

MARCH 15, 2026

# THE WEEKLY WORD

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL



## MEDITATION

John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39

Have you ever seen one of those magic eye pictures? They were everywhere in the 90s but aren't around as much today. In case you haven't seen one, there are images that at first look like random, repeated patterns. The key is to not get fixated on the patterns and even repeated pictures, but instead relax and then all of a sudden the image comes into focus, both in the picture but not in the picture. And the funny thing about these images is that once you see the hidden picture you can't not see it, in fact, you look past everything and see what is truly there, what was always meant to be seen.

In our reading for Sunday, we find a man who was born blind who ended up seeing Jesus more clearly than the religious leaders and even the disciples. And it begins with Jesus coming and giving him his sight for the first time in his life. And having given his sight, Jesus allows the man to see clearly who He is much to the chagrin of the religious leaders who were still trying to figure out who Jesus was and were in so many ways still walking in blindness even deeper than the man had experienced just moments before.

We are reminded of the spiritual blindness we have in our fallen state, and it is only by encountering Jesus and having Him touch our lives that we can finally see. And as we look at how we see, we will also see how we can share Jesus, the light of the world with those still dwelling in spiritual darkness.

## PRAYER

Almighty God, we thank you that you have brought us from darkness into light. Continue to touch our lives with your grace and be with those still in darkness so that they too may see the brightness of your Son. Amen.

**Pastor Barry**

## THIS WEEK

**Monday - March 16**

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

**Wednesday - March 18**

Moms in the Word 9:30am  
Midweek Lenten Worship 4:15/6:30pm  
Messengers of Praise Rehearsal 7:15pm

**Thursday - March 19**

Women's LifeLight Bible Study 9:30am  
Trail Life Troop Meeting 6:30pm

**Friday - March 20**

AA 6:30pm

**Saturday - March 21**

Bible and Bacon Men's Study 7:30am

**Sunday - March 22**

Worship 8:00/9:30/10:45am  
Education Hour 9:30am  
Boys BB Nationals Fundraiser 9:00am-Noon  
Family Faith Night 5:00-7:00pm



THE WEEKLY WORD

300 E. 4TH ST. CHASKA, MN 55318  
952-448-2433  
WWW.STJOHNSCHASKA.ORG

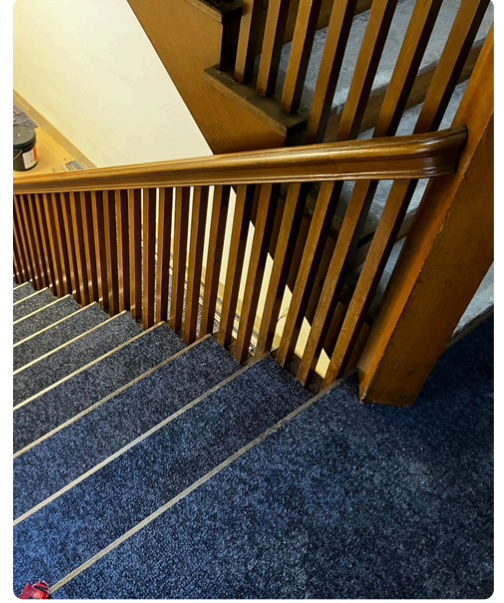
# Construction Update



The existing pendant light fixtures have been reinstalled after being refurbished with LED light sources, the new ceiling fans have been installed and the sanding of the wood floor is nearly complete.



Construction of the fence that helps screen the two HVAC units from view is nearly complete.



Walk-off mat carpet has been installed on the stairs from the bell tower entrance to the lower level. This type of carpet resists damage from the outside elements and is being used around all entrances.

## Ladies Aid Scholarship Program

St. John's Lutheran Chaska Ladies Aid is offering scholarships for members preparing for full-time church work at a LCMS Concordia Lutheran University. The scholarship is renewable for up to four years at \$250 per year (\$1,000 maximum). Applications for the 2026–2027 school year are due by April 1, 2026. **Scan the QR code to learn more and apply.**



## Help Unload the New Organ!

Components for the new organ will arrive on **March 16** and volunteers are need to help unload that afternoon. If you'd like to help, contact Katie Rolf, [kathryn.rolf@stjohns-chaska.org](mailto:kathryn.rolf@stjohns-chaska.org).

## Easter Flower Donations

Celebrate Christ's resurrection by donating toward Easter flowers (**\$18 suggested per plant**). Return envelopes with cash or check to St. John's by **Sunday, March 22**. Donors may pick up plants Tuesday, April 7, 10:00 AM–1:00 PM in the Main Church Commons.



### LENTEN FAMILY FAITH NIGHT

Join us for an intergenerational evening that will help prepare us for Holy Week!

**March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5:00-7:00 PM**

- in St. John's gym
- Dinner included!


Scan the QR code for more info and to register!





**BOYS BASKETBALL NATIONAL TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER**

**BUILD-A-BRAT & HOT DOG BAR**

Support our Boys Basketball team on their way to the National Tournament in Indiana! **Donations also accepted via GoFundMe. Scan the QR Code!**



**SUGGESTED DONATION**  
 Brat or Large Beef Frank Meal - \$9  
 Hot Dog Meal - \$6

 **Sunday March 22nd**  
 **Serving 9:00am - 12:15pm**



**SPRING FUNDRAISER**  
 February 26th - April 2nd

Scan the QR code for information on how to place your order!



**Gertens FUNDRAISING**

**Bountiful Basket**  
**Current Needs - March 2026**



- Hearty Soup
- Ready-to-Eat Meals
- Crackers
- Canned Chicken, Tuna & Salmon
- Canned Pineapple & Mandarin Oranges
- Coffee
- Healthy Kid Snacks
- Bread & Tortillas

**We could also use your brown and plastic bags!**

*Circles of Love*

MARY MARTHA GUILD  
 LADIES LUNCHEON

**Saturday, April 25, 2026, 11:30 AM**  
 St. John's Lutheran Church, Chaska

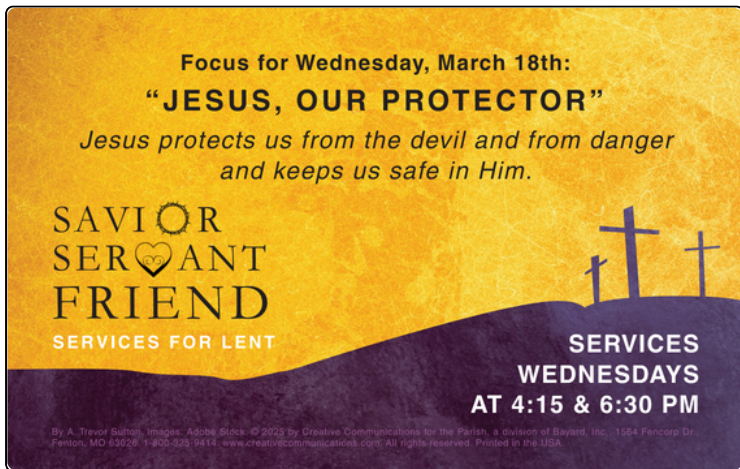
**Reserve Your Spot**  
 Tickets: \$20  
 Call Karen: 952-448-4875 or  
 Email: [mmg@stjohns-chaska.org](mailto:mmg@stjohns-chaska.org)

**Event Highlights**

- Music by Allen Carlson
- Salad bar lunch
- Beautiful themed tables

Focus for Wednesday, March 18th:  
**"JESUS, OUR PROTECTOR"**  
*Jesus protects us from the devil and from danger and keeps us safe in Him.*

SAVIOR  
 SERVOANT  
 FRIEND  
 SERVICES FOR LENT



**SERVICES WEDNESDAYS AT 4:15 & 6:30 PM**

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**HOLY WEEK at ST. JOHN'S**

<b>PALM SUNDAY</b> March 29 8:00 • 9:30 • 10:45 AM	<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> April 2 4:15 • 7:00 PM	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> April 3 10:00 AM • 7:00 PM
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**EASTER SUNDAY**  
 April 5 | 7:00 • 8:30 • 10:00 AM

Watch services live at [stjohnschaska.org](http://stjohnschaska.org)

**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](mailto: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.stjohnschaska.org](http://www.stjohnschaska.org) and clicking on "Prayer Request" under "Resources". You can also contact the church office: email: [churchoffice@stjohnschaska.org](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnschaska.org) or by phone 952-448-2433

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

3/15

Adam Berczinski  
Mark DeRocher  
Ron Dial  
Laura Larson  
Wesley Oliver  
Sean Siegle

3/16

Patrick Griffin  
Jacob Kuddes  
Hailee Achtenberg

3/16

Christopher Kulish  
Kevin Moldenhauer

3/17

Vivian Kloos  
Dianna Langmade  
Randy Moldenhauer  
Lacey Scotthenen

3/18

Eric Anderson  
Barbara Holthus

3/20

Sophia Hagen

3/21

Allison Clemens  
Erich Fiebelkorn  
Cameron Herelle  
Leah Shanahan



### EXPECTANT MOMS

Clara Crawley-Reid  
Brittany Thormodson  
Brenda Simpson  
Izzy King  
Kourtney Vipond

## FOR HEALING AND STRENGTH

Izzy King  
Brody Miller  
Tim Laubach

Sandra Lovan  
Lois Wenz  
Steve Lenzen

Mary Swanson  
Pastor Al Holthus  
Jolene Berg

## CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES

3/14 - Don and Monica Green  
3/19 - Scott and Kimberly Marella  
3/20 - Nathan and Kara McCormick

## 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  
Tracy Koepsell  
Gretchen Laubach  
Marilyn Lenzen

Melinda Meuwissen  
Steve Pond  
Cliff Waller  
Ruth Ziegler