



# The Herald

March 2025

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Helena, Montana

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

## Worship Services

Sunday 9:30 am

In-person and online via our Facebook page

Services uploaded to YouTube

Touchmark Service: Second Thursday at 2:00

Midweek Gathering

Community Meal at 6:30 on first Wednesday

Worship w/Holy Communion at 6:30

Fellowship at 7:00

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# St Patrick

Most people know St. Patrick's Day as a day to drink Guinness, wear green, and celebrate all things Irish. But few know the true story of the patron saint of Ireland.

St. Patrick was born Maewyn Succat around 385 in Kilpatrick, Scotland. At the age of 14 he was captured during a raid of his hometown and taken to Ireland to work as a slave, herding sheep. At the time he was captured Ireland was inhabited predominantly by Druids and pagans. Maewyn learned the language of the Irish and their lifestyle.

During Maewyn's servitude in Ireland he never forgot about God and prayed to him every single day. It is said that he would sometimes pray over 100 times a day.

Six years after he had been captured, God came to Maewyn in a dream and told him to leave Ireland by going to the coast. Maewyn did as God instructed and boarded a ship back to Britain where he was reunited with his family.

Once home, Maewyn had another dream in which the people of Ireland were asking him to come back and teach them about God. So Maewyn began studying to become a priest and was ordained by St. Germanus.

By the time he was ordained bishop, Maewyn had taken the name Patrick, and was sent to Ireland to bring the word of God to the Irish people.

Patrick preached for 40 years and converted all of Ireland. He worked many miracles and wrote of his love for God in "Confessions." After years of living in poverty, traveling, and enduring much suffering he died March 17, 461.

Patrick died at Saul, where he had built the first church.

Here are some quotes from Saint Patrick:

"I arise today through God's strength to pilot me; God's might to uphold me, God's wisdom to guide me, God's ear to hear me, God's word to speak for me, God's hand to guard me, God's way to lie before me, God's shield to protect me afar and near, alone or in a multitude".

"I cannot keep silent, nor would it be proper, so many favors and graces has the Lord deigned to bestow on me in the land of my captivity".

"The love of God and his fear grew in me more and more, as did the faith, and my soul was roused, so that, in a single day, I have said as many as a hundred prayers and in the night, nearly the same".

## See Through The Scriptures Bible Workshop- March 29- Our Redeemer's

Pastor Brad Ulgenes will lead a six hour Bible workshop using a manual called *See Through The Scriptures* on Saturday, March 29 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The cost of the manual for the workshop will be \$15. For an additional \$5 participants can order a workbook ( not mandatory) that can be used for personal study following the workshop. Free or loaner manuals will be available for those who request one. There will be Jimmy John's sandwiches for lunch for purchase.

Understanding the Bible can be daunting. *See Through The Scriptures* makes the Bible more accessible by taking readers step by step through the entire biblical narrative, especially the Old Testament, putting everything in clear context. 44 full color teaching graphics are used to help people grasp and remember the key events and concepts of the Bible, especially the three major covenants in the Old Testament and how Jesus in the New Testament fulfills those covenants. *See Through the Scriptures* is part of the Crossways/Divine Drama series authored by Pastor Harry Wendt.

Students will gain a new appreciation for everything that preceded Jesus in order to more fully understand the deeper meaning of Jesus' ministry and his message of love and servanthood. This workshop is perfect for students who have not studied the Bible before and will teach mature Bible readers new Biblical concepts and overarching themes in the Bible to enrich their faith.

Sign up for Bible workshop and materials will begin February 16. You can register by calling Our Redeemer's church office at 406-442-7842 or email at [loriw@ourredeemerlives.org](mailto:loriw@ourredeemerlives.org). You can also email Pastor Brad at [brad.ulgenes@gmail.com](mailto:brad.ulgenes@gmail.com) to sign up, ask questions or get information. Sorry no zoom or streaming for this workshop.

Pray about attending this exciting Bible workshop on March 29 as part of your Lenten journey. Come and bring a friend. It will change your understanding and knowledge of the Bible and it will be a lot of fun!

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### Bible Trivia

1. Which books of the Bible did Solomon write?
2. What is the shortest book in the Bible?
3. Who were Noah's three sons?



- \* March 2 - Bold Women Recognition
- \* May 13 - Luncheon @ 12 pm
- \* May 16 - 18 Women's Spring Retreat at FLBC
- \* July 13 - Summer Social @ 2 pm / Spring Meadow Pavilion
- \* September 9 - Fall Luncheon @ 12 pm / Hosted by WELCA Board
- \* September 20 - Synod Gathering - SWO / Hosted by St John's
- \* November 16 - Thank Offering
- \* December 6 - Festival Of Angels

General Business Meetings - 2nd Tuesday 12 pm  
Bible Study - 4th Tuesday  
9:30 am at Touchmark  
6:30 pm at Fireside Room (Guild Rm)

## Pastor's Perspective

As we move from the bright and hopeful season of Epiphany into the more somber, reflective season of Lent, we find ourselves transitioning from a time of light and new beginnings to a period of deeper introspection and renewal. Epiphany has called us to witness the light of Christ revealed in the world, while Lent beckons us to return to God with repentance, humility, and holy lament.

Lent is not just about personal reflection but about inviting us to sit with our grief and sorrows. In a society that often pushes us to ignore our suffering or pretend it doesn't affect us, holy lament invites us to take a different approach. We are reminded through Scripture that lament is a natural and necessary expression of faith. The Bible is filled with examples of lament, from the Psalms to the prophets, where God's people pour out their hearts, express their pain, and ask the hard questions about suffering—both personal and global.

Holy lament is a spiritual practice that encourages us to be honest with God. It is an invitation to name our griefs, whether they are large or small, and to bring them to God's loving embrace. It is a practice that acknowledges there are things in life too great for our hearts to bear alone. Through lament, we discover that God is not displeased with our tears or questions but holds us tenderly, comfortingly, and even weeps with us. Lament leads us into a deeper understanding of a God who is larger than our grief and who, in the end, transforms our sorrow into holy joy, renewed hope, and new life.

As we walk through these 40 days of Lent, we are invited to rediscover the faithful discipline of holy lament. We may want to reflect on the questions: Are we truly comfortable with holy lament? How do we express our grief? Is it a personal journey, or do we lament together as a community?

Holy lament encompasses both personal and communal expressions of sorrow. Personal lament occurs when we face situations that shatter our lives or weigh heavily on our hearts. These can be the quiet griefs that often go unnoticed in the hustle of daily life but still require attention. And then there are the deep, heart-wrenching laments—the ones that feel insurmountable. We can bring them to God knowing that our community of faith is here to support us in those times. Community lament is when our collective voices cry out in response to the pain and suffering of the world—whether through injustice, oppression, or tragedy that affects an entire city, state, or nation. In these moments, we stand together, finding strength and comfort in the knowledge that God hears our cries and holds us in our collective sorrow.

During this season of Lent, we are called to lean into this holy practice, whether in solitude or in the company of others. It is a time to ask tough questions and find solace in the truth that we are not alone in our lament. As we journey through Lent, we remember that the road leads us to the foot of the cross, where Jesus, through His own death, transforms all of our mourning and grief into a hope that does not disappoint. In this season, we walk with the assurance that our mourning is not without purpose. We do not grieve as those without hope, for Jesus's death on the cross assures us that even in our deepest lament, resurrection and new life are always on the horizon.

Let us walk this Lenten journey together, learning to express our grief, find comfort in God's presence, and trust that in the midst of our sorrow, God will lead us into the joy and hope of the resurrection.

In Christ Love  
Pastor Keith



## *Scripture*

**Psalm 16:8** “I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.”

Thanks for supporting Fair Trade!

Your contributions to the basket by the coffee urn make it possible to support growers in developing countries get a fairer price for their coffee, tea, and chocolate. A new order of whole bean Congo coffee for individual sale has arrived and for each bag purchased \$1 will go to the Panzi Hospital in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Thank you for putting in your dollars so we can continue to serve fair trade coffee and come and check out the coffee, tea, cocoa, and chocolate bars that are available for individual sa

les. [www.info.equalexchange.coop/articles/congo-coffee-project](http://www.info.equalexchange.coop/articles/congo-coffee-project)



The Women's book club will read *Conclave* Robert Harris for the March meeting. The thrilling tale follows the election of a new Pope complete with secrets, alliances, betrayals, and the rise of a most unexpected candidate.

**Meet in the Guild Room**

**Thursday, March 13, at noon**

**Books are available from Kendra Wilde.**

We keep conversations to an hour  
and welcome new members

## Midweek Connection and Sunday School

**Midweek Connection** is Wednesday evenings, beginning at 6:30 PM for worship and 7:00 PM for Faith Formation. (We have changed our format this year. On the first Wednesday of the month, we will have a potluck and a birthday celebration beginning at 6:30 PM followed by Community Life together down in the Fellowship Hall. The rest of the month we will have worship with Holy Communion at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary followed by Faith Formation for all ages at 7:00 PM.)

Gretchen Munding, Director of Youth and Family Ministry

### \*\*\*\*\*HMS Snack Bags\*\*\*\*\*

It is that time of year again where many of our students are counting down to spring break. However, for some of our friends at HMS spring break means a time away from services that include hot meals and food to take home. We are going to pack up 50 snack bags for students to help take the edge off. The Montana Synod awarded us a Hunger Grant for this project so we can purchase many of the supplies, but we would like your help too. Please consider purchasing Mac and Cheese cups to donate. The collection point will be in the narthex. Thank you!

## Quilting

Each Wednesday; 9 am- noon

## Choir Rehearsal

Thursdays, 7 pm & Warm ups - Sundays, 9 am

## Bible Trivia Answers

1. Song of Solomon, Proverbs and some Psalms
2. Third John
3. Shem, Ham, Japheth

# *Pray for one another*

## Prayers

**In our prayers:** Linda McDonald, Susan Olson, Mike McDonald, Paula Blessinger, Diane Evans, Tammy Tetrault, Susan Boettcher, Ken Downing, Rosita Moe, Bruce Gottwig, Bob Sorensen, Deb Berg, Meg Biggs and family, Richard Bomar, Jeff Shirley, Jeremy Stockstad, Tatiana Ceaicovschi, Randy Holmes, Kamila Ruth Baker, Vicki Alpiner, Brent Bushnell, Tom Andersen, Sally Indreland, Jana Clark, Ann Hadley, Mary Lou Hadley

### **For those in residential living centers, extended care or homebound:**

Mary Marty, Rev. Wayne Olsen, Rosita Moe, Esther Fuehrer, Julie Wolff, Adeline Rasmussen, Susan DeBree, Jimmie McGee

### **For those who are deployed and getting ready to deploy:**

Evan Ceaicovschi

### **For those who have died and now rest in God's merciful care:** All the Saints in Heaven

### **For Missionaries:** Missionaries around the world; Willie Langdji in Cameroon

**For World Leaders:** We pray for the health and recovery of Pope Francis as he battles multiple health issues that have left him in Intensive Care.

## **New Testament Bible Study**

With the start of the new academic year, ***New Testament Bible Study will continue on Sundays at 10:45 am following worship. Classes will gather in the Guild room.*** We will once again be exploring the historical content, original sources, and the materials used in the writings that formed the New Testament Canon. Through a chronological reading, we will experience the timeline within the New Testament. This will be an opportunity to encounter the contents of each book, discuss the historical background, author, context, audience, and purpose (who, where, when, why). We will discover themes and messages within each of the Gospels, Pauline Epistles, Acts, and Revelation.

It is not required, but I do suggest having a good Study Bible. If you have one already, wonderful. If you are interested in getting a new one, I recommend either *The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha 5th Edition NRSV* or the *Lutheran Study Bible* in the NRSV translation.



It is with great joy and excitement that we are able to announce we are going to be holding a New Members class for those who are new to Saint Johns along with some who are returning to St John's.

Our time together will be on Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. We will gather in the Fireside Room at 11:00am following worship. Refreshments will be available and accompany a time of fellowship and getting acquainted.

We are looking forward to this time together as we live into the Baptismal covenant that weaves our faith journeys together in our ministry at St John's.

Any who are interested in attending please talk to Pastor Keith or email him at

[pastorkeith@helenastjohns.org](mailto:pastorkeith@helenastjohns.org) or call the church office at 406-442-6270 with any questions.

## First Communion Instruction

First communion classes for students and their parents will be held March 26th, April 2nd, and April 9th. Classes will take place during the regularly scheduled Faith Formation time during Wednesday Midweek Connection at 7:00pm. The celebration of First Communion with students, families, and the congregation will take place during regular church service on Palm Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM.

Please talk to Pastor Keith or email him at [pastorkeith@helenastjohns.org](mailto:pastorkeith@helenastjohns.org) or call the church office at 406-442-6270 with any questions.

### **Celebration Ringers practice**

Mondays at 6 pm

### **Bells of St Johns practice**

Wednesdays at 5:15 pm





Prayer is a vital part of our faith journey, a practice that deepens and transforms our relationship with God, with ourselves, and with one another. This year, the council members at St. John's Lutheran Church have chosen to focus on discipleship as a key aspect of our shared ministry.

In response to this, the council and ministry team have decided to engage in a special prayer initiative over the next 12 to 18 months. Each month, they will randomly select a member or family from our congregation to lift up in prayer. As part of this, you may receive a phone call or a letter asking for any specific prayer requests you might have.

I have also invited the council members to share any prayer requests with me so that I, too, can include you in my prayers and the prayers of the church. It is always comforting to know we are held in prayer, and it can be a powerful experience to hear our prayers voiced by others.

May we continue to support one another in prayer as we “walk in faith, grow in grace, and serve in love.”

In Christ Love  
Pastor Keith

*Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. Luke 6:12*

Funny Church Signs:

I will always love you. Sincerely, Whitney, Dolly, and God

### **“Falling Upward” by Richard Rohr**

Are you living and loving your golden years, or maybe not? The 2nd half of life is more than getting old, health issues, loss. We'll be offering insights in a six-week discussion based on Richard Rohr's book, 'Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of life'. Our first gathering is on Tuesday, March 11 at 6:30-8:00 pm at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 3580 Benton Ave. We'll have 6 gatherings, finishing on April 15. Facilitators are Father Dan Shea and Charlotte Neill. The book is available on Amazon. Both 2011 and 2023 editions, new or used are appropriate. A head count will be helpful.

Father Dan: 406-422-6674 /text, dshea@carroll.edu/e mail or 406-449-2521/voicemail

Charlotte Neill: 651-587-8083/text/voice mail or cneilloo1@luthersem.edu/ e mail

# Caring Friends

Caring Friends is a small but mighty ministry within St. Johns. Our mission is to provide love, support and fellowship to congregants and community members by way of in person visitation, phone calls and or e-mails. We visit receptive home bound, senior living, and assisted living residents as well as hospital patients and serve the sacrament of communion when desired or requested. We are reaching out to the congregation to request any referrals you may know of that may appreciate what we have to offer. Also, any St. John's members that may be interested in joining our ranks are asked to call Greg at 406-439-4505 or 406-266-4464. As a group, we meet every 1st Tuesday each month for a one hour, very informal get together at the church at 12:00 noon. We share fellowship, prayer and updates on our "visitees" and any new prospects to visit. If you're interested in a great way to enhance your faith journey in a fun and rewarding way, please check us out.



**The Hospitality Committee meets the first  
Tuesday of each month  
at 5:15 p.m.**

## March Birthdays

|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| Liam Farrell      | March 7  |
| Barb Muir         | March 9  |
| Peter Schendel    | March 14 |
| William Berg      | March 15 |
| Marilyn Schendel  | March 17 |
| Lowell Anderson   | March 23 |
| Debra Berg        | March 26 |
| Sydney McNally    | March 26 |
| Lindsay Morgan    | March 26 |
| MacKenzie Mosness | March 26 |
| Kevin Skaalure    | March 31 |



|                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Neal and Mary Ruedisili  | March 7  |
| Brian and Angel Tetrault | March 28 |

**“The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it.”**  
— **Michelangelo**

*Born March 6, 1475*



### New Option for Online Giving

Please use the code here for a mobile device online giving option.

Questions on how this works? Please contact the church office.



### **Curious About the Legislative Session?**

Ever wondered what happens during the legislative session in our community?  
Come and find out!

On **Sunday, March 23rd**, following the **9:30 AM worship service**, Saint John's member **Peter Elverum** will be sharing his experience as a freshman legislator during the 2025 legislative session.

Join us in the **Fellowship Hall** for coffee, cookies, and a time of community engagement, learning, and fellowship. Don't miss out on this opportunity to connect and learn more about how our local government works!



**“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.**

**The important thing is not to stop questioning.”**

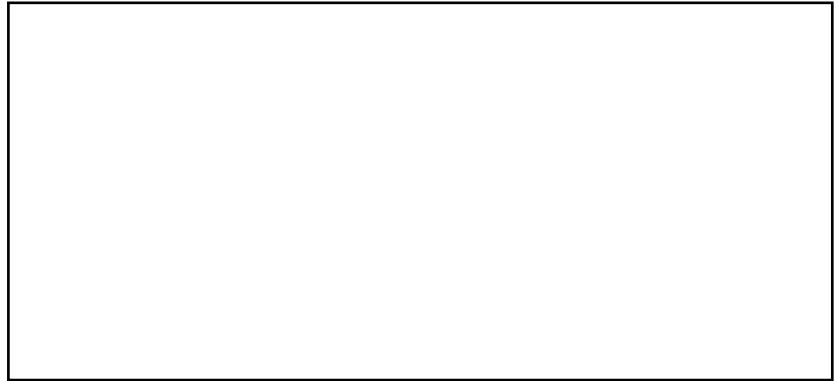
**Albert Einstein Born March 14, 1879–April 18, 1955**



Return Service Requested

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

1000 Helena Avenue  
Helena, MT 59601



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www.helenastjohns.org  
email: saintjohns@helenastjohns.org  
Pastor email: pastorkeith@helenastjohns.org  
Like us on Facebook!

**Worship Services**

**Sunday 9:30 am**  
**Fellowship 10:30 am**  
**New Testament Bible Study 10:45 am**  
In-person and online via our Facebook page  
Services uploaded to YouTube

**Office Hours**

9:00 am-1:00 pm  
Monday-Thursday  
Office Closed on Friday

**Ministering at  
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Witness to the Gospel</b>                     | Members of SJLC  |
| <b>Pastor</b>                                    | Pastor Keith Weatherford   |
| <b>Choir Director</b>                            | Connie Conley  |
| <b>Worship Musicians</b>                         | Connie Conley<br>Gretchen Munding  |
| <b>Director of Youth &amp; Family Ministries</b> | Gretchen Munding   |
| <b>Office Administrator</b>                      | Bonnie Stevens   |
| <b>Audio and Video</b>                           | Angela Conley  |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                                 | Karen Hicks  |
| <b>Financial Secretary</b>                       | Randy Rake   |
| <b>Sexton</b>                                    | Pat Gober  |
| <b>Church Council</b>                            | Paul Hilchen, President<br>Lee Rhodes, Vice President<br>Jennifer Wintersteen, Secretary<br>Bing Crosby, Brian Tetrault<br>Teresa Kinley, K'Lynn Sloan Harris<br>Paul Gronbeck, Jenny Taylor |

Submission Deadlines: For Bulletin- Wednesday by noon

For the Herald - 25th of each month