

**Third Sunday in Lent**

**Saint John Lutheran Church**

**Griffin, Georgia**

**SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 7**

**Sunday, March 7 Third Sunday in Lent**

**10:00 am Worship (Online)**

**11:00 am Coffee Hour via Zoom**

**11:30 am-12:30 pm Drive by Communion**

**4:00 pm Online Book Study with Jill Roy**

**5:30 pm AA Primary Purpose**

**Monday, March 8 Office Closed**

**7:00 pm AA Primary Purpose**

**Tuesday, March 9** **7:00 pm Online Devotions-St. John FB page**

**7:00 pm AA Primary Purpose**

**Wednesday, March 10 7:00 pm Holding Evening Vespers-St. John FB page**

**Thursday, March 11 7:00 pm Online Devotions-St. John FB page**

**Friday, March 12 7:00 pm Online Friday Fun Night-St. John FB page**

**Saturday, March 13**  **5:30 pm AA Primary Purpose**

**Sunday, March 14 Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**10:00 am Worship (Online)**

**11:00 am Coffee Hour via Zoom**

**11:30 am-12:30 pm Drive by Communion**

**4:00 pm Online Book Study with Jill Roy**

**5:30 pm AA Primary Purpose**

**If you need Pastor Mary after hours,**

**please call her at 309-212-0888.**

**Office Hours:**

**Closed Mondays**

**Tuesday-Friday: by appointment only**

**GATHERING**

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

*Please stand*

**Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer. **Amen.**

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Fountain of living water, **pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

Beloved, God’s word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are ☩ forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus. **Amen.**

Our mission here at St. John is…

**We trust God and invite you to experience God’s inclusive Love**!

**Gathering Song** In the Cross of Christ I Glory(next page)

**Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**



**Kyrie**



**The Prayer of the Day**

Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**WORD**

**Exodus 20:1-17**

1God spoke all these words:  
  2I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; 3you shall have no other gods before me.  
  4You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 5You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, 6but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.  
  7You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.  
  8Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. 9Six days you shall labor and do all your work. 10But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. 11For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.  
  12Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.  
  13You shall not murder.  
  14You shall not commit adultery.  
  15You shall not steal.  
  16You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.  
  17You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 19**

1The heavens declare the glory of God,  
  and the sky proclaims its maker’s handiwork.  
**2One day tells its tale to another,  
  and one night imparts knowledge to another.**3Although they have no words or language,  
  and their voices are not heard,  
**4their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world,  
  where God has pitched a tent for the sun.** 5It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;  
  it rejoices like a champion to run its course.  
**6It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens**

**and runs about to the end of it again;  
  nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**7The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul;  
  the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.  
**8The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart;  
  the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.**9The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever;  
  the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.  
**10More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,  
  sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**11By them also is your servant enlightened,  
  and in keeping them there is great reward.  
**12Who can detect one’s own offenses?  
  Cleanse me from my secret faults.**13Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;

let them not get dominion over me;  
  then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.  
**14Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart**

**be acceptable in your sight,  
  O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

**1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

18The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”  
20Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. 22For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, 23but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**



The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**John 2:13-22**

13The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. 15Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. 16He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” 17His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” 18The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” 19Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” 20The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” 21But he was speaking of the temple of his body. 22After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

*Silence is kept for reflection*

**Hymn of the Day** *Canticle of the Turning* **(next page)**



**Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic Church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen**

**Prayers of Intercession**

There is no God before you. Purify the faith of your church, that your people place their trust in nothing beside you. Your name is holy. Guide your church, that in every situation your people’s words and actions honor your name.  Bless the ministry of Agustinian Lutheran School, Guatemala and St. Johannes, Bavaria. We pray for Grace Missions and Chez Moi Orphanage, Haiti,

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Work through legislators, judicial systems, and systems of law enforcement to protect the wellbeing and freedom of all. Protect those who serve in the military, especially, ***Sequoya*** *McLendon,* ***Chris*** *Perrault,* ***Chantz*** *Roche*.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Protect those who are vulnerable and give courage to all who are suffering *especially*, ***Cathleen*** *Dahl,* ***Charlie*** *Parks,* ***William*** *Panick,* ***Bob*** *Keener,* ***Susan and David*** *Friend,* ***Maureen*** *Caldwell,* ***April*** *Kennedy,* ***Andy*** *and* ***June*** *Harnack,* ***John*** *Bennett,* ***Sarah*** *Lanier,* ***Ken*** *Bell,* ***Catherine*** *Campbell,* ***Micah*** *Stansell,* ***Terry*** *(Terry’s husband) Emlet, The* ***family of Tommie Neal,******Debbie Sakmar and Family, Bill*** *Tidwell,* ***Elizabeth*** *Hardin*. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For those celebrating birthdays, ***Kathy*** *Bernhardt,* ***Tish*** *Martin,* ***William*** *Panick; those celebrating baptisms,* ***Tish*** *Martin,* ***Kay*** *Pedrotti,* ***William*** *Panick,* ***Sarita*** *Stuhler*; expectant parents***, Bobby and Candas*** *Yocum*. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We lift up all others we name in our hearts or on our lips….. *(Pause)*. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**MEAL**

**We Share the Peace of the Lord**

**Music**

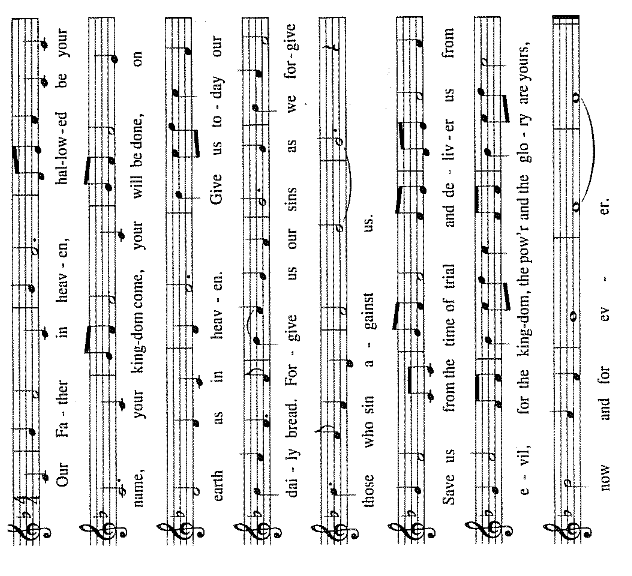
**Offering**

**Offering Prayer**

Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**Spiritual Communion Prayer**

My Jesus,   
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.   
I love You above all things,   
and I desire to receive You into my soul.   
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,   
come at least spiritually into my heart.   
I embrace You as if You were already there   
and unite myself wholly to You.   
Never permit me to be separated from You. **Amen.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray: **Amen.**

**SENDING**

**Announcements**

**Blessing**

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity. **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn** *Lift High the Cross*  (next page)

**Dismissal**

As we go on our way, let us remember…

**Through Jesus Christ, we are an equipping and responding church**

**that continues to grow, impact, and transform lives.**

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**



**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION – FEBRUARY 28, 2021**

**Cathleen Dahl, Charlie Parks, William Panick, Bob Keener, Susan and David Friend, Maureen Caldwell, April Kennedy, Andy and June Harnack, John Bennett, Micah Stansell, Sarah Lanier, Ken Bell, Catherine Campbell, Cherie Tidwell, Terry Emlet (Terry’s husband), the family of Tommie Neal, Bill Tidwell, Elizabeth Hardin.**

**birthdays BAPTISMS**

3/8 Kathy Bernhardt 3/9 Tish Martin

3/9 Tish Martin 3/10 Kay Pedrotti

3/9 William Panick 3/12 William Panick

**EXPECTANT PARENTS** 3/12 Sarita Stuhler

Bobby and Candas Yocum

**MILITARY**

Sequoya McLendon, Chantz Roche, Chris Perrault

**Family and Friends**: **Teresa** Gibson (Daughter of Pr. Barb Gibson); **Liz and Bob** Sherliza, **Deb** Tutson, **Kathy** Connor (Friends of Saint John); **Ruby** Reid (family of Gwen Flowers-Taylor); **Sheryl** Weldon, **Darlene** Kelly (friends of Julie Gates); **Charles** Harper, **Tim** Kennedy (family and friends of April Kennedy); **Erin** Reichelt, **Rick** Schnaible, **Lynne** Reichelt, **Phyllis** Kesler(family of Lyle and Cheryl Kesler); **Mary** Locke (mother of Janet Kindred); **Kim** Lothrop, (family of Connie Klopfenstein); **Brian**, **Susan** St. John, **Deborah** Lanier (family and friends of Sarah Lanier); **Isaac** Russell (family of Marcus Loner); **Richard and Sue** Tomsovic, (Uncle & Aunt of Tish Martin); **Pam** Walk & Son, **Jareth** (Family of Heather McVey), **Sara, Merline and family** (Friends and family of Gwen and Charlie Parks), **Melissa** Roy, **Mary Donna** Harris (family of Jill Roy); **Doug** Maxwell, (Brother of Debbie Sakmar); Anne Heilig, (Sister in law of Peggy Thomas), **Jeanie Tidwell** (mother of Bill, Tidwell); Ron Ballek (brother of Sharon Willard).

**COVID UPDATE**

Good news! The numbers of new cases and hospitalizations have gone down to around the rate of what they were in July. However, the death rate remains the same. While many people are getting the vaccine, there are still others of our community who are waiting to be able to go in the following months. Given that we want to continue to be part of the solution during this time, the council approved the recommendations of the Covid Task Force to adjust the Worship Schedule to include outdoor worship and communion. (Please see the updated schedule listed on page 18.)

The task force will continue to meet on a regular basis and share their findings and recommendations with the council.

**Worship Schedule**

**March 7 – March 21:** Worship Online only

Coffee Hour (online) 11:00 am

Drive by Communion: 11:30am – 12:30 pm\*

**Palm Sunday, March 28:** Worship Outside: 10:00 am\*

Worship Online: 10:00 am

Coffee Hour (online) 11:00 am

Drive by Communion: 11:00 – 11:30 am \*

**Maundy Thursday, April 1:** Worship Online only, 7pm

**Good Friday, April 2:** Worship Online only, 7pm

**Easter, April 4:** Worship Outside: 10:00 am\*

Worship Online: 10:00 am

Coffee Hour (online) 11:00 am

Drive by Communion: 11:00 – 11:30 am \*

**\*Weather permitting and if you feel comfortable attending.**

**HUNGER WALK**

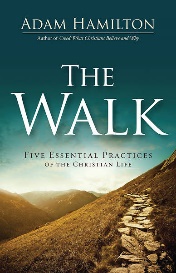
The Hunger Walk this year is a virtual one. It will be held on Sunday, March 7th. If you wish to walk with Saint John, go to: **www.**[**Hunger Walk Run 2021 General - Atlanta Community Food Bank**](http://engage.acfb.org/site/TR?fr_id=2058&pg=entry)and register with Saint John Lutheran Church, Griffin.  Pick Inspiritus as the agency to receive funds (formerly Lutheran Services of Georgia)  If you have any questions, please contact Amy Droegmiller, Team Captain. Take a picture of you walking, and send it to the church to share online. Thanks!

**A Hunger Walk Challenge from Pastor Mary**

I’m making a challenge to the congregation. If we can enroll enough people to raise $600, I will let the children and youth spray paint my hair at an upcoming service, and take my picture to share with the FB page. You and others can go to the webpage to sign up, and sponsor me or another walker from church. We have until Sunday, March 7th to meet our goal. ***Go to acfb.org to either register to walk (virtual- take a walk and take a picture to share with us)*** or sponsor one of those who are already listed to walk from Saint John. ( website page is: acfb.org) I am registered and will accept support.

**Pastor Mary**

**Bible Study beginning Sundays, 4pm**

Jill Roy will be leading a Bible study online (Zoom) using the book, *The Walk* by Pastor Adam Hamilton. You can call in or be on the video for this meeting. Please contact Gayle Harvil at

770-468-8103 for instructions for Zoom.

You can find the book on cokesbury.com on sale right now. You are encouraged to go ahead and order the participant's book now.

If you are interested in joining the Bible Study, please contact Jill at Jwteach62@comcast.net

**Lenten Disciplines for 2021- A Covid response**

February 17th was Ash Wednesday, and in my sermon, I promised to send out my list from Lenten seasons past of what I encourage people to consider doing during Lent. Scratch that because our computer recently died, and while we backed things up, so far, that information hasn’t been downloaded anywhere to be able to look up my article. In some ways, that is good because it has given me some moments to reflect about this year, and what might I add or change to my list of suggestions?

Well, a new one hit me when I read several clergy people who shared that they were doing nothing for Lent this year because this whole past year has felt like Lent! I can understand that sentiment, and if you are there, then do what you need to for taking care of yourself in whatever ways are healthful and helpful to you. If you don’t do anything at Lent ever, that is also O.K.! Please share any ideas of things you give up or take on!

But if you are some one, who like me, feels pulled to give up or take on in this season, to make the season feel more complete, then here are some suggestions for this year to consider:

**Give Up**

Chocolate, sugar, salt, certain foods that you may need/want to quit eating

Coffee ( I know that one hurts!), wine, beer, liquor

Facebook, snapchat, twitter, or any social media that you spend a lot of time on

Negativity, anger, being grouchy, or any other irritable behavior that you might be doing these days (see Pope Francis’s list of things to give up, and what to take on instead)

Talking about others (gossip), thinking mean thoughts about others

T.V. or certain types of shows or movies, staying up too late

Excuses for everything and anything

Make a simple meal once a week, and save the money to give to charity

Start a bag, and take a piece of clothing or a book and pick one a day during Lent to give away to charity after Lent is over (at the end, 40 books or 40 pieces of clothing to give away)

You add to the list

**Take On**

Taking better care of yourself which can include exercising, eating healthier, getting more sleep,

Centering prayer, meditation, deep breathing

Giving thanks every day for 3 things/persons ( journal it!)

Writing notes, making phone calls or sending texts to say thanks to people who have made a difference in your life. (Gratitude notes)

Read a devotional, a book on faith, a book on an interest that you normally wouldn’t read

Studying the Bible, reading it everyday

Joining a virtual gathering for Bible study or book group

Helping a neighbor or a friend who can use your help or support

Volunteering at a local group that needs your help (Five Loaves, Two Fish Food Pantry, and Backpack for Kids are two local groups always needing help)

Giving funds to a charity that you support

**Blessings, Pastor Mary Armstrong-Reiner**

**Saint John Lutheran Church**

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**Facebook: Saint John Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Pastor Mary Armstrong-Reiner**

[**Pastor\_st.john@yahoo.com**](mailto:Pastor_st.john@yahoo.com)

**Cell 309-212-0888**

**Support Staff**

Lynn Jones, Administrative Assistant Amy Droegmiller, Youth Leader

Marilyn Droegmiller, Organist Gayle Harvil, Praise Team Director

Joan Thomas, Choir Director Heather Loner, Nursery Attendant

Jennifer Durham, Choir Accompanist

**Congregation Council**

Don Taylor, President Todd Droegmiller Enid Mswia

Bailey Harvil, Vice-President Phyllis Hutchings Russ Rines

Catherine Park, Secretary Rita Johnson Sarah Sanders

Butch Armistead, Financial Secretary Donna Milam

Tish Martin, Treasurer Mark Miller

**Ministry Contacts**

Altar Guild: Sandra Harwood Member Care: Sarah Lanier, Cherie Tidwell

Education: Phyllis Hutchings Property: John Sanders, Matt Baade

Fellowship: Laura Miller, Martha Dansby Social Ministry: Jill Gates, Don Taylor

Finance: Tish Martin, Butch Armistead Stewardship: Mark Miller

Gifts and Memorials: Tish Martin Worship: Sandra Harwood

Glocal Mission: Larry Schultz Youth/Children’s Ministry: Amy Droegmiller

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