Our Advent theme, “We Are Exactly Where We Are Meant to Be” seems to have been an unintended set up for this year’s Lenten challenge: “Here I am, God. Now what?”

So, God’s plan calls for us to be here – in this world, in our family, in the SJA community – where we are meant to be...but what’s next? What are we supposed to do with the ‘here’ and ‘now’? What does God want from us? Maybe the subtext to our Lenten call should be something like, “Be quiet and Listen.” Listen to the readings; spend some quiet time in meditation and prayer; be a little more focused on doing for others and not as much doing for yourself. It’s entirely possible that in doing some or all of these, we’ll learn what's next in God’s plan - and then maybe get the answer to “Now what?”

Lent 2019: We Are Exactly Where We Are Meant to Be.
Here I am, God. Now what?

During Advent we began to explore the reality of being exactly where God calls us to be – wherever we are on the journey - and it was too rich to let go! Now, in our Lenten Sundays, we will focus on the communal aspect of this concept: We are St. Joan of Arc and we are exactly where we are meant to be. We follow our brother Jesus in his journey as he encounters the devil in the desert, and God on the mountaintop. He teaches us the stories of the fig tree and the prodigal son, and he stands between a woman and an angry mob. We know it will be a fruitful and challenging time and we hope you will join us.
Lenten Wednesday’s at St. Joan of Arc
For quiet prayer and meditation, for fun, food and community, for learning that challenges, engages and inspires… bring the entire family to Lenten Wednesdays here at St. Joan of Arc!

Ash Wednesday, March 6
Masses with distribution of ashes at 8am and Noon in the Church
A Prayer Service with ashes will be celebrated at 7pm in the Gym. Begin your Lenten journey with the whole community as we pray, sing and hear three personal witness stories of transformation and light from SJA parishioners. Fr. DeBruycker will preside and the St. Joan of Arc choir leads our singing with guest singer, Neal Hagberg.

Soup Supper, 5 - 6:30 in Hospitality Hall
Sing along with Steve Kremer in the church 6:30 - 7pm

Wednesdays, March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10
Soup Suppers 5pm - 6:30pm in Hospitality Hall.
Gather for conversation, soup and bread, made and served by our parishioners. Experience the oneness and heart connection of our whole faith community! Families encouraged to come!

Personal Prayer and Meditation (March 13, 20, 27, April 10)
The Church will be open for quiet, personal reflection Wednesdays in Lent, 5 - 6pm. Learn the art of Contemplative and Centering Prayer, led by Prayer Partners, 5:15 – 5:45pm.

Lenten Wednesdays, 6:30pm in the church.
- March 13: Discernment. How is God present to us, and what is God calling us to? Are there practices that can help open me to this awareness?
- March 20: Distractions. What in my daily life is keeping me from responding to God’s presence? What is life-giving to me and what would I like to let go?
- March 27: Discernment. What breaks my heart open? What is God asking of me in the healing of the world?
- April 3: A Lenten Reconciliation Service with our Pastors, Prayer Partners and SJA Schola. Experience the beauty of forgiving and being forgiven in community through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- April 10: Family Service Night. Come to the gym from 6:30 to 8pm to spend an evening with family and friends doing service for local non-profits. There will be fun and meaningful activities for all ages.

Our Family Lenten Program with In the Heart of the Beast Puppet & Mask Theatre:
Join us as we journey through Lent making masks, preparing and re-hearsal for a Palm Sunday play, and reflecting on Lent guided by SJA staff and HOBT artists. On Wednesdays, March 13, 20 & 27, 6:30 - 8pm, Tuesday, April 9, 6 - 8pm, and Saturday, April 13, 6 - 8:30pm, with performances at 9 and 11am on Sunday, April 14. $10 fee/person or $25/family. To register contact Gabrielle at gdane@stjoan.com.

Fridays, March 8 to April 12 in church.
6pm Mass, 7pm Stations of the Cross with Fr. DeBruycker

Sundays In Lent
Gym Masses at 9 and 11am.
Jesus is right where He is meant to be!
March 10: We begin Lent with Fr. DeBruycker and the SJA choir along with guest singer Carin Vagle. The beautiful song, The Deer’s Cry, places us in Heart of God as we ask the question: What now?
March 17: Presider: Fr. DeBruycker. Pre-mass: On St. Patrick’s Day we celebrate Celtic spirituality with readings and music that puts God in the Heart of Everything! SJA Schola leads singing.
March 24: Presider: Fr. DeBruycker. Pre-mass: SJA’s Director of Adult Learning, Dr. Cynthia Bailey Manns, Burning Bushes - how do we notice and attend to the bushes on fire, yet not consumed by the flames, in our lives? Christina Pawlowski will solo.
March 31: Presider: Fr. Cassidy considers the Prodigal Son in word with guest singer, Julias Collins.

Holy Week 2019
Sunday, April 14: Palm Sunday:
Gym Masses at 9 and 11am. The Heart of Jesus.
Gospel singer Robert Robinson joins the SJA choir and parishioner readers in a dramatic presentation of the Passion of Jesus as we begin Holy Week!
Family Masses at 9 and 11am. Pre-mass: SJA families, actors and musicians join In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre to create an unforgettable experience. Family Mass follows immediately.

Wednesday, April 17: A Traditional, Ritual Seder Celebration
and meal will be held in the gym at 6pm. The Mark Stillman Klesmer Band joins our musicians, Fr. DeBruycker and hosts for this fun filled family celebration. Don’t miss it! Reservations required (612.823.8205)

Thursday, April 18: Holy Thursday Eucharist celebrating the Beloved Community at 7pm in the Gym. Ritual washing of feet and choir will lead our sung prayer.

Friday, April 19: Good Friday Contemporary Stations of the Cross at 3pm and 7pm in the Gym.

Saturday, April 20: The Beautiful Easter Vigil Service celebrates the story of our liberation from death to life at 7:30pm in the Gym. A reception for the newly confirmed and baptized will follow this 1½ hour service.

Sunday, April 21: Gym Easter Sunday Masses
7am Sunrise Service, Fr. Cassidy & the SJA Musicians 9am (Fr. Cassidy) and 11am (Fr. DeBruycker) with the SJA Choir and gospel singer Robert Robinson.
Family Masses for Easter are at 9am and 11am. We celebrate new life with Farmer Rick and his baby animals and a special visit from our HOBT Jesus and the Animals!
Family Mass Sundays in Lent
- **Sunday, March 10**: Josie Defly comes to tell us the story of life in her West African country of Togo. We begin our drive to collect clothing on behalf of Arm-in-Arm-in-Africa for children and youth in Togo.
- **Sunday, March 17**: We have a story about St Patrick and his unique blend of Christian and pagan spirituality with Peter Alitchison.
- **Sunday, March 31**: We hear the story of the Prodigal Son from the perspectives of the returning son, the loyal daughter, and the loving father.
- **Sunday, April 7**: As we think about Jesus' warning not to cast the first stone, we hear *The Sneetches*, Dr Suess’ zany cautionary tale about the cost of judging others. Reader: JP Fitzgibbons. The Children’s Choir lifts our liturgy with their voices.

**Tuesday, March 5**: SJA LGBTQ Group Mardi Gras Happy Hour! All are welcome to join us, 4 - 6pm, at Vieux Carre in St. Paul. RSVP to Julie Madden at the Parish Center. To stay later for dinner and New Orleans jazz, book tickets at www.vieux-carre.com.

**Saturday, March 9**: Women’s Spirituality Lenten Retreat – “Emptying Your Cup – Finding Peace Through Letting Go.” Quiet reflection, prayer rituals, and discussion on what and how we need to “let go” of in our lives to have room to “fill our cup” with God’s unconditional love. 9am – 12:30pm in the Welcome Center, (9 - 9:30 Coffee & Conversations). Registrations limited RSVP to the Parish Center by March 7. $12 fee for Personal Journal. (Please bring your favorite cup)

**Saturday, March 9 and April 6**: Join our SJA Housing Ministry team as they rehab homes to provide beautiful and affordable housing for low-income families. No experience necessary, and a great time is had by all! FFI/to volunteer, contact Julie Madden.

**Monday, March 11**, **SAGES 2nd Monday Dialogues**, 1:30pm in Hospitality Hall. High School Students Discuss Gun Control. **April 8**: Stroke Prevention with Jackie Feyereisen.

**Monday, March 11**, **Mental Health Ministry**: Please join us at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 4100 Lyndale Avenue South, 5:45 - 8pm, as Bret Schneider, Ph.D., from Minnetonka Counseling Center presents, *Trauma Presentation in Adults, Children & Adolescents*. Our evening begins with a light supper. All are welcome for this free event.

**Tuesday, March 12**, St. Patrick’s Day Senior Mass and Luncheon, 11:30am mass with lunch to follow. RSVP to the Parish Center.

**Wednesday, March 13**: **Parish Book Club**, 6:30pm in the Parish Center. *In the Garden of Beasts* by Erick Larson. **April 10**: *Enrique’s Journey* by Sonia Nazario.

**Saturday, March 16**, **Adoptive Families Book Club**: Join us at 10am at Turtle Bread (4762 Chicago Ave) to discuss *Being Adopted: The Lifelong Search for Self* by David M. Brodzinsky, Ph.D., Marshall D. Schechter, M.D., & Robin Marantz Henig. All are welcome!

**Sunday, March 24**: SJA EcoSpirits invite you to join a discussion after the 11am mass for a screening of the award-winning documentary, *Bag It: Is Your Life Too Plastic?* Together we are creating a change in consciousness.

**Saturday, March 30**, **Children’s Choir Camp #1** in the Arc, 11am - 4pm. All kids in grades 3 - 7 are invited to join the choir. Sing, learn about music, make friends, and contribute to our Gym, Family, and 5pm Masses!

**Monday, April 1**, **Addiction Resources**, 7pm in Parish Center. Join us for community and support as we explore, *Life’s A Mess - The New Normal* with Mark Scannell.

**Saturday, April 6**, **Children’s Choir Camp #2** in the Arc, noon - 4pm. First spring performance at the 5pm Mass!

**Sunday, April 7**: 
- **SJA under40(ish) group** Welcomes You Wherever You Are On Your Journey. Please join us as we gather in the Welcome Center after the 11am Mass for fellowship and to participate in social and ministry events within and outside of SJA.
- **First Communion Extravaganza**, 4:30 - 6:30pm, in the church. First Communion candidates and parents are invited to an evening of exploration and discovery as they learn about the Eucharist, and then to partake in a communal dinner.

ISAIAH Days on the Hill: There are many legislative action days on the calendar, focusing on clean energy, immigrant rights, health care, solidarity with the Muslim community, economic justice for workers and dignity in our democracy. Contact Julie Madden for a schedule of opportunities to lift up your voice with hundreds of other people of faith!
Looking Ahead

Monday, April 8, Mental Health Ministry: Please join us in Hospitality Hall, 5:45 - 8 pm, as Tracey Wilkins, MSW, LICSW, from Willow Tree Healing Center, presents *Interventions for Trauma Survivors: Understanding How to Help*. Our evening begins with a light supper. All are welcome for this free event.

Monday, April 15, Justice Grant Deadline. If you volunteer with a great non-profit, consider applying for a grant to support their work. These are funded by your contributions to the SJA Outreach Fund. For an application, contact Julie Madden at the Parish Center.

Wednesday, April 24, New Member Dinner: Welcome to your new spiritual home! If you've registered as a member since January, you and your family are invited to this informal dinner hosted by staff and volunteers at 6pm in Hospitality Hall. Registered this past year but were unable to attend a previous dinner? Join us at this one! RSVP to the Parish Center by Sunday, April 21.

Saturday April 27, and May 4: First Communion celebrations at 10am in the Gym.

May 5, Earth Sunday: We honor God's creation in stunning music, visuals and readings - a favorite tradition of SJA.

May 12, Mother's Day/Children and Youth Sunday: Parishioners share their stories.

June 2, We Celebrate Outreach Sunday: We are joined by all the groups and organizations with which we partner through our Outreach Fund. What you have made possible is incredible! Julie Madden will speak.

June 9, Pentecost: The Spirit is alive in many languages in our gym masses!

We Welcome You Wherever You Are On Your Journey