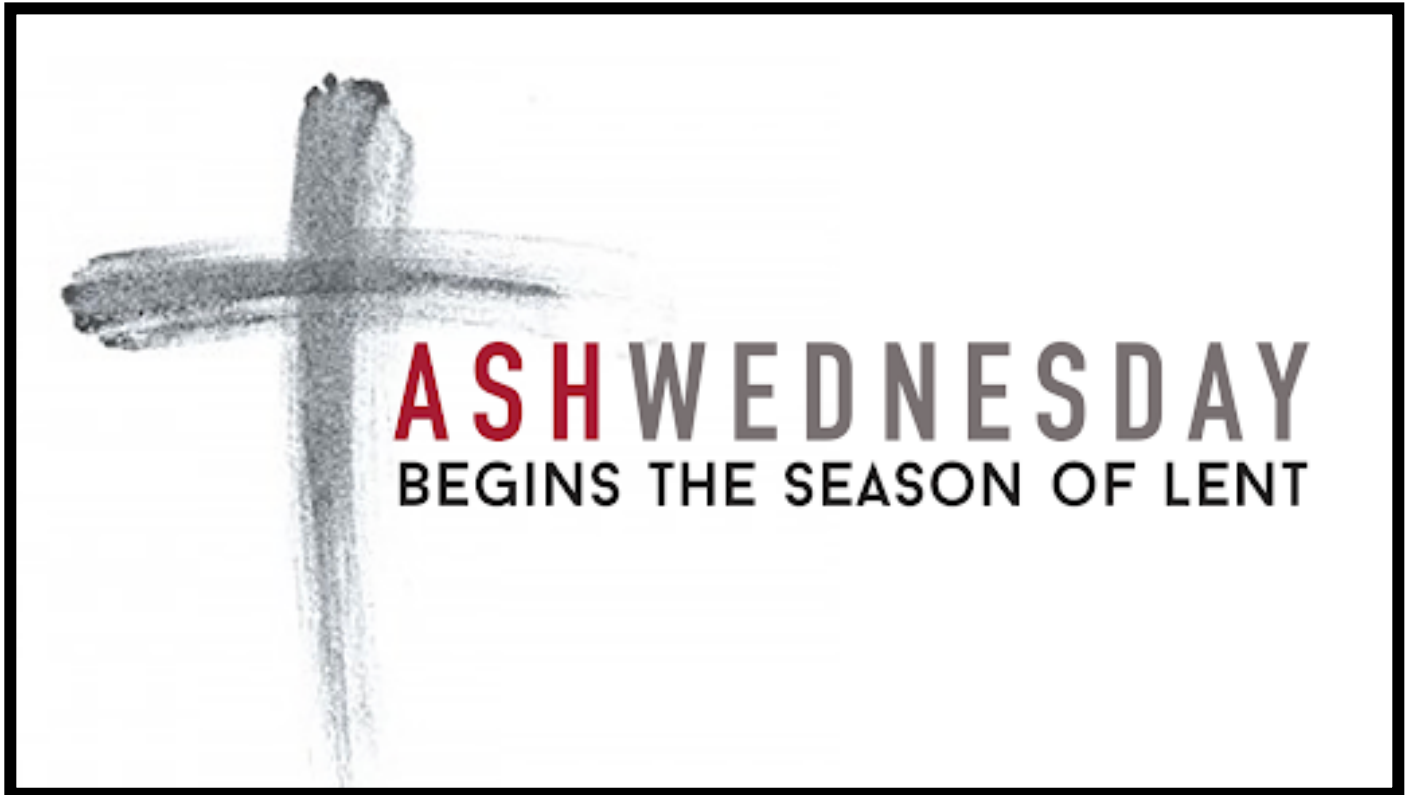


St. John's Lutheran Church
February 14, 2024



Thank you for worshiping with us today.

www.stjohnssinkingvalley.com

PO Box 222
Tyrone, PA 16686

* = Please stand as you are able

The Call to Worship on the Bells

Opening Prayer

Organ Prelude –

Lighting of Candles: Acolyte – Wyatt Lannen

***The Opening Hymn –**

Majesty (See Screen)

Opening Dialogue: (*inspired by Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13, Luke 4:1-13*)

L: Once again, as the season of Lent begins, we are summoned by a gracious and merciful God to have an intimate journey and encounter for these next 40 days with him. For, The Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness and is leading us too. Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

P: As we begin our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit, even into the uncomfortable places.

L: In those forty days, and in that place, Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt and temptation.

P: As we seek to follow Jesus, we would be led, even into the uncomfortable choices.

L: Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God, rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

P: As we continue on our path to faithfulness, we will be led by Jesus Christ, rejoicing in the Lord our God.

*L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

*L: Let us pray,

C: Lord, we recognize that you have called us on this coming journey, a journey of reflection to draw closer to you, to hear from you and to walk in your ways. Help us as we learn to Step Out as Peter did, fully focused on you.

***The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word –

Today's Old Testament Lesson comes from Joshua

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Today's New Testament Lesson comes from Romans

Romans 4:20-21

Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had the power to do what he had promised.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***The Gospel Response**

*P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew

C: Glory to you, O Lord

Matthew 14:22-36

22 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. 23 After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, 24 and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. 25 Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. 26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. 27 But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." 28 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." 29 "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" 31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" 32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. 33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." 34 When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret. 35 And when the men of that place recognized Jesus, they sent word to all the surrounding country. People brought all their sick to him 36 and begged him to let the sick just touch the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ

Ministry through Music –

Message –

STEPPING OUT...A Lenten Challenge!

***Hymn –**

Create in me a Clean Heart (WOV #732)

Silence for Reflection

***Corporate Prayer of Confession**

L: O God, when we pause to look back at our lives, we realize that we have been weighed in the balance and found wanting.

C: We have neglected to do good when it was in our power to do so.

L: We, like believers of old, have pulled down Your altars and erected idols crafted in our own image.

C: We have turned our backs on those you call us to help.

L: We have ignored the cries of those in need.

C: We have consumed more than our share of riches.

L: We have not dealt honorably with our friends or our enemies.

C: Forgive us, O God, for the times we have neglected to provide for children and the world an authentic example of Christianity.

L: As we begin the journey of Lent these forty days, wash us, O God and we shall be clean.

C: Cleanse us, O Lord, and we shall be made whole.

Time for silent reflection.

L: Hear the Good News. The Lord, our God, is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. God hears the earnest cries of the repentant and forgives our sins.

C: Amen.

The Imposition of Ashes

L: Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I invite you to receive these ashes as a sign of the spirit of penitence with which we shall keep this season of Lent. Let us pray.

C: God our Father, you create us from the dust of the earth; grant that these ashes may be for us a sign of our penitence and a symbol of our mortality; for it is by your grace alone that we receive eternal life through the salvation of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

The worship leader invites people to receive the imposition of ashes. At the imposition of ashes, the pastor says, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

After the Imposition of Ashes:

L: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

C: that we may show forth your glory in the world.

L: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

C: bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

L: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

C: Amen.

***Closing Hymn –**

The Glory of These Forty Days (WOV #657)

***Benediction—**

The Dismissal from Worship on the Bells

**Extinguishing of Candles*

Organ Postlude –

Prayer Requests For: Terry, Jamie, Lori, Joe, Joyce, Georgette, Barb, John, Cody, Bob, Dave, The Lardieri Family, The Brua Family, Jim, Matt, Elaine, Ernie, Jaxon, Judy, Mary, Mike, The Kost Family, Bonnie, Janet, Sally, Jeff, Brian, Judy, Tom, Jason, Joyce, Albert, Carly and Justin, Jaclyn, Bob, Sr., Jill, Lana and Andrea, Kelsi, Fred, Sr., Kathy, Ken, Mary Lou, Curt, Sue, Kim, Wendy, Linda, Mark, Peggy, Sarah, Dalton, Nico, Michael, First Responders, Members of our Military and their families, Cancer treatment patients and the congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church.

Pastoral Care – For anyone needing pastoral care, Pastor Sharon Erb is our vacancy pastor. Please feel free to contact her at 814-935-1968. Please note that Drew Baker is also available if you would like to reach out to him as well. Please feel free to contact him at 814-932-4085.