY-- PASTOR'S RETREAT 6:00 pm-Venture Scouts 6:00 pm-Bells</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10:30 am-Staff Meeting 7:00 pm-Evening Circle</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:00 am-Quilters 1:00 pm-School Bag SPECIAL MIDWE CONNECTION 5:30 pm-Dinner 6:00 pm-Packing of</p>
<p>28</p> <p>FAMILY PROMISE WEEK 9:30 am-Worship 10:45 am-Adult Forum 10:45 am-Sunday School</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:00 pm-Venture Scouts 6:00 pm-Bells</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:30 am-Staff Meeting</p>	

	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>PER OSJ's</p>	<p>4 7:00 pm-Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 2:30 pm-June Lee Studio Recital</p>
<p>PER ilters/</p>	<p>11 8:00 am-Piano Adjudicating for District Music Festival, All Day 7:00 pm-Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>12 GRETCHEN AWAY Noon-Memorial Committee 3:00 pm-Communion Service at Masonic Home</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>Club @LCPL</p>	<p>18 MAUNDY THURSDAY 6:30 pm-DaVinci's Last Supper Drama</p>	<p>19 GOOD FRIDAY Noon-Good Friday Worship Service</p>	<p>20 10:00 am-Youth Group Easter Breakfast Prep 8:00 pm-Easter Vigil at ORLC</p>
<p>g line prep EK the School Kits</p>	<p>25 7:00 pm-Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>26 5:30 pm-Fellowship Friday at Perkins (in the large room)</p>	<p>27</p>

NEWS AROUND ST. JOHN'S, *cont.*

St. John's Book Club Reminder

The St. John's book club will meet at 1:30 on Wednesday, April 17, in the Small Conference Room of the L&C County library, to discuss *A Step of Faith* by Richard Paul Evans. Derinda G. will be leading discussion and has extra copies of the book, so please let her know if you would like a copy. We will also be choosing books and discussion leaders for June through August at the April meeting, so please come to cast your vote. Derinda is also leading our discussion in May. We will be reading and discussing Carrie La Seur's critically acclaimed debut novel, *The Home Place*, which won the High Plains Book Award, was short-listed for the Strand Critics Award for Best First Novel, and was an IndieNext pick, a Library Journal pick, one of the Great Falls Tribune's Top 10 Montana Books for 2014, and a Florida SunSentinel Best Crime Fiction pick for 2014. The author, who lives somewhere in Montana, has been invited to join our discussion on May 15 by Skype.

Thank You St. John's

From the bottom of my heart, a very warm thank you to my St. John's family and the Women of St. John's for nominating me to be the Bold Woman of the year. There are so many bold women in our church family so this was a surprising and humbling honor. It gives me great joy to serve alongside you and to walk in this faith journey together. Thank you!--Gretchen Munding

NEWS FROM SOCIAL MINISTRY AT ST. JOHN'S

Lent Soup Supper Designated Offerings

3 April 2019: Spirit of Life Ministry at Ft Peck Reservation is the newest Native American ministry in the ELCA. Pastor Chris Holler-Dinsmore shares the grace of God with those in the community. Founded in 2014 and now operating in Poplar and Wolf Point, the mission is to serve the people of the Fort Peck Reservation through prison ministries, community bible studies and the Community Bike Shop to promote health, fitness, and personal empowerment – one bike or trike – at a time.

10 April 2019: Our Savior's Lutheran Church at Rocky Boy's Reservation is the oldest Native American Ministry in the ELCA. Pastor Linda Webster serves there and recently Gretchen and our youth traveled there for a mission trip to build bunk beds and to share in and witness Native American traditions. The youth will share about their experiences and the need for assistance there. With your gifts you will help follow the Montana Synod benchmark to "serve the world, especially the poor and those in need."

Family Promise Update

Our next host week starts on Sunday, April 28, and Pastor Neal has already sent out the overnight host assignments – but here's a reminder:

Sunday, April 28: Jens & Alta Mae Jensen

Wednesday, May 1: Bill & Patricia Harant

Thursday, May 2: John Munding & Mark Langdorf

Friday, May 3: Jonathan Schoof & Brian Tetrault

Saturday, May 4: Rebekah French & Annette Jacobson

We need dinner preparers and hosts for Sunday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, breakfast hosts for Saturday, and a partner for Rebekah for the Saturday overnight. The sign-up board will be up on Sunday, March 24 – so hopefully some spots will be filled by the time you get this Herald.

Correction – Upcoming Host Dates

Our next host week starts Monday, September 1 and our final host week for 2019 starts on November 10.

Designated Offering for April-FLBC Scholarships for Rocky Boy

Our designated offering for the month of April is scholarships to FLBC for Rocky Boy. Families on the reservation often do not have extra funds for ANY extra activities let alone summer camps. Let's help make a difference in a young life this summer! Please place your offering in the pew envelope and check the Social Ministry Committee box.

In Our Prayers

On The Occasion Of Their Baptism: Carmelo Gresens

On The Occasion Of Their First Communion:

Siri Fitterer, Garmelo Gresens, Elizabeth Slocum

For Healing: churches in our cluster who are looking for a pastor, the community and mosque members in Christchurch, New Zealand, the community of Utrecht in The Netherlands, flood victims in Nebraska, Gary Johnson, Bing Crosby, Tom Morrow, Ron Mosness, Donny Armstrong, Michael Carter (*nephew of Ron Mosness*), Bob Hanson, Kim Newman, Carol Alpiner, Beth Tait, Holly Morgan-Fitterer, Dustin Michelle, Dwight Crawford (*recovering from surgery, brother of Linda Wollitz and son of Irene Crawford*), Dorothy Bird, Steve Tielking, Violet Kerr, Randy Holmes, Dave Hanson (*Mildred Twingley's Son-in-Law*), Lester Anderson, 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:

Donald Conley, Debbie Niederklein, Gary Weber, Tom Gossack, Debbie Grebenc, Beverly Whitley, Ernie Dygert, Jean E. Mundinger, and all the Saints in heaven

For Those In Residential Living Centers, Extended Care Or Homebound:

Mike Kieckbusch, Donna Anderson, Marilyn Metropolis, Mary Phelan, Pat Tyanich, Esther Fuehrer, Bob Hanson, Evelyn Whitesitt, Ken Bolland, Sally Miller, Annie Stegmann, 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)



April Birthdays

1	Eric Bryson	18	Jolene Bebich
2	Janice Forseth	19	Mark Langdorf
	Donna Angstman		Thomas Morrow
3	Bob Hanson	21	Joshua Barrows
4	Merwin Barrows	26	Ellen Livers
	Kurt Keiper		Randy Rake
	Don Magnus	27	Braden Scherting
7	Danielle Timmer	28	Madisyn Gard
	Elaine Ulgenes		Alyson Rake
8	Carly Smiedala	30	Garth Grimsrud
9	Donna Campbell		
10	Larry Shields		
12	Mark Blessinger		
15	Bill Mattfeldt		
16	Hildegard Anderson-Folgany		
	Pam Bourassa		
	Curt Nichols		
17	Luella Elverum		
	Marlene Swenson		



April Anniversaries

30 Ken and Joyce Ludtke

Help us keep our records up-to-date! If you would like your Birthday or Anniversary listed or if you need to make a correction to what we have listed please contact the office. We would like to be able to celebrate your special day!

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St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1000 Helena Avenue
Helena, MT 59601

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Like us on Facebook!

Worship Services

Sunday

9:30 am-Worship with Holy Communion
10:30 am-Adult Forum and Fellowship

Office Hours

9:00 am-1:00 pm
Monday-Friday

Ministering at

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Witness to the Gospel	Members of SJLC
Pastor	Brad Ulgenes
Organist	Dodie Walsh
Choir Director	Connie Conley
Bell Choir Directors	Renee Slocum Christina Tielking
Director of Youth & Family Ministries	
Office Manager	Gretchen Munding
Treasurer	Karen Hicks
Financial Secretary	Randy Rake
Missionaries	Anne & Willie Langdji, Cameroon Mark & Marina Dotson, Russia
Sexton	Pat Gober

*St. John's Social Ministry Outreach Offering
for April is FLBC scholarships for campers from Rocky Boy.*