

First Reading: Acts 10:34–43

³⁴Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), ³⁷you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Epistle: Colossians 3:1–4

¹If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated

at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 28:1–10

¹Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.” ⁸So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

You have been raised with Christ



Easter

About the Cover: Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Christ's resurrection has changed everything. By faith, we have died to sin, have been buried with Him, and have been raised with Him. This changes the way we look at this life, turning our eyes upward toward the things of God. One day, Christ will return. On that day, what we now hold by faith will be delivered before our very eyes as we appear with Christ in His glory at the resurrection of our bodies. Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The Easter Preparation

*The Paschal Candle** represents Christ being the light of the world and His continuing presence among His people.

P: God said, “Let there be light.” (*Genesis 1:3*) **C: God created the light, and all things, through His Word.**

P: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. (*John 1:1-3, 14*) **C: The Word of God is the Second Person of the Trinity, who took on flesh and blood in the virgin Mary’s womb. Jesus Christ is the Word; He is true God and true man.**

P: In Him is life, and the life is the light of men. (*John 1:4*) **C: The One who first created physical light is Himself the light and life of all people.**

P: The powers of death and darkness opposed Him. Mankind, by nature, loves the darkness, blind to their own doom. **C: It was my own dark sin that nailed the Lord of Light to the cross, that killed the Lord of Life.**

P: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (*John 1:5*) **C: Sin, death, and the devil lay defeated under His feet.** (*Psalms 110:1*)

P: Jesus Christ is the light of the world. (*John 8:12*) **C: O Christ, let Your light scatter the darkness, and illumine the hearts of your people.** [*1 Cor 4:5; 2 Cor 4:6*]

The Divine Service continues with the opening hymn, #457.

* *Paschal* is Greek for “Passover;” it refers particularly to the celebration of Jesus’ passion, death, and resurrection, which causes God’s wrath to *pass over* all who have faith in Christ Jesus as their God and Savior.

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St. John’s Lutheran Church (LCMS)

8948 N 1900 Ave Geneseo, IL 61254

815-989-2025

April 5, 2026 The Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter Day)

***** *Divine Service Setting One (Lutheran Service Book, pg.*

Please enter in silence.

The Easter Preparation (see insert)

Hymn of Invocation 457 Jesus Christ Is

Risen Today Invocation and Versicles (p.

151)

Entrance Hymn 488 He Is Arisen! Glorious Word

The Kyrie (p. 152)

Hymn of Praise: *This Is the Feast* (p. 155)

Salutation and Collect (p. 156)

P O God, for our redemption You gave Your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross and by His glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of the enemy. Grant that all our sin may be drowned and die through daily repentance and that day by day we may arise to live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen. *(sung)*

Readings (on back of bulletin)

Gradual *adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6* Christ has risen from the dead.

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor.

He has given him dominion over the works of his hands; he has put all things under his feet.

Alleluia and Verse (Common, p. 156)

Hymn of the Day 461 I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Sermon

Text: Zechariah 8:19-23

Title: "Our Fasting Gives Way to Feasting"

Nicene Creed (p. 158)

Prayer of the Church

After each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P ...one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Gathering and Presentation of the Offering

Offertory (p. 159)

Service of the Sacrament (p. 160)

(Please read the statement below before receive Holy Communion.)

Distribution Hymns

458 Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands

487 Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

469 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Post-Communion Cantic: *Thank the Lord* (p. 164)

Hymn to Depart 465 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

***** **Receiving Holy Communion at St. John's Evangelical**

Lutheran Church The Lord's Supper is celebrated at St. John's in the confession and confidence that, as He says, our Lord Jesus gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins, to strengthen our fight against sin and grow in His likeness, to assure us of our own bodily resurrection on the Last Day, and to increase our unity of love with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, so that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and judgment, and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, are asked to first speak with the pastor before receiving the Sacrament.

For further study: Matthew 5:23-24; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor 10:16; 11:17-34; 27-30; Acts 2:42; 20:27.

**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH-LCMS** churchoffice@stjohnsgeneseo.org
pastor@stjohnsgeneseo.org
Website: www.stjohnsgeneseo.org

***HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE
LARGE PRINT HYMNALS AVAILABLE***

Rev. Timothy Nerud, Pastor 815-989-2025 (Office)
612-940-8
138 (Cell)

Elder: Larry Kane

Hymn Leader: Larry Kane or Bobby Wolfe

Greeter: Janet Bertsons

Videographers: Joel Werling, Nicole Nerud, or Heidi Nerud

WE PRAY: Hallelujah! Living and reigning Lord, upon whom the Father laid the sins of us all, because in obedience to Your Father's will and in love for us You forfeited Your life, You sit now at His direction in regal splendor on His right hand; we adore You and will honor You with praise and righteous living; Hallelujah! O Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit are one God with dominion over us forever.
Amen

WELCOME TO ALL!

We are anxious to share with you the Christ-centered ministry at St. John's. Our Liturgy follows closely the pattern of Word and Lord's Supper handed down from the ancient Church. It is our hope that you will make the Church's life of prayer your own. If you have difficulty following our order of service, please ask someone sitting near you for assistance. We pray that you will receive rich spiritual blessings from your presence here. May the peace and power of our risen Christ be yours always.

OFFICE HOURS

Terri Monday—Friday, please call ahead Pastor Tuesday—
Friday please call ahead

STREAM SERVICES

https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo/ and on the
website: www.stjohnsgeneseo.org.

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

Sunday school— 0 Adult Bible class—12 Worship —42

OFFERING

Offering last Sunday \$3,485.00 Weekly Budget for 2026
\$4,379.13

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT ST JOHN'S

Today 7:00 am Easter Divine Worship/Holy Com. Tuesday
6:00 pm Elders' meeting
Wednesday 5:30 pm Confirmation
Thursday 6:30 pm Council meeting
Sunday 8:45 am SS/Adult & Youth Bible Study 10:00
am Divine Worship

***I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house
of the LORD." Psalms 122:1***

SPECIAL OFFERING will be taken for the next 3 Sunday
for St. Paul Lutheran Church in Dallas TX who had severe
fire damage to their church and school Jan. 29, 2026 (full
story on the bulletin board). All gifts will be matched up to a
total of \$2,500 with funds from Karna Hol
latz estate. Let us reach out to our fellow Christian church in
their time of need.

THANK YOU to Carolyn Werner and all who helped with
food, serving and clean up with willing hearts and hands. The
free-will offering taken at breakfast will be sent to our sister
congregation at Cristo Rey. A Blessed Easter to all.

Building Healthy Families: Here are true words to
remember and boldly speak aloud today or any day you
may be feeling overwhelmed with temptation or any of
life's challenges: "Know ye then - sin, death, devil, and
everything that assails me - that you are missing the mark. I
am not afraid of you. For Christ, my dear Lord, has presented
to me that triumph and victory of His by which you were laid
low. And from this very gift of His I derive my name and am
called a Christian. There is no other reason. My sin and death
hung about His neck on Good Friday, but on the day of Easter



they had completely disappeared. This victory He has bestowed on me. This is why I do not worry about you.”
(from Luther’s Easter Sermon, 1530) A blessed, joyous, and lasting celebration of Easter to you and your family from

Lutheran Family Service – here to serve you in person or via confidential telehealth link no matter where you live. Learn more at www.LutheranFamilyService.org **Lutheran Family Service**

EASTER LILIES

Given by: In Memory of:

Linda Aper Dale & Norman Aper Janet Bertsoes Loved Ones

Mike/Dayla Blair Loved Ones

Thad/Kathy Curry Loved Ones

Mike/Jan Dahl Loved Ones

Sandra Kane Loved Ones

Gayla Kroll Loved Ones

Barb Miller Loved Ones

John/Liz Neumann Loved Ones

Bev Peterson Loved Ones

Dan/Carolyn Werner Loved ones

EASTER LILIES—You may take your lily today after the worship service. Please leave the plastic dish under the lily.

PRAYER MINISTRY

Remember how God works to strengthen the faith of His people as you pray:

MISSION—*Pray for Christian parents*, that they would make teaching the faith to their children a priority. Pray that they set aside time to worship together, talk about faith issues, study the Bible and have family devotions.

ST JOHN’S—Mr. Kyle Rahn—We offer before You our common request for the well-being of Your church throughout the world that it may be so guided and governed by Your good Spirit that all who profess themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth and hold the faith in unity of spirit in the bond of peace, and the righteousness of life. Specifically, we pray for Kyle asking Your blessings on him.

ST. JOHN’S FAMILY—O Lord, You are the great Physician of soul and body. We pray that You would show mercy to Your servants: **Linda Aper Paula Chapa Joyce DeFauw John Erdman Betty Firch Marcia Helke Jessica Johnson Rosalie Jorgensen Linda Lundquist Mary Jayne Nash Aaron Raschke Drew Schillinger Dave Schmidt Carolyn Werner Denice Winchell Carolyn Wildermuth Marilyn Woods**

Jon/Anita Clausing (missionaries in Kenya)

Jodi Martins (daughter of Gary & Darla Johns)

Justin Rittenhouse (grandson of John/Nancy Wickwire) **Marty Cavato** (cousin of Mary Jo Gehn)

Ellen Bauer (grandmother of Joel Werling)

Joline Parrish (sister of Gayla Kroll)

Ann Behrendt (daughter of Carolyn Wildermuth)

Lyall Talarico (niece of Mary Jo Gehn)

Cindy Davenport (cousin of Terri Hock)

Chad Gehn (nephew of Brad Gehn)

Jeff Schreck (cousin of Terri Hock)

MILITARY—Pray for our military and their families:

Luke Thompson (son of John/Kindra Thompson)

Karl Flynn (son of Mr/Mrs Paul Flynn)

Casey Powers Jr. (step son of Lisa Powers)

Brittany Lenni (daughter of Gabe Loenser)

Rylie Hallendorff (grand-daughter of Carolyn & Dan Werner) **Chase Werling** (nephew of Joel Werling)

Carter Martwig (nephew of Joel Werling)

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

“As Christians, we rejoice in the Savior who shines light on our lives when we only expected inky blackness. May God’s strong Word remind us that the fullness of life is meant to be lived in the light. In our weakness, may the Lord bring alongside us faithful brothers and sisters to proclaim that God is light and life to us, and let us walk in the light as He is in the light (1 John 1:7). In Jesus we have light, and to have light is to have life. May we rejoice in proclaiming the message of Jesus as the Apostle John did. Thanks be to God that He is light, and He shines in the darkness.” *Rev. Dennis Norby, Grace Free Lutheran Church, Valley City, North Dakota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutherans forlife.org*

Henry County Right to Life
Springtime Luncheon for Life

Sat. April 11, 2026

11:30AM - 1:30PM (Doors open 11:00AM)

Featuring Molly Malone Rumley

IL Right to Life Lobbyist & Family Advocate

Reservations Required - Tickets \$15 donation

Concordia Lutheran Church

316 S Oakwood Ave, Geneseo IL

Please RSVP by April 4th - For tickets contact
henrycountyr2l@gmail.com or Diane Gelaude

Diane@bluehorizon.net 309-236-0748 or

Cheryl Maxson (309) 714-9595

Proceeds of fundraiser go to HCRTL projects.