



Faith Family

News

March 2024

*In response to God's grace flowing
through Christ, we grow in faith
and show Christ's love.*

A Storyteller's Story

In this year of the Gospel reading from the Gospel according to Mark, I think it is very helpful to understand the literary form of Mark's Gospel. While Biblical scholars disagree about who Mark was and where he wrote, they generally agree that he wrote in the late 60s or early 70s of the first century. He wrote for Christians in the Roman Empire. His Gospel was the first one written. It was a new literary form consisting of history and proclamation designed to motivate faith in Jesus Christ. While Mark made a new literary form, he based it on a literary form that was very familiar in the Roman Empire during the first century. The familiar form was a Greek tragedy, and Mark knew it well.

Mark wrote this Gospel to be told orally as a story. It consists of individual stories put together in one long story. Professor David Rhoads demonstrated the power of an oral presentation of it by memorizing the entire Gospel and telling it as a story.

In the many theaters in the Roman Empire, the plays that were performed and the stories that were told by individual actors were of two types — tragedies and comedies. The comedies were intended primarily to amuse the hearers. The goal was to send the audience away laughing and happy. The tragedies were intended to motivate better moral behavior in the lives of the audience. In a tragedy, the main character is a good person who is misunderstood by some other characters and persecuted by some others. The main character

suffers through a morally significant struggle which ends disastrously. Aristotle described the horrible injustice of a tragedy as a motivation to spectators not to fail as characters in the tragedy do but to have a determination to live a morally better life.

More recent dramas that are also in the literary form of a Greek tragedy are William Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" and Leonard Bernstein's "West Side Story."

Mark's Gospel tells the story of Jesus as Good News. Tragically, Jesus is misunderstood by his disciples, persecuted by religious and governmental authorities, and brutally crucified, dead, and buried. Tragedy, indeed. But in Mark's Gospel, death is not the end. The tomb is empty. The risen Jesus has gone ahead of his disciples, who are called to follow him on the way, all the way to eternal life.

Mark's Gospel motivates us not to fear but to believe in God who came to us in the good person of Jesus who was misunderstood, persecuted, and tragically killed. And we are motivated to share the Good News of Christ's victory over death, the Good News of eternal life with Jesus who suffered and died so that we who also die can live eternally with him. Easter is coming!

As a storyteller myself, I consider Mark to be my favorite Gospel.

*Pastor Paul Schwartzkopf
Sabbatical Pastor and Storyteller*

Preaching with Pastor Paul on the Gospel According to Mark

March 3, Lent 3 — “Taking or Giving” — In Mark 12:1-17, Jesus tells a parable about wicked tenants who were greedily grabbing for all they could get. Then Jesus makes his well-known statement about the relation between government and religion, “Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.”

March 10, Lent 4 — The Rev. Jonathan Warren, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, will preach and lead worship as Pastor Paul is at Grace in Virginia and St. John’s in Bluff Springs,

March 17, Lent 5 — “Throwing Down or Gathering Up” — In Mark 13:1-8 and 24-27, Jesus contrasts the future destruction of the temple in Jerusalem with the future coming of the Son of Man when his angels will gather up the elect from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

See the next page for the
Holy Week & Easter
Schedule

Council Member Installed

On February 11, we installed Faith Council members for 2024. We welcome new member Gaylon Martin. Continuing members are Malinda Carlson, Ken Devlin, Marilyn Dichsen (Youth Rep.), Kelly Hartz (Council President), Greg Kimler, Patty Nelson, Monica Proefrock, and Kelly Street (Secretary).

Lenten Wednesday Workshops

Lent will look a little different this year with Pastor Adam on sabbatical, but please plan to join us for midweek Lenten evenings that will help us learn about ourselves as people of faith and of Faith, and to grow deeper in our relationships with God and each other. Plan to join us in the Great Room on **Wednesday evenings through March 20** for a potluck meal beginning at 6:00pm followed by a time of learning and fellowship at 6:45pm, and take time this Lent to become Grounded in Faith. - *Monica Proefrock*

We Welcome Rev. Jonathan Warren on March 10

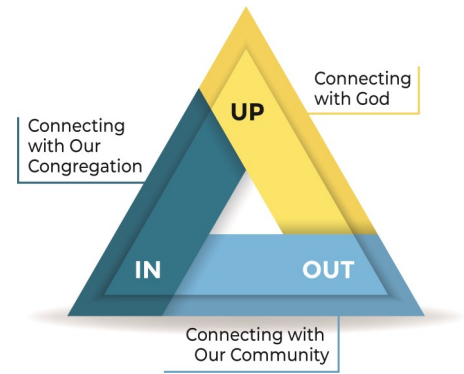
Rev. Jonathan Warren is an Illinois native, having grown up in the Chicago suburb of Warrenton, and went to school at Monmouth College. Before seminary, he served a year as a missionary in Kenya, Africa. Jonathan went to Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Austin, Texas, where he also met and married his wife, Rev. Siobhan Warren. In his 17th year of ordained ministry, Jonathan has served churches in New Mexico, Wyoming, Tennessee, and currently at First Presbyterian Church (FPC) in Jacksonville.



Jonathan is the father of two daughters: Hannah, 15, and Lydia, 12. He enjoys singing, kayaking, watching movies, and spending time with family. He’s also been spotted swinging around St. John’s Children’s Hospital as Spider-Man. In 2023, Rev. Dichsen led worship on July 23 at FPC while Jonathan took a 3-month sabbatical, so he is glad to return the favor on Sunday, March 10.

Reaching Up... Connecting with God through Worship

Total ministry is a balanced ministry as we reach up, in, and out... connecting with God, our congregation, and our community



Palm Sunday - March 24

“God Provides and People Sing”

Start off Holy Week with us as we gather in the entryway for our palm procession. In Mark 11:1-11, Jesus enters the city of Jerusalem, and the people sing, “Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.” We’re still singing!

Maundy Thursday - March 28

“Take, Drink”

Holy Week continues on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. as we gather with Jesus at the Lord’s Table for a different meal. In Mark 14:22-42, we read about two cups of salvation — the cup of the Lord’s Supper and the cup of our Lord’s crucifixion.

Good Friday - March 29

“The Truth”

Join us on Friday at 7:00pm for this traditional Tenebrae service. “Tenebrae” means “darkness or shadows” in Latin. As we read Mark’s account of Jesus’ crucifixion, the shadows grow long and darkness claims the sanctuary and our hearts. We place nails in the cross to remember Jesus’ death for us. The Christ Candle departs to signify Jesus sealed in the tomb, but returns to give us hope in despair and light in the darkness.

In Mark 15:16-39, we hear the centurion, the commanding officer at the crucifixion, proclaim the identity of Jesus, the crucified. The commander proclaimed, “Truly this man was God’s Son.”

Easter Sunday - March 31

“Fear and Silence End Here”

Mark 16:1-8 is the ending that Mark intended because it perfectly fits the literary form of a Greek Tragedy. Later some scribes added other endings. A Greek Tragedy ends tragically in order to motivate hearers not to fail as the characters in the story fail.

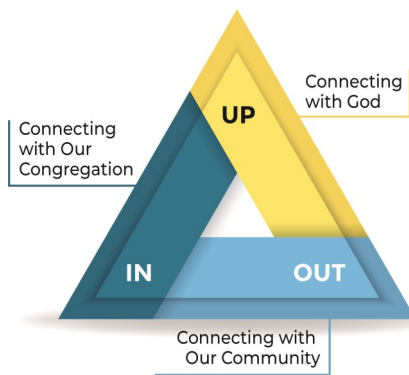
Faith Family Easter Breakfast

10:30am

Join us after worship for a delicious meal of breakfast casseroles, coffee cakes, and fruit salad. A free-will donation will be collected to support youth retreats and activities this summer. **If you would like to donate food** (casserole, coffee cake, fruit salad, milk, or orange juice), there is a signup sheet on the counter by the Fair-Trade Coffee sales.

Prayer Chain

If you would like to be added to the email Prayer Chain to be kept up to date on prayer needs for our members and friends, please let us know in the church office at faithlutheran62650@frontier.com and we will add you to the email list.



Reaching In... Connecting with our Congregation through Discipleship and Fellowship

Total ministry is a balanced ministry as we reach up, in, and out... connecting with God, our congregation, and our community

Discipleship Group

Join our monthly discussion at 10:00am on Wednesday, March 20, in the Faith Library. This month, we'll discuss the upcoming Holy Week and what it means to us. For more information, please contact Kelly Hartz at (217) 502-1979 or by email at khartz@sompo-intl.com.

Youth Group Help Wanted

One of the hats worn by Pastor Adam is youth leader. In his absence, we are looking for people willing to lead an event, host a meal, or lead a youth Sunday school class. If you are interested, please let Kelly Hartz know. We have a wonderful group of youth, and you would be blessed by your time with them!

Women of Faith Fellowship Night

We are on hiatus during Lent, but will resume meeting in April. Look for more information to come!

Men's Breakfast

Come and connect with other men as we share our faith and enjoy some good food on **Saturday, March 2**. Come help at 8:00 and eat at 9:00.

Men's Prayer Group

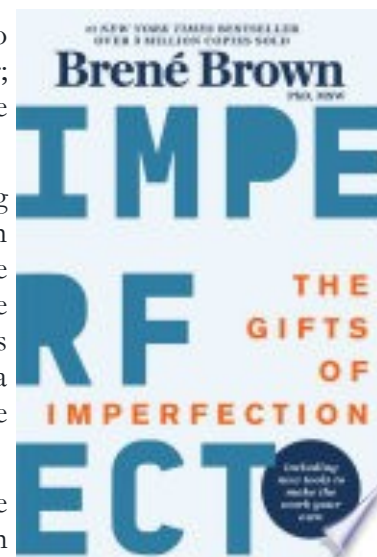
While Pastor Adam is away, the Men's Prayer Group is seeking to grow our group! You can meet in person at Faith on Wednesday mornings at 7:00, or on zoom. Contact one of the guys to let them know you are coming: Gilbert Joehl, Kevin Krohe, or Larry Kuster.

Sabbatical Book #2 - "Imperfect"

Pastor Adam has selected a number of books to read on sabbatical, but would like to invite you to join in reading some of them with him. We will discuss them together; then, when he returns, he will host a series of discussion sessions to share what we have learned.

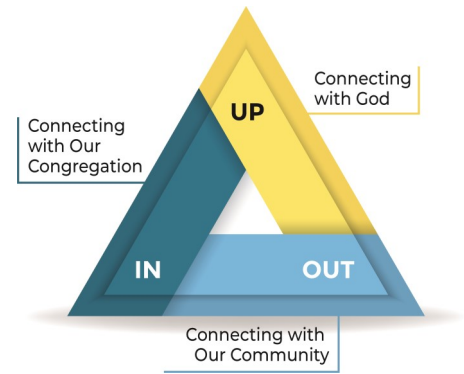
Our second book is by social scientist, Brené Brown. She has done groundbreaking work in the area of vulnerability and leadership. In this book, Brown offers ten guideposts to wholehearted living. These guideposts help us understand the practices that will allow us to change our lives and families and address the unattainable and sabotaging expectations that get in the way. Brené writes, "This book is an invitation to join a wholehearted revolution. Revolution might sound a little dramatic, but in this world, choosing authenticity and worthiness is an absolute act of resistance." Stay tuned for a discussion date.

From Pastor Adam: "I have read some of Brené Brown's other books and have attended her *Dare to Lead* conference. During my sabbatical, I am eager to learn more about myself and who God made me to be. The conference really helped me understand my values and how that impacts my leadership. I want to come clean with God about how imperfect I am so that God's grace can clear a path for more authentic living and serving.



Reaching Out... Connecting with our Community through Outreach

Total ministry is a balanced ministry as we reach up, in, and out... connecting with God, our congregation, and our community



Jacksonville Food Center

In January, the Jacksonville Food Center served 598 families for food orders, a total of 1,342 people at a cost of \$76,890 equaling 32,890 pounds. They served 154 families for extra bakery, a total of 327 people at a cost of \$2,560. The churches contributed \$8,600.79 in money and \$817.50 in food donations. Faith Lutheran donated \$290 in money and \$79.50 in food in January.

Food Drives — Jacksonville Public Library: 118.8 pounds=\$594 and Krush: 135 pounds =\$675

Our donations of soup for “Souper Bowl” February have been going well. Soup is a nutritious meal and easy to fix at any age. Melissa mentioned that canned pasta, sauce and meat combo, such as Chef Boyardee, and canned tuna are also good choices for donation. Empty egg cartons are also very much appreciated since eggs are delivered in bulk to the Food Center for distribution.

Lillian Korous

Friends From Faith

A ministry team led by Naomi Hahn: on the last Sunday of each month — everyone is welcome to send a greeting card. **On March 31**, visit the tall white table just outside the sanctuary where you can select a card, sign a card, or deposit a card in the mailbox to send. Cards and stamps are provided for your use. If you have extra cards or stamps to spare, please bring them and donate them in the provided jar.

Music is a great way to connect!

Join us for an Easter Choir!

We plan to gather a group of singers for an **Easter Anthem!** Rehearsals will be on Sundays, March 17 and 24, at 10:45am after the service.

We are also always looking for people to sing or play special music for a prelude or a stewardship offering.

jrwelch53@msn.com or 217-652-7009 (phone/text)



Daylight Savings Time Sunday, March 10

Remember to spring forward 1 hour on Saturday night (March 9) so you won't be late to church!



Free Concert & Fundraiser for Green Pastures Christian Retreat Center

The popular Christian quartet, Two by Two and K's Creek Golf Club are hosting the Green Pastures Spring Fundraiser on **Sunday, March 17 at 6:00 pm at K's Creek**, 1265 Sandusky Road, Jacksonville, IL. Featured performers are Two by Two, Roger Wainwright, The Benz Trio, and Hope Cherry. There is no cost to attend. Free will donations to benefit Green Pastures Christian Retreat Center will be gratefully accepted. Beverages, pizza, and appetizers will be available for purchase.

Worship Assistants

Chancel Committee

Mar. 3 Pat Glyshaw
Mar. 10 Kris Roth
Mar. 17 **need volunteer**
Mar. 24 **need volunteer** (Palm Sun)
Mar. 28 Kris Roth (M. Thursday)
Mar. 31 Karen Sibert (Easter)

Coffee Hosts

Mar. 3 **need volunteer**
Mar. 10 Karen Sibert
Mar. 17 Judy D. & Vicki R.
Mar. 24 Kay Schnitker (Palm Sun.)
Mar. 31 *Easter Breakfast* (Easter)

Communion Assts.

Mar. 3 Pam Devlin
Mar. 10 Barb Davenport
Mar. 17 Hallie Mayner
Mar. 24 Kay Schnitker (Palm Sun.)
Mar. 28 **need volunteer** (M. Thurs.)
Mar. 31 Karen Sibert (Easter)

Greeters

Mar. 3 Judy Dillard
Mar. 10 Hallie Mayner
Mar. 17 **need volunteer**
Mar. 24 **need volunteer** (Palm Sun)
Mar. 28 **need volunteer** (M. Thurs.)
Mar. 31 Lynette Hamilton (Easter)

Readers

Mar. 3 John Williams
Mar. 10 Barb Davenport
Mar. 17 Carol Kilver
Mar. 24 Carol VanderKloot
Mar. 29 Liddy Stark (Good Friday)
Mar. 31 Terri Kimler (Easter)

Ushers

Mar. 3 Judy D. & Vicki R.
Mar. 10 Pat Glyshaw
Mar. 17 Barb Davenport
Mar. 24 Hallie M. & Patty N.
(Palm Sunday)
Mar. 28 **need volunteer** (M. Thurs)
Mar. 29 Liddy Stark (G. Friday)
Mar. 31 **need volunteers** (Easter)

If you would like to help with assisting for the 9:30am worship services, please contact the church office (faithlutheran62650@frontier.com) or **sign up in the gathering area** at the podium by the east doors.

Altar Plants

(\$15 donation appreciated)

Plants are placed in the chancel that remain for an extended period of time.

If you would like to donate, please call or email the church office (245-8919 or faithlutheran62650@frontier.com) or **sign up in the gathering area at the podium by the east doors**; please make checks payable to Faith Lutheran Church (1385 W. Walnut St.).

Mar. 3 **Open for donation**
& **Open for donation**

Mar. 10 **Open for donation**
& **Open for donation**

Mar. 17 **Open for donation**
& **Open for donation**

Mar. 24 **Open for donation**
& **Open for donation**

Mar. 31 By the Dichsen family in celebration of Louis' 9th birthday on March 29

Financial Assistants

Mar. 3 Greg Kimler & Kelly Street
Mar. 10 Kelly Hartz & Kelly Street
Mar. 17 Gaylon Martin & Monica Proefrock
Mar. 24 Malinda Carlson & Kelly Hartz
Mar. 31 Ken Devlin & Patty Nelson

Financial Statements

2023 Financial Statements are available at the tall table outside of the office at church. If there is no envelope with your name on it, please let Pam Devlin know or contact the church office.

Offering Envelopes for 2024

Offering envelopes are available in the gathering area at church. If you do not see a box with your name on it, please let us know.

Plastic Caps & Lids

We stopped collecting caps in December, but the Jacksonville Public Library is now accepting caps and lids.

Newsletter Deadline

March 17