

FEBRUARY 8, 2026

THE WEEKLY WORD

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL



MEDITATION

Matthew 5:13-16

During these long winter months, when most of us think about salt, we picture large plow trucks criss-crossing the streets sprinkling out salt behind them as they go. We might think of the salt we spread on the sidewalks in front of our homes or places where we work. Salt for us is a tool used in winter, coming by the truckful or in stiff fifty-pound bags. But in the ancient world, salt meant something very different. It was still a tool, but not for melting ice; it was critical for food preservation and flavoring. In our gospel reading today, Jesus speaks to the crowds during His "Sermon on the Mount". And today, Jesus begins by calling His followers the salt of the Earth, a powerful tool of the Gospel in the world.

It is powerful because we see what happens when just a little is at work. We know when it is spread on an icy sidewalk or roadway, even as we know when it has been added to foods, even in small amounts. It is something that changes whatever it comes into contact with. And for Christians, that is what we are called to do, to change whatever and whomever we come in contact with. Because we see the impact even a few Christians can have in their neighborhoods, their offices, their communities, and wherever else they may find themselves.

And the one thing that sets the salt of Christianity apart from everything else is Jesus. The perfect life of Jesus, the innocent death of Jesus, and the resurrection and the forgiveness we have through Jesus change everything. This is the salt that changes us and which causes us to change wherever we may be. And the call of Jesus is simple: to stay salty, to keep the hope and new life we have through Him front and center and not be distracted by the things we see here and now, but instead to focus on the lasting things, the eternal things salt gives to us.

PRAYER

Almighty God, through the power of the Holy Spirit we have been called and transformed into Your very own people. You have called us to be salt in a world desperately in need of Jesus. Let us change wherever we are with the certain hope we have through Him and with great faith and courage remain faith filled and sent by You. Amen.

Pastor Barry

THIS WEEK

Monday - February 9

Men's Bible Study 6:30am
Monday Night Meal 5:15pm
AA 7:00pm

Tuesday - February 10

Elders Meeting 6:30pm
Mary Martha Guild Meeting 6:30pm

Wednesday - February 11

Moms in the Word 9:30am
Women's Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm

Thursday - February 12

Women's LifeLight Bible Study 9:30am

Friday - February 13

AA 6:30pm

Saturday - February 14

Colson Fellows Cohort Meeting 8:30am

Sunday - February 15

Worship 8:00/9:30/10:45am
Education Hour 9:30am
Youth Night 6:00pm



THE WEEKLY WORD

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WWW.STJOHNSCHASKA.ORG

Construction Update



The contract requires that the painters mock up the paint colors for the sanctuary walls, ceiling and window vaults for larger scale review. Two of the pendant light fixtures have been rebuilt and installed in this area, so the colors can be reviewed in the correct color of light.



The plumbing fixtures, ceiling grid, and grab bars have been installed in the lower-level restrooms. Workers are currently installing the toilet partitions.



The new ceiling has been installed in the Narthex, and the plaster walls are being patched.

Join Us for Youth Nights (Grades 7–12)

Youth Nights meet twice a month for all students in 7th–12th grade. We gather in the Youth Room from 6:00–8:00pm for devotions, group games, and snacks. We'd love to see you there!

Join us for our upcoming Youth Nights on: **February 15, March 1 & 15, April 12 & 26, and May 10 & 31.**

Questions? Please contact Justin Weber at justin.weber@stjohns-chaska.org

Lutheran Hour Broadcast on KGLB Radio

Hear the Good News of the Gospel on the Lutheran Hour each Sunday at 7:00am on KGLB 1310 AM and 96.1 FM Radio.

You will hear the following topic on Sunday, February 15th:

February 15, 2026 "Up and Down the Mountain" with Guest Speaker: Rev. Michael Schutz

Many voices compete for our attention, but above all, listen to the voice of Jesus and hear what He's done for you. Matthew 17:1-9

Join Us for Education Hour | Sundays at 9:30 AM

Join us for Education Hour at 9:30 AM on Sundays at St. John's. There's something for every age!

- Sunday School (Age 1–6th Grade): Kids will learn Bible stories and grow in faith through age-appropriate lessons and activities.
- High School Youth Bible Study: A place for high school students to connect, grow in faith, and build community together.
- Adult Bible Study: "A Look Ahead" (Room 205/Library). A weekly study that previews the Scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday and helps you dive deeper before worship.

Ash Wednesday & Midweek Lenten Worship Schedule

We invite you to begin the season of Lent with us at St. John's as we reflect, pray, and prepare our hearts for Easter.

Ash Wednesday – Wednesday, February 18

Services with Communion at 4:15pm & 6:30pm

Midweek Lenten Services Begin – Wednesday, February 25

Midweek worship on February 25, March 4, March 11, March 18, March 25
Services at 4:15pm & 6:30pm

No Lenten meals will be served this year due to the ongoing construction.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays at 8:00/9:30/10:45am in the Gymnasium
(Livestream at the 8:00am Service)

Education Hour 9:30am

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

Want to receive the Weekly Word and church communications by email?

Contact churchoffice@stjohns-chaska.org or call the church office.



PRAYER LIST

Please continue to share your prayer requests by filling out the back of a Connect Card located on the information desks in the upper gathering and main level common areas or by going to www.stjohns-chaska.org and clicking on "How can we pray for you?" You can also contact the church office: email: churchoffice@stjohns-chaska.org or by phone 952-448-2433

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2/8

Jim DeWaard
Rebecca Kloos
Brody Wercinski
Bennett Wercinski
Adelyn Zabel

2/9

William Hangrove
Pamela Roepke

2/10

Owen Brooks
Doris Coghill
Richard Kjos

2/10

Sydney Sandvig
Jeremiah Sihombing
Wendy Voehl

2/11

Abel Otto

Timmy Rawerts
Nancy Van Sloun

2/12

Emma Johnson
Jake Thuente

2/13

Autumn Christiansen

2/13

Airin Matzke
Kevin Milbrandt
Lexie Pandolfo
Craig Pauling
Lori Siedelman

2/14

Faith Hagen
Hayley Hammons
Cara Krenz
Joelle Oliver
Derek Schmitz
Sandra Sprengeler

FOR HEALING AND STRENGTH

Nancy Van Sloun
Lowell Lenz
Shelley Bartizal
Mary Swanson

Pastor Al Holthus
Tracy Koepsell
JoAnn Schesso
Barb Frey
Patti Oelfke

Allan Panning
Janet Macenthun
Joel Landskroener
Jolene Berg

EXPECTANT MOMS



Brittany Thormodson
Brenda Simpson
Izzy King
Nicole Stockey
Kourtney Vipond

IN SYMPATHY

The family of Emily Watry, upon the passing of her mother, Kathy Studetski.

The family of Deb McLean upon the passing of her mother, Marlene Isaacson.

ONGOING PRAYERS

Carol Affeldt
John Barney
Merlin Bentz
Jack Boman
Jimann Campbell
Julie Carver

Marguerite Craighead
Sunnie Deis
Anita Doss
Sid & Merna Fjelstad
Dennis Gaarder
Ruth Harms

Eugene Henke
Carol Jones
Len Kallsen
Tim & Gretchen Laubach
Marilyn Lenzen
Melinda Meuwissen

Steve Pond
Austin Rannow
Val Schlefsky
Cliff Waller
Ruth Ziegler