

hear...live...share...grow



## dear saint john family,

Our God is a great God of grace, who in turn calls us to live as people of grace, gratitude and generosity.

Jesus said it this way, *“Live out your God-centered identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.”* Matthew 5:48 (The Message)

Can you imagine a church where people are increasingly growing in their capacity to live graciously...generously...sacrificially...all to the glory of God? Can you imagine a church where people are hilariously bent on making an eternal difference for the Kingdom of God? We here at SAINT JOHN are already doing these things. And now the Spirit of God is blowing among us—beckoning us to step out into even deeper waters—taking additional bold steps of faith and obedience to see God’s family grow.

We at SAINT JOHN truly believe that the Church of Jesus Christ is the Hope of the world. The Church is the bride of Christ. The Church is the body of Christ. You and I collectively are the embodiment of Jesus for the world today. The Lord chooses to get His work done through imperfect vessels like you and me. And the fact of the matter is this: the Lord has no “Plan B.” We are it. And, if we falter, the Kingdom falters. Isn’t it amazing that we get to do this? What a privilege and honor to be invited into partnership with God!

This week, the time of personal decision is before each one of us. This coming Sunday, March 28, we will be invited to bring our 3-year financial pledges forward and place them on the altar. I want to emphasize that each and every gift (given from a generous heart) has great value. It matters to God and makes a huge difference to us here at SAINT JOHN as we attempt to be faithful to our calling.

Won’t you join with me in praying for the future of our congregation, asking God to continue to challenge us in mission and ministry, so we can fulfill the plans He has in mind for us. Won’t you do everything possible to join us this Sunday for worship and the celebration to follow!

Thanking you for your partnership in the Gospel,

Pastor Jon

P.S. Some of you have already submitted ‘Advance Pledges.’ If this is true for you, we still invite you to bring with you the enclosed LETTER OF INTENT form and process to the altar with the entire congregation. Simply write on the response form, “Advance pledge given.”

## join us...

**Prayer Vigil \ Thursday, March 25**

**Commitment Sunday \ Sunday, March 28 \ all services**



hear...live...share...grow



# saint john lutheran

come through our doors and we will give you something that really matters...

if you are sad,  
*we will help you to find solace*

if you are wounded,  
*we will help you to find healing*

if you are a worker,  
*we will warmly appreciate and affirm you*

if you are a stranger,  
*we will sincerely welcome you*

if you are lost,  
*we will lovingly say to you, "you have come home"*

if you are indifferent,  
*we will challenge you to get involved*



if you are poor,  
*we will help you to find a place among the poor in spirit who have found the Kingdom of God, and we'll try to help you out of your poverty by breaking the cycle of deprivation which put you there in the first place*

if you are complacent,  
*we will care enough about you to challenge your indifference*

if you are stingy,  
*we will confront you with the joys of generosity, for until you find that joy, you are not going to be the person that God intends you to be*

If your life is filled with victory and success,  
*we will celebrate with you*

yes, saint john lutheran is the place for you!