

Today we move into a new Church Year as we begin the season of Advent. On Sundays this Advent, the short title for our sermon series is "Rising from the Ashes." However, the full title for this series is "Rising from the Ashes of the Dumpster Fire." According to Dictionary.com, this phrase "Dumpster Fire" means, "A situation, person, or thing that is disastrous and out of control." Most people would probably agree that 2020 has been an absolute dumpster fire. Throughout Scripture, we see numerous examples of other dumpster fires.

But in all of these examples, we see God work to bring something absolutely amazing out of the pain and chaos. Throughout worship today, as we begin this season of Advent and also begin our descent into the close of 2020, you are encouraged to see what God was able to raise up from the ashes of the Fall into sin. Likewise, you are encouraged to spend some time asking God to show you what He is raising up in your life from the ashes of this year.

Sermon Notes ~ "Rising from the Fall"

- * *What is a "Dumpster Fire" and why is that an appropriate phrase for 2020?*
- * *What was life like in Genesis 1-2?*
- * *What happened in Genesis 3 and what have been the consequences?*
- * *In what ways did God raise up something glorious from the ashes of the Fall?*
- * *How does today's message give you hope about God raising up something glorious from the ashes of 2020?*

* Special Music Focus for Kids and Teens *

Who doesn't like Christmas music? We all do! I know there are many talented kids and teens (and adults) who want to make beautiful music especially at this special time of year. Why not share it? Please consider Sunday, December 20 at 10:30 am and let me know your interest:

- + What instrument would you like to perform with?
- + Name of the song? Songs should be church appropriate
- + Music could be done as a solo, duet, or even small group

We want to showcase and applaud your *individual* talents this year, so don't be shy. All skill levels are welcome, and no one should feel intimidated. You simply perform to the best of your ability to give God the glory! I can't wait to hear from you, so please contact Mary Jo to declare your interest!

WHAT'S HAPPENING

The week of November 29 at St. John!

- * **Dedication of Pastor Stole** ... Sunday at the 8:00 am service, Pastor will dedicate the stole, purchased in memory of Herb Lohse.
- * **Wednesdays in Advent** ... Men's study at 8:00 am; Recording service at 11:00 am; Handbells at 5:00 pm; Choir & Confirmation at 6:00 pm; Mid-week Advent Worship service at 7:00 pm.
- * **Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study** ... meeting in the Fireside Room on Wednesdays at 8:00 am, studying the book of Romans. You are welcome to join them in-person (masks and distancing required) or via Zoom: bit.ly/StJohnMenBibleStudy (this link will work any Wednesday).
- * **Christmas Eve Feedback Form** ... Last week we emailed a brief feedback form in order to gauge what people are planning to do for worship on Christmas Eve. Thank you to all of you who have already responded! If you haven't done so yet, please take a few minutes to complete the form so that we can do our best to make Christmas Eve at St. John both safe and uplifting. You can find the form at this link ... bit.ly/ChristmasEveFeedbackForm.
- * **Available Today** ... LHM Advent Devotional Booklets, the January—March Portals of Prayer and 2021 Offering Envelopes are available in the Narthex.
- * **LWML Giving Tree** ... There will not be a Christmas gift purchase this year for the families in need; instead, we encourage you to give to your favorite charity. Thanks!
- * **Annual Meeting** ... This year, our Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, December 6 between the 8:00am and 10:30 am services. Please note that we will not have Bible Study or Sunday School that day. As always, we will provide a recap of the previous year, vote on new board members, and vote on the 2021 budget. You can either participate in-person in the Sanctuary, from your car via our FM Transmitter, or via Zoom using this link ... bit.ly/StJohnAnnualMeeting (passcode 012432).
- * **In Our Prayers** ... Greg Guffey, Bartley Kohel, Renee Holz, Rock Gjerme, Jon Friel, Joanne Dahlin, Lisa Larsen, Ruth Hagemeyer, Laura DePetro, Lorraine Schire, Kevin Portuguese, Mary Schultz, Peter Nyout, Oline Tolbert, Doug Lasker, Dolores Weir, Carol Mrozik, Betsy Dehler, Marion Hastings, Gene Pommerening
- * **Weekly Social Media Post** ... The single worst day in human history was when our first parents, Adam and Eve, rebelled against God. Yet, God was still able to raise something glorious from the ashes of the Fall — restoration and renewal through Jesus.
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