



# Handclasp

Monthly Newsletter | First Lutheran Church | April 2018  
302 S. 10th St. | St. Joseph, MO 64501 | 816-232-8378 |  
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## **St. John's Illuminated Bible at Living Community**

The St. John's Illuminated Bible will be on display at Living Community of St. Joseph, 1202 Heartland Road, St. Joseph, MO from March 23 to April 11, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Pages will be turned daily so something new can be viewed each day. *Pastor Lenander will be doing a presentation on one of the pages on Thursday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.*

The Saint John's Bible was commissioned by St. John's Abbey and University and was created by Donald Jackson, Senior Scribe to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Crown Office, along with a collaborative team of scribes and artists. It was created using traditional materials such as vellum (calfskin), ancient inks, gold and silver leaf and platinum, and was written with quill pens fashioned from goose, turkey and swan feathers.

This is the first illuminated, handwritten Bible of monumental size to be commissioned by a Benedictine monastery in more than 500 years. All 73 books from the Old and New Testaments using the new Revised Standard Version are presented in seven volumes of approximately 1,150 pages.

The Saint John's Bible Heritage Edition is a timeless gift of sacred art. Its breathtaking beauty offers hope today and will inspire future generations for centuries to come. While the original manuscript resides at Saint John's University, this fine art version has been created to be a source of hope to people around the world.

## Explore the Journey of Jesus to the Cross

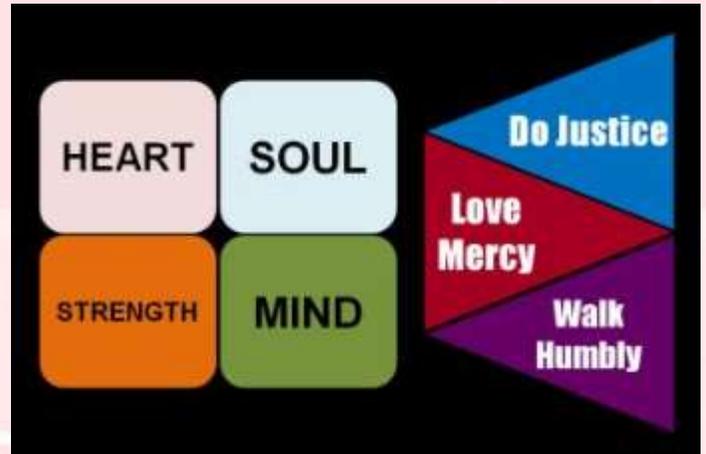
Explore the journey of Jesus to the cross through a study of Mark 9-16 on the online Bible Study from 7:30 – 8:00 pm on Tuesdays. Go to [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) and enter meeting ID: 245-775-114. You can join by computer, cellphone, or telephone at any time. For information contact Pastor Lenander.



Langdon, Kristy	4/1	Gilmore, Emily	4/19
Gingery, Nancy	4/3	Young, Deann	4/19
Chirila, Charlotte	4/6	Masteller, Dorothy	4/22
Holmes, Edward	4/7	Osborn, Donna	4/23
Bigham, Jacqueline	4/15	Hunter, Garrett	4/26
Erickson, Dexter	4/15	Erickson, Brandin	4/27
Rasmussen, Deanna	4/16	Knorr, Sydney	4/29
Wearing, Emily	4/16	Albers, Scott	4/30

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind.

Do Justice, Love Kindness,  
Walk Humbly with God.



Just as we did for Lent, we will have Easter daily devotions available online, through email, and on paper on the back table of the sanctuary. The devotions will run from April 1st through May 13th.

### 2018: Easter Sermon Series: “Empty”

When we come to the empty tomb of Jesus we discover that it becomes assign of God’s active work in the redemption of the world. Empty tombs are not a sign of God’s failure. Empty tombs are a sign of God’s ultimate victory in and through Jesus crucified and risen.

Romans 6:1-5 tells believers and while sin leads to death, our attachment in faith to Christ will lead us to resurrection to eternal life. God changes our own emptiness from despair to eternal hope.

April 1	Emptied for Resurrection – Mark 16:1-8
April 8	Emptied for Faith – John 20:19-31
April 15	Emptied for Forgiveness – Acts 3:12-19
April 22	Emptied for Power - Acts 4:5-12
April 29	Emptied for Service – Acts 8:26-40
May 6	Emptied for Welcoming – Acts 1:-44-48
May 13	Emptied for Witness – Acts 1:15-26

### Treasurer’s Report February 2018

*Cyndee Simpson, Treasurer*

February Income	\$16, 697.80
February Expenses	\$18, 434.33
Year to Date Income	\$33, 409.08
Year to Date Expenses	\$35, 172.69

# Roundtable

## Dwelling in the Word

Phoebe Circle - Tuesday, Apr. 10th, 7 pm

Confirmation - Mondays at 4:00pm

Thursday Morning Bible Study - Thursdays at 10 am  
at church

## Fellowship

Early Morning Breakfast - Tuesday, Apr. 17th,  
6:30 am, at Le Peep

Wednesday With Friends - Wednesday, Apr. 11th,  
12:00 pm @ Cracker Barrel

Wednesday Café - Wednesdays at 6:00 pm

## Service

Quilting Ladies - Tuesdays, Apr. 3rd & Apr. 17th,  
12:30 pm Fellowship Hall

Chancel Choir - Wednesdays at 7 pm

Community Dinner - Sunday, Apr. 22nd, 4:00 pm

## Leadership

Altar Guild - Thursday, Apr. 12th 10:00 am

Congregational Council - Thursday, Apr. 12th 6:30 pm

## Places to Help

**There are many open** slots for snacks for coffee hour. The sign-up sheet is located in the kitchen. You don't have to be a baker – store bought work just as well as homemade! We could also use creamers, napkins, teas and hot chocolate.

Give your hands  
to **serve**  
and your hearts  
to **love.**  
Mother Teresa

## Keeping the Church Clean

A group has formed to facilitate, Cleaning Up and Out our beautiful church.

Feel free to join us on the committee and/or with the actual projects.

We would like to have at least 2 all church cleaning days per year, probably in **April** and **October**. Dates would be determined closer to the time. The first time will be Saturday April 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30.

A list of projects will be kept and worked on as people and time permit.

We would also like to ask that (Groups) using different rooms or areas of the church, agree to keep the rooms picked up and cleaned or pay (estimated \$50 dollars) to have this done at least twice a year.

If you have any questions or would like to join our group, please contact:

Randy or Marcia Johnson

Dave or Ann Newman

## Immigration Awareness Forum on April 17<sup>th</sup>

The third and final Immigration Awareness Forum will be held on Monday, April 16, at St. Francis Xavier Parish Center on 2613 Penn St. The topic will be Local Business and Law Enforcement. Panelists include St. Joseph Police Chief Chris Connally and KC Immigration Attorney Zumia Lugo-Knapp.

The Prayerful Gathering Worship will be on Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe, 4503 Fredrick Blvd. Founder KC For Refugees, Dr. Sofia Khan, MD, will be the keynote speaker.

These events are organized by the St. Joseph Interfaith Alliance for Immigration.



# Creating a New Way of Living

On February 11, members of First Lutheran gathered to revisit conversations first engaged in a year ago. In those first conversations we invited leaders of various service organizations and one another to reflect on three basic questions:

- How do you experience the Grace of God through First Lutheran ministries?
- How do you hear visitors experience God's grace through First Lutheran's ministries?
- How do people in the community perceive First Lutheran?

On February 11 we added in one additional question:

- What, if anything, has changed in those first answers over this past year?

What did we discover? Consistency in our journey as a "vibrant and nurturing faith community inviting others to experience the Grace of God."

Worship, in all of its dimensions, continues to be key for renewing us and sharing God's grace with others. Various groups, both formal and informal, that members are involved in continue to strengthen relationships and nourish faith. We continue to be outward focused, serving our community in many ways. These include volunteering at the Open Door Food Kitchen, Wednesday Cafe and fourth Sunday community dinners, the welcome and helping hand we extend to the homeless and those on the margins, the prayer support provided by many who are not directly involved in those ministries. Many in our congregation volunteer on their own in other ways in our community and serve on the boards of various community agencies.

What did we discover? That for all of this, many of our members still don't have a clear idea of what those things are that our members are involved in. Many still don't know where and how they can be involved if we want to be. Where are the places my help is needed? What places already have enough help?

The Congregational Council is considering how to respond to this conversation. One idea suggested on February 11, that is just waiting for someone with a passion for organizing, is dedicating some "after worship" time some Sunday mornings to the different ministry clusters sharing what it is they do, and how others can be involved. Another idea was a "fruit basket upset" one Sunday where after we all get seated where we usually sit, we get up, move somewhere else, and talk with folks we don't usually talk with about what we are doing, what they are doing as they live out their lives of faith and service.

The Council invites your feedback on these ideas, and any other ideas you might have to help us share the word with one another about what God is doing here and how we can be involved.

So, think, pray, and speak with one of your Council members. If you don't know who they are, here's the list: Brenda Bass, Carol Bunge, Jim Farrell, Laurel Goforth, Sylvester Heeler, Phil Hornbostel, Kris Langdon, Dave Newman, Jim Perry, Jim Pierce, Deb-

## First Lutheran Church Council

### Executive Committee

<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Roger Lenander
<b>President</b>	Jim Farrell
<b>Vice President</b>	Jim Pierce
<b>Secretary</b>	Debbie Taylor
<b>Treasurer</b>	Cindy Simpson
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Joy Winters

### Council Members

Carol Bunge	David Newman
Laurel Goforth	Jim Perry
Sylvester Heeler	Phil Hornbostel
Kris Langdon	Brenda Bass

### Support Staff

<b>Office Administrator</b>	Misty Coyle	<b>Custodian</b>	Debbie & Larry Stafford
<b>Associate Director of Music</b>	Sharon Gray	<b>Director of Music</b>	Sharmyn Thompson
<b>Nursery</b>	Carol Bunge	<b>Sudanese Worship Director</b>	Phillip Alier Deng
<b>Central State Synod</b>	Bishop Roger Gustafson		