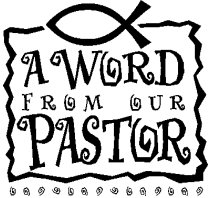


# The St. John's Messenger

Volume 145 Issue 2

[www.stjohnsmc.com](http://www.stjohnsmc.com)

March 2015



## SEASON OF LENT 2015 RE-LENT IS OUR THEME

Re-lent is a play on the word relent. I invite you to join me in relenting of our aversion to the ways of God and instead yielding to the summons of the Holy Spirit in your life.

On your pilgrimage of lent consider allowing Christ to control an aspect of your life that you have not submitted to Him. This will require all of us to be honest with ourselves. We will have to trust Christ's gracious love enough to be vulnerable before him and acknowledge our brokenness.

The late Dag Hammarskjöld, once the secretary general of the United Nations, suggested that we have become adept at exploring outer space, but we have not developed similar skill in exploring our own personal inner space. He wrote, "The longest journey of any person is the journey inward."

One of the struggles in C.S. Lewis's *Chronicles of Narnia*, *Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, pictures what it feels like to follow God in taking a deep, hard look inside.

Eustace, a young boy, becomes a big, ugly dragon as a consequence of being selfish, stubborn and unbelieving. Now he wants to change and go back to being a little boy but he can't do it himself. Eventually the great lion Aslan appears to him and leads him to a beautiful well to bathe. But since he is a dragon he can't enter the well.

Aslan tells him to undress. Eustace remembers that he can cast off his skin like a snake. He takes off a layer by himself, dropping it to the ground, feeling better. Then as he moves to the pool, he realizes there is yet another hard, rough, scaly layer still on him. Frustrated, in pain, and longing to get into that beautiful bath, he asks himself, "How many skins do I have to take off?"

After three layers, he gives up, realizing he cannot do it. Aslan then says, "You will have to let me undress you." To which Eustace replies:

"I was afraid of his claws, I can tell you, but I was pretty nearly desperate now. So I just lay flat down on my back and let him do it. The very first tear he made was so deep that I thought it had gone right into my heart. And when he began pulling the skin off, it hurt worse than anything I've ever felt . . . Well, he peeled the beastly stuff right off – just as I thought I'd done it myself the

other three times, only they hadn't hurt – and there it was lying on the grass: only ever so much thicker and darker and more knobby looking than the others had been. And there was I as smooth and soft . . . Then he caught hold of me . . . and threw me into the water. It smarted like anything but only for a moment. After that it became perfectly delicious and as soon as I started swimming and splashing I found that all the pain had gone from my arm. And then I saw why. I'd turned into a boy again . . . After a bit the lion took me out and dressed me . . . with his paws . . . in these new clothes I'm wearing."

During this season of Lent I invite you to trust God's grace and love in order to look deeply inside to experience the transformation available through the Holy Spirit who brings rebirth.

*Fixing our Eyes on Jesus,*  
Pastor Bill

## LENT

**There will be a worship service in the chapel every Wednesday during Lent at 6:15 p.m., immediately after the Discovery Dinners, which will begin at 5:15 p.m. during Lent.**

## EASTER LILIES

**Orders are now being taken for Easter lilies. They are \$8.00 each. Order forms for lilies and/or Easter donations to St. John's Missions are included in this Messenger and are available in the office and in the Narthex. The deadline for ordering lilies is Monday, March 23rd.**



## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

On Maundy Thursday, April 2nd, 7 - 8 p.m. p.m., there will be a community-wide worship service at First United Methodist Church, 121 E. 7th Street, Michigan City. On Good Friday, April 3rd, our worship service here at St. John's will be at 6:30 p.m.. St. John's Easter services will be at 8 and 10 a.m. Easter morning, April 5th.



### NOISY OFFERING

There will be 5 Sundays in March and that means the children will be collecting the Noisy Offering on Sunday, March 29th. The offering will be collected after the 8:00 service and during the children's sermon at the 10:00 service. Let's make a joyful noise!!

### NEW DISCIPLE CHURCH SOUP KITCHEN WISH LIST

forks, spoons, apple & cranberry juices, bowls, foam cups, Crystal Light, napkins, paper towels, Sunny Delight, plastic wrap, qt. & gal. plastic bags, large heavy plates (divided), aluminum foil, plastic wrap, dish detergent, toilet paper Country Crock spread

New Disciple Church Soup Kitchen serves, on average, 70-75 for lunch each Tuesday. Please place your gifts in the library. *Thank you!*

### MARCH FOOD BANK

Especially needed are:

Spaghetti

Peanut butter

Tuna fish

As always, your generosity is very greatly appreciated!



### COMMUNION & SPECIAL OFFERINGS

March 1, Communion: One Great Hr. of Sharing

Mar. 15, Special Envelope: Dedication of One Great Hour of Sharing

Apr. 2, Maundy Thursday: Men's Homeless Shelter

Apr. 3, Good Friday: Leadership Development

Apr. 5, Communion: CUE Seminaries

Apr. 5, Easter Sunday: Open Door Clinic



### RUMMAGE SALE -

#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**APRIL 30—MAY 2, 2015**

(set-up April 27 - 29, 2015)

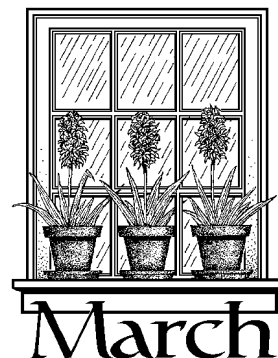
Start saving your treasures for our annual Rummage Sale! Plan on offering a helping hand when we begin setting up, or on sale days. Your help is always very greatly appreciated!

### TREE OF LIFE

Just a reminder, our Tree of Life is a wonderful display to remember your loved ones. If you would like to add a leaf to our tree, the forms are located in the office. Donation requested is \$50 per leaf.

### PEEPS GROUP—SERVING MARCH 23, 2015

Our St. John's Parents of Peeps group will be serving dinner at the Michigan City Men's Shelter, First Presbyterian Church, on Monday, March 23rd. The group will serve dinner but you are most welcome to join them for set up and/or serving. Please speak with Dave or Lisa Kay Swartz if you would like to help. Also, if you would like to donate a dessert, please call Dave or Lisa Kay.



### USHERS

Ushers for the month of March are:  
Mike Kerestury, Joe Dabkowski,  
John Bauer, Craig McEwan



### CHOIR REHEARSAL FOR EASTER SUNDAY

The choir will be practicing on the following  
Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. in the choir  
room to be ready for Easter Sunday:

March 21st,  
March 28th,  
and April 4th.

Please let Dave Swartz know if you are inter-  
ested in being a part of this group!  
You can also pick up your practice CD  
and Choral Book today.

### DONATION REQUESTS

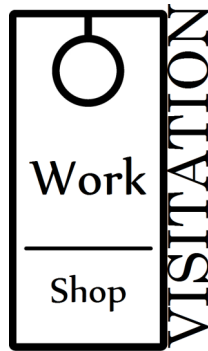
The St. John's Missions group are always col-  
lecting items for the Ladies' Shelter, Sandcas-  
tle, and nursing homes. Especially useful are  
small, travel-size personal products. Soaps,  
hand lotions, and lip balm are favorites of our  
nursing home residents.

Also, if you have any gloves, scarves, etc. that  
you are not saving for the Rummage Sale, we are  
collecting those items, too.

Thank you very much for all your support!

### BLOODMOBILE

The next Bloodmobile will be on Tuesday, March 3rd,  
at St. John's, from 12 noon to 6:00 p.m. Please call 1-  
800-GIVE-LIFE to schedule your blood donation ap-  
pointment.



### VISITATION MINISTRY, Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Mark your calendar! We will be  
hosting our second Visitation Minis-  
try Workshop here on Thursday,  
April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at 11:00 a.m. The  
workshop will be led by Pastor Den-  
nis Carroll. All are invited!

### HELPING HANDS IN HOME CARE, INC.

Helping Hands In-Home Care, Inc. is a na-  
tionally-accredited home health agency.  
They provide a compassionate, professional  
alternative for success in the comfort of your  
home. To learn more, contact Helping  
Hands In Home Care, Inc., 10202 W. 400 N.  
Mich. City, 879-7472 or go to  
[www.hhinhomecare.com](http://www.hhinhomecare.com)

### DISCOVERY DINNERS

Please remember to contact Beth Ann Ast at 872-  
5292 if you will be attending a Discovery Dinner,  
held each Wednesday at 5:15 p.m. during Lent  
(otherwise, 5:30 p.m.). Come to praise God, and en-  
joy good fellowship and food!

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*Mark Your Calendar!*

### MOTHER-DAUGHTER BANQUET

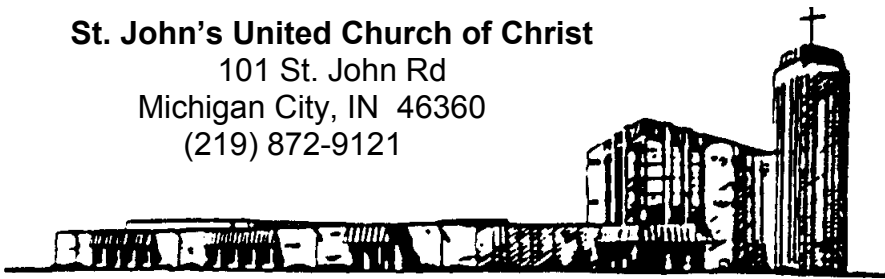
May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 6:00 pm



**REMEMBER TO CHANGE  
YOUR CLOCKS--  
DAYLIGHT SAVING  
TIME  
BEGINS  
SUNDAY,  
MARCH 8TH**

**St. John's United Church of Christ**

101 St. John Rd  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
(219) 872-9121



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**Return Service Requested**

*My old self has been crucified with Christ.  
It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.  
So I live in this earthly body  
by trusting in the Son of God,  
who loved me  
and gave Himself  
for me.  
~ Galatians 2:20*

