



St. John's Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



March, 2018

Dear St. John's Family,

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

"But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!"

For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people."

When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

~ Luke 5:8-11

Jesus calls us to follow in his way. If He came to us today, right in the middle of our day's labors, would we be willing to leave it all behind and follow? Jesus calls us to place our commitment to following Him first in our lives. What have we placed first instead?

Each year at this time I take stock of the year that has passed. (Usually, Christmas is too busy a season to even attempt taking a personal inventory by the time the calendar new year comes!) The questions I use for this inventory are: Where has my mind been focused or unfocused? Where have I spent or saved my money? How have I nurtured or not nurtured my body? This allows me to be intentional about my Lenten discipline.

In Lent we followers of Jesus commit ourselves to the three great Christian disciplines: Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving. With prayer we put Christ first in our minds. With fasting we practice mindfulness with regard to our bodily appetites as we turn our whole selves more completely over to Jesus' way. With Almsgiving we practice the letting go of those things we have placed value in and work against our love of money by giving our treasures.

As we journey together through this Lent and toward the Three Days and the great feast of Easter, my prayer is that you will be strengthened in your faith, renewed through the disciplines, and empowered in your commitment in leaving everything and following Jesus.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Roger

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