



The Messenger
St. John Lutheran Church

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February 2019

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PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday and Thursday: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Tuesday and Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

No appointment is necessary – just stop by! Please call the office and make an appointment if these times are not convenient (345-0120).

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Dear members and friends of St. John Lutheran,

One of the hardest truths for a Protestant to receive is the way God speaks to His people through **Confession Absolution**. I make this conclusion after years of association with converts to the Lutheran church. Years ago, I was in a rapidly growing Lutheran congregation. This parish actually doubled in size from 400 members to 800 members in a little over two years! Many people came in who were unchurched, even though they grew up in a Christian home. Some came directly from other Protestant churches. My wife and I were part of one of the congregation's small groups that met regularly. In this group was a man who grew up attending **a Protestant denomination that rejects the Means of Grace – God's biblical word on how He delivers His grace to man**. This gentleman flatly refused to accept Confession Absolution. He routinely complained about the Lutheran church's "misuse" of this "false belief." And he wasn't the only holdout. Being very vocal about his misgivings, he was eager to find others who agreed with him. Turns out, it wasn't that difficult to find dissention among the ranks! Those new to Lutheranism (and some who weren't new) were obviously confused about this biblical practice.

One hundred thirty four years ago, Rev. Dr. C. F. W. Walther (the first president of the LC-MS) also recognized the problem that Protestants were having with Confession Absolution. He wrote:

So-called "Protestant" churches, which are outside the pale of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, know nothing of the true way to forgiveness of sin by means of the Word and—in general—by the **Means of Grace**. In particular, this is evident from the way they reject **Absolution** as pronounced by the pastor from the pulpit or in general and private confession. These so-called "Protestant" churches claim that, of all Protestant churches, the Lutheran has really been "reformed" the least, for they claim that it still retains much of the leaven of the Roman Church...

First, **their claim** is based on **ignorance** concerning what we really teach about Absolution. They have made a total misrepresentation of our doctrine. They are not diligent enough to ask us what we really mean by Absolution. They are not that honest. Rather, behind our backs they slander us and call us "Papists" who would lead our poor people back to Rome. As a rule, these people imagine that we teach that, once ordained, a pastor is given a certain mysterious power that enables him to forgive sin. They assume that we teach that Absolution is his privilege, so that sins are forgiven whenever an ordained pastor pronounces the words "Your sins are forgiven"...Now, everybody knows that this is **not** our doctrine.

On what doctrine is the Lutheran practice of Absolution based? It is based on the following facts that we teach:

1. Christ, the Son of God, took upon Himself every sin of every sinner, counting them as His own. Accordingly, John the Baptist points to Christ and says, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).
2. By leading His life in abject poverty, by His suffering, crucifixion, and death, Christ wiped out the record of the world's sin and gained for us remission of all sins...
3. By raising His Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead, God the Father confirmed and put His stamp of approval on the work of reconciliation and redemption that Christ had finished on the cross. For by the resurrection of Christ, the Father, in the presence of heaven and earth, angels and people, declared: "Just as My Son cried out on the cross, 'It is finished,' so I announce, 'It is finished indeed!' You sinners are redeemed"...
4. In addition to Christ commanding that the Gospel be preached to every creature, He at

the same time commanded that **forgiveness of sins should be preached to all people**. This is what we call the Good News: "All that is necessary for your salvation has been accomplished. When you ask, 'What must we do to be saved?' please remember that all has been done. There is nothing more to do. All you have to do is believe that everything has been done for you—and you will be saved."

5. Christ issued a **general command** to His apostles and their successors in office to preach the Gospel, that is, the forgiveness of sin. Yet He also commanded us to minister to each individual who desires forgiveness by offering this comfort: "You are reconciled to God." For if forgiveness of sin has been acquired for all, it has also been acquired for each individual. If I can offer it to all, I can offer it to each individual. Not only am I allowed to do this, I am ordered to do it.
6. **Now that forgiveness of sin has been acquired as stated, not only does a pastor have a special commission to proclaim it, but also every Christian—male or female, adult or child—is commissioned to do this.** Even a child's Absolution is just as certain as the Absolution of St. Peter—yes, even as the Absolution of Christ would be, were He again to stand visibly before people and say, "Your sins are forgiven." There is no difference, because, note well, it is **not** a question of what humans must do but **what has been done by Christ.**⁽¹⁾

One distinction that must be made is that the pastor has been given the "key of forgiveness" (by the church) to proclaim this to the assembly of Christians who have confessed their sins. Individuals are commanded to forgive those *individually* who have confessed their sins to them. However, all Christians must accept this responsibility, for it is commanded by God (see John 20:23, Matthew 18:18, 2 Cor. 5:18-21).

The immediate complaint by some will be, "Yes, but what about those who are only **pretending** to confess their sins, and are **not** truly sorrow at all?" Answer: The words of Absolution (forgiveness) have no effect on these individuals. They remain in their sin, for they are without faith, and therefore are lost. Even if we doubt their sincerity, we must not judge their intentions, but simply state the words, "I forgive you your sin(s)." God is actually speaking *through us* as we say the words. So it is **not** the **pastor or the individual** that is forgiving that person – but **God who uses us to proclaim His forgiveness.**

Therefore, Absolution is a great gift meant **to release the penitent soul from the guilt and shame** of their past sins. This is the very Gospel message of Christ's forgiveness going out, so that we may be assured that His grace and mercy applies **directly to us!**

The next worship service where you confess your sins (usually in the beginning of worship) – is your invitation to remember the truth about yourself – **you are not without sin!** Recognizing this truth with contrition (God-given sorrow), receive the very gift of **forgiveness of all of your sins** – through the spoken words of Absolution. **This is God's gift to you!**

Pastor Travis

(1) *Law and Gospel*, Rev. Dr. C. F. W. Walther, 17th Evening Lecture, Feb. 6, 1885; St. Louis: CPH.

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

FOOD TRUCK – We wish to thank all the people who helped make the food give-a-way a great success. We are collecting donations of personal hygiene items and cleaning products to distribute at the Food Truck give-a-ways. Individuals in need cannot purchase items such as shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste, or household cleaners with their Bridge cards even though they are needed. A collection basket will be in the fellowship hall for donations. We very much appreciate the support we get from all of you! Very blessed to be a part of this church family! Questions can be made to Lisa or Bev.

PRAYER MINISTRIES

Prayer Warriors are always needed!

Prayer Angels... You should have received, in the mail or in your church mailbox, the names of the children and students that you will be praying for this year. Please keep them in your prayers and drop them a note to let them know you're praying for them. *Any questions or concerns? Contact Adele Travis, at 343-9088.*

Praying for you... Have you received a postcard in the mail recently that said, "The Congregation has prayed for you"? As part of the ongoing prayer ministry here at St. John, we pray for the spiritual, emotional, and physical wellbeing of our members. We also lift up the ministries and outreach of this congregation on a daily basis. If you are interested in praying for these concerns, February Prayer Sheets are available in the Narthex on the cart next to the Portals of Prayer.

LADIES AID

MEETING – The January meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. The February meeting will begin with lunch at Big Boy at 11:30 A.M. on February 12th with the meeting to follow at the church at 1:00 P.M. Please bring Valentines to exchange for approximately 12 persons. We would welcome any and all ladies of the church to come join us!!!

HAT and MITTEN TREE – Thank you to all who donated to the hat and mitten tree this year. Your donations and the ladies' efforts yielded the following results: Homemade hats – 22
Homemade mittens – 21 pair Hat and Mitten sets – 3 sets Scarves – 2 Mittens and
Gloves -15 pair Hats – 6 Socks – 16 pair

These will be donated to local schools soon.

BLANKET PROJECT – We continue to make fleece blankets for Orphan Grain Train. We have a newer method of securing the edges and could really use some help! We invite any ladies or men that would like to help, to please join us on Mondays at approximately 12:00 Noon. The project requires no standing or bending over. It is totally a sit-down project!

FAMILY FARE "Direct Your Dollars" - As of January 13th, we have collected 41,535 dollars in receipts. Remember, you must use your "Yes Rewards" card or give them your phone number for the purchase to count as a "Direct Your Dollars" receipt.

GARAGE SALE- Think ahead to Spring as you clean out closets and drawers this winter and save all those treasures you no longer need for the Ladies Aid Garage Sale in the Spring. We will accept almost anything.

SPECIAL THANKS – We wish to extend a special thanks for material occasionally found in the quilters room donated for us to use in our quilts. It doesn't go unnoticed and is greatly appreciated!!!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son, from the Father, full of grace and truth. And, from His fullness we have received grace upon grace.

John 1: 15 & 16

Have you made Bible Study your place to be this year?

Check out the opportunities below and come join us...

Sunday Mornings

8:30 a.m. - A Longer Look at the Lessons – Prepare for worship by taking a closer look at the Bible readings for that Sunday's service.

Monday Mornings

10:00 a.m. - We are taking an in-depth look at the book of **2 Samuel**.

Tuesday Evenings

7:00 p.m. - Women's Bible Study at Jane Tennant's home. A deeper look at Vocation through the Lutheran Difference Bible Study series.

7:00 p.m. - Men's Bible Study on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday. They continue to dig into God's Word, and are using the "Great Heroes of the Bible - New Testament" series.

Wednesday Mornings

9:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast and Devotional - 3rd Wednesday at the church.

Sunday School Happenings

And, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as that of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

Jesus became flesh and dwelt among us! Jesus God's own Son came as a babe in the manger, lived a perfect life, died on the cross, and rose again so that we would have forgiveness

for our sins and eternal life in heaven with Him. *What good news!* Sunday School will begin the month with Jesus' presentation at the temple to fulfill the law. His parents, Mary and Joseph, brought Him, and Simeon and Anna saw Him. Remember Simeon's wonderful words of praise? *"Lord now let us thou thy servant depart in peace..."* The same words we sing after we have received Christ's body and blood in the Lord's Supper. And Anna, when she saw baby Jesus, gave thanks to God and shared the good news that He would be the one to redeem all people from their sins. God gave Simeon and Anna eyes of faith to believe in Jesus as their Savior. Through the Holy Spirit working through the Word, God gives us eyes of faith to believe in Jesus as our Savior too!

We continue the month with the Wise Men's visit to see Jesus. I'm sure you remember how the star guided the wise men to Jesus, the Savior of the world. It's a great reminder of how God guides us to Jesus, His beloved Son, with His Spirit working through His Word and Sacraments to keep us in the one true faith. *And for that we give thanks and praise!*

The following week, we will travel with Jesus and His family to the temple in Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. Remember that eventful journey? Everyone packs up and heads home except Jesus. Mary and Joseph frantically search for Him for three days, finally finding Him in the Temple. They were surprised to find Him there, but He was doing what came natural to Him, talking about His Father in His Father's house. In our Father's house, we too come to hear His Word and learn that Jesus is our Savior and receive His gifts of forgiveness and salvation, the Means of Grace.

And, finally, we end the month with John preaching the message of repentance, preparing hearts and minds for the "Lamb of God" who would take away the sins of the world. John pointed the people and us to Jesus our Savior and Redeemer, the one who would take on the sins of the world and willingly die on the cross for them. And, for that we give thanks and praise! Hallelujah! Amen.

Throughout each of our lessons we will hear the law and the good news of the gospel, and be reminded that Jesus was both true God and true man. The Law will do its work of leading us to true repentance and sorrow for our sins. And, the Gospel will apply the healing balm of the forgiveness we have through Christ Jesus. *Which leads us to our Bible Words for this last week...*

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!

John 1:29

Just a reminder...

The Sunday School Brunch is on February 10th! Come join us for food, fellowship, and a special surprise from the Sunday School. We will also be collecting large bottles of hand sanitizer, Clorox wipes, and children's underwear sizes 4-6 for our local schools on that Sunday.

And, **Mission Month is coming in March!** Our featured missions this month will be *"Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch"* and the *"Lutheran Heritage Foundation"*.

EVANGELISM / OUTREACH

Prayer cards are being sent letting you know that we are praying for your well being. I would like to challenge each of us to invite our family and friends to visit us for a Saturday evening or Sunday morning worship service and invite them to enjoy some fellowship with us after service Sunday morning. Who knows one invitation could potentially lead to another member joining our church family. Wouldn't that be wonderful!!

There are plenty of car window decals still available. Check with Dennis if you are interested and would like one or two.

There has been a Thrivent Grant applied for and approved to help purchase advent devotions for our Sunday school children.

Giving Thanks! Through a Thrivent Grant, we were able to purchase and distribute children's Seek and Find Advent devotion books to the day cares in the area. And, share the "Good News" with this community.

DRUGS and DESPAIR Shorten Lifespan (and other news worth knowing)

by Gene Edward Veith

Why life expectancy is down

Despite the continuing advances of medical science and nearly a century of steady increases in longevity, life expectancy in the United States has now shown a noticeable decline for the second time in three years. Experts at the Centers for Disease Control are blaming two main factors: drug overdoses and the highest suicide rate in 50 years.

Heroin addiction used to be associated with the slums of big cities, but now heroin is plaguing small towns and rural communities.

A medical crackdown on the rampant abuse of prescription painkillers has ironically increased overdose numbers, as addicts often turn to heroin as a more powerful, cheaper and easier-to-get substitute. Adding to the death rate is a new opiate, Fentanyl, which is 50 times more powerful than heroin and can be lethal at a dose of only two to three milligrams. For these and other reasons, deaths from drug overdoses have quadrupled since 1999. The top three states in overdose deaths are West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania. The suicide rate last year was also the highest it has been in 50 years, with some 47,000 Americans taking their own lives. As with opioid abuse, the suicide rate is nearly twice as high in rural areas (20 per 100,000) as in urban areas (11 per 100,000).

Average life expectancy for Americans in 2017 was calculated to be 78.6 years. That age, down a tenth of a year from 2016, is still within the biblical range of "threescore years and ten" and maybe, if we are strong, "fourscore" (Ps. 90:10). Yet we still have good reason to be concerned about this alarming trend.

Notice especially that the recent upsurge in both drug deaths and suicides is taking place largely in small towns and rural communities, where many (though by no means all) LC-MS congregations are located. These deaths are symptomatic of despair, hopelessness and other spiritual problems, which cry out for Lutheran ministry and the Gospel.

Crossing a line in genetic engineering

A Chinese researcher has “edited” the DNA of human embryos, then implanted them into women who are giving birth to the first genetically-engineered children.

Scientists had previously developed a technology known as “CRISPR” that allows for the manipulation of genetic material with relative ease. This process is being used in agriculture to develop genetically modified crops and livestock with the goal of eliminating diseases and increasing yields.

But the scientific community and the laws of most Western nations have consistently forbidden CRISPR experimentation on human beings. Introducing changes to the human genome, which may be passed on to other generations, is too dangerous, scientists say. We do not yet know enough about possible genetic errors and unintended consequences.

Ignoring these conventions, He Jiankui recruited men with HIV and uninfected women to conceive children *in vitro*. He then “edited” the fertilized eggs to remove a gene associated with generating a protein that allows HIV to infect a cell. His stated purpose was to design children who would be immune to the disease. (But what *else* does that protein do?) He is now claiming that twin girls, named Lulu and Nana, have been born using this process, and that another pregnancy has yet to come to term.

The scientific community expressed outrage at Dr. He’s flagrant violation of the established research standards. According to National Institutes of Health (NIH) director Francis Collins, “he crossed every line, scientifically and ethically.”

Many of the scientists now crying foul, however, laid the foundation for what He did. Some also even “edited” human embryos. But they consider themselves morally superior to He because they killed the developing babies instead of implanting them and allowing them to grow to term.

The double helix of DNA is reminiscent of the spiral ramps of the Babylonian ziggurats, which may have had a similar design to that of the Tower of Babel. We may be seeing here another technological innovation involving the human desire to be God and the subsequent misuse of language (in this case, genetic language with meaningful sequences that can be “edited”).

Dr. Gene Edward Veith is the author of over 20 books on different facets of Christianity and culture, and directs the Cranach Institute at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN.

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LUTHERAN AND UNASHAMED

BY MATTHEW J. GARNETT

I WASN'T BORN A LUTHERAN. Far from it. I wasn't even raised as a Christian. At the time when I was first introduced to the Lutheran articulation of the faith, I was at best agnostic toward any notion of God.

Before joining the LCMS, I spent the better part of 10 years as an ordained Evangelical pastor, eventually ending up on the leadership team at a mega-church. Eventually, the pressure of feeling like I had to put on a highly entertaining, high-energy church service so people would "decide to be saved" got the best of me. I abandoned my career as a pastor and my church wholesale. The next 10 years were wasted chasing the morally libertine "save-the-world" social gospel of mainline Protestantism — all while experimenting in the occult and flirting with atheism on the side.

At last, tired, confused and despairing, I gave up on faith all together.

In His great goodness, however, God did not allow me to remain lost. He pursues all of us, wishing none to perish but to come to repentance (*2Peter 3:9*), and the way He pursued me was through faithful, traditional, orthodox, Missouri Synod Lutherans. The Holy Spirit brought my family back into the fold of Christ's Church, not through pop-Evangelical worship or mainline social justice, but through the time-tested theological rigor and tradition of the Lutheran faith as outlined both in Holy Scripture and in the Lutheran Confessions.

Now, as a person who has dabbled in just about every form of American religion and has finally found his home in the Lutheran faith, I hold to the that whenever we as Lutherans talk together about outreach and evangelism, we do so in a way that is unashamedly Lutheran.

Here are three reasons why.

Law and Gospel

For someone like me who has committed grievous sins — including abandoning the faith — hearing the Gospel anew from Lutheran preachers passionate about the promises of God kindled a new spark of hope and faith in me. I recall a pastor preaching, "God's promises *are for you* — even you — who are sitting there thinking, 'God can't possibly forgive me.'" What I heard was nothing especially novel. It was simply the timeless Word of Christ for me that God had patiently prepared my ears and heart to receive from the mouth of a faithful pastor.

In the Evangelical world, the Gospel was something to be shared with non-believers to get them to "make a decision" for Jesus. It wasn't something we heard as Good News for ourselves *as* believers. Sunday in and Sunday out, I preached to my people that we were to "preach the Gospel" to our neighbors by crafting perfect marriages, raising perfect children and living selfless, holy lives. We needed to keep up appearances in order to "be a witness" to those around us. For us, the "Gospel" was a job to be done, with our mouths and, especially, with our lives. It was command, not promise.

When the pure Gospel message — “that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom.5:8) — began to sink in by the power of the Holy Spirit through His Word, everything changed for me.

Perhaps what was most surprising to me was that, as the Gospel took hold, I began to love God’s Law. Before I hated it. Absent from the proper preaching of the Gospel — and the Sacraments — the Law becomes a kill-joy standard which no one can live up to. But as I encountered right preaching about God’s promises, my confidence as an adopted son of the Most High soared, and I found myself set free to genuinely love God and my neighbor.

Now that I had to earn God’s favor neither for myself nor for others, I found myself with a lot of spare time and energy to serve my neighbor and God out of genuine love. I still do a lot of the things I did when I was an Evangelical — live a chaste life, strive to be a good employee, aim for faithfulness in personal prayer and Bible study, etc. — but now I do them out of thankfulness and not because I’m somehow trying to *earn* the Gospel for myself or for my neighbors. To be fair, “we love because God first loved us” (1 John 4:19) isn’t an entirely foreign concept in the Evangelical world. Yet this truth is often clouded by constant calls to be a “soul winner.” Lutherans are able to keep it crystal clear by preaching Law and Gospel in accord with Holy Scripture and our confessions.

The liturgy

When I was an Evangelical pastor, I always struggled to incorporate solid, biblical teaching into a worship service. Our mindset was that the service needed first and foremost to be entertaining and relevant to the current culture; only if we felt confident we could grab and hold people’s attention did we try to teach them biblical truths. Unfortunately, Scripture was all too often overshadowed by our attempts to be “relevant.” What teaches the best, I’ve since discovered, is not “entertainment” or “relevance,” but solid, biblical content backed by ancient practice. Here, I cannot give a better example than my wife, Jennifer.

Jen is a newly baptized believer. She was baptized about three years ago. As we were both former Evangelicals, I was nervous about bringing her with me to a liturgical Lutheran church.

I thought only a contemporary rock show-style church service would appeal or make sense to her. As it turns out, that was far from the case. What made sense to her — and to my teenaged children, too, by the way — were the traditions.

Jen and the children are always asking, “What does that part of the service mean? Why do we bow low when we say that part of the Creed? Why do we say the Creed?” The idea that there is time-tested theological *meaning* behind every word and action in the service is refreshing to them. Far from turning Jen and the kids off to the faith, the liturgy has become an invaluable teaching tool, communicating God’s promises to us in Christ.

The Sacraments

In the Evangelical world, the “sacraments” I gave to my people were things like “decisions for Christ” and “accountability groups” — public actions intended to help people follow the teachings of Holy Scripture and live according to God’s will. Although these intentions weren’t bad in

themselves, they tended to strip our “sacraments” of any real spiritual significance. The Lord's Supper was celebrated informally, and only rarely. Baptism took place eventually, if at all.

I never knew how hungry I was for the true Means of Grace until that hunger finally began to be satisfied. Before, I feared missing a church service because my accountability partners might call me out. Now, the reason we don't miss is because we believe that the Lord's body and blood is there for the forgiveness of our sins. The Sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Altar, together with regular Confession and Absolution, have become critical and indispensable to our faith. My old “sacraments” were all Law. Now I can see that the Sacraments are saturated with God's promises to us. Through them, we receive tangible gifts that we can smell, taste, touch, see and hear, bound together with God's Word — gifts that both refresh our faith and embolden us toward obedience.

OUR FAMILY'S EXPERIENCE may not sound like a typical “come-to-Jesus” story (believe me, I know all about those), but it's better than typical. It's true.

Pastors, workers, leaders, fellow Lutherans: When you think about outreach and evangelism, think of me. Think of my family. And don't be afraid to be Lutheran. Be authentic. Be faithful. Share the Gospel using the tools that God has given you: Law and Gospel, liturgy, Word and Sacraments. His Word will not return to Him empty (Isaiah 55:11).

As my pastor, the Rev. Dr. David Petersen, is fond of saying, “The angels in heaven aren't wringing their hands and fretting about those who are not yet saved. They're not. They are *rejoicing* over those who are already saved.” As churches minister with those who are being saved clearly in view, they'll find that their outreach and evangelism have a more genuine, longer-lasting effect.

The payoff might not come quickly or easily — in fact, you may never see it. Please be faithful anyway. My pastors were, and I am eternally grateful.

Matthew J. Garnett is the husband of Jennifer, the father of two children, a member of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, IN, a professional truck driver and host of the podcast *In Layman's Terms*.

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CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

2019 FLOWER CHART — A new flower chart for 2019 is posted. There are many opportunities to sponsor flowers for the altar. Please take a few moments to sign up for a special date. Remember, flowers are \$15.00 and the Ladies Aid would like them paid for when you sign up.

DECALS — Been noticing St. John window decals in the cars in the parking lot or around town? Want one for your vehicle/vehicles? There is no charge . . . just ask Patty Rohman or stop by the church office to get one.

CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT — St. John Lutheran has entered into an agreement with

AuSable Valley Community Mental Health that allows them to use our facility for certain activities during the week. Part of this agreement is that our congregational members will keep confidential the names of people that are using our facility. Please observe this agreement by never mentioning the names of people that you may have seen. Also, remind others of this agreement if you hear of a visitor's name being mentioned. Thank you for your cooperation. Executive Council.

Reminder: There is a box in the Narthex for giving to the **Ogemaw County Clergy Association**. This money is collected hygiene items, for the purchase of food, personal home heating fuels, and funeral expenses for people in Ogemaw Country that are unable to afford these necessities. Make checks payable to Ogemaw County Clergy Assoc. Thank you!

EMERGENCY PRAYER REQUESTS – St. John has developed a system that allows us to rapidly contact all members when a life threatening situation develops, requiring immediate prayers. We are requesting cell phone numbers (for text messaging) or e-mail addresses for all members. For those who don't use e-mails or text messaging, phone calls will be made. Please request a salmon-colored form from the office and return it when completed. Thank you.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/02 – David Doerr
2/05 – Rich Sholtis
2/08 – James Woughter
2/09 – Karen Schmitt
2/10 – Caroline Klein
2/13 – Ruth Gilmore
2/14 – Owen Tennant
2/15 – Craig Simon
2/23 – Trevion Smith-Gaddy
2/25 – Art Jankens
2/29 – Susan Kai-Phetteplace



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

2/23 – Dennis & Linda La Tulip