

Trinity Valley Tribune

Gilman ~ St. John's ~ Spring Lake

www.TVLPSV.COM

March 2024

Mission Statement

By the power of the Holy Spirit, Trinity Valley Lutheran Parish is united to increase the vitality of our individual congregations by joining our talents and resources. Together we can better serve one another, share God's goodness, Sacrament, and bring Christ to our neighbors.

Church Locations

Gilman Lutheran Church

N8107 330th St.
PO Box 386

St. John's Lutheran Church

S520 Church Ave.
PO Box 336

Spring Lake Lutheran Church

N7724 County Rd B
PO Box 386

Spring Valley, WI 54767

715-778-5935

Office hours : Mon.-Thurs.: 9am-noon

Friday—closed

Office Staff: Kay Place and Brandie Regenscheid

March Events

Parish Council Meeting

Following service at Spring Lake on the 17th

Maundy Thursday Service and First Communion Celebration

St. John's 07:00 PM

Good Friday Service

Gilman 01:00 PM

Spring Lake 07:00 PM

Easter Service and First Communion

St. John's 10:00 AM

March 12th COUNCIL MEETINGS

Spring Lake Council—5:30 pm

Gilman & St. John's—6:00 pm

All meet at St. John's

Announcements

The Sunday School will be serving a brunch after service on Palm Sunday, March 24th. There will be a free will offering associated with the brunch.

If you wish to order flowers for Easter, please do so from your favorite florist and bring to the church you desire. If you wish to have any information included in the bulletin, such as "In memory of", please email the bookkeeper or call the office.

Baldwin Greenhouse's flyer has also been posted to the bulletin boards if you wish to order from them.

Volunteers need to sign up for meals for confirmation class, If interested please contact Missy Hague or Laura Hennemann

First Communion Classes

Wednesdays March 6th and 13th

07:40 PM

After Lenten worship at St. John's

Sundays March 10th and 17th

11:15 AM

After Sunday worship

Classes are open to any child 3rd grade or older

Students must attend with a parent or another adult

Each class will be about 30 minutes

Only one class is required

Please see Pastor Bob with any questions



Pastor's Article for March 2024 • Interim Pastor Bob Frieze

I believe I know every inch of the room, even though it is a massive space. I know the “secret” stairway, the spot for the best acoustics, and each nook and cranny of the balcony. I still marvel at the massive walls of stained glass that enclose the room on three sides. And I remember the special events that happened in that space, including my confirmation and the weddings of my two sisters.

The sanctuary of my home church has a hold on my heart, even though I haven't been there for over ten years. I can still smell the sweet fragrance of the lilies filling the space on Easter morning and I still feel the excitement of seeing the glorious and sparkling Christmas decorations.

One of the most memorable events was the 11 p.m. Good Friday service. At the end of the service, the sanctuary was dark, and a single lit candle was on the altar. When the candle was extinguished, there was an ominous rumble followed by a thunderous BANG from the kettle drum up in the balcony. This signified the moment of Jesus' death, the moment that all seemed lost, and that we were forever separated from God. We'd leave in nearly total darkness and our conversations were hushed and low.

As I reached my early teens, Good Friday made me feel like I was part of the audience that first heard the Beatitudes from Jesus. I felt we were all mournful and abandoned on Good Friday, but holding onto the encouraging words of our Savior, “Blessed are you...”. Attending that Good Friday service made Easter morning all the more special, more special because we knew that whatever darkness and abandonment we felt, Jesus had felt it too. And on Easter, Christ's resurrection proclaims that the Light of God that has overcome the darkness will never be put out, never overwhelmed by the gloom of all that is evil and unholy. I thank God for all these glorious experiences.

It was my great pleasure to spend Lent, Holy Week, and Easter with our parish last year, since my interim work began March 1, 2023. The sanctuaries in which we worship are still a bit foreign to me, and I still check my steps when moving around the chancels and pulpits of our three churches. These spaces are much smaller and less grand than my home church. But Lent, Holy Week, and Easter were just as transformative and inspirational for me. WHERE we spent our time really meant little to me, yet WHAT we did in that space, and the faithful and loving people WITH WHOM we shared that time made everything just as inspiring and life-giving as my childhood experiences in that huge church with 4000 members and four services every Sunday.

Whenever I am with faithful Christians who are joining in Christ-centered worship, I am home. So when I get to be with you all, whether at Gilman, St. John's, or Spring Lake, I am reminded that Christ's resurrection proclaims that the Light of God that has overcome the darkness will never be put out, never overwhelmed by the gloom of all that is evil and unholy. I thank God for all these glorious experiences.

Each one of our sanctuaries is unique and beautiful. But what makes each one holy and Christ-like is who is in that place on any given day, regardless of which church they believe is their “home church.” Thriving as a parish is challenging, but we are doing it well. And, our parish is a foretaste of what Jesus promises us, that is, membership in a community not defined by church, denomination, or any human limitation, but defined by lives that are shaped by, inspired by, and restored by Jesus Christ, the true Son of God who takes away the sins of the world and loves us unconditionally with a love beyond human understanding.

Blessed Lent and Easter!

Love ya bunches!

Pastor Bob



FOOD PANTRY HOUR

Spring Valley: 2nd & 4th Wed.

10-11:30am & 4:30-6pm

Elmwood:

1st Tues. 3-6pm

3rd Tues. 9-11am

Last Saturday of each month 9-11am

WELCA NEWS GILMAN:

No meetings Until April 2024

SPRING LAKE:

No meetings until April 2024

Welcome Home in Elmwood

GRACE PLACE

Spring Lake will be supplying casseroles for Grace Place on April 12th. Volunteers for April are: the Stringer family. **Volunteers are still needed**

Thank you to Gilman Lutheran Church for supplying the casseroles to Grace Place on February 9th. Volunteers were: Carol Schilling, Sue Horstman, Tammie Anger and Diane Hurtgen.

St. John's will be supplying casseroles for Grace Place on March 8th. Volunteers for March are: Laura Hennemann, Rob Moore, Lynda Johnson, and Nina Larson

Rotation for Trinity Valley Grace Place Casserole Club

Spring Lake Lutheran Church supplies casseroles in January, April, July and October.

Gilman Lutheran Church supplies casseroles in February, May, August and November

St. John's Lutheran Church supplies casseroles in March, June, September and December



Housekeeping Items

This **newsletter** is primarily sent out by email. If your email changes, please contact the Parish office at **Bookkeeper@tvlpv.com** with the new email address.

If you do not have an email address and are not currently receiving the newsletter via mail, please call **715-778-5935** or stop in the office to be added to list for the newsletter to be mailed to you.

**DECEMBER & JANUARY FINANCIALS
& ATTENDANCE**

GILMAN: December GIVING
\$5,673.00
EXPENSE
\$8,653.72
ATTENDANCE
131

ST. JOHN'S: December GIVING
\$11,336.12
EXPENSE
\$9,499.76
ATTENDANCE
171

SPRING LAKE: Dec. GIVING
\$4,190.00
EXPENSE
\$10,027.20
ATTENDANCE
61

GILMAN: January GIVING
\$17,402.00
EXPENSE
\$5,278.25
ATTENDANCE
146

ST. JOHN'S: January GIVING
\$12,348.05
EXPENSE
\$9,341.30
ATTENDANCE
250

SPRING LAKE: Jan. GIVING
\$2,649.00
EXPENSE
\$3,981.80
ATTENDANCE
57

WORSHIP SCHEDULE
WORSHIP SERVICES WILL BE
At 10:00 AM January– March
In April 09:00 AM

Wednesday Evening Worship
7pm at St. John's

FEBRUARY

- 2-4 Gilman - Annual Meeting to follow
- 2-11 St. John's - Annual Meeting to follow
- 2-18 Spring Lake - Annual Meeting to follow
- 2-25 Spring Lake

March

- 3-3 Gilman
- 3-10 St. John's
- 3-17 Spring Lake
- 3-24 Gilman **Palm Sunday**
- 3-27 **No Service**
- 3-28 **Maundy Thursday** St. John's 07:-00PM
- 3-29 **Good Friday** Gilman 01:00 PM
- 3-29 **Good Friday** Spring Lake 07:00 PM
- 3-31 **Easter** St. John's

April

- 4-7 Gilman
- 4-14 St. John's
- 4-21 Spring Lake
- 4-28 Spring Lake

May

- 5-5 Gilman
- 5-12 St. John's
- 5-19 Spring Lake
- 5-26 Gilman

June

- 6-2 Gilman
- 6-9 St. John's
- 6-16 Spring Lake
- 6-23 St. John's
- 6-30 Spring Lake