### THE JOTTINGS



The Newsletter of Jehovah Lutheran Church
1566 Thomas Ave, Saint Paul MN 55104 • 651-644-1421 • www.jehovahlutheran.org

A Community of Joy . . . Celebrating, Learning & Sharing the Love of God in Christ Jesus

February 2024

Jehovah Lutheran Church

Traditional liturgy and
hymns of the faith
Gospel-centered preaching
Weekly celebration of
Holy Communion



#### **SUNDAYS**

Worship

9:30am

Growing in Faith
Sunday School
Following Divine Service

Living in Faith
Bible Study 11:00am

Join us for worship
Stay Connected
and Informed
on our Church Website:
www.jehovahlutheran.org



One Lord, one faith, one baptism *Ephesians 4:*5

I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.". John 6:48-51 (ESV)

#### Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each one of the four Gospel writers in the New Testament shows us particular aspects of Jesus' identity and His mission. Each one also demonstrates in distinctive ways that Jesus is God in the flesh, come to earth for our salvation.

As we have been walking through the Gospel of Mark, we have noticed that in that Gospel, Jesus doesn't so much say that He is God in the flesh as much as He demonstrates that fact. In Mark, Jesus does this by casting out demons, healing, forgiving sins, calming storms in nature, and by raising the dead. These are things that only God can do. They demonstrate that Jesus is true God come to earth.

In John's Gospel, however, Jesus straight up says who He is. He straight up says that He is God. The fourth Gospel begins with John telling us that Jesus is God made flesh for us. As the Gospel unfolds, Jesus Himself repeats this truth with a particular phrase. Jesus says, "I Am..." and then He tells us several things that He is. Jesus says, "I Am... the bread of life, the light of the world, the gate for the sheep and the Good Shepherd, the resurrection and the life; the way, the truth, and the life; and the true vine."

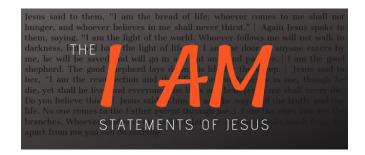
With each one of His "I Am" statements in John's Gospel, Jesus uses the Old Testament name for God revealed to Moses at the burning bush (Exodus 3). By saying, "I Am..." Jesus takes this divine name and applies it to Himself. By doing so, Jesus is telling us that He is in His person the I Am God of Israel, the Creator of the universe, the eternal Lord come into human flesh.

At the same time, in each one of these statements, Jesus is telling us how He is the I Am come into flesh... for us! He tells us that He is the bread of life who has come down from heaven to feed us with His body and blood. He tells us that He is the light who has come to lighten up our world. He tells us that He is the Good Shepherd who watches over us. He tells us that He is our resurrection and our life. He tells us that He is the way for us to the Father. He tells us that He is the true vine that connects us to eternal salvation.

But all of this costs Jesus His life for us. As we go into the season of Lent, we will see these two themes converging together. On Sunday mornings, we will continue to hear from Mark how Jesus begins to walk down the road to the cross. Then, on Wednesday evenings, we will hear who Jesus says that He is for us, through His "I Am" statements. As we did in Advent, we will host community meals during Lent at 5:30pm and then gather for a service of Evening Prayer at 6:30pm. Other pastors from partners that make up the St. Paul Outreach Center will be joining me in bringing the messages on the "I Am" statements of Jesus.

As we walk together through Lent, I ask you to please make a special effort to attend these meals and services. We are opening these meals to our neighbors in the community in order to serve them as Christ has served us. Hearing our Lord's command to love and serve others as He has served us (John 15:12), we open our doors to our community and welcome them in the name of the I Am God, Jesus Christ, who opens His divine heart to us. Please come and share a meal together with us. Please come and hear who Jesus says He is for us!

continued...



We have other exciting things going on this month as well. On Saturday, February 10, we have our first Lego Club event with the St. Paul Outreach Center. On February 28 and 29, students from Concordia Academy (our LCMS high school and a partner in the SPOC) will serve at a clean-up day in our church building.

This month, we also will have some fun Life Together fellowship events. Our Game On! Jehovah Lutheran game night has been rescheduled for Friday, February 9, at 6:00pm. Then, we will have a fun outdoor activity on Saturday, February 17. Stay tuned for more details!

Join us for fellowship and fun! Join us as we serve our neighbors! Join us as we hear from and walk with Jesus Christ, God in the flesh who has come into the world for us.

Walking together with you, Pastor Joshua Miller

#### **Lent 2024**

#### Sundays: "The Road to the Cross"

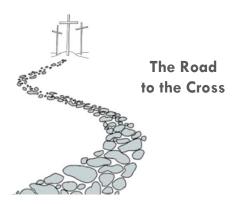
February 18, "Tempted for Us"
February 25, "No Christ without the Cross"
March 3, "Destroy this Temple"
March 10, "Love Lifted Up"
March 17, "The Servant of All"

#### Wednesdays: "I Am"

February 14 (Ash Wednesday), "I Am the Bread of Life"

February 21, "I Am the Light of the World" February 28, "I Am the Gate for the Sheep/the Good Shepherd"

March 6, "I Am the Resurrection and the Life"
March 13, "I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life"
March 20, "I Am the True Vine"



#### **LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS**

The St. Paul Outreach center is providing Lenten Suppers on Wednesdays at 5:30pm beginning on Wednesday, February 21. Sign up on the bulletin board outside the lounge if you can help. See David Mennicke or Janet Fishback if you have questions or need more information.



#### A WORD FROM OUR CIRCUIT VISITOR

In the paragraphs below, our Circuit Visitor wrote a short description of what a Circuit is within the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. A Circuit visitor is a pastor who is elected by pastoral and lay representatives from the congregations within the Circuit. The Circuit Visitor helps congregations within their Circuit by supporting their pastors, guiding congregations through the pastoral call process during a vacancy, and helping to mediate during difficult circumstances. Increasingly in the LCMS, the Circuit Visitor also helps congregations within a Circuit work together in common mission and outreach. This is the case in our St. Paul Metro Circuit. Our Circuit Visitor is Pastor Steven Bielenberg from King of Kings Lutheran Church and School.

The following is a note that we have published here from Pastor Bielenberg to the congregations of our Circuit.

## What's a Circuit? A Note on Life in the St. Paul Metro Circuit from Pastor Bielenberg

Lutherans love acronyms: LCMS. WELS. ELCA. LWML. SPOC. WAIC. DCE. CA. CSP. While these acronyms may be convenient shorthand for those in the know, every abbreviation may not be familiar to everyone.

I was recently asked, "What is a circuit?" Our church body, the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is made up of 35 Districts. 33 of these districts are regional. Geographic size depends on the number of members or density of churches in that area. So while the Northwest District is made of churches in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Alaska, other districts may be single states. Where Lutherans are denser (properly understood!), that state may be divided into two districts, as in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa. Most of our Districts have a centrally located office and staff to serve the churches, schools, and workers of their district. Our MN South District Office is located in Burnsville. Pastor Vue Lee works there as the Assistant to President Lucas Woodford for mission work throughout our District.

Districts are sub-divided into Regions and then again by Circuits. Circuits typically have eight to twelve congregations and send two delegates to our Synodical conventions held every three years. Jehovah Lutheran Church belongs to the Minnesota South District, Region 1, St. Paul Metro Circuit. Apart from **The Gathering Place** in Arden Hills and King of Kings Lutheran Church and School in Roseville, all of the churches in our Circuit are in St. Paul: Bethel, Bethlehem, Cornerstone Light of Life Lutheran, Eastern Heights, Emmaus, Hmong Lutheran, Jehovah, Mekane Yesus Lutheran Fellowship, Our Saviours, St. Peter, and St. Stephanus. Almost every congregation welcomes an African or Asian ethnic ministry as well. Another noteworthy thing about our Circuit is that we are one of the few Circuits in Synod that has a day school (King of Kings), a high school (Concordia Academy), and a university (Concordia St. Paul)!

The pastors of each Circuit meet monthly, each church taking a turn hosting. These meetings are called Winkels. To the best of my knowledge, this is an old German word that means angle, corner, or meeting place. We have a devotion, Bible Study, topic of our choosing, and time for casuistry. This is a time for pastors to discuss the joys and trials they experience in ministry. (Speaking from experience, this is a life-saver for young pastors!) We also pray for one another and for our congregations.

Our Circuit is working together to work in the Midway neighborhood through the St Paul Outreach Center. The SPOC uses Jehovah Lutheran as its home base. Many folks from congregations around our Circuit have donated and helped distribute winter clothing, as one example of the work we are doing together. Afterschool programs have also begun. You are always welcome to volunteer at SPOC events! We have had Circuit-wide worship services at Transfiguration and Epiphany. Some of the churches within our circuit have worked together for Advent or Lenten seasons or Youth events. This gives us a great opportunity to visit each other's churches, serve our neighbors, and to get to know our brothers and sisters in Christ.

I hope this gives you some insight into how our churches work together for the common good. I also hope you are encouraged to be involved in the various aspects of our life together in the St. Paul Metro Circuit. Walking together encourages us as we live out the life God gave to us in Christ through Holy Baptism. God's blessings to you!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Steven Bielenberg Circuit Visitor



#### **CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The theme for Centennial events is "100 Years of Grace: Walking Together at Jehovah Lutheran."

The first Centennial event on Reformation Sunday was a great success! Our next Centennial Sunday will be:

#### Transfiguration Sunday, February 11, 2024.

Focus will be on the 1940s-50s.

We look forward to seeing you at future Centennial Sundays on these dates:

Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024. Focus will be on the 1960s-70s.

Rally Sunday, September 8, 2024. Focus will be on the 1980s-90s.

Reformation Sunday, October 27, 2024. Focus will be on the 2000s-20s.

#### LIFE TOGETHER

Game Night has been rescheduled for Friday, February 9th, beginning at 6:00pm! All ages are welcome to gather at Jehovah in various rooms for a game night. We will set up games in different rooms so we can have many different types. Have a favorite game? Bring it along! Please let Pastor or Katie know if you need a ride. Please bring a snack to share as you are able. Friends are welcome!

Join us on **Saturday**, **February 17th** at Fort Snelling State Park. We will meet at the first parking lot past the ranger station at 2:30 in the afternoon and hike from there to Pike Island (or however far you would like to hike!). There are a variety of trails for all levels of hikers. Bring a thermos of hot tea, coffee, or hot cocoa for the end of the trail and we'll have some trail snacks and treats to share! Hope to see you there! Hosted by Mark and Kara Koschmann and kids.

### JEHOVAH SERVICE AND EDUCATION SCHEDULE

#### **Divine Service**

#### 9:30am Sundays in the Sanctuary

Invite a friend and join us for a year of connecting and Walking Together.



#### Living by Faith

11:00am on Sundays Ages 14 - 100+

Join us in person in the lounge

Contact Pastor Miller with questions at pastorjoshuamiller@gmail.com.



#### **Growing in Faith**

Ages Birth - 13 years

Gather with us weekly in the nursery after the Divine Service.

Parents are welcome to stay with their children.

### Men's Bible Study

Join us for Bible Study on Wednesday mornings at 11:00am in the lounge.

Bring your own Bible and coffee mug, if you like, or use the ones provided.

No RSVP necessary

Contact Pastor Miller with any questions.





#### Jehovah Lutheran Church Women

Join us for coffee, conversation, prayer, and Bible Study on the first Thursday of the month March 7 at 1:00pm.

Open to everyone.

Our curriculum comes from the Lutheran Women's Quarterly If you have questions or would like more information, contact Pastor Miller.

#### PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

#### February 4

#### Isaiah 40:21-31

The Lord of history, the Creator, subdues the rulers of the earth and frees the faint and powerless to live by his strength.

#### 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Paul's "reward" is that he can offer the gospel free of charge. He makes himself slave to all, becoming all things to all men in order to win them.

#### Mark 1:29-39

Jesus proclaims the kingdom and shows its power by freeing people from diseases, demons, and death.



#### February 11

#### 2 Kings 2:1-12

The story relates a testing of Elisha's loyalty to to his master. Elijah's parting of the water recalls Moses' power. The chariot of fire gives expression to Elijah's role as Israel's guide.

#### 2 Corinthians 3:12-18, 4:1-6

Paul is striking back at those who have denigrated his ministry. His gospel, he asserts, presents the glory of Christ who reflects the glory of God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness."

#### Mark 9:2-9

Mark presents the Transfiguration as a preview or anticipation of the final coming of God's kingdom, in fulfilment of the Law (Moses) and the prophets (Elijah).

#### February 18

#### Genesis 22:1-18

The near sacrifice of Isaac reveals the depth of Abraham's trust in God, and God's provision emphasizes his promises. Because of Abraham's obedience the Lord promises to bless Abraham and says that all nations will be blessed through Abraham's offspring.

#### James 1:12-18

James reminds us of the importance of persevering under trials and temptations.

#### Mark 1:9-15

The Spirit descends on Jesus, he overcomes testing by Satan, and he goes out to proclaim the good news that God's rule over all creation is at hand.



#### February 25

#### Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

God Almighty makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham who will become the father of many nations.

#### Romans 5:1-11

The apostle Paul bookends his discourse on the results of justification with "peace with God" and "reconciliation."

#### Mark 8: 27-38

Jesus makes the first prediction of his passion and says that anyone who would follow him must go the way of the cross.

#### **SPOC News**

A HUGE Thank You! to everyone who helped out! The recent Winterwear giveaway was another successful event for the St. Paul Outreach Center. Eight of the circuit partners provided donations and/or volunteer time. We had a smaller number of guests (30-40) than the fall Coat Drive, but they were all neighbors, and the smaller numbers led to longer conversations and deeper connections and contacts. We are looking forward to following up with them! Thanks to Jim Seeman, who delivered a couple of boxes of donated winterwear to the Listening House, a day sanctuary for homeless people in downtown St. Paul. Besides the gear, we also handed out information about the weekly Wednesday activities, upcoming Lenten meals/services, and a NEW Lego Club at the Saint Paul Outreach Center.



The Lego Club will meet for the first time on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 10am at Jehovah. We need you! Come help build with bricks and relationships with each other and our neighbors! No experience is necessary, we will just be building for fun. Please contact David Mennicke or Katie Miller to get more details or to let us know you can come.

New! You can now "Like us on Facebook" and "Follow us on Instagram" to keep up with all the exciting things going on at the SPOC!



# INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP FAMILIES @ CONCORDIA ST. PAUL

"The King will reply, Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." - Matt. 25.40

BE A STUDENT'S "HOME AWAY FROM HOME" AND LEARN AND GROW ALONG WITH THEM.

#### **HOSPITALITY OPPORTUNITY!**

There are more than 56 international students who have requested Friendship Families in partnership ministry between local LCMS congregations and CSP's incoming international students through Concordia's International Student Ministry program! If you want more info or to sign up, please contact Anna Gruen, Ministry Associate by email at gruen@csp.edu.

#### WHAT?

- Once a month hosting at your home.
- Checking in or hosting around or during major holidays.
- Praying for the student.
- Be a welcoming presence and a safe place for questions.

#### WHY?

- As shy as you might be, they are even shyer!
- It may be the first American home they've ever been inside.
- It may be their first exposure to the Gospel.
- It can greatly increase your joy in the Gospel.
- Everyone needs connection and friendship.

#### HOW?

- Postured as respectful learners and hosts.
- Learning about them, their culture, and their faith just as much as we want to share our own.
- Praying and waiting patiently -- instead of plowing! -- for curiosity and open doors.

#### WHEN?

- Commit to 1 year 14 months (completion of MA program).
- Cultural Training to come.

#### WHO?

Anyone who is willing to learn.

# Caving Hearts February 2024

Providing Resources for Families in Need Through the Saint Paul Outreach Center (SPOC)



All are invited to make a life affirming difference for children and their families by contributing to an ingathering of items for infants and young children during the month of February. Diapers and baby wipes are especially needed by parents struggling to make ends meet. Having these items available here at Jehovah through the Saint Paul Outreach Center (SPOC) will bless people in our own neighborhood. Pick a heart from the bulletin board in the hallway near the Thomas Street entrance. Purchase the item listed on the heart and bring it to Jehovah to place in the available collection boxes.

In the same way,
let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father in heaven.
Matthew 5:16



# NEWS ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN

**Urgently Needed Help to Others** 

272,160 Manna Pack meals from Feed My Starving Children arrived in Madagascar which were funded by OGT! The food will nourish many, many hungry people! Thank you, OGT supporters!

Several students from Northeast
Community College's Auto Body
class in Norfolk, NE, and volunteers
Vasyl, Larry and Don moved
several loads of furniture into a
truck that will be going to Hickory,
KY, the last week in January. After
the 2021 tornadoes that ripped
through the area, many families
were displaced and are now
finally returning to rebuilt homes
that are in need of furnishings.

**International Aid** 

Feed My Starving Children Shipment Will Bless Many in Madagascar From Norfolk Warehouse

**Domestic Aid** 

Local College Students Help Load Goods for Kentucky Norfolk, NE Warehouse



ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN 601 W. Phillip Ave. PO Box 1466 Norfolk, NE 68702

www.ogt.org



#### YOUR MITES IN ACTION

## 2023–2025 Mission Grant No. 5 DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM Trinity Lutheran Church, Tyler, Texas | \$50,000

The Disaster Response Team of Trinity Lutheran Church in Tyler, Texas, responds to help victims of natural disasters. They are called to serve, have a presence on the ground, and assist with cleanup. While providing help, they listen to the victims and share the love of Jesus and bring hope, encouragement, and healing through God's Word and prayer. To learn more, check out the bulletin board in the JELC hallway or visit <a href="https://www.lwml.org/2023-2025-mission-grant-5">www.lwml.org/2023-2025-mission-grant-5</a>.

#### 2023–2025 Mission Grant No. 6 MOBILE KITCHEN Forged by Fire Services | \$85,000

Forged by Fire Services prepares food for communities following natural disasters. They will come into a community with their trailer of supplies, set up their tent and kitchen. Grant money will purchase a mobile kitchen trailer. The trailer will allow for faster setup, protection from weather changes, and require less space. To learn more, visit <a href="www.lwml.org/2023-2025-mission-grant-6">www.lwml.org/2023-2025-mission-grant-6</a> or see the bulletin board in the JELC hallway.



## THE NEW FREEDOM STORE FREEDOM IN CHRIST

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." Genesis 1:27

Passages in the Scriptures remind us that we are children of God. They serve as messages of hope and comfort which, when bundled together, have become known as a certain theology, known as *Imago Dei*. The words may sound lofty, but there is another more popular description: higher self.

The words are special because they imply that there is a special part of us which is closest to God. We find higher self when we worship and pray. It's what brings us back to church every Sunday and why we enjoy Bible studies. Higher self gives life meaning and joy. It inspires us.

For some, that joy becomes a quest, a deep set emotional disposition, a metaphysical journey or "road." Jesus described the feeling in the Beatitudes (another lofty word!). One of them reads, "Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy." Jesus certainly must have felt that emotion when he read the words of Isaiah. "The spirit of the Lord is on me." Jesus also announced his road, "to proclaim good news to the poor, to proclaim freedom for the prisoners, and the recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free."

This is the road, the Jesus walk. We find ourselves closer to God when we walk with him, when we share his quest. You are the givers. You know.

This week we celebrate the good people of Damascus Way who celebrated Christmas with their residents. And of course, always, we celebrate you not only for caring, but also for sharing your wonderful gifts with them. God has sent you. Bless you for walking the Jesus walk.

And thank you for supporting The New Freedom Store.

If you should have more to share, you're always welcome. Please contact Jim Seemann, seemann@csp.edu

#### MAIN STREET LIVING SUNDAYS 9:00–10:00am WFTC CHANNEL 29/9-2



Main Street Living is an LCMS program that features pastors from the WFTC, channel 29/9-2, viewer area. The first half hour is a reproduction of *This is the Life*. The second half hour is a modified Lutheran worship service, which is produced locally. Program information for January is below. To watch, go to mainstreetliving.com and select the "Twin Cities" tab.

- February 4: "Which Way Grows the Vine?" —

  A father struggles to accept the consequences of his actions and set an example for his son.
- February 11: "Prescription TLC" Injuries after a plane crash cause a couple to seek God for comfort and healing.
- February 18: "Dangerous Moment" An affair on a business trip leads to tension at home.
- February 25: "Who will tell Lauria?" A family struggles with what to do after their daughter loses her sight in an accident.

# JOIN US FOR OUR TALKATIVE THURSDAY CALL - IN CHAT



We chat at 11:10am each Thursday. All you need is your phone. Dial: 978-990-5000. If you are using a land line please dial 1 and then the number. When prompted enter the JELC code:

#### 796345#

After the beep just say hello and your name. We can visit about how our days are going, silver linings, concerns, etc. We also will have a short devotion and prayer.

#### Join us on Thursdays at 11:10am

is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a



### **ACTIVITY CALENDAR**

### February 2024



2024 N   SUN   MON   TUE   WED		I HAVE LOVED YOU  WITH AN  everlasting love  JEREMIAH 31:3		LWML Bible Study 1:00pm Open to all	2	3
9:30am Worship in the Sanctuary Growing in Faith after Service Nursery Living in Faith 11:00am, Lounge	5	6	7 Men's Bible Study 11:00am  Rooted in Faith 6:30pm	Talkative Thursday Chat 11:10am	Life Together Game Night 6:00pm at Jehovah	10 Lego Club 10:00am
9:30am Worship in the Sanctuary Growing in Faith after Service Nursery Centennial Celebration following Divine Service	12	13	Men's Bible Study 11:00am Ash Wednesday Service 6:30pm	Talkative Thursday Chat 11:10am  ARB Meeting 6:30pm	16	17 Life Together Fort Snelling State Park 2:30pm
9:30am Worship in the Sanctuary  Growing in Faith after Service Nursery Living in Faith 11:00am, Lounge	79 Church Council Meeting 6:00pm	20	21 Men's Bible Study 11:00am Lenten Wednesday Dinner 5:30pm Service 6:30pm Rooted in Faith 7:00pm A & T 7:00pm	Talkative Thursday Chat 11:10am  Mission and Ministry Meeting 6:00pm	23	24
9:30am Worship in the Sanctuary Growing in Faith after Service Nursery Living in Faith 11:00am, Lounge	26	27 March Jottings Articles due	28 Men's Bible Study 11:00am Lenten Wednesday Dinner 5:30pm Service 6:30pm Rooted in Faith 7:00pm A & T 7:00pm	29	To the Lord for he is good; His love endures forever. Psalm 136:1	



#### **OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR HOURS**

Tuesday - Thursday 8:30Am - 1:30Pm Friday 8:30Am - 12:30Pm

Email submissions deadline for the March issue of *The Jottings*IS FEBRUARY 27TH.
Please email your articles to office@jehovahlutheran.org

#### Contact us!

Jehovah Lutheran Church 1566 Thomas Ave. St. Paul MN 55104 651-644-1421 office@jehovahlutheran.org



Jehovah Lutheran Church Is a congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod