

# Saint John's Lutheran Church

Stuttgart, Arkansas



February, 2018

## FROM THE PASTOR'S



*This will be a sign to you...*  
**Luke 2:12**

Well, it's February and the season of Lent is almost upon us. For those unaware or those who have forgotten, the word, "lent" is an old German word meaning "spring," as the season generally concludes at the outset of spring.

It is a penitential season meaning the focus is on our sinful nature and, therefore, our need for a Savior. We rejoice in the fact that God has given us our Savior in the person of Jesus. As you well know, He was born to destroy death and take away our sin. These things He did through His own perfect life, sacrificial death and glorious resurrection!

We know all this as fact and truth not because of any grand investigation on our part. Rather, we know this only by grace through the gift of faith given by God. He does this because of His extraordinary love and His desire to have us with Him throughout eternity.

This is why He's given us the book we call the Bible. In it He reveals Himself, our history and our future. Most importantly, He gives us Jesus and the faith to know Him as our Savior. And throughout His Book He gives us signs to help guide us in our faith-walk.

Signs are everywhere in the Word ... and according to the Five Man Electrical Band signs are everywhere! In case you've forgotten (or perhaps never cared to know), in 1970 this group introduced us to the song, "Signs," pointing out the fact that signs are everywhere and that the messages they convey are not always appreciated.

The same might be said of the signs God has given. Again, they're to be found all over the Bible; and not always appreciated by those who don't want to hear them. Regardless, they are there and nothings going to change that. And unlike the signs about which the Band sings, God's signs aren't about hemming us in or keeping anyone out. They are given so that we might better know and trust in His Word and Promise.



This year's theme for our Lenten midweek services (noon and 7) is: **The Signs of Salvation**, looking at a number of signs given by God to this world and to His people. They are:

- The Sign of Ashes
- The Sign of the Rainbow
- The Sign of a Baby
- The Sign of Healing
- The Sign of Celebration
- The Sign Spoken Against

Please plan on joining your sisters and brothers in learning more about these SIGNS that point us in the direction of God's Promise and Life, as we gather at noon, with a pizza lunch with desserts after; or at 7:00p.m. with a dinner served beforehand. God's peace be with you today and always as you celebrate the life He gives! Have a great February!

Pastor White



\* SPURGEON... ABOUT THAT COLLECTION PLATE OF YOURS...!

### Our Mission:

To Proclaim the Gospel of Redemption through Jesus Christ; & Demonstrate God's Love to One Another, the Community & the World.