

ST. JOHN'S NEWSLETTER



BUILT ON CHRIST OUR CORNERSTONE

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Hearing/Handicapped Assistance Available

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GROWING IN CHRIST'S FAMILY -In God's Grace - In God's Service

"Christian Witnessing Part VII: Love for the Unbeliever"

In our articles on witnessing, we have addressed the importance of knowing what we believe by being in the Word through regular worship and Bible study attendance, as well as personal devotions. We commented on the importance of knowing the doctrinal basics of Scripture and that such are presented in Luther's Small and Large Catechisms. We noted the importance of living as a Christian, which, in addition to regular worship and Bible study attendance, also includes a life in conformity with God's will (the Law) through daily repentance, and truly loving others, and not just our family and friends. We also noted the value of basic knowledge in apologetics (defense) so that we are confident in the Bible we have, being assured that it has not been "proven wrong by science," etc., and can also offer a defense for Christ and His Word to those whom question it. This month, let us consider how we are to view and interact with the person to whom we are witnessing.

First, consider the actual person. They are an *unbeliever*. Recognize up front that you cannot expect an unbeliever to think or act like a believer. On the contrary, expect them to be off in their thinking and their life, whether it be open atheism and/or immorality, or a fine veneer of external decency and morality, but which fails to include repentance and faith in Christ. (And be aware that while the second might be easier to talk with, they are often the ones who believe themselves good enough to not need "your Jesus.") Whichever is the case, remember that they are outside of Christ and His Word, they do not have the Holy Spirit enlightening their hearts and minds, *and it will show*. And then remember that they are the very ones who need Jesus and His salvation!

Second, remember that while faith comes by hearing the Gospel (Romans 10:17), we also need to be willing *to listen to the person to whom we are witnessing*. Make sure that when the other is speaking that you are not failing to listen to them because your mind is too busy planning what you're going to say next.¹ Communication requires both speaking and hearing. It has been wisely said that God gave one mouth, *but two ears*, thereby showing the importance of listening! So be respectful and give them the courtesy of listening to them. Listen to their concerns, their hopes, their problems. And don't do that *just to witness to them*! Do it because they are fellow human beings created by God and redeemed by Christ. Do it because they are "the neighbor" whom you are called *to love* (Matthew 22:39). And we don't love people *in order to* witness to them. We love them because it is *right* to love them (natural law) and because *God commands* us to do such (revealed law).

Of course it is quite true that *witnessing is loving them*, as we desire them to know their Savior in faith and to be with Him in glory forever. But love is *more* than just witnessing, at least in the strict sense of that word. Love tries to help with all of a person's needs. Again, we do recognize that their *greatest* need is Christ and His salvation. But Christ also healed diseases and fed the hungry, helping even those who would (tragically) finally spurn Him and thereby be separated from Him in eternity. Therefore, we should also try to help people with their various needs as we are able. Now not surprisingly, that kind of love, the love that actually reaches out to help people, does give a good witness to Christ in an of itself, and it will make a person more likely to be willing to listen to what we have to say about Him. But as true as that it

¹ Obviously this is good advice in any setting where communication is necessary. Many marital and family issues, at least in part, stem from failing to *truly listen* to the other, and this can also be a source of problems in the workplace, etc.

is, let us not treat people as if they are just “a target” for witnessing. For even if such comes from the best of intentions, the person will pick up on it and not receive either us or our message well.

Third, when actually doing the speaking part of the conversation, remember St. Paul’s instruction of “speaking the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15). Now it is clear that this does *not* mean that we must agree with what the person says, or condone what they are doing. Most likely we *won’t*, certainly on spiritual issues and probably on moral ones as well, since we are dealing with an unbeliever as already mentioned. And make no mistake, faithful, true, and *loving* witnessing will eventually need to address such issues with the truth of God’s Law: that such are condemned by the Holy God and that repentance is necessary. Love never dilutes the truth!

But as we were saying before when dealing with love, so too here common decency and respect on our part is required. First and foremost, this is because such is proper when speaking with a fellow human being. We should bear in mind our Lord’s golden rule of doing unto others as we would have them do unto us (Matthew 7:12). If we would have them willing to speak civilly with us, so then we should do the same. As some have put it, let us do our best so that when we disagree we are not being disagreeable. And again, when such love is shown, it will increase the likelihood of them at least giving what we are saying a fair hearing.

Finally, don’t forget that the person to whom you are witnessing *does* have a God-given conscience. It may actually at that moment be condemning them. In fact, one reason why people might demand others to accept them and what they’re doing is because deep down they know, or at least are concerned, that they are wrong. But even if at that moment their conscience is quiet because it is erring or simply because they are doing a fine job at ignoring it, it is still in there and God’s Law will work on it.

So when dealing with unbelievers, especially those who are not only doing something that God condemns, but something that you personally find repulsive, keep in mind that Jesus ate with the sinners. No, He did not do it to condone their sin, *but to lovingly call them to repentance*.² Can we honestly do any less after receiving His undeserved gifts of forgiveness and eternal life? God grant us to imitate our Savior all the more!

Your fellow witness of Christ,
Pastor Nerud

APOLOGETICS ARTICLE: Soft flexible nerves found in *Triceratops* bone³

Researchers examining the microscopic canals in *Triceratops* bone found evidence of soft flexible nerve fibers and their unique wrapping. The bone was the occipital condyle, a round bony projection on the skull that connects to the spinal column.^a In vertebrates, the connective tissue around nerve fibers contains a network of protein collagen fibers. This collagen has a characteristic double helix structure, giving it a crosshatched appearance.⁴ This pattern is unique to nerve fiber sheaths. After the bone minerals were dissolved away, the individual nerves were still soft, and they had what the researchers called “astonishing” flexibility.

This marks the very first discovery of any still-soft-and-flexible dinosaur nerve fragment. It caused the researchers to re-examine hundreds of slides from an earlier study involving samples from the same dinosaur’s horn, rib, frill, and vertebrae. They concluded the “possible presence” of nerves in all of these.

Skeptics in the past have tried to dismiss such discoveries as experimental oddities. But there are now so many instances of so-called ‘ancient soft tissue’ in the scientific literature, that the evidence can no longer be ignored. Dr Brian Thomas from ICR and Bob Enyart maintain an online list of “peer-reviewed journal articles on surviving endogenous biological material including tissue and DNA”.^b They list 116 such papers, 58 involving dinosaur remains. Twenty-seven (including this find) were in the past five years alone.

If these fossils *were* millions of years old, we would not expect to find *any* actual soft tissue or biomolecules. Yet these are being found, and in increasing numbers as more look for them. This only makes sense when we understand that the bones are only several thousand years old and were preserved as the result of Noah’s Flood.

References and notes

- a. Armitage, M., First report of peripheral nerves in bone from *Triceratops horridus* occipital condyle, *Microscopy Today* 29(2):20–25, Cambridge University Press, Mar 2021. The author is actively engaged in dinosaur soft tissue research—see dstri.org.
- b. Thomas, B., Enyart, B., List of Biomaterial Fossil Papers (maintained). Last Accessed: 29 July 2021; tinyurl.com/4u34hex9.

² It should be clarified that this deals with bringing the Gospel to those outside the Church and is not to be confused with the exercise of church discipline which concerns those who claim to be Christians, but are openly confessing or living contrary to God’s Word. Christ gives us directions for such people, up to and including excommunication, in Matthew 18:15-20.

³ by Joel Tay; <https://creation.com/triceratops-nerves-found>. Some spelling was changed to match with American English.

⁴ There are photos on the online article.

A LOOK at the LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

In Article X, The Lord's Supper, we clearly confessed that at the Sacrament of the Altar the true body and blood of Jesus are given orally, with the bread and wine, to all communicants. Thus while it is a miracle, it is not simply "spiritual." Our faith does not put Jesus' body and blood into the Sacrament, His Word does. Therefore someone who does not believe that Jesus' body and blood is present⁵ still receives the body and blood, but to their judgment (1 Corinthians 11:27-30).⁶

*Now in Article XI Confession, we confess two things. First, we condemn the abuses that had become associated with private Confession and Absolution, especially the requirement of naming every sin, which simply is impossible since sin is attached to even our best of works. Second, we rightly keep the good practice of private Confession and Absolution because of the tremendous gift it is for terrified consciences. Thus we keep it not for the Confession per se, but for the **Absolution**, the direct speaking of the forgiving Gospel to the hurting soul.*
Augsburg Confession Article XI: Confession⁷

Our churches teach that private Absolution should be retained in the churches, although listing all sins is not necessary for Confession. For, according to the Psalm, it is impossible. "Who can discern his errors?" (Psalm 19:12).

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

All high school age and adults are invited to participate in any or all Bible studies offered at St. John's. We are thankful we can gather together around God's Word. You are welcome to attend anytime.



- Sunday morning Adult Bible class – 8:45am in the Fellowship Hall. Topic of study is the book of Ecclesiastes.
- Men's Bible Study – 7 pm the first Thursday of each month. Topic of study is, "The Genesis Academy".
- Adult Bible study – 1:30 pm the third Thursday of each month. Topic of study is, "The Genesis Academy".
- **NEW STUDY:** Life Light – 1:30 pm each Wednesday afternoon (Sept. 8 – Nov. 3). Topic of study is, "The Time Between the Testaments".

OFFICE INFORMATION

- Please call the office or Pastor if you desire private communion during this time.
- Please call the office when someone is ill, hospitalized, or homebound.
- Please use this email to contact the office: churchoffice@stjohnsgeneseo.org
- Website address – 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.

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 flowers has increased to \$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.



LWML FALL RALLY of ROCK ISLAND ZONE

The Rock Island LWML Fall Rally will be here at St. John's on Tuesday, September 21, 9:00 am. All ladies are invited to come. The speaker is the administrator at Camp CILCA and we will have Bible study led by some of our Rock Island Circuit pastors. Lunch will be served. There is also an ingathering for Christian Care. If you would like to bring items, the collection is for men's jeans (30-38), underwear (s, m, l), t-shirts (lg to xxxlg) and tennis shoes (6-10). Monetary donations will also be accepted. Registration is \$12.00. Bev Peterson is accepting reservations or leave them with Terri Hock.

⁵ In fact, even a complete unbeliever would receive the body and blood, for Jesus has put it there whether or not we believe it, or even believe in Him at all!

⁶ This is one reason we follow the Biblical, ancient and Lutheran practice of "Closed Communion." It is an act of love, seeking to protect those who have not given a clear confession of their faith indicating that they have been rightly instructed and can examine themselves properly from potentially coming under judgment.

⁷ *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions, 2nd Edition*; Paul McCain, Ed. CPH, 2006.

WILL YOU HELP US OUT?

Ladies, since our LWML membership is small, we need extra help for the RI LWML Fall Rally being held here at St. John's on Tuesday, September 21. We will need help during the registration time 8:15 - 9:15 a.m. and with serving the lunch. If you can help, please let Liz Neumann know. We would be happy to have you join us for the day.



Witnessing is about Jesus sending us to share what He has done for us and for them. As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. And he did not permit him but said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled. Mark 5:18-20

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4 Lisa Peterson
5 Lincoln Mosher
7 Dennis Langdon
7 Madison Winchell
9 Barrett Hock
9 Lillian Hock
10 Jill Wickwire
11 Keir Blank



13 Janelle Gibson
14 Sheila Magerkurth
15 Memphis Ague
15 Barbara Miller
16 Cheryl Loenser
18 Jason Dahl
21 Preston Smith
23 Rollin Miller

24 Lauren Curry
25 Gary Post
28 Kate Langdon
28 Stephanie Mosher
29 Luke Davila
29 Jaelyn Lambin

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

5 Bob/Sherry Wechsler (1993) - 28 yrs
5 Wayne/Denise Winchell (1992) - 29 yrs
6 Dan/Carolyn Werner (1969) - 52 yrs
7 Kevin/Stacie Rahn (2002) - 19 yrs
10 Kevin/Kathy Remick (2011) - 10 yrs



16 Larry/Terri Hock (1973) - 48 yrs
24 Scott/Laurie Rahn (2016) - 5 yrs
26 Jim/Joan Stonehouse (2014) - 7 yrs
30 Paul/Theresa Mosher (1978) - 43 yrs

SEPTEMBER BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

5 Elizabeth Neumann
5 Kindra Thompson
5 John Wickwire
5 Jared Wright
7 Darla Johns
8 Brianna Rodgers
8 Matthew Werling
9 Betty Firch
9 Barrett Hock
9 Lillian Hock



9 Christian Loenser
9 Dominick O'Neil
10 Brittany Loenser
11 Heidi Freeman
11 Sharilyn Iliff
14 Richard DeWulf
18 Joel Goetz
18 John Neumann
19 Lynne Johnson
20 Dawn Daebelliehn

20 Linda Pinegar
24 Mandolyn Davila
25 Griffin Marckese
27 Kristy Rodgers
28 Lisa Bear
28 Sheila Magerkurth
29 Jamie Lambin
30 Joel Werling

LWML NEWS



St. John's LWML met Tuesday August 10, 2021 at 1:00 pm. There were 6 members present and Pastor Nerud. Liz Neumann opened our meeting in the name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Our promise verse for this month is: *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."* Romans 8:28

Liz Neumann read a devotion called, "Taking Jesus' Yoke" based on Matthew 11:29. The topic of study for today is from the Quarterly, "Come Unto Me, Ye Weary".

St. John's will host the Rock Island Zone LWML Fall Rally Tuesday, September 21 beginning at 8:30 am - 3 pm. Mary Donegan, Zone president, was our guest. We reviewed each area needed for the upcoming Fall Rally. Mary was there to give guidance.

Minutes from the July meeting were approved as written.

Correspondence and newsletters were passed on through email. A brochure on the LWML Sunday was received. Information for this day is available on the LWML website.

Treasurer's Report will be filed for review: Receipts for July - Mites: \$281.23, Missions: \$45, Operating: \$30. Disbursements – Mites: \$281.23, Operating: \$25. July 16th - Balances (\$439.91): Missions: \$299.84, Operating: \$140.07.

Margo Schillinger reported on National Mission Grant #1 "Deaconess Ministry Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch receiving \$81,680.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

The next meeting is September 14th. We will be assembling the rally folders and doing last minute preparations for the next week rally. Terri will have Devotion and topic. It was suggested that we keep the topic short due to the work that will need to be accomplished. We will try to watch the talk from Linda Riser, which was given at the convention.

LWML-CID MISSION GRANT MITE BYTES

Expanding Access at Camp CILCA..... \$16,000

Camp CILCA reinforces the work of pastors and congregations in teaching the faith to young people, adults, and families. These funds will be used to purchase materials and labor for heating and cooling in two large cabinets at the camp. These updated cabins will attract more campers and families to Camp CILCA to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ and enjoy God's creation throughout the whole year.



How can I help? Pray that God uses Camp CILCA to spread the gospel to all who attend or participate in the camp activities. Support this grant by donating to your church's LWML group mite fund.



At the end of the first of his chapters on the virtue of faith in *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis provides a helpful reminder, by way of analogy, for the foundation of stewardship. He wrote:

"Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already. So then, when we talk of a man doing anything for God or giving anything to God, I will tell you what it is really like. It is like a small child going to its father and saying, 'Daddy, give me sixpence to buy you a birthday present.' Of course, the father does, and he is pleased with the child's present. It is all very nice and proper, but only an idiot would think that the father is sixpence to the good on the transaction. When a man has made these two discoveries God can really get to work. It is after this that real life begins. (128–129)."

This is the first thing we are given to confess about stewardship, and it has to do with ownership. God owns everything, and we are simply managers – stewards – acting on His behalf. This is true not only of all that we have in this life (Deut. 8:17–18) but also all that we are in this life (1 Cor. 6:20).

The rest flows from here. Since we are stewards, or managers, of what belongs to God, entrusted to make use of it according to His will, there is an expectation of responsibility and accountability. For the Lord said, "Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more" (Luke 12:48b). And from this comes blessing and reward: "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master" (Matt. 25:21).

We have everything we need to support this body and life from our God's fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We have everything we need for our spiritual life also from His merciful hands. On account of the sacrifice of His Son, our Lord Jesus, through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, we have the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and everlasting salvation delivered to us with absolute certainty that it is ours – not as stewards but as sons (Gal. 4:1–7). Let us then, as His own sons, press all that He gives to us into the service of His church and to His glory.

ARE YOU READY FOR A CHANGE?

- Are you living as a Steward of all that God has blessed you with?
- Do you live paycheck to paycheck?
- Are you and your spouse arguing over finances and money obligations?
- Are you able to save for your children's higher education?
- Are you saving for retirement?
- Do you have extra saved for that 'unexpected' financial expense?

- Are you able to take vacations or enjoy your favorite hobby?
- Are you floating or even drowning in debt?
- Do you want to give more to the work of God or that favorite charity?

You can become a better manager of all these obstacles and more. You can live a life that is following God's Word where your finances are concerned. You can live in much more PEACE and joy. *Ramsey Plus* is a tool to help with all these difficulties. Are you ready to make a positive change in your family's life?

Follow this web link to simply create your own personal account:
<https://www.ramseysolutions.com/ramseyplus/hosts/GeneseoSJLC?pc=31250681>.

This account is totally private and unique to you. Short easy videos will walk you through each step. Take a little time to check out how *Ramsey Plus* can aid in your management of all the blessings God pours out on you every day. *Any questions for use of this program can be directed to Sherry Wechsler or Terri Hock.*



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Something new was tried this year. Instead of our regular 'Rally Day' potluck and games after church services, we had a Friday evening congregational family night cookout. We are so thankful for all those who attended and those who prepared for the evening. We hope those in attendance had a great time.

The new education season will begin September 5. Teachers and students are ready to begin a new year of learning and growing in the Lord. We encourage everyone of all ages to get involved in one of the Christian study opportunities available here at St. John's. You will be blessed in your efforts.

WHO'S WHO in the PEW NEXT to YOU?

It is Gayla Kroll!

I was born at Hammond Henry Hospital in Geneseo Illinois, where I grew up on a farm. I live in town now.

I have been a hairdresser for over 50 years. I work 7 days a week and sometimes 2 jobs a day! I do hair at my home shop and 2 days I work at LTC Hospital. I also am a Beauty Consultant at Walgreens in Geneseo. I will NEVER retire!

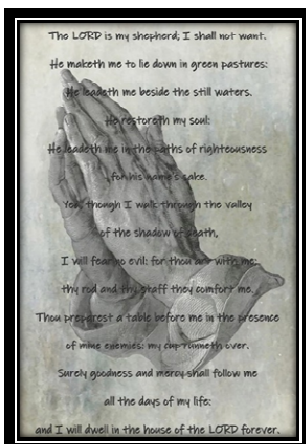
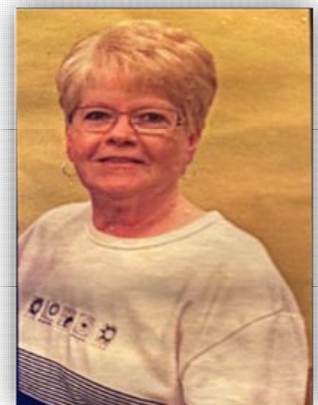
I really have no time for hobbies, but I do like to work in my flower beds. I have two grandsons 4 nights a week and I take them to school in the morning or do online school at home with them.

The memories I have of St. John's are thinking about Bible School every summer. I also enjoyed the Walther League Activities.

Living on a farm allowed for me to have many forms of transportation were available to me to learn to drive. I rode our go cart around and a mini bike. Then I graduated to the Farmall tractor. Dad would let us sit on the seat and steer. My first car was a Biscayne Station Wagon.

My favorite potluck dish at St. John's is cauliflower salad, strawberry pretzel salad and the scalloped corn.

My favorite Bible Verse is the 23rd Psalm. I was influenced by my mother to be a good Christian. She had such a strong faith, even as she grew older.



HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

Pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16b

Our Infrequent Attendees –pray the Holy Spirit bring them to the understanding of their need to be in regular worship in church on Sunday and that we as their 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.

Women's Ministry - we pray that a ministry would begin which would speak to the needs of all women.

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.

Stephen/Care Ministry – pray that God would guide us to the needs of others and supply willing people who will reach out to help provide for those 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.



PRAYER WARRIORS

Currently, there are a few faithful ladies as our ‘Prayer Warriors’. We invite and encourage others to join in this ministry. Only a small amount of time and a willing heart is needed. A prayer request is given to Pastor who then writes an appropriate prayer. This is then sent by email to the Prayer Warriors who pray in their own homes. It is that simple and yet very powerful. *‘What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer’!*

If you desire to become part of this ministry, just let Terri Hock know. Your name will be added to the email list. Anyone can be a prayer warrior. You will be a blessing and also be blessed.

PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH COUNCIL/VOLUNTEERS

During the month of September, we are encouraged to pray for our Bible Class leader/SS teachers: Pastor Nerud, Sandy Rahn, Sheila Magerkurth, Larry Kane, Joel Werling, and Heidi Nerud. May the Lord continue to use them in spreading God’s Word to all who will listen.

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:

Drew Schillinger

Linda Aper

John Erdman

Carolyn Werner

Arlyn Helke

Jim Rahn

Paula Chapa

Marilyn Woods

Derek Helke

Lois Esterlein

Lynne Johnson

Betty Firch

Lillian Hock

Jim Dahl

OUR EXTENDED FAMILY/FRIENDS:

Don Eggers (son of a friend of Marilyn Woods)

Jim Neumann (father-in-law of Brad Gehn’s son)

Mike Miller (friend of Bob & Sherry Wechsler)

Harley Hepner (cousin of Sarah Hock)

Jodi Martins (daughter of Gary & Darla Johns)

Delores Gonion (mother of Michele Barry)

John & Anita Causling (missionaries in Kenya)

Glen McAdam (friend of Bob/Sherry Wechsler)

Marilyn Potts (wife of Cal, former LFC)

Lonnie Anderson (employee of Brad Gehn)

Karen Wright (wife of Pastor Gary Wright)

Laurie Sanford (sister of Jan Dahl)

Virginia Miller (mother of Jamie Werling)

Sydney Busse (niece of Bob/Sherry Wechsler)

Kelly Wechsler (cousin of Bob Wechsler)

Bennett Carter (grandson of friend of Dan Maeltzer)

MILITARY, THOSE SERVING & THEIR FAMILIES:

Mandy/Richard Davila (daughter/son-in-law of Linda Aper)

John/Kindra Thompson

Luke/Nicole Thompson (son/daughter-in-law of

Ken Willeford (husband of Alicia Willeford)

Karl Flynn (son of Mr. & Mrs. Paul Flynn)

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

Brittany Loenser (daughter of Gabe Loenser)

Casey Powers Jr (step-son of Lisa Powers)



NEWS YOU CAN USE!

Mid - August 2021

Uplifted Hands

Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So, his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword. Exodus 17:12-13

Life can sometimes feel like a battle. This is true especially for Christians who are trying to honor the Lord by serving others and by proclaiming the Gospel. This is also true for pastors and other professional ministers in our Lutheran churches and schools. The world considers Christians to be intolerant, narrow minded, and out of touch with reality. We can become weary from always “swimming upstream” against the currents of popular opinion and world philosophies.

It is important to remember that Jesus already fought and won the battle against sin and the devil. All we must do is stand (Eph.6). The devil cannot harm us. Yet, still at times, we need people like Aaron and Hur to hold up our hands and the hands of God’s professional workers so they can continue to bless us with God’s Word.

In Exodus 17 we see the account of when Aaron and Hur stood with Moses while Moses blessed the people of Israel as they fought against the army of Amalek. As long as Moses held his hands up in blessing, the Israelites were winning. If he lowered his hands, they began to lose. So, Aaron and Hur stood beside Moses and held up his hands.

Are there any “Aarons” and “Hurs” in your congregation? If so, praise God and thank them for their service. If you are an Aaron or a Hur, never forget how important you are! God may be using you to uplift your pastor and other workers so they can continue to bless your congregation and/or school with the powerful and life-giving Word of God.

Rev. Jeff Harter

Stay Connected with your District

Looking for additional information visit <https://linktr.ee/cidlcms> or connect with the following items:

- † CID’s GatePost (newsletter)
- † Subscribe to the E-GatePost/News You Can Use
- † Stay connect with us on Facebook and Instagram -- [Central Illinois District-LCMS](#)
- †

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO SHARE

Lutheran Laymen’s League Retreat

Saturday September 11th

Camp Cilca – 4124 Camp CILCA Road, Cantrall, IL.

9:00 am- 2:00 pm Doors Open at 8:00 am

Topic: *How Critical Race Theory and Wokism Are Their Own Religion*

Speaker: Dr. Russell Dawn – President Concordia University- Chicago

\$15.00 per person includes Lunch (children are free)

For Registration Information please reach out to Deloris Blessmann (deloriblessman@yahoo.com) or by phone 309.361.1461

Receptionist/Office Assistant – The Central Illinois District Office in Springfield is STILL seeking a qualified individual to fill this position on a part-time basis. Hours are flexible. Starting wage is \$15/hr. for a 20-hour work week. There are no benefits being offered. The successful applicant will have a background in Microsoft Office, especially, Outlook, Word, and Excel. Will also coordinate Social Media for CID (Facebook, Twitter). For a job description or questions, contact mmiller@cidlcms.org. Applications are available through the CID Office during regular hours 8 am until 4 pm or can be sent by email by request.

St. John's Fish Fry – Monday, August 30, 4:30 to 7 pm, St. John's Lutheran Church of Bath, Illinois (for Google Maps, search 13961 E CR 1100N): The menu will include breaded Walleye, Catfish fillets, Chicken Strips, and Home fries as well as Cole Slaw, baked beans and deserts. The cost is a donation of your choice. Donations will be forwarded to Lutheran Legacy Foundation for the support of campus ministries in the Central Illinois District. Donations such as this are being matched dollar-for-dollar up to a total of \$20,000 by Lutheran Legacy through July 1, 2022.

The Camp CILCA Chicken Fry and Auction will be held Sunday, Sept. 5. Dinner is served from 11:30-2:30. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children ages 4-12. The live auction begins at 1pm with a wide variety of items, including gift baskets, weeks of summer camp, a guided youth hunt, and more. Check out all the items at cilca.org/auction-items.

LCMS Youth Gathering Adult Leader Training All adult leaders are invited to participate in an afternoon training on August 28th from 1-2:30pm at Bethel Lutheran Church in Morton, IL. This training will cover Gathering basics, travel tips, fundraising strategies, how to pick your adult leader team, and Q&A with veteran Gathering leaders! Please RSVP to jonathan@bethelmorton.org if you plan to join!

Save the Date:

CID Junior High Lock in

November 12-13th 2021 Five Point – Washington, IL

CID- District Convention (moved to 2022)

July 17- 19, 2022 Crowne Plaza- Springfield, IL

The Camp CILCA Lowdown

September, 2021

217-487-7497 / camp@cilca.org

4124 Camp Cilca Rd.

Cantrall, IL 62625



Labor Day Weekend: September 4-6

Pitch your tent with others from across Central Illinois for a weekend of swimming, fishing, canoe rides, disc golf, squishy-ball, campfire devotions, Christian fellowship, and freshly fried chicken at the Sunday Chicken Fry. *Contact the camp office today to reserve a spot in the campground, a cabin, or a hotel room in the CGC.*

This year's auction will be live, and includes many gift baskets, crafts, homemade preserves and candy, a week of summer camp, a family dinner for 10 at CILCA, 2 guided youth hunts worth over \$600, and more great items.

Sunday Schedule:

10:30am ~ Matins at the Outdoor Chapel

11:15 ~ Dedication of Dining Hall

11:30-2:00 ~ ***Chicken Fry*** (Adults, \$8; Children, \$5)

1pm ~ ***Live Auction begins!***

1-4pm ~ Beach open (weather permitting)

Jr & Sr High Catechetical Retreat: Oct 1-2

Students will experience the rhythm of worship, study, prayer, fellowship, play, and rest. Matins, Vespers, and Bible/Catechetical study will be led by the pastors of the Central IL District. Activities will be led by camp staff. This year's study will focus on **The Lord's Prayer** as our model for faith and hope in Christ before the world. Register at cilca.org/catechetical-retreat.html

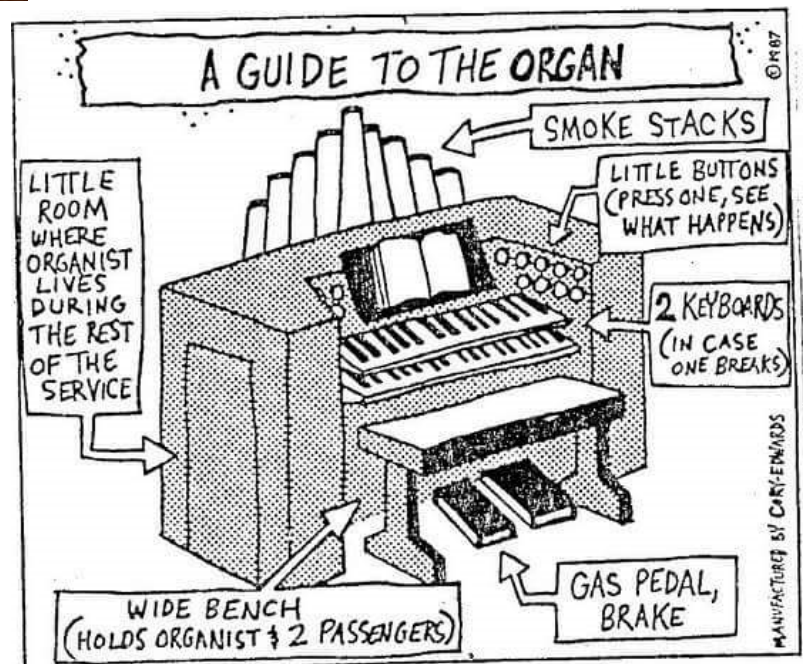
HELP NEEDED!

Do you enjoy cooking and need some extra income? Camp CILCA is seeking to fill the position of ***Assistant Cook:*** \$14/hr., part-time, mostly weekends in the Fall-Spring. For more information contact the camp office today!

RETIRED

For some 55 years John Neumann has been a faithful giving member of this congregation. Each week he willingly and faithfully has filled the organ bench with his presence and the building with sounds of praise, leading each bit of music. We have been blessed beyond measure and sincerely thank him and Liz.

*THANK YOU FOR GIVING TO THE LORD AND
THIS CONGREGATION!*



SEPTEMBER

2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Elders 6 pm Men's Bible Study 7 pm	3	4
5 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am	6 OFFICE CLOSED <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	7	8 Life Light 1:30 pm Confirmation 5 pm	9	10	11
12 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10 am	13 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	14 LWML 1 pm Council 6:30 pm	15 Life Light 1:30 pm Confirmation 5 pm	16 Bible Study 1:30 pm	17	18
19 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am	20 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	21 LWML Fall Rally 8:30 am—3 pm	22 Life Light 1:30 pm Confirmation 5 pm 	23	24	25
26 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10 am	27 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	28 SS Teachers' 6:30 pm	29 Life Light 1:30 pm Confirmation 5 pm	30	ELDER Carl Freeman	



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

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

WORSHIP SERVICES 10 am -
(Communion -1st & 3rd Sundays of this
month)

Live Streaming each week on Facebook

***“Every word of
God is pure: he is a
shield unto them
that put their trust
in him.”***

Proverbs 30:5