

E-Pistle

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



V Easter

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Acts	11:1-18
Psalm	148
Revelation	21:1-6
John	13:31-35

Faith Practices - You may wish to take some time during the week to reflect on this Sunday's texts. Read and re-read them slowly. Pray between readings. Prayerfully consider that John 13:34-35 presents one of the simplest yet hardest of Jesus' commands and ask yourself the question, "*How does it challenge you today?*"

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Lord is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today the Lord Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

If you want to learn how to cultivate Bible study in your home, you can use this simple [Starter Kit](#).



Monday

- 12.00pm Feeding America
- 6.30pm Zumba
- 6.30pm Stewardship & Finance
- 7.00pm Girl Scouts
- 7.30pm R3
- 8.00pm Men's Basketball

Tuesday

- 9.00am PennMar
- 6.30pm Cub Scouts

Wednesday

- 9.15am YMCA Chapel
- 10.00am Staff
- 10.30am Prayer Ministry
- 12.00pm Feeding America
- 8.00pm Men's Basketball

Thursday

- 10.00am Preschool Celebration
- 12.00pm Noon Discussion
- 8.00pm AA

Saturday

- 11.30am Lord's Lunch

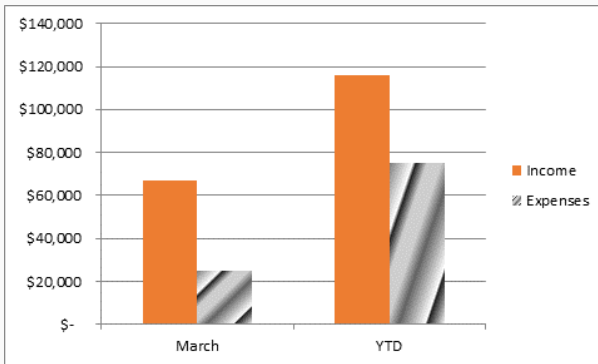


Weekly Words of the Saints

O eternal Father! O fiery abyss of love! O eternal goodness! O immeasurable generosity! O mad lover! And you have need of your creature? It seems so to me, for you act as if you would not live without her, in spite of the fact that you are life itself, that everything has life from you, and that nothing can have life without you. Yet you have fallen in love with what you have made. She runs away from you, and you go looking for her; she strays, and you draw closer to her. And what shall I say? I will stutter "A – a," because there is nothing else I know how to say. Finite language cannot express the emotion of the soul who longs for you infinitely.

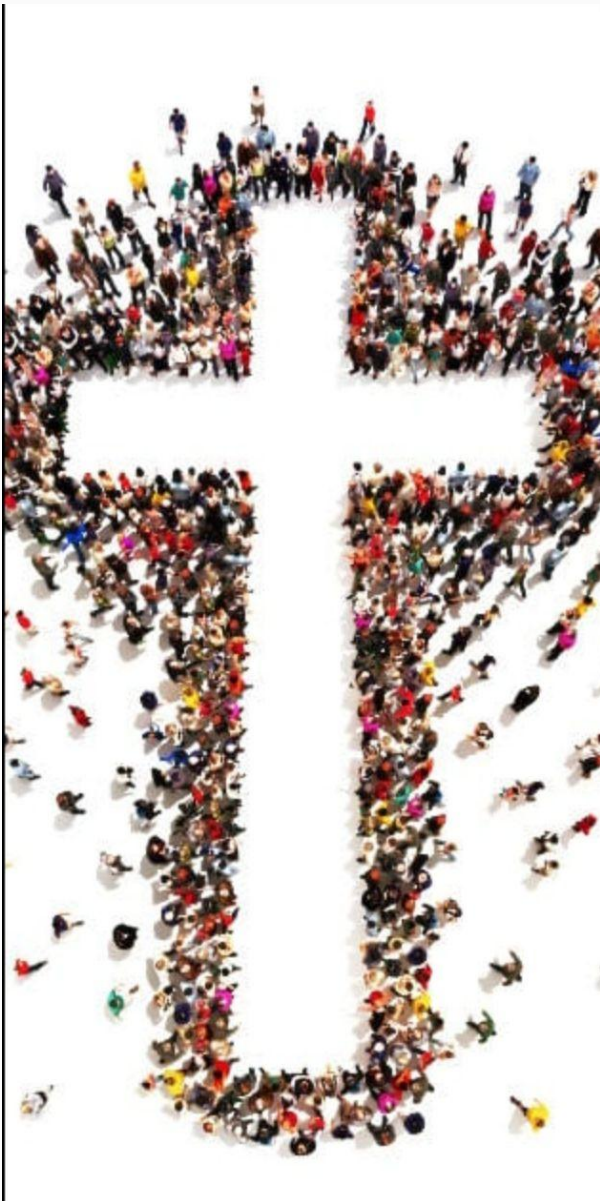
—Catherine of Siena





March Giving Totals

Thank you for your generous stewardship during the month of March!



God's Beautifully Messy Community

Sunday

9.15am Eucharist



NEW Sunday School Holy Communion Challenge

Sunday Schoolers are encouraged to meet with Pastor Schneider before Sunday School to take the Holy Communion **Challenge**.

Sunday Schoolers who can recite *Luther's Small Catechism* definition of Holy Communion can earn a candy bar!



Baptism of Charlotte Kuhn

On Sunday, May 19th Charlotte Marie Kuhn was united to the life of Christ through the waters of Holy Baptism.

Please remember her in your daily prayers as her family and sponsors unite to raise her in the faith.



Confirmation

On Sunday, June 9th we will observe the Feast of Pentecost by celebrating confirmation.

Envelope

The May Special Giving envelopes are designated for our [Bell Socialization Services](#).



Thursday Noontime Discussion

May's noontime discussion will be centered on the prayer our Lord taught us. We will discuss what it means to pray. What does it mean to address God as "Father"? Does God hear our prayers? Does God answer our prayers?

May 23rd – Need: *What Are Our Deepest Needs*

May 30th – Seek and You Will Find: *God Isn't As Stingy As Our Unbelief May Lead Us To Think*



Summer Worship Schedule

Sunday, May 26th

On Sunday, May 26th we will begin our summer worship schedule of meeting for one combined service at 9.15am.



Graduate Recognition Sunday

Sunday, June 16th

If you graduated from high school, trade school, college, graduate school nursing school etc., we would like to recognize your achievement and hold you up in prayer.

Please contact [Pastor Schneider](#) if you are planning on attending Graduate Recognition Sunday on June 16th.

From abandonment to homecoming and from a narrow scope to a broader vision of God's realm, these are the promises proclaimed. The early church and our faith communities are called to engage this reality. A community of Jewish Jesus-followers overcomes fear and expands to include the much larger Gentile world. In the hymnody of the psalm the whole creation and her people are ushered into praise and the trumpeting of a new community. An exiled follower of Jesus sees in the midst of his situation a vision of the Holy One who proclaims a new heaven and earth, stripped of tears and death. Finally, Jesus shares that he will no longer be physically present with his disciples, and points them to a new way of being a community of love for one another. Through the depth of the texts for this day, people are invited to explore the beauty and the messiness of community. The church, like any other human organization, is filled with the challenges of what it means to live together (for example, who is welcome? What rules do people need to follow? How do we care for one another?). Unlike other human institutions, however, we are called to be centered and re-centered in the unapologetic love for others. In our imperfection we are welcomed and called to invite others. We offer, in a spirit of humility, signs of welcome and love to others, just as God in Christ has been revealed to us.



**Proptery Improvement
Financing Plan
Congregational
Discussion**

Sunday, June 23rd at 10.30am

You are all welcome to attend a congregational discussion about our preposed Property Improvement Financing Plan. The plan includes using the gains from our investments to fund much needed property repairs.

We will convene a meeting to discuss the plan on Sunday, June 23rd at 10.30am.

We will vote on adopting the plan at our Annual Budget Approval Meeting scheduled for Sunday, November 24th at 10.30am.

Check Out Our Website!

If you are interested in learning more about the life and ministries of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, be certain to browse our website: www.stjohnlutherannewfreedom.com .