

Children's Ministry

March Minnesota Food Share Month

March 19 – Jesus Loves Us

(Garden of Gethsemane)

March 26 – Jesus Died For Us

(The Crucifixion)

April 2 – First Food Shelf Sunday

April 2 – Jesus Lives

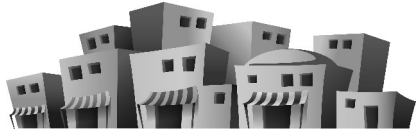
(Easter)

April 9 – **Palm Sunday** Processional

The Jerusalem Marketplace

April 16 – **Easter – NO Sunday School**

Volunteer Opportunity: Shopkeeper's helpers to assist at the **Jerusalem Marketplace** on Palm Sunday. We also would like help with tear down on Palm Sunday after the conclusion of the 10:30 service. Please contact Deb Nelson, through the church office, to respond to these opportunities.



- **Yes! We still need canopies! Please contact the office if you have a canopy that you will lend to use as a shop in the "Jerusalem Marketplace" on Palm Sunday, or drop the canopy off in the church office on a Sunday morning or a Wednesday evening. Be sure to label your canopy so that we may return your canopy to the correct owner after The Marketplace.** We also are looking for **straw or woven baskets** to borrow as decorations. We are also accepting donations of **Solid colored cloth** to use for decorating purposes. **Donated cloth would NOT be returned.**

We have experienced "Jesus is King, Palm Sunday, and Jesus Showed God's Love, The Passover, using Group's "Jerusalem Marketplace" curriculum. I hope you have taken time to play an optional "Roman" **activity/game** from **10:00 to 10:30** in the Narthex. It has been reported that at least two adults have been brave and daring enough to participate. **Adults**, please "jump right in" with the children! Students are earning "shekels" through Sunday and/or Wednesday class attendance, game participation, Bible memorization, and Food Shelf donations. They will be able to use shekels to make and/or purchase items on Palm Sunday at "shops" when Lent culminates in the "Jerusalem Marketplace" on Palm Sunday. Shops will be open throughout the morning from 9:00 to 11:30. Children will attend shops during their Sunday school class time. The shops will also be open between services to allow family participation. This will give an opportunity to participate in shops that they may have missed on an earlier Sunday or Wednesday. We will have shops that will open on Palm Sunday for the first and only time. Arrive early to investigate which shop and/or project to visit first! Shalom!

P.S. Throughout Lent, children will be dismissed from "The Gathering Room," in the fellowship hall, at the conclusion of Sunday School.

- Our Jerusalem Marketplace is in need of **gallon "Ziploc" bags, paper towels, and wet wipes.** Cash donations to purchase supplies are also welcome. Please label cash donation envelopes "Jerusalem Marketplace."

March Minnesota Food Share

March is Minnesota Food Share Month, when many businesses, schools and churches make an extra effort to "Feed the Hungry." Please assist us in our March Food Shelf Drive. We would like to collect more non-perishable food this year than we collected last year. Please place non-perishables at "The Moneychanger's Booth" in the entryway or the food shelf cart in the coatroom. Thank you in advance for your donations.

Our prayers and condolences go to Julie Hagen on the death of her husband, Leland.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER REPORT

The Progressive Dinner went well this year. Thank you to everyone who participated. We had 57 participants and no cancellations! How sweet that was.

I want to thank my assistants: my husband, Greg, and Judy & Steve Gelderman. Next year they will be the chairpersons. Carol Loss

STAINED GLASS WINDOW PROJECT

We are nearing completion of our Stained Glass Window Project. If you are interested in purchasing a window, talk to Pastor Jim as soon as possible.

The next Steppingstone will go out on April 4th. Articles need to be turned in to the church office by Sunday, April 2nd.

MESSAGE FROM SARA

Many of you have gotten to know me by now, but as this is my first article for the Steppingstone, let me introduce myself a little. I am the new youth pastor at Saint Stephen, Sara Quigley, and a senior at Luther Seminary in the Masters of Divinity program. This means that I am studying to be an ordained Lutheran pastor.

My interest in youth ministry began late in my career so far, but I have worked most of my adult life with children of all ages. However, I also have a passion for older-adult ministry, which I hope to combine in my work with the youth at St Stephen.

It is my hope that as I grow in my work with this congregation that the two ministries of youth and adult will co-mingle in some inter-generational activities. While none are in the planning stages of yet, be warned! The purpose of intergenerational work is that it helps to bring the wisdom, patience and guidance together with the exuberance and vitality of the youth. The two help to shape the other, and like Christ's nature, which is both human and divine, the unique communal aspect of the Church is realized in relationship to one another.

Grace and peace to all, Sara Quigley

Adult Forum

March 5 through April 9

"Authenticity - Being Honest with God and Others" *Led by Rolf Iverson*

April 23

"Recent Immigrants in our Midst". Led by Linde Getahun