

# ST. JOHN'S NEWSLETTER



## BUILT ON CHRIST OUR CORNERSTONE

### ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

#### "CHRISTIAN WITNESSING Part VI: APOLOGETICS"

In our previous articles on witnessing, we have addressed the importance of knowing what we believe through regular worship, Bible study attendance, and personal devotions, including reviewing the doctrinal basics as presented in the Small Catechism and, hopefully, the Large Catechism as well. We also commented on the importance of living as a Christian, which includes, as already mentioned, regular worship and Bible study attendance, as well as living in conformity with God's will through daily repentance. While certainly acknowledging that all of us can grow in our Christian knowledge and life, I am pretty confident that those previous topics did not *surprise* any of us. In this article, however, I would like to address something that may not be as well known amongst us, the place of Christian apologetics in our witnessing.

Now this doesn't mean apologizing for being a Christian (which we should never do!). It comes from the Greek word ἀπολογία (*apología*), which means *defense*. Thus Christian apologetics is the *reasoned* defense of the Christian faith against objections, as well as the setting forth of positive grounds for Christianity. It is important for all Christians, because:

- The Lord Jesus Christ commanded: "You shall love the Lord your God ... with all your *mind*" (Matthew 22:37).
- St. Peter urged Christians: "Always being prepared to make a *defense* to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you." (1 Peter 3:15, uses word ἀπολογία.)
- St. Jude wrote: "I found it necessary to write appealing to you to *contend for the faith* that was once for all delivered to the saints" (v. 3).
- St. Paul said: 'We *destroy arguments* and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and *take every thought captive* to obey Christ' (2 Corinthians 10:5).

Christian apologetics is a vast field that covers such topics as 1) worldviews with their presuppositions and logical outcomes, 2) Bible reliability as referring to the text as well as the history the text relates, 3) using natural law and reason in the public square, and 4) scientific evidence against evolution and supporting creation, a young earth, Noah's Flood, etc. Clearly it is unlikely for one person to be proficient in all these unless it is their vocation.<sup>1</sup> Even then experts in one field often rely upon experts in others. But just like you don't need to be a theologian or a pastor to faithfully speak Biblical truths, so too you don't need to have a Ph.D. in one of the above fields to be able to utilize apologetic evidence.

To be honest, most likely the person to whom you are witnessing is simply spouting off stuff that they have heard, and don't really know the evidence (or lack thereof!) behind what they're saying. "The Bible is full of contradictions." "Evolution has been proven." Statements like these abound. But here's a point to remember:

<sup>1</sup> Thanks be to God there are Christian apologists who do the hard research work from which we can learn, teach, and share.

When such claims are made, the burden of proof is not on you to prove them wrong (though we often can prove specifics to be incorrect), *but is actually on that person to prove their claims to be true.*

So we rightly ask, “Can you list for me these contradictions of which the Bible is so full of?” or “What experimental, observable evidence has proven the General Theory of Evolution true since science demands observation and experimentation, not just unfounded presuppositions, sweeping claims, and untestable assumptions?” They may or may not have something to follow up your question with, but now you’ve put the ball back in their side of the court, requiring some specifics, and so you can then address those specifics (if any), instead of feeling the need to “prove everything” to them. And by the way, if you don’t know a proper response to their claim, it is okay to say, “Please let me look into that.” That’s what the many works of full-time apologists are for!

That then brings up the question, “Where can I go to find reliable answers?” Actually, there are many fine resources for apologetics.<sup>2</sup> Some online resources include:

*Creation Ministries International* ([creation.com](http://creation.com))<sup>3</sup>

*Answers in Genesis* ([answersingenesis.org](http://answersingenesis.org))

*Institute for Creation Research* ([icr.org](http://icr.org))

*Is Genesis History?* ([isgeneshistory.com](http://isgeneshistory.com))

*Lutheran Science Institute* ([lutheranscience.org](http://lutheranscience.org))

The online articles on these sites can be accessed for free. Beyond these, the first four organizations listed above also have many useful books, periodicals, and videos available from basic to in-depth. In addition, our own Concordia Publishing House has put out a few fine books on some apologetic issues, such as *The Defense Never Rests* (considers the reliability of the Biblical text, especially the four Gospels) and *Religion on Trial* (a cross-examination of various religious claims). Finally, while I am not a trained, full-time Christian apologist, I do have a variety of resources on differing apologetic issues and would be glad to offer both answers to your questions as I am able, including researching answers as needed, as well as assisting you in seeking out further materials. For if all Christians are charged with giving a defense of the faith, then it surely falls under the duties of the ministerial office.

In view of all this, I encourage you to develop at least a basic understanding of Christian apologetics. It might well be helpful in your witnessing and, no matter what, it will strengthen you against the world’s temptations and lies as you increasingly recognize that you don’t need to “check your brain at the door of the church,” nor turn both yours and theirs off when witnessing. On the contrary, you will find that God encourages the use of our brains and experience a great joy when we see that *legitimate* scientific, historical, and textual investigation actually confirms Scripture time and time again, which really shouldn’t surprise us *since God cannot err!*<sup>4</sup>

God grant us such a desire to grow in this knowledge, give to us the blessings such growth offers, and grant us the opportunities to share it with others and so be a blessing to them.

Your fellow witness of Christ,

*Pastor Nerud*

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<sup>2</sup> Of course, this does not mean that we take everything they say as “Gospel truth.” First of all, as is the case with science, new evidence may come along that requires the rejection of previous ideas, or at least adjustments. E.g. the idea that the earth had a water-vapor canopy covering it which collapsed during the Flood was an idea regularly promoted by creation apologists in the past, but computer modeling has shown that such was almost certainly not the case and so it is no longer used (or shouldn’t be). Second, many of these apologists are not Confessional Lutherans, so while their science might be fantastic, occasionally their theology can fall short. Therefore, we read them through our Biblical and Confessional lenses, taking the good (and thanking God for it!), even as we jettison what is not.

<sup>3</sup> This website, which focuses primarily on the creation/evolution issue, is loaded with thousands of articles by Ph.D. experts in various fields of science as well as Biblical textual issues. I regularly use this as a source for the apologetics article in the newsletter.

<sup>4</sup> This does not mean that everything the Bible proclaims can be scientifically tested and verified, nor that there are not some truths that seem to contradict our reason and understanding. In such cases we humbly before God’s Word. Yet it is one thing to acknowledge that we cannot fully understand the Doctrine of Election in satisfaction to our limited, fallen human reason, but quite another to say that “The Bible is full of contradictions,” or “Evolution has been proven.” To the second, we have strong have evidence to the contrary!

## A LOOK at the LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

In Article IX (Baptism) we confessed the Biblical teaching that the Sacrament of Baptism is a means of grace, that is, it brings God's grace to sinners. Consequently, it is necessary to baptize children as well since they are conceived and born in sin (Psalm 51:5) and the promise of forgiveness and the Holy Spirit given in Baptism is for them as well (Acts 2:38-39). Now in Article X we confess that Christ's true body and blood are given in the Lord's Supper, necessarily distancing ourselves from those who treat the Sacrament of the Altar as a mere memorial meal, or even those who believe that we receive Christ's body and blood by faith, but not orally in the Sacrament.<sup>5</sup>

*Augsburg Confession Article X: The Lord's Supper<sup>6</sup>*

Our churches teach that the body and blood of Christ are truly present and distributed to those who eat the Lord's Supper [1 Corinthians 10:16]. They reject those who teach otherwise.

### APOLOGETICS: SOFT TISSUE PRESERVATION in a 'JURASSIC' ichthyosaur<sup>7</sup>

A stunningly preserved skin of a fossil ichthyosaur, *Stenopterygius*, has revealed a wealth of original soft tissue and proteins.<sup>a</sup> However, this fossil, from Germany's Holzmaden Posidonia shale quarries, was found in Jurassic strata 'dated' to 180 million years old (Ma).

The researchers claim this is the most in-depth study of a soft-tissue fossil ever. There were still remnants of the original skin—apparently scaleless in this species, unlike many other ichthyosaur types that appear smooth-skinned but have microscopic scales.

The research team were even able to distinguish different cellular layers within the skin and subcutaneous tissues, including a layer of fossilized blubber that contained original chemical traces. The blubber has ignited further debate on whether ichthyosaurs were warm- or cold-blooded.

Close examination of the demineralized soft skin unveiled pigment cells called melanophores which contained eumelanin, a biological pigment. By studying their concentration, the researchers were able to identify that *Stenopterygius* was counter-shaded, i.e. dark on top, and light on the underside. The 'countering' is compared with illumination from above, which makes the top lighter and the underside shadowed. So this provides some camouflage, as well as likely providing protection against UV light when close to or at the surface (ichthyosaurs needed to come up intermittently to breathe air). It would have also helped regulate body temperature (darker areas absorb more sunlight).

The researchers were able to identify the liver, which when demineralized and treated revealed original pliable organic material. Analysis also confirmed the remains of proteins such as tropomyosin, hemoglobin,  $\alpha$ -keratin, elastin, actin, and collagen.

Lead author of the study, Dr Johan Lindgren, admitted, "Soft tissues, such as skin, have hitherto been considered to be so labile (easily broken down) that the only way they can survive is via full replacement by minerals. However, as it turns out, when these minerals are removed, some of the original organics remain."<sup>b</sup> In order for these original biological substances to survive within the replacement minerals surrounding them, he said, "They were exceedingly rapidly-entombed [*sic*] in the minerals."<sup>c</sup>

A press release by Lindgren's own Lund University, Sweden, summed up: "Among other things, the study reveals that the soft parts have fossilized so quickly that both the original cells and their internal contents are preserved. ... they also show how little we know about the fossilization process and what can actually be preserved in the fossil record."<sup>d</sup>

Dr Mary Schweitzer, of dinosaur-soft-tissue fame, was also part of the team. This discovery adds to the ever-growing list of original-soft-tissue finds in fossils claimed to be tens to hundreds of millions of years old. But as the list grows, so does the controversy in the evolutionary world over the exact mechanism for the exceedingly rapid and deep burial required to fossilize these animals, and how original organic material can last as long as claimed.

The Bible clearly describes the global Noahic Flood occurring about 4,500 years ago. With its massive erosion and redeposition of mineral-rich sediment, this provides a suitable mechanism for rapidly burying and fossilizing the specimens. And the presence of original biomaterial makes the biblical timescale much more credible than evolution's 'millions of years'.

#### References and notes

- a. Lindgren, J. and 22 others, Soft-tissue evidence for homeothermy and crypsis in a Jurassic ichthyosaur, *Nature* **564**(7736): 359–365, 05 Dec 2018.

<sup>5</sup> It is necessary to point out that faith is necessary to receive the *benefits* of the Lord's Supper: forgiveness of sins, new life, and salvation. However, even an unbeliever receives Christ's body and blood because our faith doesn't "put Him in the Sacrament," but instead His Word does, ("This is My body, This is My blood"). This is why one can receive the Lord's body and blood without discerning it, and thus receive it to judgment (1 Corinthians 11:25-30). Based upon this, we see that the ancient practice of Closed Communion is Biblical and, more, it is not an act of arrogance, but actually one of love, both for Christ and those who might receive His Supper unworthily!

<sup>6</sup> *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition; Paul McCain, Ed. CPH, 2006.

<sup>7</sup> by Philip Robinson; <https://creation.com/soft-tissue-ichthyosaur>

- b. Rincon, P., Fossil preserves ‘sea monster’ blubber and skin; [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk), 5 Dec 2018.
- c. Phorn, B., Remarkable fossil of 180-million-year-old ‘sea monster’ preserved its Jurassic-era blubber and skin; [abcnews.go.com](http://abcnews.go.com), 6 Dec 2018.
- d. Lund University, Remarkably preserved fossil sea reptile reveals skin that is still soft; [lunduniversity.lu.se](http://lunduniversity.lu.se), 6 Dec 2018.

### BIBLE STUDY OPPERTUNITIES

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”.

### 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](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.

### 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.



Witnessing is about Jesus making people whole. *And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. And crying out with a loud voice, he said, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me.” For he was saying to him, “Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!”*

*And Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” He replied, “My name is Legion, for we are many.” And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. Mark 5:6-10*

Check out the "tracts" that are up by the office and mailboxes. Share them with someone that suffers due to addiction, mental and/or physical health or someone that does not know Jesus. Reach out to someone feeling alone and help them to know they are loved.

### RAMSEY PLUS

A Biblical Guide for Finances

**Everything we have is a GIFT from God!      How are You using the Gifts God has given You?**

What exactly is Stewardship? The dictionary states: noun: stewardship, plural noun: stewardships

1. The job of supervising or taking care of something, such as an organization or property. “responsible stewardship of our public lands”
2. the office, duties, and obligations of a steward – the conduction, supervising, or managing of something specific: the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care. “stewardship of natural resources”
3. A biblical world view of stewardship can be consciously defined as “Utilizing and managing all resources God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of his creation.” The central essence of biblical world view stewardship is managing everything God Brings into the believer's life in a manner that honors God...

One of the biggest responsibilities of every person is the “management” and care of all they possess. Each one can be a good “Steward” of their time, abilities and possessions. But how is that possible? Aren't some more savvy with

finances? Surely some have more abilities than others. There are those who are very organized and can accomplish a lot in a short time.

God gives us guidelines for being good managers of all He has given to each of us (which by the way is everything in our possession).

The St. John's Board of Stewardship has learned of a tool useful for the management of God's blessings used to His greatest glory. What is even more exciting is in doing so, we can live with more peace knowing we are doing our best with all we have.

Each family unit (singles, couples, young or old) who has access to a computer, Smart phone, or tablet, is invited to participate in the Ramsey Plus program **FREE** for 1 full year providing a wealth of information and guides for creating your own personal financial plan. Review the 7 easy steps laid out in this program. Use what pertains to you and your situation and leave the rest. Go back to Ramsey Plus as often as you desire. There is something for every age group.

Follow this web link to simply create your own personal account:

<https://www.ramseysolutions.com/ramseyplus/hosts/GeneseeSJLC?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.*



1 Gary Johns  
3 John Thompson  
4 Sean Barry  
7 Autumn Raschke  
8 Kristy Rodgers  
9 Matthew Werling  
9 Griffin Marckese



#### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

13 Linda Pinegar	21 Jamie Lambin
15 Kathy Curry	22 Lisa Bear
15 Janice Dahl	26 Cole Freeman
16 Jared Wright	26 Kayci Freeman
18 Joel Goetz	27 Linda Lundquist
19 Don Hickenbottom	31 Kindra Thompson
20 Dawn Daebelliehn	

6 Brent/Bailie Bauchmann (2016) – 5 yrs  
8 Lucas/Nicole Thompson (2015) – 6 yrs  
12 Rodney/Teresa Miller (1989) - 32 yrs  
16 Kem/Linda Schillinger (1997) - 24 yrs  
19 John/Elizabeth Neumann (1961) - 60 yrs

#### AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES



21 Shane/Heidi McKibbon (1999) - 22 yrs
29 Richard/Trish Anderson (1998) - 23 yrs
30 Brian/Jennifer Magerkurth (1997) - 22 yrs
30 John/Kindra Thompson (1989) - 32 yrs

1 Aidan Coppejans  
3 Tristan Blank  
3 Sandra Rahn  
6 Madeline Mosher  
7 Broc Krantz  
8 Arlyn Helke  
9 Marta Haughton



#### AUGUST BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

9 Sabrina Smith	24 David Schmedt
10 Cali McKibbon	26 Gage Gehn
14 Rylan Mitchell	30 Jan Dahl
15 Sean Barry	31 Gary Johns
18 Elizabeth Bjork	31 Rodney Miller
21 Scott Rahn	
23 Elizabeth Hock	

#### LWML NEWS

St. John's LWML met Tuesday July 13, 2021 at 1:00 pm. There were 6 members present. 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: "*Even though I walk through the darkest valley. I will fear no evil, for you are with me: your rod and your staff, they comfort me*" Psalm 23:4. Liz Neumann read a devotion called, "The lesson of the Candy Corn" based on Isaiah 55:11. We are to be generous sowers of the Seed (God's Word). Candy corn can remind us of missions. The white tip represents God. The orange reminds of the flames of the Holy Spirit. The large tapered shape is the large field of missions. The yellow reminds us of the light of Christ our Savior.

Instead of using a Bible study, we watched the presentation Gary Thies made at this summer's LWML national convention. Gary is the director of Mission Central located in Iowa.

Minutes from the June meeting were approved as written.



Correspondence and newsletters are being passed on through email. We also have information for LWML Sunday and information from Pablo newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Receipts for Jun - Mites: \$245.37, Missions: \$35, Operating: \$25, Memorial: \$25. Disbursements – Mites: \$270.37, Operating: \$25, St. John's for Clausings; \$150. June 30 Balances (\$389.91): Missions: \$254.84, Operating: \$135.07.

We sang to Wanda Rahn in celebration of her 75<sup>th</sup> birthday this month.

**OLD BUSINESS: None**

**NEW BUSINESS: None**

The meeting was closed by Liz with a prayer for missions. Liz Neumann will have the devotion and topic in August. All helped to bundle and box 65 personal care kits. Concordia LWML has graciously offered to take them in October to Lutheran World Relief pick-up point.

#### LWML-CID MISSION GRANT MITE BYTES

**Food Banks at St. Louis & Ft. Wayne Seminaries.....\$10,000**

The St. Louis and Ft. Wayne Seminary Food Banks supply food and hygiene products to seminary students and their families. Receiving help through the Food Banks lessens the worry about financial burdens of everyday life and may even keep a student from having to take a job to help with those expenses. Helping students and their families in this way hopefully helps the student to focus more on his/her training.



*How can I help? Pray that God provides the seminary students and families support through the Food Banks with everyday life needs. Support this grant by donating to your church's LWML group mite fund.*



When it comes to stewardship, a favorite Bible verse is the account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1–4). It's a moving account. Our Lord praises the seemingly small gift of two copper coins given by a poor widow above the abundance of gifts given by the rich, saying, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them" (Luke 21:3). And that is usually where we stop. But the text goes on. "For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on" (Luke 21:4).

"She ... put in all she had to live on." She gave everything. She held nothing back. She trusted that the Lord who made her and all creatures; who gave her everything she had; who redeemed her from her own sin, from death, and the power of the devil; who called her by the gospel and enlightened her with His gifts of Word and Sacrament; would continue to do this. He would provide her with all that she needed for this body and life because that is the character of the God she had.

But this is not why we give small gifts. Her gift, though it appeared small, was actually large. When we are tempted to give small gifts, it is precisely because we want them to be small! We don't trust the Lord to provide for us. We give small gifts because we lack faith in the One who created us, redeemed us, sanctifies and keeps us in the one true faith. We give small gifts because we doubt that God will really give us what we need and desire. We give small gifts because we are not content with what God has already given.

We are not slaves, children of the slave woman, under the Old Covenant (Galatians 4). We are adopted sons of the free woman. And since we are sons, we are also heirs. And heirs receive the inheritance. For everything is already ours in Christ. And thus, moved by the willing spirit of adoption, we do the will of God in financial matters far beyond all that done by those under the Old Covenant who were forced by legal demands.

So, what have you decided to give? How do I decide what to give? Let the Scriptures be your guide.

We are to give proportionally to what we have received from God's giving to us (Luke 12:48; 1 Corinthians 16:1–2, 2 Corinthians 8:12). But you have not been set free to give nothing. See that you excel in the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7)!

We are not free to live selfishly outside the Gospel, without regard for God who gives us all good gifts, without generosity for our neighbor who needs us and our gifts, without supporting the community of faith in which we live, without care for our spiritual fathers and those who teach and help raise our children in the faith, and without resources for the poor and needy.

In short, we are not free to live unto ourselves, hoarding what God has given us only for us. For love is the fulfillment of the law (Romans 13:10). And the sum of the law is this: Love God and love your neighbor (Matthew 22:34–40). We love because He first loved us. We give because He has given to us.

Luther once said, "Possessions belong in your hands, not in your heart" (LW 14:240). There is a reason

your 10 fingers spread apart. With your hands you catch God's gifts for what you need and let the rest fall through your fingers to your neighbors – your family, your friends, your community, your church.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



volleyball; but please bring your favorite game to play. If we get rained out we will just move to the fellowship hall. We hope to see you there!

## Who's Who in The Pew Next to You?

It is Arlyn & Marcia Helke!

We were both born and raised in Geneseo, Illinois. I (Arlyn) retired from working for the City of Geneseo. I enjoy golfing, motorcycling and of course, Geneseo Football! I remember catching birds in the balcony of our previous church, along with youth group activities and church softball and basketball leagues. I learned to drive by starting very young, on an Allis Chalmers tractor. I think that most kids, from a rural area, such as Geneseo, also learn to drive on a tractor. If I had to choose my favorite church potluck dish, it would have to be taco salad, ham & baked beans. I think that I have been influenced most, in my Christian Life, by my wife, Marcia. She married me and together we are growing as Christians. My favorite Bible Verse is the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm.

I (Marcia) am a homemaker, wife, mother, grandmother & I teach music lessons for piano & organ. I don't think I get to retire?! My hobbies include genealogy, motorcycle trips with Arlyn, Geneseo High School Football, son & grandson's activities. I enjoy seasonal decorating, cooking and eating food, saving "stuff" and having international students as our guests for Thanksgiving. My memories of St. John's are many. The music, special holiday services and decorations, potlucks, church meals & Walther League. I remember playing the organ for the services. Arlyn would sit on the organ bench next to me and play chimes & turn pages for me. Our wedding, our son's & grandchildren's baptism, confirmations & weddings are very dear memories of St. John's. I learned to drive on an International Harvester Farmall "H" and a 1958 Plymouth and a 1962 Chevy. As far as the favorite potluck dish is concerned, I would have to say that I like it all! Especially, ramen salad, cheesy hash browns and pie. My favorite Bible Verses are John 3:16, Isaiah 25:9 and Psalm 118:24. Several people have influenced my life as a Christian. Reverend E. Geo Krause of Dekalb with his knowledge and interesting way of using humor when he speaks. Mel Kenyon (Mel is Buddy Neumann's son-in-law and former midget race car driver and Hall of Famer) is another person whom I admire for his witness and faithfulness to his wife after each of her accidents as well as his accidents when racing. Rev. Krause & Mel Kenyon are two people that are wonderful examples of being a loving and faithful Christian.



## PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH COUNCIL/VOLUNTEERS

During the month of August, we are encouraged to pray for our Lay Delegate, Larry Kane. Pray for Larry as he keeps us informed of District and Synodical information of the LCMS ministries and work.

## 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.

## 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**

**Arlyn Helke**

**Derek Helke**

**Betty Firch**

**Linda Aper**

**Jim Rahn**

**Lois Esterlein**

**Lillian Hock**

**John Erdman**

**Paula Chapa**

**Lynne Johnson**

**Jim Dahl**

**Carolyn Werner**

**Marilyn Woods**

## OUR EXTENDED FAMILY/FRIENDS:

**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)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Sydney Busse** (niece of Bob/Sherry Wechsler)

**Bennett Carter** (grandson of friend of Dan Maeltzer)

## 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)

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

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

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

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

### **STAY CONNECTED**

**Looking for additional information?**

Visit: <https://linktr.ee/cidlcms> or connect with the following items:

[CID's GatePost Newsletter](#)

[Social Media](#)



**CENTRAL ILLINOIS  
DISTRICT**

*of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod*

### **They say good things come to an end...**

The Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund (CID-CEF) is Discontinuing its Growth Bond Program. The time has come for the CID-CEF to bring the Growth Bond Program to an end. Anyone who has stamps or partially-filled booklets should present them to the CID-CEF (1850 N. Grand Ave. W., Springfield, IL 62702) by December 31, 2021, for refund at face value. Growth Bonds that have not yet matured will be allowed to reach maturity value, and any Growth Bonds that have matured will be redeemed after a 60-day notification period, with an option to invest in the CID-CEF where qualified and permissible to do so. More information is on the CID-CEF website at [www.cid-cef.org](http://www.cid-cef.org).

### **LERT Chainsaw Training Event**

Immanuel Lutheran Church, 902 Cleveland Avenue, Charleston, Illinois 61920

Saturday, August 7, 2021 - 9 am to 5:00 pm

The registration fee (\$35.00) will include breakfast and lunch. ***You must be a certified LERT member to attend this class. If you are already LERT chainsaw certified, the event is considered continuing education (no charge).*** ***Chainsaw Training Registration Online Link: Please click on link below or copy and paste and complete the entire registration form.*** [https://www.lcms-lert.org/need/detail/?need\\_id=590681](https://www.lcms-lert.org/need/detail/?need_id=590681)

### **Save the Date:**

**CID Junior High Lock-in**

November 12-13, 2021. Five Points – Washington, IL

**CID- District Convention (moved to 2022)**

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

### **YES, THERE WILL BE A SENIOR (OLDER ADULT) RETREAT**

Because of the Pandemic, our Senior Retreat Scheduled for 2020, was rescheduled for 2021. This is to inform you that the Southern Illinois District and the Missouri District will hold the 19<sup>th</sup> Lutheran Older Adult Retreat on October 20 (Wednesday) and October 21 (Thursday) at the Pere Marquette Lodge & Conference Center in Grafton, Il. The theme is “20/20 Perfect Cross-Eyed Vision” (“Cross Eyed” simply means that our Eyes are focused on the Cross of Christ!) Our theme is based on John 12:21b ...”we want to see Jesus.”

Dr. Rich Bimler, expert on aging & humor, will be our Keynote Speaker on Wednesday. Retired Seminary Professor, Rev. Dr. Jeff Gibbs, will be our Bible Study Leader on Thursday. His study is also based on John 12:21b. His title is “It Doesn’t Look Like Glory to Me: Seeing Jesus as He wants to be Seen.”

Each day features an Opening Devotion, followed by 8 one-hour workshops, which seniors may choose 2 each day. Wednesday dinner will be followed by Musical Entertainment from “The 60’s Chicks”, performing popular songs from the 1960’s. During the Retreat you will also have time to relax, enjoys the sight, and fellowship.

The Retreat cost is \$100/per person for both days, \$75 for Wednesday only, & \$50 for Thursday only. Meals included are Lunch & Dinner on Wednesday, Breakfast & Lunch on Thursday. The cost for Lodging, however, is NOT included. Make your room reservations by calling the Lodge at 618-786-2331.

Tell them your reservation is for “Lutheran Older Adult Retreat” at a rate of \$99 for a single or double, plus 11% tax. This rate if good until 10/06/21.

The Retreat Brochure/Registration Form can be found at [www.sidlcms.org](http://www.sidlcms.org). Click on Forms/Registration. You will need to download and print the Registration Form and mail it. Each district congregation has been mailed a copy too. If you have questions call Margo Wolf at 618-979-3376.

**But Jesus called the children to him and said,**

**“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.**

**Luke 18:16 NIV**



We are all God's children and He wants us to spend time with Him. A very important way is through the study and learning of His Word.

St. John's has always known how important this is. Through the years, there have been many faithful members willing to give their time to teaching others and also to their own learning. We have the Nursery Roll for newborns-age 3, Weekly Sunday school for our children, Confirmation education, Youth Bible study, VBS, Sunday Adult Bible study, Life Light, Men's Bible study, Thursday afternoon Bible class, and many other opportunities for digging into God's Word.

Is learning about God a priority in your life and that of your family? Are you currently involved in regular study of God's Word through one of these? Don't let Satan steal from you the precious gift of learning more about your Lord. Set aside your own private study time and also choose to attend one of the studies currently available at St. John's. Your faith will grow. Your Christian walk will be deepened and strengthened. Untold blessings will pour over you.

We are looking into an additional Adult study, hopefully to begin this fall. A suggestion was given to meet Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 pm. Those who have responded so far would like to do another Life Light study. Pastor would be very happy in hearing from all interested in attending a mid-week study. Please share your thoughts on topic of study, days and times that would suit you.

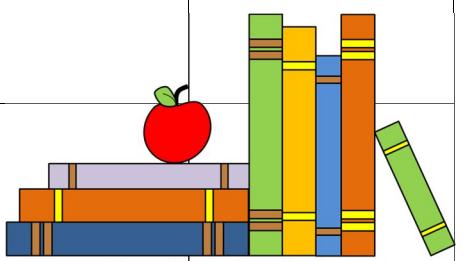
Studies currently available are:

- Nursery Roll (newborns through age 3)
- Sunday school for ALL ages 3-Adults
- Confirmation classes (youth in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Adult study of the Lutheran faith (for interested people)
- Men's monthly Bible study (first Thursday evening, 7 pm)
- Adult monthly Bible study (third Thursday afternoon, 1:30 pm)
- LWML (second Tuesday of each month, 1 pm – each meeting begins with a Bible study)

# AUGUST



# 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am	2 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	3	4	5 Elders 6 pm Men's Bible Study 7 pm	6	7
8 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10 am	9 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	10 LWML 1 pm Council 6:30 pm	11	12	13	14
15 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am	16 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	17	18	19 Bible Study 1:30 pm	20	21
22 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10 am	23 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	24 SS Teachers' 6:30 pm	25	26	27 All church picnic 6-9 pm	28 <i>Doxology Seminar @ Trinity, Davenport</i>
29 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am	30 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	31	<b>ELDER</b> <b>Mike Dahl</b>			 <p>Back To School</p>



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 this month)**

**Live Streaming each week on Facebook**

**All church picnic – Friday, August 27, 6:00-9:00 pm**

