

# RLC Genesis

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## March Newsletter



### Lenten Soup Suppers & Midweek Worship Schedule

Please mark your calendars and join us for midweek Lenten soup suppers and worship!  
Midweek Lenten Services (soup suppers from 5:30-6:30pm, worship at 6:30pm)

- March 1
- March 8
- March 15
- March 22
- March 29



Maundy Thursday Service April 6 worship at 6:30pm (no soup supper)  
Good Friday Service April 7 worship at 6:30pm (no soup supper)

If you are willing to provide soup for one of the Wednesday evening soup suppers, you can sign up in person or online!

## Just a Note...

One of my favorite Lenten hymns is an African American spiritual song called “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”. In just three verses, the song has a way of capturing our need for Jesus to walk with us through the entirety of our lives...the mountaintop experiences, the valleys, and everything in between.

- The first verse stays relatively general, with these concluding words: “All along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.”
- The second verse dives into the trials and difficulties we face in life: “When my heart is almost breaking, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.”
- And finally, that third verse talks about our troubled hearts: “When my head is bowed in sorrow, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.”

There is no greater joy than having someone celebrating beside you during those moments of greatest joy and triumph, just as there is no greater comfort than to have someone walking beside you during those times of greatest need.

Lent provides us with a solemn time to pause and reflect on our relationship with the one who is that traveling companion for each of us...the one who faced temptations, persecution, trials, and rejection for the sake of our world. Jesus knows how to navigate the troublesome roads because he navigated more than a few of those in his own day. He knows the ropes, and we can trust that our steps will never falter with him as our guide.

Throughout the Lenten season, people sometimes “give up” certain practices or habits, like eating chocolate or screen time, as a way to remember the 40 days Jesus was in the wilderness facing temptations. If you’re like me, you don’t always make it very far in this effort, and it becomes almost like a New Year’s resolution that is destined to go wrong. But what if instead of (or in addition to) giving something up, we were to add something to our lives this season...specifically a new faith practice. While that also takes some discipline, it can have amazing and lasting results that can have a great influence on our walk with God. Here are just a few suggestions to get you brainstorming:

- Try starting and ending the day with prayer if you don’t already do so, or be more intentionally focused on prayer at a certain time of the day.
- Read through a certain chapter or two of the Bible and really dive in, intentionally praying to find what meaning God is placing in your life at this time and in this place.
- Try a daily meditation walk...a walk through your neighborhood or nature in which you focus on tuning out the rush of the world and connecting with God in prayer.
- Keep a prayer journal in which you write down the names of people or places you will pray for each day.
- Start a “blessings” journal in which you write down all the ways you feel blessed at the start of each morning.
- Find a new way to volunteer or help out in the church or community.
- Send an inspirational or uplifting text message or note to someone each day.

Lent is a great time to turn from the routine and busyness of life and reconnect with God. And as we do so, we will begin to realize that we are coming more and more in step with our Creator. Each and every day, may we find new ways of acknowledging the words to that wonderful refrain, “I want Jesus to walk with me.”

God’s Blessings,  
Pastor Sarah

## “Souper Bowl of Caring” Update

Thank you to all who contributed soup cans, other food items, and monetary donations for “Souper Bowl of Caring” on Super Bowl Sunday! With your help, the confirmation students will be delivering a lot of soup and \$65 to the St. Joseph Food Shelf to help feed those in need. Way to go, Team!



## New Member Sunday

Interested in becoming a member of RLC? “New Member Sunday” is being planned for March 19, and we would love to welcome you to this church family! Please see Pastor Sarah after worship, or send an email to [pastorsarah@rlcstjoe.com](mailto:pastorsarah@rlcstjoe.com).



## From Worship and Music Coordinator

March is filled with our Lenten journey, a time of reflection and pondering, even as the world moves on at its rapid pace. I would again refer you to our ELW hymnal indexes for assistance. It is not time-consuming and offers nourishment for the soul. Beginning on page 1121, you will find a daily lectionary, texts for each day through the year. There are three choices for different series and for the three-year cycle. We are currently in Year A. I would also refer you to the Topical Index of Hymns, page 1178. Here you will find hymn choices, which make wonderful prayers or meditations, for different seasons or needs. Next to Scripture, hymns may be one of the best sources of God’s Word.

God bless you as you worship!  
Carol





## Table Talk – March 19

One Sunday a month during the remainder of the school year, we will begin holding Table Talk time for adults. This is a time to meet and discuss various topics of interest pertaining to our lives of faith.

Our first Table Talk will be held on March 19 and will be an informal discussion on the topic of grief (a topic our congregation is all too familiar with these days). The discussion will take place in the Fireside Room during our time of fellowship, from 10:15 – 10:45am. Grab a cup of coffee and join us.

## Zoom Bible Study!

Join us for morning Bible study via Zoom on Thursdays at 9am! Together we look at and discuss the lectionary texts for the upcoming Sunday. It's a great group with good conversation, and there's no participation pressure. Tune in and share, or just tune in and listen. We'd love to have you join! To receive a copy of the Zoom link, please reach out to the church office.



## Church Camp 2023!

Check out the Welcome Table for information on Green Lake Bible Camp near Spicer or look online for information on Luther Crest Bible Camp near Alexandria. Scholarships are available to help cover the cost of Summer Bible Camp for kids in kindergarten through grade 12. Please email [rlc@rlcstjoe.com](mailto:rlc@rlcstjoe.com) with your child's name, age and what camp they plan to attend for more information.

## Treasurer Position

A HUGE thank you to Rich Haselhorst for serving as our Treasurer the past few years. Rich has a ton of talent (which he continues to share in countless ways), and he has done an amazing job in this role, but he would now like to hand over the reins for this position. If you have a finance background and might be willing to learn the ropes or hear more about what this position entails, please reach out to Rich or to Pastor Sarah for more information.



## First Communion Celebration!

Attention parents! This year, First Communion will again be celebrated during worship on Maundy Thursday, which falls on April 6. To help prepare for this special day, we will be holding a First Communion Class following worship on Sunday, March 26 to talk about the mystery and the miracle surrounding communion and what that means for us. If you feel your child is ready to celebrate this milestone or if you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Sarah ([pastorsarah@rlcstjoe.com](mailto:pastorsarah@rlcstjoe.com)).

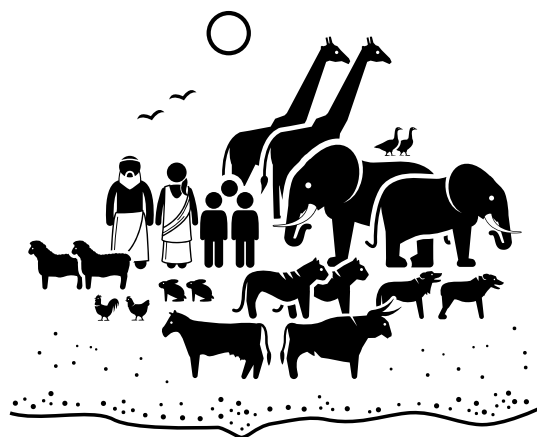


## Flowers for Easter Sunday

Order forms for Easter Flowers will be available soon in the Narthex. We will keep you posted via Friday reflections!

## Foodshare Month – 2 x 2

March is Foodshare month, and our confirmation students will be collecting food for the St. Joseph Food Shelf all throughout the month. Our theme for this year is 2 x 2... Noah's Ark! We encourage members to bring in a "pair" of non-perishable food items (for example, 2 boxes of mac 'n cheese or 2 cans of tomato soup, etc.) and help us "fill the ark"! Please consider ways in which you can help support this ministry to feed the hungry in our community.



## Meet our New Youth & Family Coordinator!



Hello! My name is Chloe Terpstra and I am a sophomore at the College of Saint Bens. I have so many interests it's hard to point them all out here: I enjoy acting in theater, being a camp counselor in the summer months, playing indie board games, watching movies with friends, and so much more! At college, I major in Communications with minors in Writing and Gender Studies. I live in Osceola, WI, which is just on the St. Croix River across from Taylors Falls. I cannot wait to eventually meet and get to know you all!

# Upcoming Youth Sunday Events | 2023

Activities will begin at 10:45 a.m. in the Youth Room



**JEOPARDY 26 MAR**  
Pizza provided and prizes for the winning Team

**23 APR** SARTELL BOWELING ALLEY  
We will plan carpools and order pizzas



**PHOTO SCAVENGERHUNT 21 MAY**  
Pizza provided and prizes for the winning Team



# March Birthdays

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Birr, Reese	03/02
Birr, Stella	03/02
Petron, Riley	03/06
Haug, Marilyn	03/07
Marwitz, Tasha	03/07
Gunn, Mary	03/08
Hennigs, Jared	03/08
Schaefer, Caleb	03/08
Durheim, Aria	03/08
Zitzewitz, Marianne	03/09
Boulton, Tyler	03/09
Lyon, Abby	03/12
Olsen, MaKayla	03/13
Long, Donna	03/14
Seelen, Tami	03/14
Heintzelman, Clara	03/14
Petron, Connor	03/14
Loch, Bobbie	03/16
Emmerich, Jerome	03/17
Knopp, Joel	03/17
Haselhorst, Kathy	03/19
Deford, Feliciano	03/19
Kraft, Sharon	03/20
Eikmeier, Marlys	03/20
Nelson, Leah	03/20
Holy, Frank	03/21
Gunn, Gretta	03/21
Rennecke, Quinn	03/21
Burnos, Charles	03/23
Good, Jennifer	03/25
Curtis, Nick	03/25
Johnson, Marcia	03/28
Tate, Laura	03/29
Schulz, Martha	03/29
Buchheit, Janis	03/30

*For corrections or additions, please reach out to the church office so our records can be updated. Thank you!*