

**Saint John Lutheran Church**

**Griffin, Georgia**

**SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 14**

**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**

**3:30 pm Online Book Study with Jill Roy**

**5:30 pm AA Primary Purpose**

**Monday, March 15 Office Closed**

**7:00 pm AA Primary Purpose**

**Tuesday, March 16** **7:00 pm Online Devotions-St. John FB page**

**7:00 pm AA Primary Purpose**

**Wednesday, March 17 7:00 pm Holding Evening Vespers-St. John FB page**

**Thursday, March 18 7:00 pm Online Devotions-St. John FB page**

**Friday, March 19 7:00 pm Online Friday Fun Night-St. John FB page**

**Saturday, March 20**  **5:30 pm AA Primary Purpose**

**Sunday, March 21 Fifth Sunday in Lent**

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

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

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

**3:30 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*

**Opening call to worship/remembrance for The First Anniversary of Covid-19]**

P: We come together today to give thanks to God for our lives

**C: We come together today to proclaim God’s holy name**

P: and to remember all that has happened in this past year.

**C: We remember our family and friends who suffered in this year of Covid,**

**And all who lost their lives,**

P: We say their names and remember them:

For Marvin Tackett, Bob Yocum, Jason Tuffarella, Betty Wiewel, George Sakmar, and for all those we name aloud and in our hearts ……*(a moment of silence)*

**C: and for the over 500,000 lives that were lost this past year to Covid-19,**

**P/C: We remember them all, and give thanks for them, even as we mourn their passing.**

**C: We ask for comfort for all who mourn,**

P: Peace for all who are in the midst of recovery,

**P/C: and strength for all who are fighting to live through Covid right now.**

**C: We give thanks for all our healthcare workers who have worked so tirelessly to bring healing even as they held the hands of those who died,**

P: and brought comfort to those who suffered.

**C: we give thanks for all frontline workers in all industries**

P: from our first responders to our grocery store clerks

**C: from truck drivers, to teachers and school staff**

P: who continue to work and serve even in these times of change.

**C: we pray for patience as we await our shots,**

P: and patience with one another even as we disagree over how to respond next.

**P/C: Help us to bear your witness in love to our neighbor, and to be a blessing to others in need.**

P: We pray this in Jesus’ name, who showed compassion to the stranger, the outsider, and the lost. **Amen.**

Our mission here at St. John is…

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

**Gathering Song** *Amazing Grace* **The Droegmillers**

**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**

Gracious God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**WORD**

**Numbers 21:4-9**

4From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. 5The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” 6Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. 7The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. 8And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” 9So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

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

**Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22**

1Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good,  
  for God’s mercy endures forever.  
**2Let the redeemed of the Lord proclaim  
  that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**3gathering them in from the lands;  
  from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.  
**17Some were fools and took rebellious paths;  
  through their sins they were afflicted.**18They loathed all manner of food  
  and drew near to death’s door. **19Then in their trouble they cried to the Lord  
  and you delivered them from their distress.** 20You sent forth your word and healed them  
  and rescued them from the grave.  
**21Let them give thanks to you, Lord, for your steadfast love  
  and your wonderful works for all people.**22Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving  
  and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

**Ephesians 2:1-10**

1You were dead through the trespasses and sins 2in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. 3All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. 4But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us 5even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—6and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—9not the result of works, so that no one may boast. 10For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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

**Gospel Acclamation**



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

**John 3:14-21**

[Jesus said:] 14“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.  
  16“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.  
  17“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. 19And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. 20For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. 21But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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

**Sermon**

*Silence is kept for reflection*

**Hymn of the Day** *For by Grace You Have Been Saved* **(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**

You sent your Son that the world might be saved through him. Inspire the witness of the church throughout the world. Empower missionaries, Bible translators, and ministries of service in 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.**

You sustained your people in the wilderness. Give courage to all who lead in times of crisis and scarce resources. Prosper the work of those who aid victims of famine and drought. Bring peace in places where scarce resources cause violence and protect those who serve in the military, especially, ***Sequoya*** *McLendon,* ***Chris*** *Perrault,* ***Chantz*** *Roche*. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your mercy endures forever. Deliver all who cry to you, especially those who are hungry or without homes. Give life in places where death seems triumphant; give healing to those who are sick and comfort to those who mourn, *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,* ***Catherine*** *Campbell,* ***Micah*** *Stansell,* ***Terry*** *(Terry’s husband) Emlet,* ***Debbie Sakmar and Family, Bill*** *Tidwell,* ***Elizabeth*** *Hardin*.

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

For those celebrating birthdays, ***Jill*** *Gates,* ***Julie*** *Gates,* ***Jill*** *Roy,* ***Dana*** *Armistead,* ***Savannah*** *Harvil,* ***Aubrey*** *Droegmiller; those celebrating baptisms,* ***Elaine*** *Bell*; 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.**

**Words of Institution**

On the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

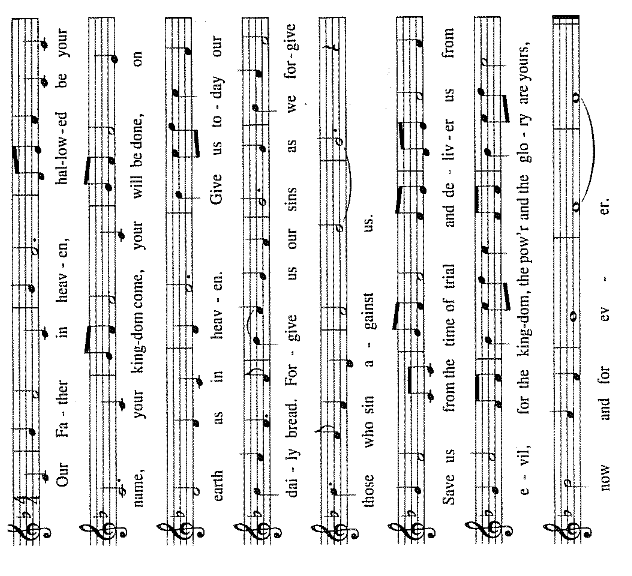
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

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** *Drawn to the Light*  (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 – MARCH 14, 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, Catherine Campbell, Cherie Tidwell, Terry Emlet (Terry’s husband), the family of Tommie Neal, Bill Tidwell, Elizabeth Hardin.**

**birthdays BAPTISMS**

3/14 Jill Gates 3/14 Elaine Bell

3/14 Julie Gates **EXPECTANT PARENTS**

3/15 Jill Roy Bobby and Candas Yocum

3/17 Dana Armistead **MILITARY**

3/17 Savannah Harvil Sequoya McLendon, Chantz Roche,

3/18 Aubrey Droegmiller 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\*

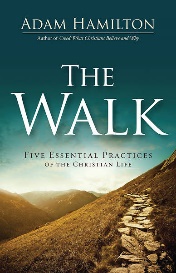
Worship Online: 10:00 am

Coffee Hour (online) 11:00 am

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

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

**Bible Study beginning Sundays, 3:30 pm**

Jill Roy will be leading a book 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](mailto:Jwteach62@comcast.net)

**Butterfly coloring pages:** We hope you got the butterfly pages we put in your Lenten bag, and have started coloring them. More butterfly coloring pages are available, and we are collecting ones that have been colored. We have two uses for them. Some will be cut out to decorate for Easter worship, others will be shared with Moreland Elementary staff along with some snacks for them in the next few weeks as our way of saying thanks for all they do for the children of our area. We want to share our enthusiasm and creativity for the Resurrection of our Lord through the butterflies.

You are welcome to drop them off when you come for communion the next couple of weeks or drop them off at the office during office hours. Also, we have more patterns available for those willing to color more, and we thank you for your help with this.

**Cracklin and change bucket for March**: Monies received will be for the ELCA world hunger appeal program. People in our country and around the world are helped through  your generous giving which makes it possible for ELCA World Hunger to be present throughout the United States and the world. In 2019, they supported:

Projects in 34 U.S. states and territories

63 countries, including the United States

From health clinics to microloans, food pantries to soup kitchens, advocacy to community organizing, your gifts are supporting meaningful solutions that get at the root causes of hunger. Thanks for your support!

**HUNGER WALK**

The Hunger Walk is over and we raised $815.00 this year! That is totally amazing for this virtual year of walking. Thank you all so much. The children and youth will be coloring Pastor Mary’s hair sometime in April after worship in the parking lot. The date will be announced as soon as it is set. Stay tuned!

**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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**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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