

# Joyful Noise!

A monthly column  
with all the noise  
that is news about  
Music & Worship at  
St. John Lutheran  
Church

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## March Madness!

I'm not talking about Basketball, I'm talking about the assigned scripture reading for March. These lessons surely come "In like a Lion" and go "Out like a Lamb". If a supermarket tabloid were to report on the upcoming lessons, we might see headlines like this:

Man wanders in desert 40 days  
- tempted to eat rocks!

Childless man claims his  
offspring will outnumber the  
stars!

Imprisoned zealot denounces  
citizenship. Claims he will be  
transformed to higher  
dimension!

Religious leader promises to die  
for his followers!

Religious leader promises free  
milk and wine to followers, and  
says skeptics will perish!

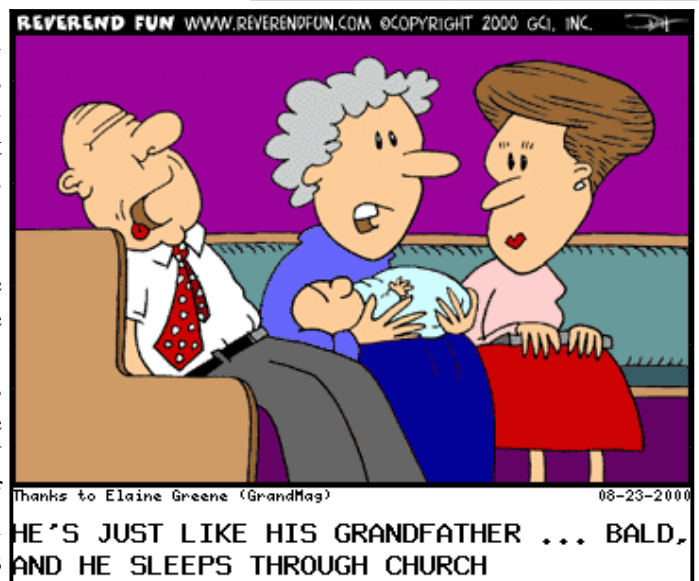
Yes, I'm sure the supermarket tabloids would have a lot of fun with the readings for March. Of course, there is "another side" to all these stories. In this season of Lent, we not only recall Christ's suffering, we also learn the purpose of His sacrifice: our redemption from sin! Come to worship Sundays and Wednesdays and learn the GOOD NEWS behind the March Madness!

## Go to Church VS Go to Worship

I read an article recently that raised an interesting question. What do we do on Sunday? Most would answer, "Go to church." Why do we do that? Hopefully you would answer, "We go to worship." Just GOING to church does not mean that you are going to WORSHIP. If your Sunday ritual amounts to little more than occupying a pew for an hour, then you've missed the point! Remember, CHURCH is a NOUN (a place, a building), but WORSHIP is a VERB (an ACTION - something you DO).

God wants us to do MORE than "just show up" on Sunday. If we are to WORSHIP, we need to get ACTIVELY INVOLVED in the services. Pray the confession, believe you receive forgiveness, Praise the Lord with your singing, Listen and meditate as the choir or soloist sings, concentrate as the lessons are read, ponder the sermon, offer your gifts at the offering, receive God's gift in communion, share God's peace with those around you. WOW - those are a lot of VERBS, but then again, WORSHIP is

the WORK of God's people. Many words in the original Bible texts translate to "worship" in English, including bowing down, adoring, serving, and raising holy joy to the creator. The Psalms are full of calls for us to "*Come before His presence with singing*", and inviting us to use all our musical talents and instruments - even clapping our hands! Of course, there are TWO types of verbs: ACTIVE and PASSIVE. Don't let your worship be a PASSIVE verb...be ACTIVE and INVOLVED. Parents, be sure those kids sitting with you in worship (note I didn't say in CHURCH) should be participating with you. When they were baptized, you promised to teach them the creed and the Lord's Prayer, and to bring them to services (worship) in the Lord's House. Please open those hymnals and teach your children to participate (there's another VERB) in all parts of the worship service!



## Meet the Choir

This month, we continue to introduce our dedicated singers in the Gospel Choir. One of the great things about choir is that it can be a FAMILY activity. Singing is something couples can do together. Today we meet a husband/wife bass/soprano team. Sopranos sing the "high notes", melodies and the high descants that really make choir anthems joyful. Basses sing the deep low harmony that adds depth to our songs.

Barb Snedden has sung soprano with choir since she joined in 1982. Her family joined St. John in 1973. Barb sang in her high school choir, and studied piano as an adult. She's retired, but still living a very active



life, enjoying everything from crafts to trips to the great Northwoods in Michigan. She and her husband raised two children and have six grandchildren. Her favorite radio station is Moody Bible's affiliate WBNH (88.5 FM) in Pekin. Barb enjoys a wide selection of music, including all types of Christian music and EZ Listening.

Barb's husband Dave (Corky) also joined St. John in 1973 and has sung bass in choir since 1982. Corky sang in his high school choir, and has sung in several duets and small groups with Barb and other choir members. Corky retired from Caterpillar,



and enjoys the kids and grandkids with Barb. His favorite radio

station is Oldies 93.3, and he enjoys Traditional and Gospel Christian music as well as EZ Listening.



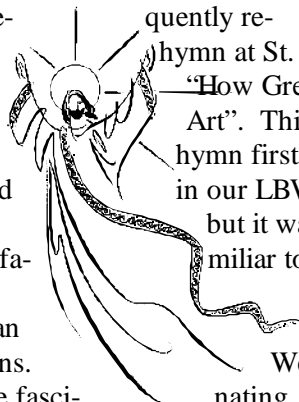
## What was that beautiful harmonica music?

Several people have asked about the background music used at a recent 9:30 communion service. The CD "Simple Praise" features Buddy Green and friends playing beautiful renditions of familiar old favorites like "Beautiful Savior" and "How Great Thou Art" on harmonica, guitar and piano. We bought this CD from the "Christ Centered Store" in Pekin. Ask for CD 790-060-9369, produced by Fortress.

Submit your questions to the church office or Email me at [donbauer@att.net](mailto:donbauer@att.net).

## How Great Thou Art

It's probably no surprise that the most frequently requested hymn at St. John is "How Great Thou Art". This popular hymn first appeared in 1978, but it was already famous among American Christians. We learn the fascinating history of that hymn from the re-



source book "Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins", which says:

It would take the FBI to trace the history of this popular hymn. Written as a poem by Carl Boberg (1859-1940), it came to be sung to a popular Swedish melody, moved next to Germany, translated there by an Estonian, then to Russia, where it was published in 1927. Stuart Hine, who settled in the Western Ukraine, brought out an English translation which contains little of the nine stanza original, but his setting has become an all time favorite due to its use in the Billy Graham crusades.



## UPCOMING 150TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

**Sunday, March 11th,**

See the film made at our congregation's 90th anniversary celebration.

**Sunday, March 25th,**

See the film on the building of our current church in the early 1950's.

**Until Next Month:** Remember...

"Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness." Psalms 29:2 (NIV)

*Soli Deo Gloria* (To God alone be the Glory)

*Donald L. Bauer* Choral & Contemporary Music Director