

MESSENGER

From the Pastors Desk

So Many Choices



Choices.

Life is full of them. It's like life is one big multiple-choice exam, where "D" All of the above" isn't always a good choice. For example, see if you've had to make any of these choices lately:

Read a book or watch TV?
Regular or large?
Paper or Plastic?
Shorts or jeans?
Study or talk on the phone?
Go to church or sleep in?
Shall I see the doctor or ignore the pain?

OK, enough choices! The point is that life is a series of choices, one fork in the road after another. Choices you make each day are important and they can change your life.

Our Lenten series called "At the Crossroads" will take characters in the passion story to a choice point. Characters in and around Holy Week will come to a fork in the road. They had been following Jesus. Some very close to him others only by reputation. Which way will they decide to go? What waits down the path for each of those choices? Which way does their heart call them to go? We will hear their stories. They will seem very similar to our own choices. What seemed to be an insignificant choice may turn out to be a huge mistake or a defining moment in their lives. Many of us have had the experience

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Midweek Lent Services
Wednesdays March 8 thru
April 5
10:00am & 6:00pm

Friendship Sunday
"Jesus-our Forever Friend"
April 2
9:00am
Followed by Continental

Holy Week Services
Palm Sunday Maundy Thursday
April 9 9:00am April 13 6:00pm

Good Friday Tre Ore
Historic Trinity Lutheran Church
April 14 12:00pm-3:00pm

Good Friday **Easter Sunday**
April 14 6:00pm April 16 9:00am

that small choices brought about devastating consequences. It's like the saying: Sin will always take you farther than you want to go, make you stay longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay.

Think of how many people's lives have been changed by what at the time appeared to be a small choice to

Have one more beer.
Dive into shallow water.
Try heroine just once.
Get into the backseat.
Shoplift.
Go for a short joyride.

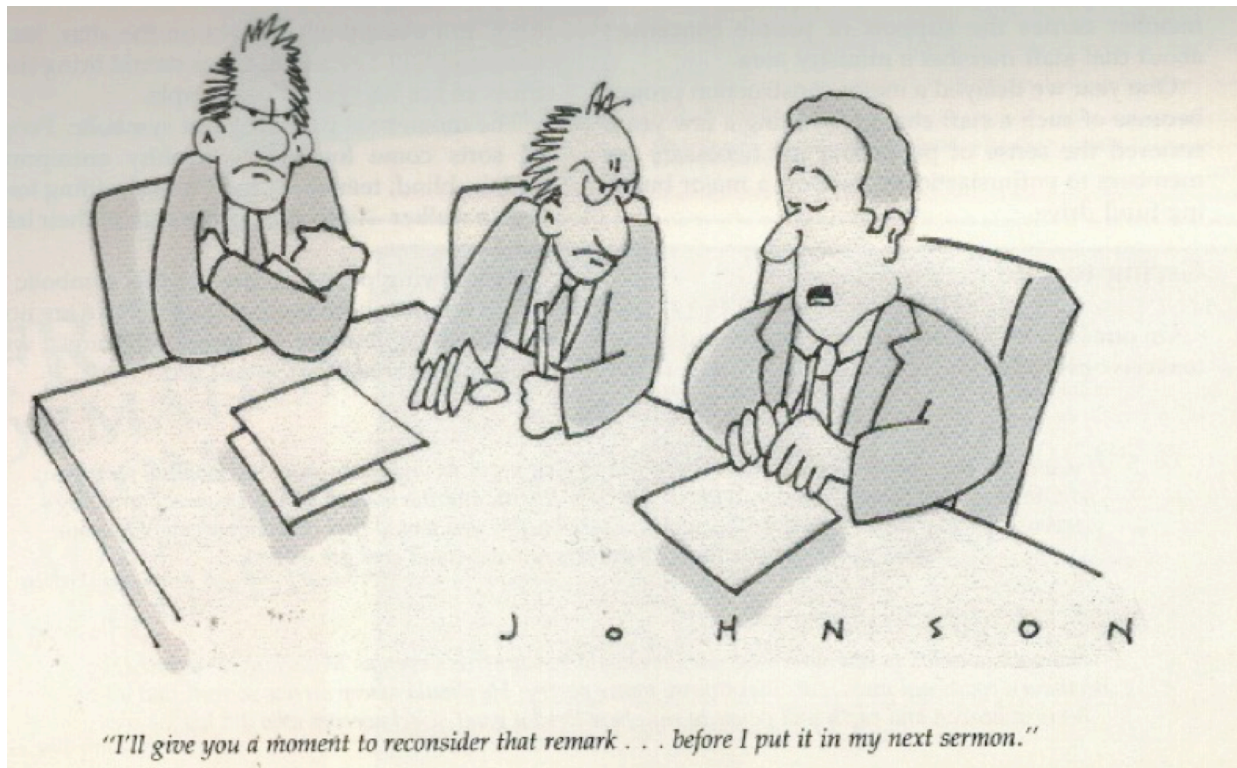
In all of this we must conclude that God had to make a choice whether to destroy us or save us from ourselves. His choice it seemed was small at first, a baby in a manger, a visit to the temple as a young boy, a baptism in a river, resisting temptation, going to

Jerusalem, dying on a cross, a resurrection an ascension etc.

Coming to earth, delivering us from sin had huge consequences. Both for God and for us. Our wayward decisions separated us from God, but in Jesus, God would bring us back in repentance and set us on a way that would follow him to the cross and finally to an empty tomb.

The road less travelled is not easy street
But it leads to a place where faith and glory meet
It carries the sinner to the mercy seat
I wanna feel the road less travelled beneath my feet.

*"The Road less Travelled" Words and music by
Lowell Alexander and Michael Gleason*





Lent is a season of repentant joy. There is joy in repentance because in repentance, God, through His Word, turns us away from our sins — our failures of thought, word, and deed — to believe in the forgiveness and new life He has accomplished for us in the death and resurrection of His Son. For our God is our Father, and fathers discipline their children. He loves us enough to point out when and where we have erred, so that we are not weighed down by false belief, despair, and other great shame or vice.

Thus we do well to listen to God's Word, His own teaching, about giving. St. Paul exhorts: "Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor" (Gal 6:6). This means that the local congregation is primary. In other words, everything else that we might give to during the year — laudable and worthy charities — are to be on top of what we give to our local congregation. For the local congregation is the place that serves us with the gifts of Christ's death and resurrection. The local congregation is where our spiritual needs are met when Christ's atonement is preached, when the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed, when we were baptized into the name of the Triune God, and when we partake of the body and blood of the risen and living Lamb of God.

But how much are we to give to this local congregation? His instructions are these: to give regularly (1 Cor 6:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor 16:1–2; 2 Cor 8:12), and generously (2 Cor 8:20) of our first fruits (Gen 4:4; Prov 3:9; Lev 27:30) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor 9:7), and love (2 Cor 8:23).

Thus, giving to the church is not to be an afterthought, given after everything else is spent. In this way, it is deliberate. We give it regularly, whenever we have income. We set it aside beforehand, before anything else is spent. From those first fruits, we set aside a

Stewardship

proportionate and generous amount. Ten percent was the standard for the Israelites. Tithing was a command for them. St. Paul never mentions a tithe. Since a tithe was the bare minimum for the people of Israel in the Old Testament, perhaps St. Paul had more in mind. That aside, however, ten percent is an easy way to figure out an amount. You simply move your weekly, bi-weekly, bi-monthly, monthly, or yearly income one decimal point to the left. And that's it. That's what you put in the offering plate to support your local congregation so that you may continue to be a hearer of God's word by sharing all good things with those who teach it to you.

And how are we to give it? We give it with eagerness and earnestness. We give it cheerfully and with love, not out of compulsion. For through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, God has made us His children, forgiven us all our sins, given us grace upon grace, promised us life everlasting with Him in His kingdom, and filled us with His own Spirit, the Holy Spirit. This makes giving a joy. For it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35).

In repentant joy, then, do we hear God's Word on giving, and we let that Word dwell in us richly. We let that word wash over our ears and seep into our hearts, to turn us away from our own selfish desires and turned toward Him in faith and love. We love the Lord and His Word. And we desire to do it. And when we have failed, that Word reproves and corrects, forgives and consoles. It calls us back to Him who is our God, our Savior, our Father.

Please Help Us Fill The Boiler With Money!

The boiler that provides heat to the church and school is in need of replacement. St Johns needs to raise \$30,000 for our half of the purchase of the boiler. Open Sky Education will be paying the other half. Please consider supporting by using your pink offering envelopes marking it restoration fund or boiler.

Funds needs to be raised by July 1, 2017

Evangelism



Spring Time

Because of a very warm February, spring may come early this year. Flower bulbs are coming up, roses are getting their leaves, and some trees are coming alive. Spring may not come till the Twenty of March, but then God does not do things to our calendar.

March 1st is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of six weeks of hearing and studying the passion of Christ and his death on the cross. On Easter morning we celebrate Christ resurrection.

Don't forget

Friendship Sunday

"Jesus-our forever friend"

April 2

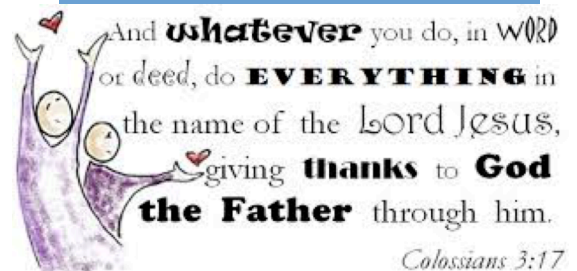
9:00am

Bring a Friend!

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Many people have lived in various places, from the Midwest to the East Coast, which were probably nice places to reside. It's not hard to see, however, millions of people don't live in good places: neighborhoods with poverty and violent crimes, cities torn by war, and refugees who have no place at all. But God has given each of us places and unique opportunities to help those who are less fortunate. Tutoring? House Repairs? Volunteering at a food bank? Big or small, the ways to share the Love of Jesus are available right now. Thanks to God who has blessed us with many willing workers at our food pantry.

We are very grateful for all the support our church members have given us. The number of clients we serve has decreased, so we may expand our area we serve in the near future.





3/2 Lydia Hampel
 3/2 Don Osiek
 3/5 Quentin Bohannon
 3/6 Louis Meyer
 3/10 Brian Gentz
 3/13 Carol Cool
 3/14 Gale O'Leary

2017 Meetings

Voters

March 19
 May 21
 October 15
 December 3

Executive Council

April 2
 September 17
 November 19

March 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:30am Preschool Chapel 10:00am Ash Wednesday Service 3:30pm Compass 5:30pm Pizza 6:00pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm ESOL	2 2:00pm Home Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	3 8:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Compass	4 8:00am Social Ministry 8:30am Food Pantry 9:00am Confirmation 10:00am Confirmation
5 9:00am Worship 10:30am Bible Class	6 9-1pm Eagle OT in Fellowship Hall 6:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Elders	7 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study 3:30pm Compass	8 9:30am Preschool Chapel 10:00am Lent Service in Fellowship Hall 11:30am Avalon Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 6:00pm Lenten Service 7:00pm ESOL 7:00pm Choir	9 2:00pm Home Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	10 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am-5:00pm Servant Event with students from Truman State University 1:00pm Compass	11 8:30am Food Pantry 9:00am Confirmation 10:00am Confirmation
12 9:00am Worship w/ Communion 10:30am Bible Class	13 9-1pm Eagle OT in Fellowship Hall 6:00pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm WOW	14 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study 3:30pm Compass	15 9:30am Preschool Chapel 10:00am Lent Service in Fellowship Hall 3:30pm Compass 6:00pm Lenten Service 7:00pm ESOL 7:00pm Choir	16 2:00pm Home Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	17 8:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Compass	18 8:30am Food Pantry 1-4pm Binning Party Fellowship Hall 9:00am Confirmation 10:00am Confirmation
19 9:00am Worship 10:30am Bible Class 11:30am Voters	20 Eagle Spring Break 6:30pm Evangelism	21 Eagle Spring Break 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study	22 Eagle Spring Break 9:30am Preschool Chapel 10:00am Lent Service in Fellowship Hall 6:00pm Lenten Service w/ Nepalese Church 7:00pm ESOL 7:00pm Choir	23 Eagle Spring Break 2:00pm Home Bible Study 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	24 Eagle Spring Break 8:00am Bible Study	25 8:30am Food Pantry 9:00am Confirmation 10:00am Confirmation
26 9:00am Worship w/ Communion 10:30am Bible Class	27 9-1pm Eagle OT in Fellowship Hall 6:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Ushers	28 2:00pm Nepalese Bible Study 3:30pm Compass	29 9:30am Preschool Chapel 10:00am Lent Service in Fellowship Hall 6:00pm Lenten Service 7:00pm ESOL 7:00pm Choir	30 2:00pm Home Bible Study 3:30pm Compass 6:30pm Young Adult Bible Study	31 8:00am Bible Study 1:00pm Compass	

Ushers BBQ

Saturday, April 8
11:00am-4:00pm

Menu will include:

1 Piece Hot Dog Sandwich	\$3.00
1 Piece Bratwurst Sandwich	\$3.50
2 Piece Bratwurst Dinner	\$7.00
½ Pork Steak Sandwich	\$5.50
Pork Steak Dinner	\$8.50
¼ Chicken Sandwich	\$5.50
½ Chicken Dinner	\$8.50
½ Rack of Ribs Dinner	\$10.00
Rack of Ribs Dinner	\$19.00

Dinners Include: Dessert, Bread and a choice of two sides
(Potato Salad, Slaw or Beans)

Any questions or advance orders call Craig 314.302.4771 or to
order the day of BBQ call 314.773.0126



***Delivery Available
for 4 or more orders.***

***Email orders to
stjohnslcstl@gmail.com
by March 31***

Saved to Share Called to Care

Messenger

St. Johns Lutheran Church
3738 Morgan Ford Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63116