



March 16, 2021

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## Misunderstanding Jesus

The most dangerous time to read the Bible is when you think you know what it says.

Jesus is often misunderstood by those who listen to him, who reduce Jesus' words to a mortal and human frame of reference that they know and are familiar with. When Jesus predicted his death by talking about tearing down the Temple, people could not fathom the concept of resurrection and so reduced his words to speaking about the actual building. Nicodemus mistakes spiritual rebirth for an actual repeat of physical birth. Despite his seemingly ad absurdum rejection of Jesus' image, he is making the classic error of considering everything to operate in the way that he assumes it operates. The woman at Jacob's Well was considering that Jesus has a skin of that Living Water surrounding him that she can take with her and avoid coming to the well in the heat of the day. She did not even consider that Jesus was talking about anything other than the water that she was used to.

This reduction of Jesus words about spiritual matters to material, human, finite limitations prevent those same words from opening our eyes to the spiritual richness of our lives with God. Just like the people around Jesus missed much about who he is and what his purpose in our world is.

We do this all the time.

It is easy to select an interpretation of a text from the many sermons we have listened to and let that be our understanding of it. We know that the text does not change, so why would the interpretation? The Scripture, however, reads us as we read it, noting the change within us that growth and the years have brought. Each time, it speaks to us what we need to hear, what we are longing to hear, and sometimes what we don't want to hear. To ignore this reality is to deny your experience of life, your humanity, and the richness of Scripture.

Jesus' words, both in the gospel of John and in the parables he uses to teach, reveal more than a simple analogy for us to decode and integrate into our lives. They describe an active and living spiritual reality of life with God which, like any relationship requires growing in our understanding of the other. The relationship will breakdown when the other becomes a static figure who cannot say or be anything else than they have already said or be anything else than they already are. But, when one way of seeing gives way to another, the relationship builds. The truths of the text support and uplift one another until each story, each poem, each discourse in Scripture is a place of wonderous rooms where we dwell in awe and wonder.

While it is easier to pigeon-hole people and ideas, passages of Scripture, Jesus, and even our creator, the Holy Spirit is the spiritual unease and disquiet that cannot leave us with good enough in terms of our spiritual lives. She is the one who calls and drives, convicts, and inspires, helping us see with new eyes those things that we have seen every day before the way God sees them. And we know we have the Holy Spirit's presence because we are able to say with our words and with our lives that Jesus is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Remember this, and you'll never read scripture the same way again.

Pr. Justin Smoot, (he/him)

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## This Week in Lent

To access the Lent mailer, click [here](#).

This week in Lent, we remember that we have been created in community with *those on the Margins*.

The featured text for this Wednesday, March 17 is Mark 5:1-20: Jesus crosses barriers to attend to those on the margins

Mender of division, you sent Christ to heal the world and to gather those on the margins. Bring your healing power to us. May we extend your power and grace to those separated from their communities and those longing for a tangible sign of your love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

This week, we pray for our neighbors in partnership with The Women's Community who will be receiving the proceeds from this week's soup donations.



Join us for worship via Facebook livestream or by using the Zoom information listed below:

Click [here](#) to join the Zoom Meeting.

Meeting ID: 818 0905 7687

Passcode: 484955

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,81809057687#,,,,\*484955# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,,81809057687#,,,,\*484955# US (New York)

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## Soup for Community

SALC is serving Lenten Soup To Go as a part of its Created for Community mission for this season of Lent. Proceeds from soup this week will be going to The Women's Community.

You can place your soup order [online](#). Orders for the week are due by 4:30 on Mondays.

When picking up your soup, enter through the main door (near the bell tower). Follow the signs to the Fellowship Hall where volunteers will assist you.

If you ordered for **curbside pick-up**, please pull up to the north entrance (near the Chapel) and call the number listed on the sign to let our volunteers know you have arrived. They will then meet you at your car with your order.

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## Easter Food Baskets Available and Donation Opportunities

At the beginning of the pandemic, Social Ministry needed to donate or dispose of all the food and supplies that were on hand in the food pantry. Now all these months later, the ministry has decided to resume some of the pre-pandemic activities.

A collection area is set up in the Narthex for items to be donated to the Wausau Warming Center and the Saint Andrew Food Pantry. Emergency food baskets will also begin to be distributed as well as Easter food baskets for those in need. If you know of someone who could use an Easter food basket, please contact the church office no later than **Wednesday, March 24**. Easter food baskets will be available for pick-up on **Saturday, March 27**. Any donations are appreciated for any of these outreach ministries. Below are items currently needed:

**Easter Items Through the Saint Andrew Food Pantry:** canned yams, canned corn, canned green beans, cream of mushroom soup, canned fried onions, canned cranberry sauce, jello, gravy, canned pie filling and Easter candy

**Emergency Through the Saint Andrew Food Pantry:** pasta, marinara sauce, macaroni & cheese, canned vegetables, canned fruit, cereal, crackers, ketchup, mustard, salad dressing, mayonnaise, jams & jellies, canned soup, canned tuna or chicken, rice, boxed potatoes and beans

**Wausau Warming Center:** cleaning supplies to include general disinfecting cleaners, toilet bowl cleaner, laundry detergent, dish soap, disposable coffee cups, disposable to-go containers and individually wrapped plastic forks

Thank you from the members of the Social Ministry of SALC.

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## The Happenings of Holy Week

Once again, Holy Week is looking a little bit different this year. Here is a basic outline of what is happening in Holy Week of 2021. Be on the look out for more detailed information coming later this week.

### ***Palm Sunday***

-Livestream Service will be taking place at 9:00 am as per usual with no in person attendance.

-Saint Andrew Palm Processional: This will be a procession to various locations within the Wausau community to share the Gospel and prepare for the coming week taking place at 10:30 am with a departure time of 10:45 am. More details will be coming on this soon.

### ***Maundy Thursday***

-In Person worship will take place at 12:30 pm. This will have a similar set up to Pet Sunday. This service will not be livestreamed but will include Holy Communion.

-A Livestreamed service will be premiering at 6:30 pm for those who wish to worship from home in the evening. There will be drive-up Communion Distribution following this service at the north Chapel entrance.

### ***Good Friday***

-At 12:30 pm, a traditional Saint Andrew Tenebrae service will be livestreamed with no in person attendance.

-From 1:30 pm-6:00 pm, the Sanctuary will be open for a time of interactive prayer utilizing the Stations of the Cross while live music is shared. Masking and social distancing will be practiced during this time.



-At 6:30 pm, there will be a service on the Celebration Patio. There will be no music and this will not be livestreamed.

### ***Easter Vigil***

-There will be an Illustrated Ministries Pageant premiering at sunset via Facebook. This is similar to the Christmas Pageant and has been put together by various high school youth of Saint Andrew.

### ***Easter***

-There will be two outdoor services on Easter morning. One will take place at 8:30 am in the parking lot similar to the Rally Day Service. This service will be livestreamed.

-A second service will take place at 10:30 am in the same place. These services will be happening rain, snow, or shine!

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## **Art in Verse**

As the weather begins to warm and the sun begins to shine, I am reminded of the summer with its oceans and beaches. This week, our Art in Verse series features Kerry Fehrmann, a well known and loved member of the Saint Andrew congregation. Take a look at Kerry's sea glass below:

Psalm 119-105 "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

A few years back I found a devotion centered on Psalm 119 and Matthew 6:34 that I revisit often. It helps me to remember that God promises a lamp unto our feet, not a crystal ball into the future. We don't need to know or worry about what will happen tomorrow. We only need to know that God leads us.

I find relief from worry in the calm and accomplishment in creating art from found pieces of beach glass, pebbles, and shells. Every step of the process, from the search to the packaging the finished piece centers me. I am grateful for the opportunity to find time in my life for reflection and prayer through this hobby.

Searching the shores of Lake Michigan and the Florida panhandle is the first step (and my favorite) in creating my jewelry. The sounds of waves, wind, and birds along the shore, and the feeling of the sun and wind on my face always renews me. Everything seems to fade into the background when I concentrate on the sandy (FL) and pebbled





(WI) beaches as I walk. When "glassing", I look directly in front of my feet sweeping narrowly from left to right for a pop of color or an odd shape among the pebbles and sand. The occasional look up is to ease the neck pain and gauge where I am and often to realize I have walked miles from my starting point.

Transitioning beach finds to jewelry is done by cutting, sanding, drilling, and wire-wrapping the pieces as needed. This detailed hand work is tedious and requires much concentration to achieve the desired result, but is also a hidden opportunity for reflection.

My sisters, Cindy and Kristine, share my love for hunting beach glass. We have been actively "glassing" and creating for 4 years now. Our story, pictures of our adventures, and our online store can be found on our website, [www.psycho-sea-glass-sisters.com](http://www.psycho-sea-glass-sisters.com).

Thank you Kerry for reminding us that the practice of art can be deeply renewing for our souls and can be a time of prayer, reflection, and deeper connection to God in our lives.

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## Videos Available on YouTube

Did you miss worship live? Was there something in particular that you'd like to listen to again? A children's sermon that tickled your ear? Facebook not your thing? Church is uploading these video resources to our YouTube channel. Check out [this link](#) or search for Saint Andrew and hit "subscribe" to see and share the latest content.

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## Plan to Gather Weekly Update: 3/16/2021

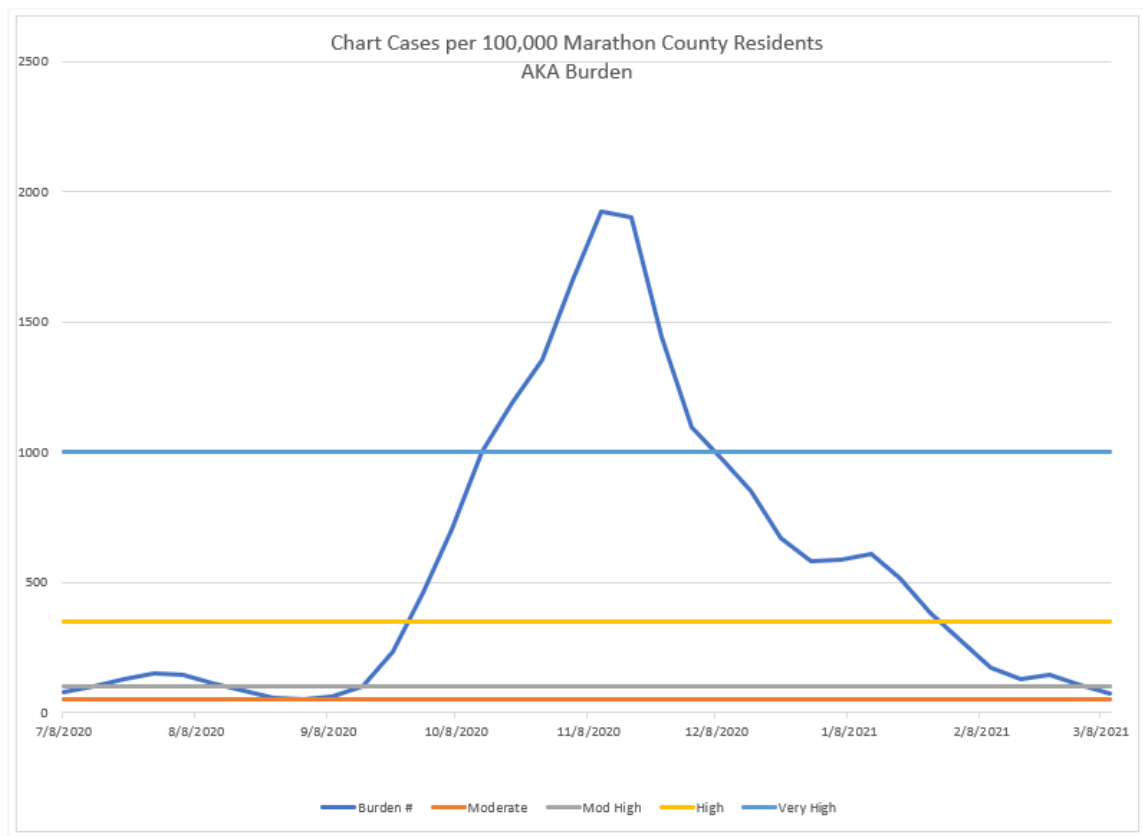
The council has again updated the Plan to Gather which you can find in full detail at [www.salc-wausau.org/covid](http://www.salc-wausau.org/covid). Some have shared it would be helpful to have a different visual to show how the number in our graph correlates to our plan. The various lines on the graph below are the benchmarks we have currently set in order to gather in person. The grey line is our current benchmark for outdoor worship. We're so close!

## SALC COVID-19 UPDATE

As of 3/10/2021

Date	Burden #	Trajectory	Burden Status
2/17	129.9	No Change	High
2/24	144	No Change	High
3/3	108.4	Shrinking	High
3/10	71.2	No Change	Moderately High

**Current SALC Status: Phase One**



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