

St. James Lutheran Church

2437 Niagara Road
 Niagara Falls, NY 14304-2016
 Church phone: 731-4057

Email: stjameschurchbeg@gmail.com

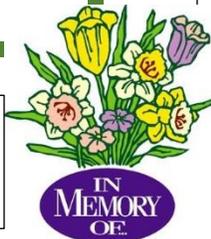
Website: www.saintjameslutheran-niagarafalls.org

“Like” us on Facebook

March 18th at 10:00am is
 our Easter Egg Hunt



Congregational Meeting
 will be Sunday March 12th
 at 10:30 in the sanctuary.



March 12th
 Daylight Savings Time

In memory of Blake Chaffee: \$100 was given to caring friends..

In Memory of Marie Wright: \$150 was given to Caring Friends and \$200 was given to Capital Improvement fund.

In memory of William Buerger: \$1,055 was given to caring friends and \$795 was given to the memorial fund.

Serving in God's House in March

Trustee:

- March 5 – Andrew North
- March 12 – Daven Antonelli
- March 19 – Dave Milleville
- March 26- Chris Schimschack

Readers:

- March 5– TBD
- March 12 – TBD
- March 19 – TBD
- March 26- TBD

Accompanist:

- March 5 – Jennifer Parris
- March 12 – Janet Galvano
- March 19 – Janet Galvano
- March 26- Lianda Waugaman

Acolytes:

- March 5– Kiera Dysard
- March 12 – Mikayla Scholles
- March 19 – Avery Antonelli
- March 26- Brayden Milleville

Altar Care: Margaret Wittmeyer & Laurie Schmidt

Communion Assist:

- March 5 – Duane DeVantier
- March 19 – Margaret Wittmeyer

EYES ON JESUS

O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

(Gradual for Lent, based on Hebrews 12:2)

When the characters in the Passion narrative look at Jesus, what do they see? In most cases, people misunderstood who He is and what He was doing. In some cases, by faith, people recognized Him aright. Our Lenten series this year, *Eyes on Jesus* is based on Passion according to St. Mark. We will examine how the various people around Jesus viewed Him—and how we should view Him. We will “fix our eyes” on what Jesus has done to save us from our sins by His holy, precious blood and innocent sufferings and death, and celebrate what God sees on account of His work: our justification for His sake.

On Ash Wednesday, we saw how, in spite of Jesus’ repeated predictions about His upcoming Passion, the disciples with “Misjudging Eyes” fail to recognize that soon He will not be with them, and they cannot see the anonymous woman’s anointing of Jesus as preparation for His burial. But Jesus sees her actions as a beautiful deed that will be proclaimed throughout the world wherever the Gospel is heard.

At our midweek service after the First Sunday of Lent, we will look through Judas’s “Betraying Eyes” and learn why he did this awful deed. Yet the behind-the-scenes-reality is that Jesus was “handed over” (another way of translating the verb for “betray”) by God the Father Himself, so that Jesus could die for the sin of the world.

“Sleepy Eyes” is the theme for the second week of Lent. In Gethsemane, Jesus’ inner circle of Peter, James, and John cannot keep their eyes open to watch and pray with Jesus for even an hour, while Jesus comes to see that His Father’s will is that He drink the cup of God’s wrath when He comes to the “hour” of His suffering.

In the third week of Lent, we stare into the “Denying Eyes” of Peter and the other apostles. They could not see how they could ever fall away from Jesus, but after Jesus is betrayed by Judas, ten of them flee, and Peter—when he is spotted by a servant girl and sees that his own neck is on the line—sees fit to deny Jesus, which leads to his own eyes weeping in remorse. We sinners likewise deny our Lord in many ways, but Jesus denied Himself to take up the cross for our salvation.

“Murderous Eyes” is the theme of week 4 in Lent. The chief priests and scribes saw Jesus as an obstacle to be rid of by murdering Him through the Roman judicial system. Yet during the Passover festival, they would unwittingly bring about the Father’s sacrifice of the ultimate Passover Lamb.

In the fifth week of Lent, we look through the “Worldly Eyes” of Pilate, the Jewish leaders, and the Roman soldiers. Pilate can only view matters in a worldly, pragmatic way, wishing to placate the worldly Jewish leaders and crowd, so he consents to handing Jesus over for crucifixion. The soldiers see the opposite of a worldly king, but their ironic hailing of Him as “King of the Jews” proclaims who He really is. The world looks for power and glory; God’s way is suffering and the cross.

On Maundy Thursday, there is “More Than Meets the Eye” to the Lord’s Supper. We will look into the Old Testament background of the Last Supper and rejoice in the mystery that Jesus, in and with, bread and wine, gives us His body and blood in order to deliver to us the benefits of His Passion.

On Good Friday, we look through “God’s Eyes” to see what is happening during the Passion: the once-for-all atonement for the sin of the whole world and the justification of all sinners on Easter.

“Resting Eyes” is the theme for Holy Saturday. Various disciples rested their eyes upon the dead Jesus, cared for His body, and buried it. As Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph rest their eyes upon the sealed tomb and contemplate further anointing of His body the next day, they cannot see that Jesus’ own eyes are merely resting temporarily, and Easter morning will bring a dramatic reversal.

Finally, Easter Sunday gazes upon “Angel Eyes.” The angel in the tomb knows the whole story of Jesus’ resurrection. When he sees the women, he proclaims the Gospel to them, shows them where Jesus’ body had formerly lain, and tells them that they can see Jesus themselves in Galilee. Likewise, the “angels” or messengers of the Church in the apostolic ministry tell God’s people where they can find Jesus and His salvation in the Means of Grace.

With *Eyes on Jesus* as our theme this Lent, we will continuously focus on Jesus Christ and Him crucified, buried, and risen for our justification. This is a vision that will never disappoint, for by trusting in Jesus, He promises that we will gaze upon His beautiful face now by faith and forever in heaven!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Randy

The St. James Annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday, March 18, 2023 at 10:00 am. Please note that this is three weeks before Easter so help spread the word! Liz Antonelli and Kelly Milleville graciously agreed to Co-Chair the event again! Please consider donating candy, toys, baskets, etc. Any items can be left on the tables in front of the Gray Room. We will need help stuffing eggs and setting up tables, etc. Thursday and/or Friday evenings March 16th/17th in the Fellowship Hall Meeting Room. Please check the calendar for the specific times. Many hands make light the work! Thank you in advance to all who contribute! We also would appreciate the help of any of our young adults, confirmation age and older. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Men’s Ministry group will be holding its first Beer, Brothers, and the Bible Tuesday March 7th at 7pm at the Jetport. There will be a short meeting followed by a Bible Study based on the Chosen Movie Series. More information on Bible texts and how to view the episodes are on the table outside the meeting room.

Brittani will be out of the office from March 2nd until March 20th. Any announcements during that time will need to be in by this Wednesday 3/1, first thing in the morning. If anything needs announced during that time, it will have to be announced during church service.

First Communion Classes will be on Saturday March 25th and April 1st from 9am - 11:30am. A signup sheet is on the table outside the meeting room. Contact Pastor Randy for more information.

Lutheran World Relief Personal & Baby Care Kits

Sunday, March 5th we will *begin collecting items for both the Personal Care Kits and Baby Care Kits like we did last year.* Please keep this ½ sheet someplace handy so you know what we will be collecting each week. If you have any questions please see Lori Haseley or Jane Milleville. We will need help to assemble the kits sometime after Easter (watch for more info to come). Thank you!

Week #1 (March 5th)

Bars of Soap (2 or 3 bars, 4 to 5 oz., any brand, in original wrapping)

Bars of Soap (2 or 3 bars of *Baby (gentle) soap*, any brand, in original wrapping: no mini or hotel size bars (can be found in baby section of most stores)

NO LIQUID SOAP

Week #2 (March 12th)

1 Bath towel (light-weight, size between 20"x40" to 52"x27, dark color recommended).

1 hand towel (dark color) and or **2 receiving blankets** (between 36" and 52" square)(I have been sewing blankets so if you want you can go and buy 1 1/4yds of flannel)

Week #3 (March 19th)

Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging)

4 Cloth Diapers (flat fold)

NO TOOTHPASTE

Week #4 (March 26th)

Adult Size Comb

2 lightweight cotton t-shirts (no Onesies) or **2 Long or Short sleeved gowns or sleepers** (without feet) (All sizes between 6 and 24 months)

Week #5 (April 2nd)

Nail Clippers (metal, attached file optional)

1 Jacket or Sweatshirt with a hood, or (All sizes between 6 and 24 months) and or **2 pairs of baby socks**