

Today we continue with the season of Advent. During our worship services, we are lighting our third Advent candle – the **JOY** candle, singing more wonderful Advent hymns and songs, and continuing our sermon series called “Rising from the Ashes.” With our message today, we fast-forward from the Exodus to Israel’s time in exile and their return to Jerusalem.

After the Exodus and Israel’s time of wandering in the wilderness, by God’s power, they conquered the promised land. During their time in the promised land, they lived under the watch and reign of many judges and kings. Likewise, throughout that time God sent numerous prophets to remind the people of the blessings that came with faithfulness and the punishments that came with unfaithfulness and idolatry.

Unfortunately, God’s people were constantly unfaithful, which led them into exile. However, from the ashes of the exile, God brought his people back to Jerusalem where they worshipped Him. Throughout worship, you are invited to see how God humbled His people to restore a relationship with them. Likewise, you are encouraged to think about how God oftentimes humbles us to get us back on the right track.

Sermon Notes ~ “Rising from Exile”

- * *What happened between the Exodus and the Exile?*

- * *How did God’s people end up in exile?*

- * *What happened in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah?*

- * *What did God raise up from the ashes of Israel’s disobedience and time in exile?*

- * *How have you experienced God humbling you in order to hit the “reset button?”*

* **In Our Prayers** ... Dorothy Barkley Clara Krejci, Greg Guffey, Bartley Kohel, Renee Holz, Rock Gjermo, Jon Friel, Joanne Dahlin, Lisa Larsen, Ruth Hagemeyer, Laura DePetro, Lorraine Schire, Kevin Portugue, Mary Schultz, Peter Nyout, Oline Tolbert, Doug Lasker, Dolores Weir, Carol Mrozik, Betsy Dehler, Marion Hastings, Gene Pommerening, Stephen Minister Caregivers & Care Receivers

WHAT'S HAPPENING

The week of December 13 at St. John!

- * **Advent Service Projects** ... In place of in-person service projects on Wednesdays during Advent, this year you are invited to do these projects from your home. For the second week in Advent (December 6–12), we focused on LINC Twin Cities (a ministry that supports and trains multi-ethnic ministry leaders). For the third week in Advent (December 13–19) we will focus on SoWashCo CARES, an organization that serves students and families in need in South Washington County. Each week an email is sent with details on the organization and at-home service project.
- * **Music Focus for Kids and Teens** ... If you are interested in sharing your talents on Sunday, December 20 at 10:30 am, please let Mary Jo know your interest ~ instrument/name of the song/solo, duet or small group.
- * **Children’s Christmas Service** ... Sunday, December 20 at 10:30 am titled “When the Time Had Fully Come”.
- * **Christmas Eve Services ~ Thursday, December 24** ... Times are 2:00 pm ~ 3:30 pm ~ 5:00 pm and on 98.9 FM ... If you would be interested in “ushering” at one or more of these services, please contact Kristie.
- * **Christmas Day Worship** ... Friday, December 25 at 9:00 am
- * **Year-End Giving** ... As the year comes to a close, you are invited to consider St. John when it comes to your year-end giving. As always, you can give in-person, online (stjohnwoodbury.org/give), or through the mail (1975 St. Johns Drive, Woodbury, MN 55129). If you are interested in the possibility of donating to St. John in other ways (stocks, real estate, etc.), please contact the office (651.436.6621). Thank you SO much for your generosity and faithfulness to St. John!
- * **Missing Jacket** ... somebody accidentally took Karl Schultz’ black XXL Eddie Bauer jacket with a Jeep car fob in the right pocket. If you mistakenly took it on Sunday, November 22, please contact the church office or Karl ...
- * **Visits** ... If you would like a 1-on-1 visit from Pastor Dave, whether in-person or virtually, he would love to set that up with you. Please contact the office to schedule a visit.
- * **Altar Flowers** ... The flowers beautifying the sanctuary this Advent season are given by the Don Lindeman family in honor / memory of Cheryl’s son, Todd Tuley, who celebrated his heavenly birthday on December 3.
- * **Weekly Social Media Post** ... Sometimes in life, we need to hit the “reset button.” For the Israelites, God sent them into exile to restore their relationship with Him. Even today, God will often humble us to get us back on the right track. #stjohnwoodbury#2020DumpsterFire #TheExile

WELCOME

New Members

Please join us in welcoming these new members to St. John!

Crystal Brutlag ... lives in Fridley and was born and raised in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. Crystal holds a Bachelor's Degree and is employed by Messiah Lutheran in Lakeville and is St. John's Communication Consultant. She enjoys reading, writing, painting, drawing, photography, dance travel and missions.

Kara Dragich, Dylan, Bryce, Taya and Jayce ... live in Cottage Grove.

Mike & Cheryl Hecker ... live in Cottage Grove and are the parents/grandparents to Kara Dragich and her children.

Krista Mehrl ... lives in St. Louis Park. She is the daughter of Mary Jo and was born in Southfield, MI and grew up in Shorewood, IL. Krista holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of St. Thomas in Secondary Education/Social Studies. Krista grew up as a PK (Pastor's Kid), add in her mom's job as church Music Director and it's not hard to figure out that she was at church all the time! From a young age, she was involved in church music and maintains that today. Outside of music, she enjoys being active and outside ... exercising, paddle boarding, dabbling with snowboarding in the winter, traveling, watching sports and hanging out with friends and family. Krista is deeply committed to her job at an education—centered nonprofit in Minneapolis (ACES, which is Athletes Committed to Educating Students).

Linda Nutting ... just moved to Woodbury this year and was born in Minneapolis, raised in New Hope. Linda enjoys sewing, camping, live baseball games, the outdoors, and is active in Handbells at St. John and would like to get involved in volunteering and Bible Studies. She has an adult daughter and two grandchildren.

Vincent (Vince) Setten ... lives in Woodbury and was born and raised in Minneapolis and was looking for a smaller congregation to join.. Vince is retired from the Finance Department at Regions Hospital. Vince was in the Army Reserve in ASA (Army Security Agency) at Ft. Snelling. He holds a BA in Accounting from St. Thomas College and would like to get involved in Bible Study, Small Groups and Evangelism at St. John, and is active with the Gideons. He enjoys baseball, golf, gardening, cross country skiing, canoeing, walking, travel, attending concerts and parades, fishing, visiting family and friends, and likes Christian History of USA, reading biographies of Evangelists and Missionaries. Vince has two grown daughters, Carmella and Rebecca.

New Member Sunday ~ December 13 at both services

MISSION STATEMENT

*"At St. John Lutheran Church,
our purpose is to make
and equip disciples everywhere
by proclaiming
Jesus Christ as Savior."*

