

The Light of St. John

St. John's Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 38

Deanville, TX 77852

"I AM THE WAY AND THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE." (JOHN 14:6)



The Light of St. John
Published monthly at
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Deadline for submission of articles
2nd to the last Sunday of each month

The Light of St. John's

April, 2020

"Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."
Isaiah 41:10

The news is full of tragic things happening in our world. One of the top concerns right now is the spread of the Coronavirus. Every day the news media bombards us with latest statistics of the spread of this disease. To make matters worse, many in our country are currently laid off without pay, and people are reacting out of fear. It is surreal to go into the stores to find empty shelves, as people are purchasing and hoarding toilet paper, paper towels, hand sanitizer, and even bottled water. And the demand is so high because people are fearful that there will not be enough supply of these products.

In seasons of national crisis like we are in, we must not give in to the spirit of fear. The quote at the top of this letter was written by the prophet Isaiah. So many in the world anxiously look about themselves, focusing on bad things that are happening. And if our focus is on our circumstances, then we will be fearful much of the time. But Isaiah reminds us that we should focus on God. Notice that Isaiah in the same sentence twice uses the word "*surely*", meaning absolutely and positively God is sovereign and holding us safely in his hand. Rather than being fearful during this time, we should remember that this season will pass and that God is in complete control. In fact, God is leading us through this dark valley.

Two days after Jesus was crucified, two of his early followers were travelling on the road to Emmaus. Indeed, many of Jesus's disciples had locked themselves in their homes out of fear, and these two followers were in crisis mode. Jesus appeared on the road and walked beside them, although they didn't recognize him because they were so focused on their circumstances. Only after Jesus left them did they remark, "*Were not our hearts burning within us?*" Jesus had been with them all along. He was their comfort and strength.

During Holy Week when we contemplate the events of Good Friday, we do so knowing that Easter is coming. It has been said that it is always darkest before the dawn. And right now it may appear spiritually dark in our world due to the ongoing news of the Coronavirus. But we do not lose hope, because Easter is coming. We know that our risen Lord is with us always. He will never leave us or forsake us.

"If God brings you to it; He will bring you through it!"

Blessings,
Terry

SERVING IN April

Kitchen:

Altar: Debby & James Schumacher

**Usher: Brandon Telschow(Council Member)
Jolee, Natalie, Katie**



FLOWERS

3rd Ashlee Telschow

12th Easter Lilies

19th Jeanette Peed

26th Shannon Maresh

(in memory of Larry Maresh)



Please pray for our soldiers including Dillon Narro and all those recently deployed, the shut-in, the lonely, those in need of healing and their families: Mary Bess and Garnett Gerdes, Melvin Knesek, Larry Kubecka, Dwayne Muzny, David Ronneberg, Dennis and Estelle Hejtmancik, Jake Cedidla, Nancy Faulk, Kelly Kubiak, Linda Brinkman, Glen Drew, Mary Neutzler, Ronnie Langham, Taylor Power, Edward Beran, Jonathan Pampell, Cathi Laney, Shannon Miller, Bud Melson, John Laffere, John Boyd, Adele Zboril, Kim and David Hardin, Glen and Amelia Wearden, Patricia Tarnowski, prayers for those needing surgery, those who in treatment for cancer and cancer survivors, and prayers for the family of Tommy Swonke. Lord we pray that you come to our aid with your love and healing during the global spread of the coronavirus.

Deuteronomy 31:8

"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

John 14:27

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

Philippians 4:6-7

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

President
Dwayne Beran

Vice-President
Donna Havemann

Secretary
Susette Hart

Treasurer
Marsha Kocurek

Maintenance
Brandon Telschow

Cemetery
Ronnie Pampell

Pastor
Terry Moon

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St. John's Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2020

6:30pm

Call to order, Opening Prayer – Pastor; also in attendance, Brandon, Dwayne, Ronnie, Marsha, Susette

Approval of Minutes from previous meeting: Minutes read by Dwayne Beran. Approved as read.

Approval of Financial Reports:

Treasurer Report- General fund Building fund

Memorial Fund – no report

Cemetery Fund / Perpetual Care Fund motion to accept

Pastor's Report – 4 visits.. Garnet and Mary Bess Gerdes; Kim and David Hardin.

Open issues-

St John's Scholarship Fund – Update...no update... tabled for later. Check book located and signed. Waiting for Covid 19 to subside before having a fundraiser.

Building Fund Priorities – Church roof – congregation approved Notified McMannis and Schneider to schedule the inspection.

Congregational Stewardship – Betty Brinkman, Debbie Schumacher, Joyce Krenek, Melanie Becka and Ashley Zboril, Marsha Kocurek form the committee.

Columbarium and Curbing – Update Three curbing are complete and paid in full. Columbarium is coming along. James Baldwin said he could uncrate and slide in niches on shims. Discussed needing power down there.

May Church Picnic – Entertainment. Marsha made motion to postpone, Dwayne seconded. Date to be determined.

2019 Audit

Deanville Heritage Day Festival – Parking - The Heritage Day committee asked to have overflow parking in the church parking lot. Discussed having a fundraiser in the parking lot while selling lemonade or baked goods. Motion made by Brandon and seconded by Ronnie to approve their request. No alcohol and no unloading of show cars on the premises.

Mineral Lease with Chesapeake

New Business:

Virus Plan: discussed whether or not to have Sunday service... It was with heavy hearts that we made the decision to cancel Sunday service.

Columbarium engraving – they will keep two plates for quick turnaround. Font was decided. Bookman itc lt bt

Adjourn / Closing Prayer Motion made my Marsha, seconded by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Susette Hart

I hope everyone is taking advantage of this down time to refocus and connect more deeply with God. In Luke 10:42 Jesus tells Martha that “one thing is **needful** and Mary has chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.” We all are usually so busy that sitting at the feet of Jesus and learning of Him seldom happens. This is a great opportunity if we will receive it, to sit alone or with our families and read the scriptures. A good place to start would be with the gospels. You cannot read them without realizing that God has the answer for sickness and disease! And, you can not read the instructions Jesus gave to his followers without realizing that He sends them into the world to do the same works that he He did, and even greater! Jn:14:12.

Do any of you remember the TV show Mission Impossible? Well, this is our mission, if we will accept it, to draw near to God, because when we do He draws near to us! James 4:8. Zephaniah 3:1-20 describes the consequences of **not** doing that and they are dire! In fact, we are experiencing them now on a global scale.

Remember to ask God to help you understand the Bible before you start reading. The words you will be reading are His, preserved for us by the Hebrew people to whom God spoke them. 2Timothy 3:16. And, if it seems a daunting task to read such a big book with so much in it that is unfamiliar, remember that it only takes 90 hours to read the entire Bible out-loud. Two work weeks folks! Just imagine trying to tell God Almighty how you didn't have time to read His Book during your oh so busy life. I actually did try to give that excuse when I was first invited to a Bible study 35 years ago, and as I thought to myself how I was too busy, these words came booming into my consciousness “**OH NO YOU'RE NOT!**” God is so merciful and He also has a wonderful sense of humor.

So, let this become an adventure and a turning point for all of us to find our way back to the glorious God who made us for a perpetual unbroken relationship with Himself. He loves us like a bridegroom longing for His bride. For 6000 years He has fought for us, tried to communicate with us, and after putting everything in place to assure the victory, sent Jesus to earth to introduce Himself to us, and to conquer sin and death for us so that we could be restored to Him forever. It truly is the greatest story ever told and the best news ever!!!!!!

Much love to you all, Maggie

THANK YOU just isn't enough for what St. John's Lutheran Church of Deanville did for Tommy Swonke. Keeping him in your thoughts and prayers helped him so much. The cards you sent meant so much to him and Donna. At a time when he could not walk, talk very much, and did not need to be in physical contact with anyone because of his delicate condition, cards said it all: "We care about you, you're in our prayers, and we send you our love." I have tears in my eyes because the names of old friends, his buddies, classmates, neighbors, Sunday School teachers, and even people who didn't know him, told him they cared about him by sending him a stack of cards.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you!

Cathy Moore

**Thanks to those who did the set-up for Movie Night which
was held on February 28th as well as preparing the
popcorn!
Great Movie!**

Good morning church family ! We love you and miss you ! I hope you all healthy and safe. Matt's at work, kids are at least happy that the "don't get dirty before church" rule doesn't apply during quarantine. I'm having my coffee and we're about enjoy an online church service. We're all just sitting here thinking how much we miss seeing your faces and shaking your hands. I would love to hear anyone's joys and pray concerns! God bless you all and keep you safe !

Sincerely,

**The Blackmon Family
mblackmon51101@yahoo.com
March 29, 2020**



Easter Flowers

We will be taking orders for flowers to place on the altar Easter Sunday in celebration of the day. If you would like to place an order for a plant, please complete the bottom portion of this sheet and return by March 29th. Please attach \$12.00 for each plant ordered. Make checks payable to the Ladies Group of St. John's Lutheran Church.

Please order _____ plants for me. The cost per plant will be \$12.00.

Thanks for making the Easter Season a special memory for all in attendance! Return to Debby Schumacher or mail to Debby Schumacher, 4979 CR 140, Caldwell, Texas 77836.

Put my flowers in Memory of OR Honor Of:

Given by (Your name or Family Name):



MEMORIALS GIVEN TO
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
DEANVILLE, TEXAS

Given In Memory Of

Gail Hardin

By
Dennis Edinburgh

Given In Memory Of

Family Members

By
Marci Parker

Given In Memory Of

Martha O'Roark

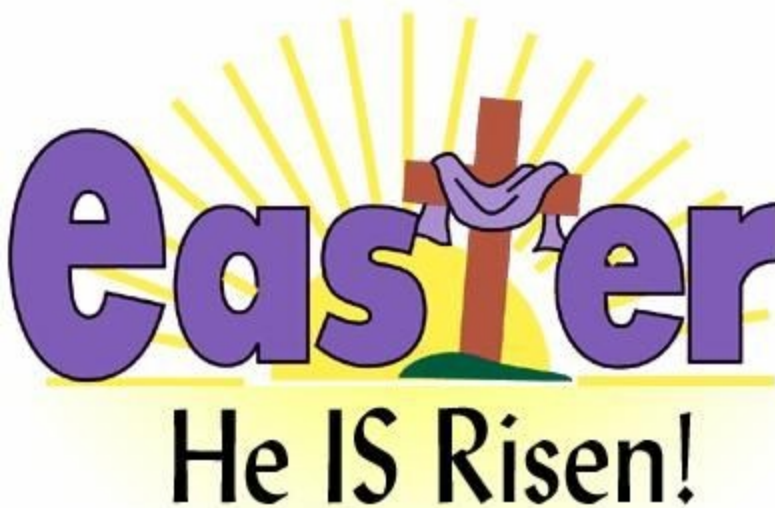
By
Mark & Connie Maresh

Barbara & R. J. Smith (Sunday School)

Given In Memory Of

Theresa Koehler

By
Donnie & Beverly Blinka
L.W. & Carol Brinkman



CrossDaily.com

Holy Week With Jesus

On Palm Sunday, Jesus entered Jerusalem with his disciples riding a borrowed donkey. He arrived to much celebration, but it was the beginning of the end of his human life. Read Zechariah 9:9 Read Luke 19:28-40

On Holy Monday, Jesus asserted his authority by throwing out anyone and everyone who was doing business inside the temple complex. The Jewish leaders were less than impressed with the display of power.

Read Isaiah 56:1-8 Read Luke 19:41-48

On Holy Tuesday, temple leaders challenged Jesus by putting him to the test. Literally. They raised a number of theological debates with him and questioned both his teaching and his God-given authority.

Read Psalm 118:19-27 Read Psalm 110 Read Luke 20

On Spy Wednesday, Jesus continued his teaching, which only riled up Jewish leaders. The tipping point came when a woman honored Jesus by anointing him with really expensive oil. This didn't sit well with Judas, who went straight to the religious authorities and offered to deliver Jesus into their hands.

Read Luke 21 Read Mark 14:1-11

On Maundy Thursday, after celebrating the Passover with his disciples, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray, where Judas betrayed him. He was arrested and tortured while Peter denied him.

Read Isaiah 50:4-10 Read Luke 22:1-65

On Good Friday, the Jewish leaders, with the help of Pilate, subjected Jesus to a mock trial that resulted in a death sentence for the one who would be called the King of the Jews. He was hastily crucified and quickly buried before the Sabbath began that evening.

Read Psalm 22:1-18 Read Luke 22:66-71 Luke 23:1-56

On Holy Saturday, not much happened...that we know of, at least. Since it was the Jewish Sabbath, all activity came to a grinding halt, and Jesus' followers had to wait until the next day to properly prepare his body for burial.

Read Isaiah 52:13-15 Isaiah 53 Read Luke 23:56

On Easter Sunday, a couple of women went to Jesus' tomb to anoint him for burial, but when they arrived, he wasn't there. The tomb was empty, and an angel greeted them with the news that Jesus was alive. The women hurried back to tell the others.

Read Isaiah 52:7-10 Read Luke 24

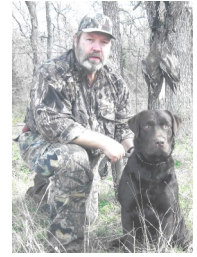


**Sympathy Is Extended To The
Swonke Family**

On The Loss Of Their Loved One

Thomas Lloyd Swonke

February 2, 1951 - March 5, 2020



Thomas Lloyd Swonke, 69, peacefully left to join the heavenly realm on March 5, 2020. He was born February 2, 1951 to Floyd Thomas and Margaret Ann Christianson Swonke in Houston, Texas. He was proud to have been born at the old downtown St. Joseph Infirmary on Groundhog's Day. Tom was baptized in Minnesota and confirmed in 1965 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Deanville, Texas. He always remembered his confirmation Bible verse of John 15:5: "I am the vine, you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me; you can do nothing." Tom graduated from Caldwell High School in 1969 and from Texas A&M University in 1978 with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and a Minor in Metallurgy. Tom and Donna Gale Namken were united in marriage on March 9, 1974 at Martin Luther Lutheran Church, ELCA, in Giddings. They were blessed with two sons, Shaun and Chase, and two granddaughters, Addison and Hadley. Tom coached YMCA soccer for 9 years. He was involved with Boy Scouts for 13 years starting in 1989 as a scout leader, including Camp Master at Camp Brosig and Camp Bouvay. He was Scout Master for Troop 939 for 2 years, and assisted both sons as they advanced from Wolf to Eagle. Tom was employed for the aerospace industry at Wyman-Gordon/PCC and performed many jobs for 35 years beginning in August, 1978. He started as a Tool & Die Engineer and retired as a Quality Engineer. Tom (Tommy) had a remarkable memory and a sense of humor that was evident even in illness. He was committed to his sons. After his younger son's quadriplegia from a high school lacrosse game, Tom began making adaptive equipment for outdoor hunting activities for his son and others, even after his son's passing. "Big Daddy" was extremely proud of his granddaughters and greatly enjoyed spending time with them. He involved them whenever he could outdoors and was looking forward to their future. Tom enjoyed several hobbies which included hunting, fishing, reloading, camping, gardening, cooking, woodworking, and welding. Many bottle trees and flowers he made from tractor implement parts grace backyards. Tom, and beloved son Shaun, spent many hours together including duck hunting with their dogs. He loved making deer and wild hog sausage from game they hunted and processed. Cooking Cajun food was Tom's specialty. Tom fought a valiant battle with brain cancer. He faced his prognosis with courage and in treatment did not want to "leave any stone unturned." He never complained and was kind to those who helped him. He frequently said he was not afraid of death because he knew where he was going, and that he felt closest to the Lord when he was outdoors in nature. Tom said, "The path I have walked in life has been affected by signs and sights, seen and unseen." Tom was preceded in death by his son, Chase Christopher Swonke; parents; and father-in-law, Harry Namken. Tom is survived by his wife, Donna Gale Swonke of Houston; son, Shaun Swonke and wife Megan of New Waverly; granddaughters, Addison Chase and Hadley Jo Swonke; sister, Cathy Moore and husband Elwood of Lyons; mother-in-law, Janet Namken of Giddings; and sister-in-law Kathie Nitsche and husband Gary of LaGrange. He is also survived by nieces and nephews; Anna Starnes and husband Robert, Amy Moore, Kevin Moore, Kimberly Burdine and husband Zach, and Kaci Paden and husband David; and other dear cousins, relatives, and friends. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorials be made to Chair Bound Hunters (601 15th St., Wheatland, WY 82201), Messiah Lutheran Church, or the charity of your choice. A celebration of the life of Thomas Lloyd Swonke was planned for March 14th at 2pm at Messiah Lutheran Church, 11522 Telge Road, Cypress, TX 77429.

April, 2020

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Jimmie Laffere Michelle Blackmon M/M Garnett Gerdes	2 Gene Rek	3	4
5 Communion Sunday School meeting	6 Daven Metzroth Walter Nitsche M/M Jeff Jones	7	8	9 Carol Becka	10	11
12 EASTER Worship 7 & 10 Breakfast 8 Egg Hunt 9:15 Communion	13	14 Colton Beran	15 Viola Bartek	16	17	18 M/M Bobby Schumacher
19 Newsletter items due	20	21 Council Meeting 6:30 PM	22 Pam Kubiak	23 Vickie Beran	24 Dennis Hejtmancik	25 Dwayne Beran
26	27	28 Wyatt Zboril	29 M/M Terry Moon	30 M/M Douglas Brinkman		