

**St. John's Lutheran Church, Ruma**  
**Lutheran Church Missouri Synod**  
8446 1<sup>st</sup> Road Evansville, IL 62242  
[stjohnlutheranruma@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnlutheranruma@gmail.com)

**Rev. Randy Fischer, Pastor**

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**4th Sunday in Lent**

**8:30 a.m.**

**March 19, 2023**

**Matins, LSB p.219**

**Opening Hymn: 396 Arise and Shine in Splendor**

*Stand*

**Lent Versicles**

*LSB 219*

***Psalmody***

**Antiphon (Common)**

*LSB 220*

**Venite**

*LSB 220*

**Antiphon (Common)**

*LSB 221*

*Sit*

## *Readings*

*Isaiah 42:14–21*

### **Reading**

**L** A reading from Isaiah, chapter 42.

<sup>14</sup>For a long time I have held my peace;  
I have kept still and restrained myself;  
now I will cry out like a woman in labor;  
I will gasp and pant.

<sup>15</sup>I will lay waste mountains and hills,  
and dry up all their vegetation;  
I will turn the rivers into islands,  
and dry up the pools.

<sup>16</sup>And I will lead the blind  
in a way that they do not know,  
in paths that they have not known  
I will guide them.

I will turn the darkness before them into light,  
the rough places into level ground.  
These are the things I do,  
and I do not forsake them.

<sup>17</sup>They are turned back and utterly put to shame,  
who trust in carved idols,  
who say to metal images,  
“You are our gods.”

<sup>18</sup>Hear, you deaf,  
and look, you blind, that you may see!

<sup>19</sup>Who is blind but my servant,  
or deaf as my messenger whom I send?  
Who is blind as my dedicated one,  
or blind as the servant of the LORD?

<sup>20</sup>He sees many things, but does not observe them;  
his ears are open, but he does not hear.

<sup>21</sup>The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake,  
to magnify his law and make it glorious.

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**Reading**

*Ephesians 5:8–14*

**L** A reading from Ephesians, chapter 5.

<sup>8</sup>For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup>and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,  
and arise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**Reading**

*John 9*

**L** A reading from John, chapter 9.

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup>Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud <sup>7</sup>and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

<sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup>Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept

saying, "I am the man." <sup>10</sup>So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup>He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight." <sup>12</sup>They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

<sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. <sup>21</sup>But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup>(His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.)

<sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

<sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup>He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup>They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup>He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" <sup>28</sup>And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup>The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if

anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” <sup>34</sup>They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” <sup>36</sup>He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” <sup>38</sup>He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.”

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Responsory (Lent)**

*LSB 222*

*Sit*

**Sermon Hymn: 849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness**

**Sermon: Worth Being "Put Out of the Synagogue?"**

*John 9: 1-41*

## *Canticle*

*Stand*

**Te Deum**

*LSB 223*

## *Prayer*

**Kyrie**

*LSB 227*

**Lord's Prayer**

## Collects

### Collect of the Day

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Additional Collects of Intercession and Thanksgiving

### Collect for Grace

### Benedicamus and Benediction

LSB 228

*Sit*

### Hymn to Depart: 744 Amazing Grace

### Acknowledgments

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Please place your offerings in the plate at the back of church.

## **THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR...**

- ★ Dawn Ruez, Dorothy Zipfel, Jim Carroll, Becky Carroll, Sarah Kueker, Susan Sochowski, Paul Liefer, Pastor Jansen, Robert Veath, Jace Duncan, Mary Braun, Dorothy Krause
- ★ Jace Duncan (husband of Cassie (Liefer) Duncan), Ryan Nehrt, Ben Boeder (son of Pastor Royal Boeder), and all others who are members of the Military, Police, and Firefighters
- ★ If you'd like to send a card to **Mark and Susan Sochowski** and family, the address is 104 Boulder Drive, Red Bud, IL
- ★ If you'd like to send a card to **Pastor and Becky Jansen**, the address is 9422 Parklind Drive, St. Louis, MO 63126.
- ★ If you'd like to send a card to **Dorothy Krause**, her address is Room 102, Red Bud Regional Care, 350 West South 1st Street, Red Bud, IL 62278

## **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO OUR CHURCH**

**Organist** Diann Scherle

### **Sunday School Teachers**

Amanda Roedl, Sunday School director and 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade;  
Kaley Roedl, pre-school through 4<sup>th</sup> grade; Joy Meyer, handbells.

### **Officers**

Dennis Phegley, chairman; Deb McCutcheon, secretary; Diann Scherle, treasurer; Jill Phegley, assistant treasurer; Brian Liefer, Jonathan Mehring, and Tim Schrader, elders; Matt Roedl, Jeff Schlueter, and Lloyd Schoenbeck, trustees.

**175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee** Nancy Kruse, Marlene Ling, Jill Phegley, Amanda Roedl, and Diann Scherle

**Stewardship Committee** (responsible for the Bible presentation series) Rachel Mehring and Jill Phegley from St. John’s; Troy Birch and Nathan Koester from St. Peter’s.

## **TO SHARE INFORMATION**

**Church Council:** Dennis Phegley, chairman (282-2985); Brian Liefer, elder (618-570-4958); Jonathan Mehring, elder (618-363-00606); Timothy Schrader, elder (618-363-1579).

**Church Bulletin:** By Wednesday afternoon, send email to [stjohnlutheranruma@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnlutheranruma@gmail.com) (preferred), text Deb (618-980-7033), or give her a written note at church.

**Church Facebook Page:** Directly message *StJohnEvLutheranChurchRumaILL*, send an email to the church email address (above), or text Deb (above) and ask to have your information posted.

## **TO CONTACT PASTOR FISCHER**

Call him at 618.670.7736 or email him at [rjfischer92@yahoo.com](mailto:rjfischer92@yahoo.com). Pastor is, in most cases, in the Ruma area at least one day a week besides Sunday and is happy to make an appointment to speak with you in person.

## **FOR MORE ONLINE INFORMATION**

**Church Facebook Page:** *StJohnEvLutheranRumaILL* for Sunday School activities and church news updates.

**Church Website:** Check the website for the week’s bulletin and sermon, a calendar of church activities, information on the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project, and links to all things LCMS. Look for us at [www.stjohnlutheranruma.com](http://www.stjohnlutheranruma.com).



## **PLEASE CONSIDER SERVING OUR CHURCH FAMILY...**

**By donating toward our 2023 Lutheran Heritage Foundation Mission Project...** The new LHF mission project will focus on Central and South America. Every \$5.00 we collect provides a Child's Garden of Bible Stories in Spanish. **Write Central/South America in the memo line of your check or on an envelope with cash.** We will send collected money to LHF at the end of each quarter in 2023. *Check out Diann's bulletin board display just outside the Fellowship Hall for more information.*

**By working with the Sochowski family** as Susan recovers from a stroke. At our request, Mark has provided a list of concrete ways we can help. A copy of the list is available on the pew in back of church.

**By leaving non-perishable food items** in the back of church. The Ladies Aid/LWML members are collecting for area food pantries.

**By donating shampoo, dish soap, paper towels, diapers, or other baby items** for new Americans. Our Ladies Aid/LWML members will take the donated items to the LWML Spring Zone Renewal gathering on Thursday, April 27. Look for the box in the back of church.

## **THIS YEAR'S LENTEN SERIES: "The Lord Is My Shepherd"**

Perhaps there is no more beloved picture in Scripture than that of the Good Shepherd. In times when we feel alone, afraid, or sad, it is a great comfort to know that our Good Shepherd is near. His staff is in His hand, ever keeping us from straying, and ever protecting us from danger!

The Biblical shepherd spent his time in the worst elements of weather. The life of the shepherd was solitary. The life of the shepherd was also on the line! If a wolf came to make prey of the sheep, the shepherd would place himself between the flock and the possibility of death!

*"What punishment so strange is suffered yonder! The Shepherd dies for sheep that love to wander; The master pays the debt His servants owe Him, who would not know Him." [LSB 439 vs. 4]*

Come to our Lenten Midweek services this year and learn of the Shepherd who sacrificed Himself for His wayward sheep. Learn of His tender care for us here and in eternity!

### **St John's Ruma – 6:30 p.m.**

February 22 - Ash Wednesday with Communion and Imposition of Ashes – "The Lord is My Shepherd"

March 1 – "He Maketh Me to Lie Down"

March 8 – "He Leadeth Me in the Paths of Righteousness"

### **St. Peter's Evansville – 6:30 p.m.**

March 15 – "I Will Fear No Evil"

March 22 – "Thou Preparest a Table Before Me"

March 29 – "I Will Dwell in the House of the Lord Forever!"

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**TODAY:** Sunday School students will meet via Zoom.

**Wednesday, March 22:** Midweek Lenten services have moved to St. Peter's, Evansville, at 6:30 p.m. See p.10 for information on this year's Lenten theme and for the complete schedule.

**Friday and Saturday, March 24-25:** COSLHS drama students will perform in *Order Up* at 7:00 each evening. Adults, \$10; students, \$5; under 5, \$0. For more information on this and all COS activities, see the bulletin board or go to [www.coslhs.org](http://www.coslhs.org).

**Monday, March 27:** COS is hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Use your Red Cross App or go online to set up your appointment.

**Friday, March 31:** Last day to direct your 2022 Thrivent Choice Dollars to your choice of over 45,000 organizations. Go to your Thrivent account online or call your representative. If you direct dollars to St. John's, let Jill know the dollar amount and in which fund to put the money.

**Friday, March 31:** Fish Fry at St. Peter United Church of Christ, Red Bud, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Dine in or pick up curbside. For more information see the flyer on the bulletin board.

**Now through April 2:** Jill will be collecting memorial information and donations and for Easter lilies.

**Wednesday, April 12:** If you'd like to learn to quilt, several of our most experienced quilters will be working on a new quilt from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and would love to teach you the craft. If you have a thimble, bring one. You can stay for as long or as short a time as you like. If you plan to spend the day, bring your lunch. Quilters meet weekly until a quilt is finished. Please contact Dorothy Ruez or Pearl May if you are interested.

## Countdown to November 4, 2023

**175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project:** Pastor and Becky Jansen worked with Jill Phegley to gather and organize historical information for *The 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project*, a **history/memory book** telling the story of our first 175 years as a congregation. Jill is now working with Diann Scherle to edit, proof, and prepare information for the book before our anniversary on Nov. 4.

Stop by the **mini-museum** room just inside the front entrance to church to check out congregational memorabilia and artifacts.

Each week we highlight, in chronological order, a **tidbit from the minutes of one voters' meeting** from one or more years of our congregation's history, 1848-2023. You can find all of the tidbits in Tidbit Archives at [www.stjohnlutheranruma.com](http://www.stjohnlutheranruma.com).

**This week's tidbits come from 1946 and 1947:** A Men's Club was approved by the voter's and on April 26, 1946, Pastor Friedrichsmeyer opened the initial meeting with a scripture reading and prayer. Besides the pastor, six men were present: Edwin Althoff, Edwin Kruse, Elmer Dannenbrink, William Wegener, Herbert Wegener, and Henry Schrader, Sr. In 1947, digging a basement under the parsonage took most of the year with the dedication on August 31. The congregation decided to buy a furnace for the parsonage, and in October a furnace without a blower was purchased from Mr. Vogt of Red Bud for \$365.

Members of the Anniversary Committee are also working on **special activities for each month** throughout the year.

\* The 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary **banners in church** are a monthly series of banners being designed and made by Amanda Roedl and her daughter, Kaley.  
**March's banner:** 175 Years of Baptisms

\***In March**, we are celebrating our congregation's baptisms. All current members who were baptized in our church are listed on the next page. All who were baptized here but who transferred their membership are added to the list on a handout available in the back of church. The 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee hosted a coffee and sweet treats reception after the March 5 service. NOTE: Our list of those baptized here is complete *to the best of our knowledge*. Please let us know if anyone was missed.

