

# 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 II: WHERE IT BWGINS"

Last month, in our first article on witnessing, we mentioned four sobering realities that we must face about being a Christian witness:

1. Every Christian is a witness (whether they want to be or not).
2. People's eternal destinies are at stake.
3. There is no surefire method to witnessing that "always works."
4. Consequently, our witnessing may, earthly speaking, fail to produce fruit, both immediately and possibly ever.

These are, to put it bluntly, rather frightening truths. But they should neither freeze us into inaction nor pull us down into despair. On the contrary, seeing the seriousness of the issue, we come to recognize that we must be prepared in order to be faithful witnesses of Christ. So where does such preparation begin?

Please consider the words "faithful witness of Christ." While we might immediately focus on the (scary!) word *witness*, that is not where we begin. Instead we start with two other words: *faith* (root of faithful) and *Christ*. Let's first consider *Christ*.

A witness is one who has seen or heard something or someone and then gives testimony. Of course, the Apostles and the first Christians were eye witnesses of Christ Jesus, and we aren't. Does this mean that we cannot be His witnesses? Of course not! We have their eye witness testimony in the Apostolic Scriptures of the New Testament, so when we faithfully pass such on we are passing on what was directly seen and heard.

Our Lord promises His people, "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20b). Again, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them" (Matthew 18:20). Thus we see that our Lord was not merely present with the apostles, but is still present with us today. But where is He present? Certainly, as the Son of God, Christ Jesus is present everywhere, that is, omnipresent. But there also is a narrower sense, where He comes to be *with His people in a special way*. And so our question of "Where?" is answered by our Lord Himself: "The one who hears you hears me" (Luke 10:16) and, again, "Take, eat; this is my body...Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood" (Matthew 26:26-28). We are witnesses of Jesus because He is present with us in His Word and Sacrament.

That then takes us to the next word in faithful witness of Christ, *faith*. It should not be a great shocker that to be a faithful witness of Christ requires that we have faith in Christ to begin with! Is it not amazing that the very places Jesus is present for us, His Word and Sacrament, are the very same instruments He uses to create and sustain faith in us? Actually, maybe that's not so amazing after all, since where Jesus is would, logically, be the place where the Holy Spirit is working on our faith by giving us forgiveness, spiritual life, and eternal salvation through them.

So where does our faithful witness of Christ begin? Right where He is present for us, in His means of grace which we, His people, gather around. Truly, our witnessing to others begins with our own Sabbath rest,

receiving in worship what Jesus has won for us. For it is there that *our* faith in Christ is nurtured, the faith which is then empowered to go out into the world as a faithful witness of Christ to others.

In addition, just consider one additional point about receiving God's gifts in worship and witnessing. Just by our attending worship, we are actually witnessing to others. While it is true that simply going to church may not get another to darken the door, nor is it to be the limit of our witness to others, it does impress on others how vitally important our relationship with God is and where that relationship is primarily created and maintained. So, may we joyfully gather around His Word and Sacrament, have our faith in Christ strengthened there, and so as empty vessels filled again with abounding grace, go forth and be His faithful witnesses.

*(This series will be continued next month.)*

Your fellow witness in Christ,

*Pastor Nerd*

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

*Last month we saw how we are freely justified through faith in Christ, for God counts such faith as righteousness in His sight (Article IV). In Article V, we now confess how such saving faith in Christ is given and sustained by the Holy Spirit.*

### *Augsburg Confession Article V: The Ministry<sup>1</sup>*

So that we may obtain this faith, the ministry of teaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments was instituted.<sup>2</sup> Through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given [John 20:22]. He works faith, when and where it pleases God [John 3:8], in those who hear the good news that God justifies those who believe that they are received into grace for Christ's sake.<sup>3</sup> This happens not through our own merits, but for Christ's sake.<sup>4</sup>

Our churches condemn the Anabaptists<sup>5</sup> and others who think that through their own preparations and works the Holy Spirit comes to them without the external Word.<sup>6</sup>

## **CULTURE CORNER: For LGBT Activists, Critical Thinking Has Become Offensive<sup>7</sup>**

There are some things LGBT activists simply don't want to learn about. That's one of the lessons from a recent and on-going attempt to torpedo a study about gender dysphoria.

In a letter dated January 27, 2021, the California LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network recently discouraged people with gender dysphoria from participating in a study by the UCLA Semel Institute.

Why? UCLA is a typical, secular university that, politically speaking, kisses the right rings. The concern is not that the researchers were "anti-trans" or trying to harm a favorite progressive cause. Instead, the LGBT

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<sup>1</sup> *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*; Paul McCain, Ed. CPH, 2006.

<sup>2</sup> The main point of this article is to express the objective, external, sure, and certain *means of grace* which the Holy Spirit works through: the Gospel Word and the Sacraments (Baptism and the Lord's Supper). Indirectly, this article also speaks of the Office of the Ministry (pastoral office) which Christ instituted so that there would be a steward of the means of grace (1 Corinthians 4:1) to make sure that His people receive His gifts as He desires.

<sup>3</sup> Note the two points here made. First, the Spirit is the One who creates faith, not us. Second, the Spirit creates faith *through His Word*. These two points show us that it is not up to us to save people, only God can do that. Yet, we are to share the Word of God so that they *can* receive the Holy Spirit who works through it. We throw the seed, God gives the growth.

<sup>4</sup> Thus faith itself is a gift from God, and not a "decision" that we make. See Ephesians 2:8-9.

<sup>5</sup> "Rebaptizers." During the Reformation, the name applied to groups that insisted on rebaptism of people who were baptized as infants, as they favored adult "believers' baptism" (along with other unscriptural practices such as refusal to take oaths, serve in a governmental office, etc.). Modern groups most closely associated with Reformation Anabaptists include the Mennonites, Amish, Hutterites, and the various Brethren churches. Baptists arose later, but were influenced by Anabaptists as far as their denial of the Holy Spirit working through the means of grace (and thus their requirement to baptize adults who have already confessed faith in Christ).

<sup>6</sup> Sadly, there are some who claim the name Lutheran today who think that the Holy Spirit speaks to them outside of the Word, e.g. in their dreams, through signs, in their feelings, etc. Even more common are those who think that a person can remain a believer even though they have cut themselves off from the Spirit's means of keeping faith alive, His Word and Sacraments. Such things are the devil's lies to lure us away from the external Word and Sacraments so that the Holy Spirit is no longer nurturing our faith.

<sup>7</sup> By Joseph Backholm; underlined text is a hyperlink in the online article. Family Research Council; February 17, 2021; <https://www.frc.org/get.cfm?i=WA21B43&f=WU21B13>.

lobby is concerned that the researchers might accidentally harm their cause by learning something they don't want to know.

Dr. Quentin Van Meter, a pediatric endocrinologist and clinical associate professor of Pediatrics at both the Emory University and Morehouse Schools of Medicine with, underscored this point recently on Washington Watch. "The fearful thing to the transgender activist community is that they're going to find stuff that essentially says this is a response to environment process," he said. "When you look at things longitudinally, you will find that there really is no biology, no innate sense of someone being born transgender ... Gender doesn't have a marker, if you will, in the human body. It's not a biologic event. It's a sociologic, psychological event, and they fear that greatly."

Part of the concern is directed at Principal Investigator, Dr. Jamie Feusner. Not only is Dr. Feusner interested in understanding the brains of those who experience gender dysphoria, he is also funded to study Body Dysmorphic Disorder (BDD) and anorexia nervosa. This is a problem.

LGBT activists don't like the idea that a researcher would look into gender dysphoria as well as anorexia because the fact that the same person is asking those questions implies that they could be related. They are here to tell you that they are not related and you should cease and desist from doing any research that even has the potential of suggesting otherwise. After all, anorexia is bad and gender dysphoria is beautiful and brave.

"We object to the view that transgender people have an aberrant body image condition or that brain imaging of traumatic response could ultimately 'help' trans people. It is suggestive of a search for medical 'cure,' which can open the door for more gatekeeping and restrictive policies and practices in relation to access to gender-affirming care."

It is a circular argument to suggest that because there is nothing wrong with the brains of people who experience gender dysphoria, it is inappropriate to do scientific research on the brains of people who experience gender dysphoria.

But it's more than simply circular. It's a not-so-subtle admission that none of this has anything to do with truth, science, or even helping people. Instead, they seek to punish even the potential of information that might challenge the house of cards upon which their identities are built.

They do not want to know if gender dysphoria has a cause or a treatment because their identity, their life's work, and in many cases their paychecks are dependent on the idea that gender dysphoria is healthy.

It's not an unprecedented level of willful ignorance; human nature has been rationalizing away inconvenient facts since the beginning of time. But it is still willful ignorance.

In addition to discouraging participation in the study and telling UCLA to stop asking these questions, the letter includes a list of demands regarding future research. Those demands include the request that UCLA "include the participation of transgender researchers and *policy advocates* on scientific advisory boards..." (emphasis mine).

You may need to read that again if you didn't catch it. Despite branding themselves as those who doggedly "follow the science" wherever the facts lead, the letter demands that UCLA follow the politics instead. If I'm a betting man, UCLA will do just that. UCLA has already paused the study as they seek to listen to the concerns raised in the letter. There will be meetings and conversations, and in the end, I suspect the scientists will apologize, alter their current path, and promise to do better in the future. After all, the politics funds the scientists, so politics wins.

When scientific inquiries surrender to political interests, researchers don't get cancelled, but something much more important does get canceled: knowledge.

Now that critical thinking is offensive and something is deemed true because of the threats behind it rather than the facts behind it, everyone is a loser. In this case, the biggest losers are those who stand to benefit from a greater understanding of gender dysphoria.

We know we're supposed to believe that the increased rates of depression, suicide, addiction, and mental illness within the transgender community are exclusively the fault of bigots who believe sex is immutable. But what if that's not true? What if there was a way for science to find help for a community struggling unlike any other?

Dr. Van Meter made it clear that he will stay in fight. "We are not going to give up, though. There is just too much harm being done with the affirmation pathway to children, in particular, that bothers us. It's so tragic to take someone who is suffering so greatly and to do the absolutely wrong thing. We've read the story, we've read

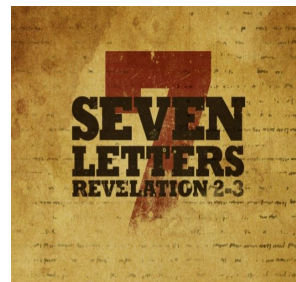
the book, we know the ending. These people are in chapter one and chapter two thinking they're going the right way, and they're so far off the mark, and they'll be so badly harmed by that."

But with so many medical professionals being intimidated by the prospect of their careers being ruined by the LGBT lobby, how can they fight back? Dr. Van Meter was unequivocal: "They should network with each other. There should be relentless networking between people who do not feel threatened and who are not afraid for their professional lives to be ruined ... If they will get together ... under the radar screen, and start building a network and come up from beneath and flourish in the sunlight, I think that's how this is going to happen. We have a lot of physical energy and emotional energy behind the truth, and we are not going to give up."

### LENTEN SERVICES

Lenten worship services continue through March. The Order of Evening Prayer, from the 1998 Hymnal Supplement, will be utilized for the following 4 Wednesday evenings. Our meditations for these services will be on "The Letters to the Churches in Revelation". Prayerfully, worshiping at these special services will be a priority for you and your family. Lenten devotional booklets are available for each family to use in their homes.

Light suppers are served before each Wednesday evening services. These suppers are served from 5:15 – 6:30 pm. A free-will donation is taken at each supper. The total of these donations, along with donations from the Easter Breakfast, will be given to our sister church, Cristo Rey.



### EASTER BREAKFAST



The suppers before the Lenten services have been going well. We are happy to be together once again for this special time of fellowship. As life continues to return to a more open and normal style, we desire to also serve an Easter Breakfast. We ask that in the next several weeks each family consider whether they will attend. A sign-up sheet is available at church. You may also call, or email the church office. Please list the number of people who will be attending from your family (that would include guests or adult children with families who don't regularly attend St. John's). ***Please respond no later than March 21<sup>st</sup>***. This will enable us to prepare the proper amount of food needed for the morning. Thank you for your help and support of this event. *A free-will donation will be*

*taken and given to our sister congregation, Cristo Rey.*

### 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".

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

5 Beverly Peterson  
8 Jaimie Jorgensen  
9 Don Hock  
10 Dan Maeltzer  
12 Kathy Remick  
12 Dylan Slonecker



13 Adam Hock  
14 Arlyn Helke  
14 Andrew Hock  
14 Coy McKibbin  
17 Francie Kolb  
20 Roselyn Maeltzer

23 Kenneth Allison  
23 Gayla Kroll  
24 Derek Helke  
25 Kevin Rahn  
29 Martin Himmelman  
31 Harrison Wright

## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

5 Joel/Jaime Werling (2005) - 16 yrs  
31 Brad/Michele Barry (1990) - 31 yrs

31 Mike/Jan Dahl (1979) - 42 yrs



## MARCH BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

2 Robert Erdman  
7 Janet Bertson  
8 Jackson Bellmyer  
8 Makeena Wickwire



15 Sean Helke  
23 Aaron Raschke  
24 Adam Hock  
24 Joel Jorgensen

25 Bailie Bauchmann  
27 Don Hock  
29 Carmen Sette



- 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 the email addresses below.

Terri Hock – [churchoffice@stjohnsgeneseo.org](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsgeneseo.org)

Website address – [www.stjohnsgeneseo.org](http://www.stjohnsgeneseo.org)

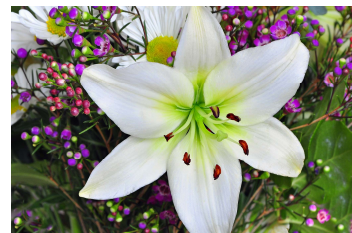
Facebook pages: <https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo/> (church page)

All Sunday services are 'Live' streamed at 10am on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo/>) These streamed services are posted to our church website ([churchoffice@stjohnsgeneseo.org](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsgeneseo.org)) the following day.

## ALTAR FLOWERS

Easter Lilies will adorn our sanctuary Easter Sunday. Those wishing to donate one or more plants are asked to sign the sheet on the table next to the coatroom. We have not yet received the cost of each plant, but will publish that as soon as it is available. You may also contact the church office to order a lily.

Celebrate a special occasion with flowers for our Sunday worship services. Sign the flower chart, which is on the bulletin board next to the rest rooms. Put \$20 in a yellow envelope (found by the chart). Fill in the date you want to provide flowers and the occasion/memory and place envelope in the offering plate. The rest is done for you.



Hudson Taylor, a Nineteenth Century British missionary to China, is reported to have said, "God's work, done in God's way, will not lack God's supply." To know God's way, we need to know His Holy Word. Or to say it another way: you need to know your Bible.

St. Paul, before he spends two chapters on giving, wrote that every thought is to be taken captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor 10:5). Doctrine matters. And doctrine matters because the Scriptures matter. And the Scriptures matter because this is where we learn the teaching of Christ. Our thoughts must be brought into line with the teaching of Scripture so that our work is what God wants done and so that we do this work in His way.

A good tree bears good fruit. A bad tree bears bad fruit. We have been made good trees in holy baptism. We are fertilized and pruned for bearing good fruit by constantly hearing God's Word preached and taught in sermon and Bible Class and in receiving the life-giving, faith-sustaining food of the Lord's Supper. Remember your doctrine, hold on to the Lord's teaching, and your thoughts will be taken captive to the obedience of Christ.

Bringing every thought captive to the obedience of Christ is recognizing that God does provide. The Lord's Prayer teaches us to pray for daily bread. Praying this day in and day out reminds us that the Lord is the giver of our daily bread, and that we are to give thanks for His daily provision of it. God is rarely early and never late in His work, as Abraham learned on the mount of the Lord it will be provided. The Lord's generosity forms our generosity in return.



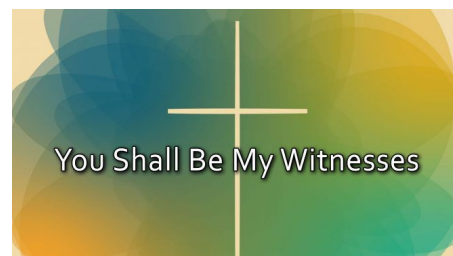
Thus, we set aside for the work of God a generous, first-fruits, proportion of the daily bread that God has given to us. This act of trust in the Lord's provision is the working out of our faith in Him. When budgetary discussions pop up our natural reaction is to point fingers. But remember your doctrine, and what your mother taught about pointing fingers. Our first natural reaction is not always right. In fact, when our thoughts are brought into captivity of Christ, our first reaction should be repentance. It should raise questions in our own lives. As good trees in Christ who are to bear good fruit, we should ask whether our thoughts have been taken captive by obedience to Christ. Have we given generously? Have we given our first-fruits? You know. And God knows. "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him" (2 Chron 16:9).

God will provide. He always has and He always will. He gives His meat in due season. He has not left you as orphans but has grafted you into His own family. You belong to Him. Remember this, letting this thought dwell in you richly. And you will then be rich toward others.

### EVANGELISM

What is a witness? "Witness" takes place among God's people. To instruct and strengthen believers.

*There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him, He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.*  
*John 1:6-8*



### SUNDAY SCHOOL



We are thankful for the children that regularly attend Sunday school. This is the foundation that each child will build upon as they grow in their Christian faith. It is part of the most important education parents give their children as this can last for eternity.

We ask people (men, women, or young adults) to consider and prayer about serving this congregation as a Sunday school teacher. Several teachers have been dedicated servants for 30 plus years. The time for them to move to other places of service will soon be upon us. *Is God calling you?*



### Camp CILCA (Central Illinois Lutheran Camp Association) Summer Programs 2021

Camp scholarships are available through St. John's. Please call the church office if you are interested in a scholarship. Check out the many camps available, throughout summer, at [www.cilca.org](http://www.cilca.org). Deadline for early bird registering is March 31st. High school youth can go to camp for free while serving as a Joyful Hearts volunteer or Junior Counselor!

### 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*

We have a 'Prayer Chain'. All prayer requests can be made to the office and a special prayer will be sent to those prayer warriors.

*'What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer'!*



*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.

### **PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH COUNCIL/VOLUNTEERS**

During the month of March, we are encouraged to pray for those who are part of the Elders: Aaron Raschke, Mike Dahl, Carl Freeman. May they be guided by our Heavenly Father to serve with willing hearts, patience and love. May all they do bring praise and glory to the name of Jesus Christ.

### **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**

**Jim Dahl**

**Lynne Johnson**

**Carolyn Wildermuth**

**Arlyn Helke**

**Jim Rahn**

**Lillian Hock**

**John Erdman**

**Derek Helke**

**Lois Esterlein**

**Carolyn Werner**

**Betty Firch**

**Paula Chapa**

**Linda Aper**

### **OUR EXTENDED FAMILY/FRIENDS:**

**Andrew, Sarah, John, Daniel Hill** (seminary student)

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

**Mike Miller** (friend of Bob & Sherry Wechsler)

**Jodi Martins** (daughter of Gary & Darla Johns)

**John & Anita Causling** (missionaries in Kenya)

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

**Pam Bennett** (friend of Dan/Roselyn Maeltzer)

**Karen Wright** (wife of Pastor Gary Wright)

**Virginia Miller** (mother of Jamie Werling)

**Casey Powers** (husband of Lisa (Bear) Powers)

**Kelly Wechsler** (cousin of Bob Wechsler)

**Kathleen VanDe Rostyne** (friend of Bob/Sherry Wechsler)

**Joseph Baamonde** (friend of Paula Mooney)

**Clinton Kane Family** (son of Sandy Kane)

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

**Harley Hepner** (cousin of Sarah Hock)

**Delores Gonion** (mother of Michele Barry)

**Glen McAdam** (friend of Bob/Sherry Wechsler)

**Justine Fowler** (son of Kathy/Kurt Gehn)

**Lonnie Anderson** (employee of Brad Gehn)

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

### **MILITARY, THOSE SERVING & THEIR FAMILIES:**

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

**Luke/Nicole Thompson** (son/daughter-in-law of John/Kindra Thompson)

**Ken Willeford** (husband of Alicia Willeford)

**TylerHynes** (nephew of Mark Ague)

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

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

**Casey Powers Jr** (step-son of Lisa Power)

### **MEMBERSHIP UPDATES**

Andrew Hock – 3301 Orchard Lane, Apt. 105, Carbon Cliff IL 61239

Lynne Johnson – 920 S. Chicago St. Room 129, Geneseo IL 61254-1879

Robert Erdman – robert.erdman133@gmail.com

## ARE YOU MISSING A COAT?

We have 3 nice men's winter jackets in our coatroom that have been living there for quite a while. If you think one might be yours, check them out or ask Terri.



## NEWS YOU CAN USE!

March 2021

What have you done with your extra time during the covid-19 isolation? What are you going to do with the rest of it? Since the main purpose of curtailing activities with other people was to avoid sickness and death, fill your mind with God's word. God gave His only-begotten Son so that we would believe in Him and "not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). Jesus "healed all those who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: 'He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses'" (Matt. 8:17).

If you are not afraid of the results of sickness, because you are sure of eternal life for Jesus' sake, contact someone you know who is not sure. How scary it must be to be isolated and in fear of sickness and death! Our neighbors in fear or doubt about their future need to hear "the testimony of our Lord" (2 Tim. 1:8) from us Christians: "God, has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel" (2 Tim. 1:9-10).

Every Christian can say with St. Paul, "I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day" (2 Tim. 1:12).

So, use your God-given time away from your old routines to imbed the Gospel in your heart and mind, not only so that you can live life without fear and in the hope of eternal life for Christ's sake, but also so that you can spread this hope. Our world needs to know more about our God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Pastor Mark Eddy – Zion Lutheran Church – Taylor Ridge, IL

### ***Pray For Our Central Illinois District Missions supported by your church's Mission Dollars to the District.***

"Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the Word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored." Please remember in your prayers Cristo Rey (Christ the King) Lutheran Church in East Moline, and Pastor Pablo Dominguez, where the ministry is conducted almost entirely in Spanish.

### ***Pray For Our Central Illinois District Missions supported by your church's Mission Dollars to the District.***

"Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the Word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored." Please remember in your prayers all of the LCMS pastors, deaconesses, and lay ministers that serve in health care settings and prisons as professional chaplains or as volunteers. These front-line workers are often exposed to the same dangers of infection and illness as the nurses and doctors are.

### **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

### **Congregational Voting Results**

Results of the request to allowing districts to hold their conventions in either 2021 or 2022, and moving the upcoming national Synod convention from 2022 to 2023? More than the required one-fourth (63.32%) of the Synod's member congregations registered a vote, and the majority (90.67%) of votes cast favored adoption. The stated extension of the 2019–2022 triennium by a year, allowing district conventions to take place in either 2021 or 2022 and deferring the national Synod convention from 2022 to 2023, is therefore adopted.



## LCMS Life Conference

LCMS Life Ministry will host its first-ever virtual life conference March 19–20, under the theme “Making Disciples: Valuing Life.”

- Be equipped to speak up for the sanctity of life within your community and our society
- Gain ideas on how to care for all human life
- Interact with fellow Lutherans on Life Ministry topics
- Be a part of the LCMS Life Ministry community

The Life Conference includes a few live events, but most of this conference’s content can be accessed by registrants on demand. Basic registration for the conference allows access to content any time on March 19 or 20. An announcement is forthcoming concerning the schedule for the live sessions. Conference registration is open now at [www.lcms-life.org](http://www.lcms-life.org)

## *Here I Stand Sunday*

*April 18<sup>th</sup>*

More information will be released from the Synodical Office in the future. As a reminder in its 2019 convention, the Synod adopted the following resolution:

- 4-09, To Declare April 18, 2021, as “Here I Stand” Sunday and to Encourage Multi-Congregation Celebrations
- † “*Resolved*, That April 18, 2021 be declared “Here I Stand” Sunday throughout The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, its districts, circuits, and congregations; and be it further
  - † “*Resolved*, That these entities be encouraged to gather for worship celebrations to commemorate this event; and be it further
  - † “*Resolved*, That a synod wide thank offering be coordinated and collected for this day, to be used toward the continued proclamation of the Gospel throughout the world . . .”

## Central Illinois District Youth Bible Bowl (April 18<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00pm)

CID’s Youth Bible Bowl: *The Exodus*. Exodus (chapters 1-20, 24, 32-34, & 40). This year we are having an “online” Bible Bowl. No team is too small to participate in the Online Bible Bowl. Contact Pastor Mark Eddy at [zionlcms@juno.com](mailto:zionlcms@juno.com) if your congregation’s youth might participate in this year’s Bible Bowl.

## CTSFW – Continuing Education Class

*Trinity Lutheran Church- 1960 E. Johns Ave Decatur, IL - June 21-23 2021*

*“The Book of Jeremiah: Overcoming Life’s Sorrows:* Instructor- Dr. R. Reed Lessing – Professor of Theology and Ministry and the Director of the Center of Biblical Studies at Concordia -St. Paul.

Based upon Dr. Lessing’s forthcoming book on Jeremiah (Concordia Publishing House, September 2021), this course will be a combination of in-depth study and practical application—all based upon one of the prophet’s major themes: surviving life’s sorrows. Jeremiah offers a hope and future in Christ to all who have experienced a major disaster in life. (For cost and additional information contact email Rev. Matthew Verseemann at [pastorversemann@msn.com](mailto:pastorversemann@msn.com) or by phone 217-420-0586)

## LCMS- Virtual Life Conference - March 19-20, 2021

Cost: For \$20, you get access to the event live. For \$40, you get that, plus ongoing access to the recordings for another 90 days. Each participant must register individually. See the following link for additional information and to register. [https://www.lcms-life.org/?r\\_done=1](https://www.lcms-life.org/?r_done=1).

## Camp CILCA “Life Changing, Life Long, Life Eternal” Campaign Update

In 2018 Camp CILCA launched the Life Changing, Life Long, Life Eternal capital campaign with the goal of raising \$1,000,000 to expand the Dining Hall, add a full-time program director, eliminate debt, and add a significant amount of money to CILCA's endowment fund. The generosity of God's people abounded and two of these goals were met in full. The \$60,000 mortgage was paid in full and the endowment fund is up to \$100,000. The funds from this endowment go toward providing "camperships" for children who might not otherwise be able to afford a full week at camp.

While 2020 was a tumultuous year, CILCA was able to break ground on the Dining Hall expansion in September. As of January 11, the exterior frame is nearly completed, and interior work continues. With the Lord's blessings the work will be completed by Spring. Once the Dining Hall is completed the program director position will become the next priority.

Our Lord has been truly generous, and His grace has made this all possible, working through His people. "Thank you" to all who have prayed, donated, and volunteered. You are a gift from the Lord.

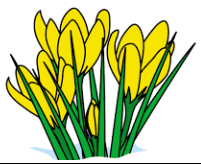


Luke 22:41-42

**41** And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, **42** saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."

# March

# 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	2	3 Confirmation 5 pm Lenten Supper 5:15 Worship 7 pm	4 Elders 6 pm Men's Bible Study 7 pm	5	6
7 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am	8 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	9 LWML 1 pm Council 6:30 pm	10 Confirmation 5 pm Lenten Supper 5:15 Worship 7 pm	11	12	13
14 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10 am	15 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	16	17 Confirmation 5 pm Lenten Supper 5:15 Worship 7 pm	18 Bible Study 1:30 pm	19	20 <b>SPRING</b> 
21 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am	22 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	23 SS Teachers' 6:30 pm	24 Confirmation 5 pm Lenten Supper 5:15 Worship 7 pm	25	26	27
28 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10 am	29 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	30	31	<b>ELDER</b> 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 -1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month)

**Live Streaming each week on Facebook**

**Lenten Worship – 7 pm**  
**March 3, 10, 17, 24**

