

# ST. JOHN'S NEWSLETTER

## ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**BUILT ON CHRIST OUR CORNERSTONE**

- Vol. 126, No. 4

April 2023

### “CONVERSION Part 2: WHO DOES IT?”

Last month we learned that conversion is not merely outward changes,<sup>1</sup> but a true, spiritual change of the inward being, a turning of the heart and mind away from sin to God in Christ. This month we will consider who it is that does the work of converting a person from sin to Christ.

When it comes to the birth of a child, there is no doubt that it is the baby and not the mother who is born. At the same time, when it comes to the birth of a child, there is no doubt that it is the mother and not the baby who does the work (ask any mom!). Conversion is similar. It is absolutely the person that is converted to God, not God to the person. Yet, it is equally true that it is God who converts the person unto Him, not the person converting his or herself unto God. This is, no doubt, at least in part why Jesus uses the term being “born again” for conversion.<sup>2</sup> For just as it is ridiculous to speak of babies birthing themselves, so it is equally absurd to speak of people converting themselves. So let us consider *why* this is the case.

To be blunt, it is because of people themselves, that is, the natural spiritual state of people. First of all, mankind is spiritually blind (1 Cor. 2:14). The natural person (that is, a person without faith and the Holy Spirit) has the law written on their heart (though blurred by sin) and a conscience to read it (Rom. 2:14-15). This allows a person to lead an externally decent life and, more, at least should let them know that there is something wrong between them and God.

However, there are two great limitations to this. First, since the law is blurred in their heart and, in addition, their conscience can err, a person never naturally understands the fullness of God’s Law or their failure to keep it. That truth then naturally leads to the second point, the opinion that they can make things right with God by their own actions and changes. The idea that we are so bad that God’s Son needed to die in our place simply does not compute, nor does the idea that such is given to us freely by simply trusting in that crucified and risen Son (1 Cor. 1:18,23). After all, “We’re not *that* bad,” and more, “We’ve got to do our part.” Right? Wrong on both accounts! But the natural person *is blind to all this*.

Second, as if that wasn’t bad enough, the natural person is spiritually dead in sin (Eph. 2:1). Not only are we too spiritually blind to rightly see our sins and our need for a Savior, we don’t even have the power to believe in the first place. For dead people are fairly notorious for having no ability to do, well, anything! So it is that we are, spiritually speaking, walking corpses by nature. We are, of ourselves, completely unable to respond to God’s love, His offer of full and free salvation in His Son, Jesus Christ. Just as it is true physically, so is it true spiritually that we are unable to raise ourselves out the state of death.

Third, and this really takes the cake, not only are we spiritually dead in sin, but by nature we are spiritually enemies of God (Rom. 5:10; 8:7,8) under the power of His enemy Satan (Eph. 2:2). We are not merely

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<sup>1</sup> As noted in that article, this is not to imply that outward changes are not a necessary *result of* conversion. A converted Christian fights against sin! But the point is that even unbelievers can make solid, outward changes (the drunkard becomes sober, etc.). Such are good for life here on earth, but they are not conversion.

<sup>2</sup> John 3:5.

spiritually walking corpses, but are like “spiritual undead,” being actively hostile to God in our state of death. God says “Do” and human nature responds “No, I don’t want to.” God says “Don’t do” and human nature responds, “Too bad, I want to do it.” The more a person learns about the true God (in and through the Word), the more they don’t like Him, hate Him, and the more obvious it becomes that they consider Him to be an enemy, as is made apparent by their many and varied attacks upon the God revealed in the Bible. Just consider statements like, “My God would never...!” or “A loving God would never...!” etc.

Spiritually blind, dead, and enemies of God, not a good combo to say the least. No wonder we cannot convert ourselves unto God, not even contribute to it in any way, but instead must *be* converted, that is, have God convert us. And this is taught clearly in Scripture. Not only does Jesus refer to conversion as a birth which indicates the work of another (mentioned above), but He states, “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him” (John 6:44). St. Paul writes, “No one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord’ except in the Holy Spirit” (1 Cor. 12:3). And so faith in Christ is not a work of man’s will (deciding for Jesus), but a gift (Eph. 2:8-9) that too is granted for Christ’s sake (Phil. 1:29).

This teaching, that God alone is responsible for a sinner’s conversion, is known as *divine monergism* (God works alone). Just as God created light where there was only darkness and just as Jesus needed to raise Lazarus from the dead, so also God alone creates the enlightenment of faith in a person, thereby raising them from spiritual death to spiritual life, converting them. And so we say, “If a person is saved, God alone receives the glory.” Not just because God prepared salvation for us in Christ, but actually converts us unto Christ as well.

*Next month, we will consider how God does His work of conversion in a person.*

In Christ our dear Lord to Whom we have been graciously converted,

*Pastor Nerud*

### **APOLOGETICS: The LIES of LYNCHBURG HOW U.S. EVOLUTIONISTS TAUGHT the NAZIS.<sup>3</sup>**

The chilling revelations of a recent [1993<sup>4</sup>] television documentary<sup>a</sup> expose the disturbing consequences of evolutionary ways of thinking. Beginning in the 1920s, many thousands of people in the United States were sterilized against their will and without their consent, to prevent ‘undesirable breeding’. Over 8,000 of these procedures took place at a major center to which such ‘undesirables’ were sent, in Lynchburg, Virginia.

The victims included some with various degrees of mental retardation; many were simply there because they had been abandoned as a result of broken homes or had suffered some other social misfortune. Some had been honors students at school. They were lied to routinely, being told that it was something ‘for their own good’ or ‘for their health’. Those older ones who discovered the purpose behind the operations realized that they would not be able to leave the institution unless they underwent the procedure.

The documentary stated that the entire effort was based upon the notion of *eugenics*. The eugenics movement was started by Sir Francis Galton (a cousin of Charles Darwin), who wanted to encourage ‘survival of the fittest’ within human society. The ‘humane’ way to do this was by compulsory sterilization of those deemed ‘unfit’. The idea seduced ‘social reformers from the right and the left’—among them George Bernard Shaw, and Winston Churchill.

The Lynchburg doctor who was responsible for most of the sterilizations in his own town was convinced that what he was doing was for the ‘scientific good’ of society. As a dedicated Darwinian, notions of absolute right and wrong were old-fashioned obstacles to the greater good of the ‘herd’. Needing a legal cover for his actions in the face of the human rights meant to be guaranteed in the (creation-based) U.S. Constitution, he became enamored with model legislation prepared by a leading U.S. evolutionary biologist, Dr Harry Laughlin.

Laughlin’s law called for compulsory sterilization of not only the ‘feeble-minded’, but also the blind, drug addicts, sufferers from TB and syphilis, epileptics,<sup>b</sup> paupers, the deaf and the homeless. Since these people were, it was claimed, obviously the victims of ‘bad genes’, the law was overtly aimed at maintaining the ‘racial purity of the white race’ by preventing the further ‘breeding’ of those whose offspring would ‘drag down’ this race.

What was needed was a test case, a ‘patsy’ to ensure that the law would not be declared unconstitutional. In a blatant set-up which made the ACLU’s manipulation<sup>c</sup> of the famous Scopes trial look positively mild, a young

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<sup>3</sup> By Carl Wieland, <https://creation.com/the-lies-of-lynchburg>

<sup>4</sup> This article was originally released in September 1997, but I suspect few of us are aware of this history.

lady was chosen who had been targeted for sterilization because there had allegedly been ‘three generations of feeble-mindedness’ in her family. Her lawyer challenged the Laughlin law all the way to the Supreme Court. However, far from being her champion, he was in reality one of those heavily involved in the formulation of these eugenics policies!

Unfortunately also for the young lady, the presiding judge of the Supreme Court hearing this case in 1924 was Oliver Wendell Holmes<sup>d</sup>, an influential Darwinist<sup>e</sup> who laid the legislative foundation for many of the advances of secular humanism in the United States. Not surprisingly, Holmes declared the law constitutional. It was acceptable for the state to compel the sterilization of those who were deemed ‘socially inadequate’. The forced sterilization of this innocent victim went ahead; subsequent investigation has revealed that the entire story of the ‘feeble-minded generations’ in her family was a fabrication.

After the Supreme Court decision, eugenics became a major plank of social policy in many American states.

As soon as Hitler (who campaigned on a platform of naked evolutionism—the survival of the fittest race) came to power in 1933, eugenics laws became one of his first acts. Not only was the Nazi program of forced sterilization for the ‘unfit’ lauded in the U.S.—it was actually modelled after the law framed by Laughlin, who was awarded an honorary doctorate by Hitler’s government. As the Nazis moved on to the euthanasia-murder of entire wards full of mental patients, ‘scientific’ admiration for their ‘racial hygiene’ policies was unabated. One U.S. evolutionist actually stated, ‘The Germans are beating us at our own game’.<sup>a</sup>

Once it was seen as ‘moral’ to take active steps to ‘purify the German race’, it was just a short, logical step from there to the even greater horrors of the Holocaust.<sup>f</sup>

After World War II, the horrified reactions of a stunned U.S. public to the unimaginable atrocities done in the name of evolutionary ‘racial hygiene’ forced eugenics practices to go underground. The names of the practice changed, but it continued, right down past 1970. All in all, a grand total of some 70,000 people suffered involuntary sterilization.

It was the efforts of a Jenny Crockett, then with the ACLU (which, ironically, has a track record of mostly siding with evolutionary thinking) which brought this scandal to light, in the face of government attempts to keep the lid on. Eventually, a mumbled apology and some offer of ‘mental health counselling’ was all that was available for these many people whose lives had been destroyed by the assumptions of evolutionism.

The church overall must bear its share of the responsibility for being so ‘bluffed’ by the ‘scientific’ claims of evolutionists (which have since changed, and will keep on changing) that it failed to take a strong stand on the true history of man and the world. Instead, as now, it by and large preferred to either ignore the issue or maintain an uneasy compromise—or worse.<sup>g</sup> The Lord Jesus said to believers: ‘You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.’ (Matthew 5:13–14).

We cannot just blame ‘society’ for the evils which flow naturally from the false root of evolutionism if we are unprepared to be salt and light, and to take a stand for biblical reality.

#### *References and notes*

- a. The Lynchburg Story, produced by Bruce Eadie, made by *Worldview Pictures* in association with *Discovery Networks* and *Channel Four*, 1993. This story is based on information contained therein.
- b. Ironically, Laughlin in later life developed epilepsy himself, and was shunned by his evolutionary eugenicist colleagues as part of the very so-called ‘white trash’ he was trying to stop from breeding.
- c. The ACLU = the American Civil Liberties Union, usually a champion of left-wing, pro-humanist causes. In the famous Scopes ‘monkey trial’ of 1925, it deliberately sought to challenge a Tennessee law prohibiting the teaching of evolution by finding someone who would (falsely) confess to teaching it, relying on the ensuing publicity to win public sympathy for the evolutionary cause. See David Menton, Inherit the Wind: An Historical Analysis, *Creation* 19(1):35–38, December 1996.
- d. Oliver Wendell Holmes (1841–1935), a distinguished U.S. Supreme Court justice who approved compulsory sterilization. His evolution-based humanistic beliefs left an indelible stamp on America’s laws, contributing greatly to today’s relentless secularization.
- e. Law professor Phillip Johnson calls Holmes a ‘convinced Darwinist who profoundly understood the philosophical implications of Darwinism’ and who therefore ‘found it difficult to take morality seriously.’ Johnson documents how this influential jurist urged future lawyers to ‘put aside all notions of

morality and approach law as ... basically the science of state coercion.' *Reason in the Balance*, InterVarsity Press, pp. 139–143, 1995.

- f. It is now almost common knowledge among WWII historians that the machinery of mass extermination later used in concentration camps, including the notorious Zyklon-B gas, was actually developed by respected members of the German medical/psychiatric/biological establishment for such 'eugenic' purposes.
- g. Even the renowned defender of biblical inerrancy, the late B.B. Warfield, was at the same time a supporter of Darwinian evolution.

### **A LOOK at the LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS**

*Last month, in Article XXIII, The Marriage of Priests, we rightly confessed that priests (pastors) should be allowed to marry if they choose since marriage is God's gift to all mankind, and is the only God-pleasing outlet for sexual desires so that lust does not take control unless He has given the gift of chastity.<sup>5</sup> This month we begin the article on the Mass, pointing out the errors of the papal church that had to be rejected.*

#### *Augsburg Confession Article XXIV: The Mass, 1-9<sup>6</sup>*

Our churches are falsely accused of abolishing the Mass.<sup>7</sup> The Mass is held among us and celebrated with the highest reverence. Nearly all the usual ceremonies are also preserved, except that the parts sung in Latin are interspersed here and there with German hymns.<sup>8</sup> These have been added to teach the people. For ceremonies are needed for this reason alone, that the uneducated be taught what they need to know about Christ.<sup>9</sup> Not only has Paul commanded that a language understood by the people be used in church (1 Corinthians 14:2, 9), but human law has also commanded it. All those able to do so partake of the Sacrament together. This also increases the reverence and devotion of public worship. No one is admitted to the Sacrament without first being examined.<sup>10</sup> The people are also advised about the dignity and use of the Sacrament, about how it brings great consolation to anxious consciences, so that they too may learn to believe God and to expect and ask from Him all that is good.<sup>11</sup> This worship pleases God [Colossians 1:9-10]. Such use of the Sacrament nourishes true devotion toward God. Therefore, it does not appear that the Mass is more devoutly celebrated among our adversaries than among us.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Matthew 19:11.

<sup>6</sup> From *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions*, Paul McCain, Ed. CPH, 2006. Due to the length of this Article, it is being broken into smaller sections.

<sup>7</sup> The term *Mass*, still used in the Roman Church, refers here to both the ceremonies in the worship service surrounding Holy Communion (in the Divine Service what is called *The Service of the Sacrament*) and also the Sacrament itself. The two will be further distinguished throughout this article.

<sup>8</sup> Note here the conservative nature of the Lutheran reformers, maintaining church traditions and ceremonies wherever possible unless they hindered the proclamation of the Gospel due to false teaching. Obviously, it was only a matter of time before the full service was brought into the vernacular.

<sup>9</sup> Here the prime reason of ceremonies is given, that the people are taught by them. Other important reasons are the maintenance of order within the public worship service (1 Cor 14:26ff., esp. v. 40) and for the maintenance of appropriate reverence unto God.

<sup>10</sup> Our older members may remember having to speak with the pastor before receiving Communion. Today, this has largely been replaced by the public Confession and Absolution. However, the care of souls has been hindered by the people no longer needing to speak with their shepherd.

<sup>11</sup> See here how the Lord's Supper's great benefit is the strengthening of faith through the forgiveness given.

<sup>12</sup> So we hold up the Sacrament in two ways. First, by using the ancient ceremonies we approach the Communion with reverence. Even more, we understand and use the Sacrament rightly according to Christ's institution and purpose, which glorifies God even as it strengthens our own faith.

## HOLY WEEK/EASTER

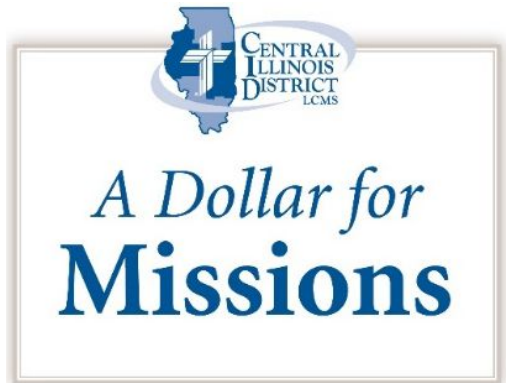


Our journey in Lent continues with Palm Sunday, the day Jesus rode triumphantly into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. The week is filled with His preaching and teaching, not only to his disciples but all who would listen. Holy Thursday is focused on the special meal Jesus had with His disciples where He gives Himself to them and to us today in and through Holy Communion. We proceed on Good Friday to meditate on the reason Jesus came to take all our sins upon Himself and pay the price for our forgiveness and salvation. Easter morning, we joyfully come together to celebrate Jesus' resurrection and victory over Satan, sin and eternal death.

- Palm Sunday worship begins at 10 am and will include Holy Communion
- Holy Thursday service at St. John's begins at 7 pm including Holy Communion
- Circuit Tre Ore will be hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church, Coal Valley from 12 – 3 pm (Come and go as your time permits)
- Good Friday service at St. John's begins at 7 pm.
- Easter Morning service at St. John's begins at 7 am and includes Holy Communion
- Easter Breakfast will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

***“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9).*** ‘A Dollar for Missions’ is a project hosted by Evangelism/Stewardship Bds. One EXTRA dollar given by EACH member of the churches of the Central IL District Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, will enable tremendous Mission work to be accomplished.

At the time of this printing, the current ‘Dollar for Missions’ project has not been completed. Here is a reminder of the project: These first dollars will be used to provide the first half-years’ worth of support for a Vicar to serve Immanuel Lutheran Church, Springfield, devoting most of his time to continuing development of this congregation’s new church start in northwest Springfield, Immanuel Lutheran Chapel. CID’s first \$30,000 of DFM funds will be applied to this endeavor. For more information, see <http://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-dfm-current-project.html>



## CHRISTIAN LIVING

*(A message from Stewardship & Evangelism)*

A Better Way



The most common question about stewardship is not whether a Christian should give to their church. Of course, Christians should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Rather, the question asked most is, “How much should I give?” But this question really means, “Should Christians give a tenth of their income to their local congregation?”

Here are some common reasons against tithing. Some say tithing isn’t necessary because it isn’t expressly commanded in the New Testament. There is no “Thus saith the Lord,” or “should” concerning tithing. Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these together with treasures (money) add up to

more than a tithe. Still others say that they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church. And then there are those who think Christians shouldn’t

tithe because of some fear. They are afraid that if they tithe, their gift will be misused, or that after tithing, there won't be enough left over to get the things that they use, want or need.

Here are some reasons why Christians should tithe. Even though the New Testament doesn't specifically command Christians to tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to. And on top of this, St. Paul often describes giving a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of one's income — terms similar to a tithe (2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

But here's another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? This tithe was intended to support the ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry. What does it say in the New Testament? "The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther used in the Small Catechism's Table of Duties to explain what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we're not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let's answer this by asking a different question. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? After all, there is no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest verse we have, and it states simply that Christians should not neglect gathering together. And even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? The conversation might go something like this. I'm glad you're still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God's promises of forgiveness, life and salvation, and to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I'd really like you to try to attain it.

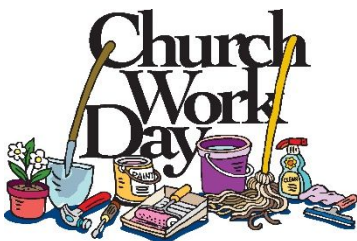
We should approach the topic of tithing with a similar conversation. The tithe is not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, we're ecstatic that you're giving, and that you're giving in all these various ways — time, talents and treasures. But there is a better way. And that will only be a blessing to you, just as the Word of God — Old and New Testament alike — promises. Can you try increasing your gifts over the coming weeks, months and years? Can you put your trust in the God who sent His Son to take away your sin and give you everlasting life? And if He did this for you, if He did not spare His only Son, how will He not give you all things? He will not disappoint.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](http://lcms.org/stewardship)

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Jesus is the faithful witness. He came from heaven to bear witness. His witness is the truth that brings life to the world. His ultimate witness of God's love, mercy, and grace is in His Cross and Resurrection.

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the first born of the dead and the ruler of on earth. Rev 1:4-5



### WORKDAY at ST. JOHN'S

The Trustees are planning a 'Work Day' for Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. Your help would be welcomed to work from 8 am – 12 pm. Jobs will include cleaning up outside and inside the building and property. A list of jobs will be posted on the bulletin board next to the restrooms. If you are not able to help that day, please consider taking responsibility for a task by putting your name on the list. Simply come on your own schedule and mark the date the task is completed. Let us work together to care for the Lord's house.

### *APRIL Birthdays*

4 Mary Jo Gehn  
8 Brian Magerkurth  
9 Brad Gehn  
13 Jennifer Magerkurth  
13 Thad Curry  
15 Olivia Loenser



20 Sabrina Smith  
21 Trevor Eastburn  
21 Margo Schillinger  
22 Jamie Eastburn  
22 Rylie Hallendorff  
23 Marcia Helke

23 Christian Loenser  
23 Linda White  
24 Brenda Hallendorff  
30 Gannon Marckese  
30 Theresa Mosher  
30 Sarah Nerud

### *APRIL Anniversaries*

5 Ken/Lisa Allison (1986) - 37 yrs  
8 Carl/Heidi Freeman (2006) - 17 yrs  
8 Marty/Coni Himmelman (1995) - 28 yrs  
14 Randy/Karen Rasmussen (2009) - 14 yrs  
18 Don/Sarah Hock (1998) - 25 yrs



21 Jerry/Peggy Hickenbottom (1990) - 33 yrs  
26 Thomas/Emily Marckese (2008) - 15 yrs  
27 Gary/Kathy Post (1968) - 55 yrs  
30 Jason/Cassie Dahl (2011) - 12 yrs

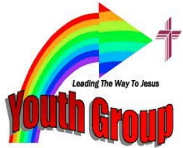
### *APRIL Baptisms*

1 Carolyn Werner  
5 Beverly Peterson  
8 Luke Davila  
10 Roselyn Maeltzer  
10 Paul Mosher  
11 Lois Esterlein  
12 Joseph Schillinger  
13 Dan Maeltzer



13 Karen Rasmussen  
14 Justine Mitchell  
14 Marilyn Woods  
15 Kathy Remick  
15 Mike Kolb  
19 Logan Raschke  
22 Derek Helke  
24 Caleb Nash

27 Gayla Kroll  
27 Avery Magerkurth  
28 Jaimie Jorgensen  
29 Andrew Hock  
29 Brian Magerkurth  
30 Mary Jo Gehn



The youth of St. John's are meeting each month on the third Sunday. They are involved in activities planned at St. John's as well as those within the Rock Island Circuit. All middle school and high school youth are encouraged to come and enjoy the fun. This is a great way to grow in your faith and share time with other Christian kids.

The Christian life of a person begins at their baptism and hearing of God's Word. From birth, parents should begin teaching their child/children of their sin and need of a Savior, Jesus Christ. Regular Sunday school attendance is the opportunity in a child's life where the foundation of his/her faith continues to be built upon. They learn the basic stories of God, His relationship to the world and the people He created. The need for continued learning does not stop as we grow older. Confirmation classes and Youth/Adult Bible classes are the next logical steps.

You are encouraged to take advantage of every opportunity to study God's Word as He has revealed Himself in the Bible. The benefits and blessings are given to all who would receive them.

VBS materials are being reviewed. Dates for VBS will be published soon. Please consider helping and bring a child you know.



*Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. Isaiah 53:4-5*

## GROWING IN THE WORD OF GOD

- Sunday morning Adult Bible class – 8:45am in the Fellowship Hall. The study of the book of Colossians continues.
- Men's Bible Study – 7 pm the first Thursday of each month. The study topic is; ***How We Got the Bible***. Don't miss this opportunity to grow in God's word as well as build and strengthen relationships with other men at St. John's.
- Adult Instruction classes meet each Tuesday evening @ 7 pm



- Please call the office or Pastor when someone is ill, hospitalized, or homebound or you desire private communion.
- Please use this email to contact the office: [churchoffice@stjohnsgeneseo.org](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsgeneseo.org)
- Website address – [www.stjohnsgeneseo.org](http://www.stjohnsgeneseo.org)
- Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo/>
- All Sunday services are 'Live' streamed at 10am and posted to our church website the following day.
- All newsletter articles need to be into the office no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.
- Bulletin blurs must be to Terri by Wednesday morning each week.

## ALTAR FLOWERS



Celebrate a special occasion with flowers given for a Sunday worship service. Sign the flower chart, found on the bulletin board next to the rest rooms. **NOTE: Cost for 2 arrangements is \$30.** Put money in a yellow envelope (found by the chart). Fill in the date for the flowers along and occasion/memory and place envelope in the offering plate. Flowers will be ordered by the office and picked up for you.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Our Infrequent Attendees** – pray the Holy Spirit bring them to understand their need to be in regular worship in church and we as brothers and sisters in Christ would reach out to them.

**Our LWML Chapter** – that God would continue to bless their work.

**Sunday school** – pray the Holy Spirit would direct and guide the students to a better understanding of God's love and mercy in Jesus Christ and that all parents would be diligent in bringing their children each Sunday.

**Youth** – pray the Holy Spirit would provide the means to work with our youth to keep them faithful to their confirmation promises. Bless and increase their numbers.

**Elderly/Homebound** - pray that this congregation would continually remember our Elderly and Shut-ins and minister to their special needs.

**Confirmation Students** – pray that they will be eager to study, learn and grow in the teachings of the Lutheran church and their faith. May they see this is the beginning of a life lived for Jesus.



## REMEMBERING THOSE IN NEED!

**ST. JOHN'S FAMILY**—O Lord, You are the great Physician of soul and body. We pray that You would show mercy these members of St. John's:

Elizabeth Bjork

Lois Esterlein

Lynne Johnson

Marilyn Woods

Paula Chapa

Betty Firch

Jessica Johnson

Mary Jayne Nash

Jim Dahl

Arlyn Helke

Drew Schillinger

Anthony/Sami Sedotto (Seminarian)

Andrew/Sarah Hill & family (Seminarian)

**Don Eggers** (son of friend of Marilyn Woods)

**Jon/Anita Clausing** (missionaries in Kenya)

**Rev. Justin Kane** (son of Sandra Kane)

**Susan Mayden** (sister of Michele Barry)

**Kim Riedy** (cousin of Mary Jo Gehn)

*(Please remember to call the church office if you are needing prayer. Also let us know when we can remove your name because your health has improved and you are living a regular life. We love to give thanks to God for His healing just as we send Him our requests.)*

**Jodie Martin** (daughter of Gary/Darla Johns)

**Marilyn Potts** (wife of Cal Potts, former LFC)

**Laurie Sanford** (sister of Jan Dahl)

**Mike Erdman** (nephew of Bob Erdman)

**Shandel Loenser** (wife of Gabe Loenser)

**MILITARY** – We pray for those serving in our military and their families:

**Mandy/Richard Davila** (daughter/husband of Linda Aper)

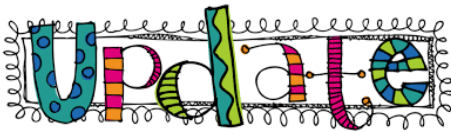
**Luke/Nicole Thompson** (son/wife of Joh/Kindra Thompson)

**Karl Flynn** (son of Mr/Mrs Paul Flynn)

**Casey Powers Jr.** (step son of Lisa Powers)

**Zachary/Tiffany Gardner** (nephew/wife of Lois Esterlein)

**Brittany Loenser** (daughter of Gabe Loenser)



### MEMBERSHIP

New address:

Alicia Willeford – 9924 Bending Oaks Dr., Lebanon IL 62254

Lucas Thompson – 4417 Globe Master Ct., Scott AFB, IL 62225

### CONCORDIA LUTHERAN ACADEMY

For more than 20 years, Concordia Lutheran Preschool has faithfully served children and families of our community during the very early years of education. After much prayer, research, and conversation, we were led to expand our school. Last year, we established our Classical Academy and began with a Kindergarten Class. We are excited to expand our offering to a Kindergarten-2<sup>nd</sup> grade for the 2023/2024 school year. The support we have been receiving from both community members and area Christian churches has been wonderful. Thanks be to God! We are thankful and blessed to be able to offer the Children of our community this opportunity to hear and learn their daily school lessons alongside God's Word and His truth for our lives.



An Open House is planned for Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30 pm for all who are interested in learning about Classical Christian Education. Come see what the curriculum used this past year, meet the teacher, ask your questions and enjoy a time of fellowship and refreshments.

For more information or questions, please call the church office @ 309-944-3993 or email the church at: [concordia@geneseolutheranchurch.com](mailto:concordia@geneseolutheranchurch.com)



### NEWS YOU CAN USE

March & April 2023

“Speaking the truth in love” (Eph. 4:15) is always a necessity. Just as our brains need to receive true inputs from all our senses in order to tell the body to respond to the world properly, so all the members of the Church, the body of Christ, need to speak the truth to one another, so that we all have the correct information to respond to one another in love. And the people of the world need us to speak the truth to them, because they are hearing many untruths from scammers, advertisers, the media, government leaders, and unfaithful religious leaders. We need to speak the truth “in love,” because we do not want to use the truth as a weapon against anyone except the

devil and his allies. “We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly realms” (Eph. 6:12). So we use the strongest weapon against Satan that we know: “the sword of the Spirit, which is God’s word” (Eph. 6:17). God’s “word is truth” (John 17:17). Pray that He will keep all of our words true. We know that when we speak God’s word correctly, in the situations to which God’s Word applies, we will be speaking the truth of God, who loved the world, demonstrating that love not only in words, but by sending His Son to die for us and for our salvation (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8). We want that truth to set people free from slavery to sin and the tyranny of the devil. Jesus taught us how to speak the truth in love: “If you remain in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:31-32). Grant this, Lord, unto us all!

Pastor Mark Eddy- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President CID BOD

**Pray For Cristo Rey (Christ the King), Lutheran Church in East Moline, and Pastor Pablo Dominguez, where the ministry is conducted almost entirely in Spanish.**

### *Issues, etc.*

*Issues, etc.* will cover the *Illinois March for Life*, recording in-person interviews at Trinity starting at 11:30 and continuing to record through the early part of the afternoon. These will be broadcast on KFUE (850 AM, audible in southern and much of central Illinois) that same afternoon between 3:00 and 5:00. The entire program can be live-streamed or accessed on-demand at [www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org)

### *What CID’s missions are?*

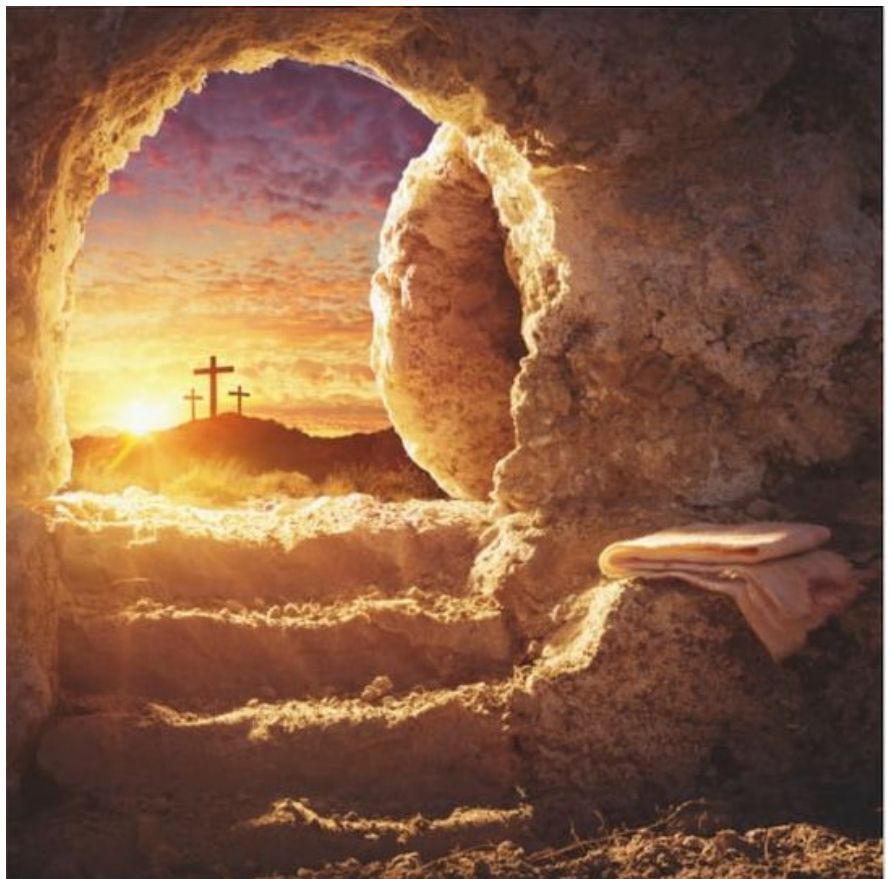
What projects CID is funding this year through a Dollar for Missions?  
How many children were baptized last year through the work of CID’s schools?  
How many pupils in our schools have no church home?

See *Partnership in the Gospel* at <http://www.cidlcm.org/outreach-brochure.html>

## *Happy Easter!*

*The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the triumphant conclusion to God’s great work of redemption. It is the center of the Christian hope, for it removes the fear of death and promises all the blessings of new life in Christ.*

*-James H. McConkey*





ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
GENESEO IL  
309-949-2516

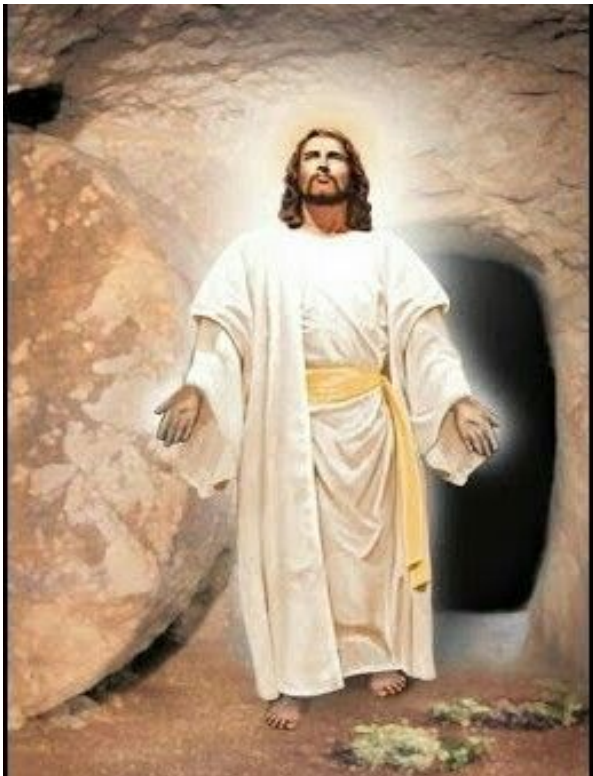


2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b><u>ELDER</u></b> <b>Carl Freeman</b>					<i>1</i> Church Work Day 8am-12pm
<i>2</i> SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am	<i>3</i> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> Confirmation 5 pm	<i>6</i> Holy Thursday Service/Comm 7 pm	<i>7</i> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> Tre Ore 12-3 pm @ Trinity, Coal Valley Good Friday 7 pm	<i>8</i>
<i>9</i> Easter Worship/Comm 7 am Easter Breakfast 8:30 am	<i>10</i> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	<i>11</i> LWML 1 pm Council 6:00 pm	<i>12</i> Confirmation 5 pm	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>16</i> SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am Youth Group 11:30 am	<i>17</i> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> Confirmation 5 pm	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>23</i> SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10 am Voters' Assembly 11 am	<i>24</i> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i> Confirmation 5 pm	<i>27</i> SS Teachers 6:30 pm	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>30</i> SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am						



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
8948 N 1900 AVE  
GENESEO IL 61254-8941



**Sunday school/Adult & Youth Bible Class 8:45am**

**WORSHIP SERVICES 10 am**  
**(Holy Communion 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays)**

**Live Streaming each week on Facebook**

**Holy Thursday/Holy Communion: 7 pm**

**Tre Ore: 12pm – 3 pm @ Trinity, Coal Valley**

**Good Friday: 7 pm**

**Easter Sunday/Holy Communion: 7 am**

**Easter Breakfast: 8:30 am**

***Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed,  
Alleluia!***