

ST. JOHN'S NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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BUILT ON CHRIST OUR CORNERSTONE

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From the Pastor

“Freed by Christ to be Little Christ’s to Others”

As our country celebrates Independence Day, we rightly offer thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father for the blessing of our nation and the many freedoms that we enjoy. Truly, the Bill of Rights was both novel in its time and remains one-of-a-kind. And we Christians should be even more thankful to God for especially the First Amendment:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

See that the very first freedom mentioned, even before speech, press and peaceable assembly, is *the free exercise of religion*! And the word “exercise” is critical, as this is not merely the freedom “to believe in your heart whatever you want.” Though that is true, far more it is the freedom “to live your life according to what you believe.” No wonder then that in this time when religious people in general, and often Christians in particular, are being told to “sit down and shut up” and “to keep your beliefs out of civil life,” true and faithful citizens of every stripe recognize this as an attack on the most fundamental freedom the Constitution protects. May God in His undeserved mercy continue to protect our religious freedom and, that He would not deprive us of it because of lack of care, may He continue to work in us a true desire *to exercise* our Christian religion in our varied vocations in home, school, work, and community!

Speaking of this, it is important and helpful to realize that all aspects of our lives are to be the “exercise of religion.” As believers, we enjoy the glorious liberty of the children of God. It is none other than Jesus’ Himself who speaks of our freedom, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free... So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”¹ Just consider, we have freedom from sin, both its guilt and its ruling power. We have freedom from the Law, certainly the traditions of men, but even the Holy Law’s accusations and driving. We have freedom from death and hell: since eternal life in heaven is ours we too cry out “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”²

This is joyful indeed as our fear is removed and we’ve been freed to live as whom we were created to be! However, since we still have the sinful nature clinging to us, dragging us down, as well as the wicked and immoral world and the lying devil, we are easily tempted to abuse our Christian freedom. Instead of seeing it as a liberty *from* sin, we are tempted to see it as a license *to* sin. “Jesus and I have a great gig going; He likes to forgive which is cool since I like to sin.” It should be obvious that Christ did not bleed and die so that we could continue in our sins!

¹ John 8:31-32, 36.

² 1 Corinthians 15:55.

But Christian freedom is still more than being freed from sin and Satan's rule in our lives. It is being freed to love others, to willingly serve them even as our dear Lord willingly humbled Himself and served us even unto death on the cross. This means that though we are fully free children of God *through faith in Christ, in Christian love* we who are dutiful slaves of God and servants to one another.

- Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor. (1 Corinthians 10:24)
- Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (Romans 13:8-10)
- Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)
- So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. (Galatians 6:10)

And so we never use our freedom selfishly, but for the benefit of others. And since we live our Christians freedom everyday of our lives, even the exercise of the privileges and responsibilities of being a U.S. citizen is to be done in love. This means even voting is not done selfishly, "Who will make sure my retirement is best?" or such, but it too is a means by which we serve our neighbor.

So as we vote, we think of protecting the lives of the unborn from being murdered. Again, we think of upholding God's created order of male and female and His institution of marriage between one man and one woman until death parts them, not only because it's God's will, but because such benefits people who live rightly in them, the individuals, the couples, the children, and therefore, broader society. Once more, we think of the government's purpose of upholding law and order for that provides safety to our neighbors' body and property. Even in those places where God's Word does not give much specific direction, where we may well disagree on specific ways of enacting good, we never forget that it has always been the calling of God's people to look out for the wellbeing of the widow, the orphan, the poor, the alien, and others who are disadvantaged. There's no place for selfishness in a Christian as we are to be "little Christ's" to others.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we live in this world, but are not of it. We never see ourselves as doing something fully secular (i.e. not religious), because God is the Creator of all, so everything is under Him. So let us consider: St. Paul wrote, "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."³ Now if eating and drinking are to be done to God's glory, *how much more than* is carrying out our civil duties in God's kingdom of the left,⁴ using our Christian liberty rightly to serve God by serving the neighbor in love, and not the self.

God help us to be such faithful Christians and consequently, good citizens of our wonderful nation.

Pastor Nerud

APOLOGETICS: JONAH'S WORM⁵

The biblical account of Jonah gives us wonderful examples of God's mercy. First, mercy is given to a recalcitrant prophet, and then to the undeserving nation of Nineveh.

Jonah had to learn obedience the hard way. The account tells us that Jonah was called to preach to Nineveh, but instead he decided to flee across the ocean to a distant land.

However, God's calling could not be evaded. Events led to Jonah being thrown overboard, where he was swallowed by a great fish prepared by God. His life was spared, and he then went to Nineveh to preach. Jonah was disappointed that the people repented, and so God showed Jonah his further wrong attitude through the object lesson of a plant and a 'worm':

³ 1 Corinthians 10:31.

⁴ The Kingdom of the Right (Church) and Left (State) were Luther's way of referring to the two way God rules. In the Church He rules through the Word, especially the Gospel, for the sake of souls, giving forgiveness of sins and eternal blessings. In the State He rules through the law and the sword, protecting bodily life by punishing evil doers.

⁵ By Kevin Tuck; <https://creation.com/jonah-worm>

Now the Lord God appointed a plant [*qiqayon*], and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm [*tola*] that attacked the plant, so that it withered (Jonah 4:6–7).

Over the years scholars have tried to identify the plant and worm. While a good candidate for Jonah's plant has been proposed, the identity of the worm has proved elusive. Now, after more than 2,500 years, it seems scientists may have discovered this.

Jonah's plant

The Hebrew word *qiqayon* for the plant has been variously rendered as *vine*, *ivy*, or *gourd* in English translations. None of these is accurate. But there is now general agreement that *qiqayon* refers to the castor oil plant, *Ricinus communis*, which gains support from Church and Hebrew tradition.^a In AD 404, the Church Father Jerome suggested the plant was then known to the Syriac people. It was fast-growing and could stand without support, being neither a gourd nor ivy.^b

The identification of Jonah's 'vine' as the castor oil plant *Ricinus* is of interest to Bible scholars and entomologists because it is highly toxic. The leaves and seeds are poisonous, and the leaf extract makes a potent insecticide—therefore very few insects can feed on the plant. It is also toxic to people and animals, and ricin has even been used as a chemical weapon! (But castor *oil*, made from the seeds, is safe. First, because ricin hardly dissolves in oil, and more importantly, the oil is heated to 80 °C (176 °F) which denatures ricin.) So, how could a worm (*tola*) feed on Jonah's plant if it is so poisonous?

'New' moth species described in Israel

Despite this toxicity, in recent years a beautiful species of tiger moth has been discovered in Israel, which in its caterpillar stage can feed upon *Ricinus* without harm. The moth was at first thought to be new to science and described under the name *Olepa schleini*.^c However, it has since been found to be the same species as *Olepa ricini*, which is known in Bangladesh, China, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.^d The caterpillars can cope with the toxins because they have very high activity of a detoxifying enzyme called *glutathione S-transferase* (GST).^e

The habits of the caterpillars of *O. ricini* match the account given in the book of Jonah. They normally feed at night, and they can quickly destroy a *Ricinus* plant. (They also feed on useful plants such as cotton, maize, sweet potato, and banana.) The caterpillars usually leave the plant before sunrise, and hide from the heat among dry leaves nearby.

Supernatural supplementing the natural

Jonah 4:10 says that the plant "came into being in a night and perished in a night". Supernatural action is obviously involved with several aspects of the Jonah account, but in such a way that much of it still happens 'naturally':

- Jonah could not naturally survive unharmed for three days inside the belly of any ocean creature. But it may well be natural for one of the marine monsters in creation's catalogue to swallow such a mammalian morsel.
- A *Ricinus* plant would not normally reach a size large enough to shade a man within a night—but it is rather fast-growing. Similarly:
- The plant may well have succumbed faster than usual—but the natural destruction this caterpillar wreaks can be very rapid (fig. 3). And its attacks do take place at night, as the verse suggests.

It may appear surprising that an insect so destructive to *Ricinus* should have gone undocumented in the Middle East for so long, but the insect appears to be quite scarce there. While there are fears it may be on the verge of extinction, it has managed to survive for 2,500 years without anyone reporting on its behavior.^f

Summary and conclusion

This caterpillar's feeding behaviour on *Ricinus* and its occurrence in the Middle East make it an extremely likely candidate for Jonah's 'worm'.^a Bible believers should not be surprised that the text of Scripture once again correlates with an aspect of observational science.

References and notes

- a. Hausmann, A. and Müller, G.C., The biblical worms on Jonah's *Ricinus* were *Olepa schleini* larvae. *Mitt. Münch. Ent. Ges.* **95**:5–9, 2006.

- b. Letter from Jerome to Augustine (ad 404), 75.7, in Schaff, P. (ed.), *Nicene and Post Nicene Fathers*, T&T Clark, Edinburgh, 1886, "... the Hebrew Ms. has 'ciceion,' which in the Syriac tongue as now spoken is 'ciceia.' It is a kind of shrub having large leaves like a vine, and when planted it quickly springs up to the size of a small tree, standing upright by its own stem, without requiring any support of canes or poles ...".
- c. Witt, T.J. and 5 others, A new *Olepa* species from Israel, *NachrBl. bayer. Ent.* **53**:101–115, 2005.
- d. Zhang, Y., Huang, S., Wang, M., First record of the genus *Olepa* Watson, 1980 from China (Lepidoptera, Erebidae, Arctiinae, Arctiini). *Biodivers Data J.* 14 Feb 2022.
- e. Premachandran, K. and Srinivasan, T.J., Polyphagous insect *Olepa* sps. feeding on cardenolide rich *Calotropis gigantea* (L.) leaves and detoxification mechanism involving GST, *Heliyon* **8**(9):E10596, 2022.
- f. Müller, G.C. and 7 others, Distribution, phenology, ecology, behaviour and conservation issues of the new Israeli tiger moth *Olepa schleini* Witt *et al.*, 2005, *Mitt. Münch. Ent. Ges.* 95: 19–29, 2006.

A LOOK at the LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

Last month, we completed our reading Article XXVII, Monastic Vows, declaring the Scriptural truth that Christian perfection is found through faith in Christ and then living according to God's commandments in whatever calling He has placed us, not by taking special vows that God has not commanded, especially those that are taken to earn God's favor or merit His grace and forgiveness. This month we begin looking at Article XXVIII, Church Authority, confessing the Scriptural truth that the authority of bishops, that is, pastors, is preaching and teaching the Word of God, forgiving and withholding forgiveness of sins, and administering the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Augsburg Confession Article XXVIII: Church Authority, 1-11⁶

There has been great controversy about the power of the bishops, in which some have terribly confused the power of the Church with the power of the State. This confusion has produced great war and riot. All the while the popes, claiming the Power of the Keys, have instituted new services and burdened consciences with Church discipline and excommunication. But they have also tried to transfer the kingdoms of this world to the Church by taking the Empire away from the emperor. Learned and godly people have condemned these errors in the Church for a long time. Therefore, our teachers, in order to comfort people's consciences, were constrained to show the difference between the authority of the Church and the authority of the State. They taught that both of them are to be held in reverence and honor, as God's chief blessings on earth, because they have God's command.

Our teachers' position is this: the authority of the Keys [Matthew 16:19], or the authority of the bishops—according to the Gospel—is a power or commandment of God, to preach the Gospel, to forgive and retain sins, and to administer Sacraments. Christ sends out His apostles with the command, "As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you...Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld" (John 20:21-22). And in Mark 16:15, Christ says, "Go...proclaim the Gospel to the whole creation."

This authority is exercised only by teaching or preaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments, either to many or to individuals, according to their calling. In this way are given not only bodily, but also eternal things: eternal righteousness, the Holy Spirit, eternal life. These things cannot reach us except by the ministry of the Word and the Sacraments, as Paul says, "The Gospel...is the power of God for salvation to everyone that believes" (Romans 1:16). Therefore, the Church has the authority to grant eternal things and exercises this authority only by the ministry of the Word. So it does not interfere with civil government anymore than the art of singing interferes with civil government. For civil government deals with other things than the Gospel does. Civil rulers do not defend minds, but bodies and bodily things against obvious injuries. They restrain people with the sword and physical punishment in order to preserve civil justice and peace [Romans 13:1-7].⁷

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

⁷ Remember, the context here is the claiming of secular authority and power by clergy, even more, claiming such is a divine right, that is, declared by God Himself. This article does not address situations in which the State oversteps its bounds as such was not its

OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

The Elders are planning for outdoor worship services on the second “Sunday of August (11), and September (8) and the fourth Sunday in July (28). If there is inclement weather on those second Sundays of the month we will try to move to the fourth Sunday.

PASTOR AND FAMILY IS ON VACATION

Pastor Nerud and his family will be leaving for vacation after worship on July 7th and return July 23rd. If you needing Pastoral Care, please contact an Elder (Aaron Raschke, Preston Smith, Mike Dahl) or the church office.

OFFICE INFORMATION



Please call the office or Pastor when someone is ill, hospitalized, or homebound or you desire private communion.

- Please use this email to contact the office: churchoffice@stjohnsgeneseo.org
 - Website address – www.stjohnsgeneseo.org
 - Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo/>
 - All Sunday services are ‘Live’ streamed at 10am and posted to our church website the following day.
 - All newsletter articles need to be into the office no later than the 15th of each month.
 - Bulletin announcements must be to Terri by Wednesday morning each week.
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SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Sunday School suggested the kids go to the Concordia VBS this year due to less kids and limited time to have our own this year. We are working on Sunday School Rally day activities. Watch for more information coming soon. The entire congregation is invited to this event. We are also setting up a class for younger member or visitors for Sunday School time. This will be done if needed so we are ready for all students.



RALLY DAY PICNIC

The entire congregation is invited to a picnic style potluck after the outdoor worship on Sunday August 11th. After the meal, games and fun will follow. Watch for more information to come.

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

5 Broc/Jennifer Krantz (2009) – 15 yrs
5 Ky/Jamie Lambin (2003) - 21 yrs
10 Algerson/Stephanie Andre (2021) – 3 yr



12 Brad/Mary Jo Gehn (1997) - 27 yrs
17 Kyle/Ashton Wickwire (2010) - 14 yrs
24 Don/Rebecca Hickenbottom (2004) -20 yrs

JULY BAPTISMS

3 Katrina Nerud
5 Cooper Freeman
8 Jessica Johnson
9 Nicole Nerud
13 Alexander Wolfe
15 Paula Chapa

15 Larry Hock
15 Kem Schillinger
20 Brennan Lambin
20 Vivian Smith
21 Julie Lage
21 Denise Winchell



21 Seth Winchell
21 Emma Yerkey
23 Rosalie Jorgensen
26 Trevor Eastburn
30 Kenneth Cullison
30 Kyle Rahn

intention. As Lutherans, we also condemn the State usurping the authority and power of the Church, interfering with our consciences and our ability *to live and practice* what we believe. At such times we recall the Scripture, “We must obey rather than men” (Acts 5:29).

JULY BIRTHDAYS

2 Tristan Blank
4 Calie McKibbin
5 Lynne Johnson
6 Alec Davila
9 Scott Rahn
10 Stacie Rahn



11 Brianna Rodgers
14 Payten Helg
15 Robert Wolfe
19 Elizabeth Bjork
19 Kaleb Rahn
21 Fern Kulpa

21 Jacob Johnson
26 Nicole Werling
28 David Schmedt
31 Joel Werling

A DOLLAR FOR MISSIONS

The current Dollar for Missions project is for replacement of furnaces at Immanuel Lutheran Student Center, Macomb, which is expected to cost some \$25,000. The Student Center was built 55 years ago. Equipment replacement like this is important so the Gospel can continue to be proclaimed and students can go on being reached there for years into the future. For more information visit <https://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-dfm-current-project.html>. **(Thank you to those at St. John's who consistently support the work of Missions on the District and Synodical level. You are a blessing)**



CHRISTIAN LIVING

The Rewards of Godliness

It's no secret that you can't bribe your way into heaven. No amount of good works will impress God enough to open heaven's door for their sake. "For the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23) and the person who "keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it" (James 2:10). Rather, salvation is "the free gift of God ... in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 6:23).

So, your good works won't earn you the reward of heaven. But does that mean that there are no rewards at all? Consider what the Small Catechism says in the "Close of the Commandments":



What does God say about all these commandments?

He says, "I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments." (Ex. 20:5-6)

What does this mean?

God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands. (SC II)

God promises to bless you in keeping His commandments. What might these blessings be? Well, consider what Paul says about keeping the Fourth Commandment: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother' (this is the first commandment with a promise), 'that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land'" (Eph. 6:1-3).

And think about what your life would be like if you went around stealing (breaking the Seventh Commandment), telling lies about people (breaking the Eighth Commandment), and generally being cruel to those around you (breaking all the commandments!). That is obviously not a blessed way to live. In fact, you'd be miserable living that way.

And Jesus says more about what is in store for those who make sacrifices for His sake: "Jesus said to them, 'Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or

brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for My name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life'" (Matt. 19:28–29).

So don't grow impatient in doing good. Follow the Lord who has freely given you everlasting life.



PRAYER GROUP (CHAIN)

All are invited to participate either by becoming an email prayer warrior or asking for prayers. Prayer warriors receive requested prayers from the Pastor via email which then can be used as they pray throughout the day. Those desiring prayers can make a request to the Pastor. This is a blessing to those requesting prayers and those praying for our brothers/sisters in need of prayers.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

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

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

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

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

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



REMEMBERING THOSE IN NEED!

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

Elizabeth Bjork

Betty Firch

Jessica Johnson

Linda Lundquist

Paula Chapa

Arlyn Helke

Aaron Raschke

Marilyn Woods

Joyce DeFauw

Lynne Johnson

Drew Schillinger

Carolyn Wildermuth

Mandy Davila

Don Eggers (son of friend of Marilyn Woods)

Jodie Martin (daughter of Gary/Darla Johns)

Shandel Loenser

Paul Werner (brother of Dan Werner)

Justin Rittenhouse (grandson of John/Nancy Wickwire)

Don Lutz (husband of an LWML friend of Liz Neumann)

Marty Cavato (cousin of Mary Jo Gehn)

Jon/Anita Clausing (missionaries in Kenya)

Ron Powell (friend of Brad Gehn)

Ellen Bauer (grandmother of Joel Werling)

Todd Erbst (former member of St. John's)

Ron Powell (friend of Brad Gehn)

Gary Kilstom (friend of Brad Gehn)

Carol Eggers (friend of Marilyn Woods)

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

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

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

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

Karl Flynn (son of Mr/Mrs Paul Flynn)

Casey Powers Jr. (step son of Lisa Powers)

Brittany Loenser (daughter of Gabe Loenser)

Rylie Hallendorff (grand-daughter of Carolyn & Dan Werner)

“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease” (Genesis 8:22). This is life in the world after the Flood. When it is too hot in the summer, we long for the cool of fall. When it is too cold in the winter, we crave the warm days of spring. Such a back-and-forth seems to be quite natural, but, ultimately, life thrives all the more in warmth.

In these warm, summer months, the newly planted crops are bursting with life and rushing with growth. In this teaching half of the Church year, you and I are blessed to do the same. Having heard again the words of Christ’s birth and life, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we are blessed to receive the teachings of our Lord in the light and warmth of his work for our salvation. God bless you in these summer months as you grow in faith in the Word of Christ! As Jesus said, “Blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear...As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty” (Matthew 13:16, 23).

Pastor Jeff Caithamer-- St. John, Champaign

Stay Connected with Your District

Items of Interest to Share

Something New Coming to the CID-CEF!

We’re excited to tell you about some changes coming to the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund (CID-CEF)! We’re converting to a new software system! While that hardly seems exciting (especially for us since a lot of work will be required), the new software is specifically designed for church extension funds. It is already used by our other district-based LCMS church extension funds.

With this new software, we can provide you with a better experience and more efficient service. What is exciting for you is that you will soon be able to view your account and transactions from your computer and your phone!!! While we are not allowing transactions to be processed online to protect your investments from cybersecurity concerns, better, you will be able to view and print information on your account at any time from your computer or phone!

We’ve already begun converting to the new software, so please be patient with us as we become more familiar with it. In the next month or two, we should be rolling out online computer and phone access. STAY TUNED.

Apply for Dollar for Mission funds in 2025: All CID congregations are invited to submit proposals for projects to be funded with 2025 Dollar for Mission funds. Well-conceived projects will be considered in the following order of priority: first, brand-new church plants; second, mission-focused augmentations to existing ministries (e.g., adding a new ethnic ministry to a present congregation); third, established CID missions (e.g., Ministry in Spanish, Campus Ministry, Deaf Ministry, Prison Ministry). The application deadline is Sept. 1, 2024. For more information, see <https://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-dfm-apply.html>

CID BOARD OF DIRECTORS REVIEW REPORT 05/28/24

Rev. Burdick provided an evangelism-themed devotion from Mark 5

- Rev. David Dunlop gave his Mission Presentation on prison ministry at Logan Correctional Center in Lincoln, IL. He spoke personally of the despair and loneliness that inmates face. Rev. Dunlop wants to be a “broken record” of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, repeating the Gospel all the time. Rev. Dunlop is thankful for CID’s support of the prison ministry, saying, “When I go to the prison, everyone in CID is going with me.”
- Rev. Mohr gave his president’s report with gratitude for congregations having received candidates from both seminaries to fill a portion of the vacancies in CID.

- The 2025 CID Convention is scheduled for July 13-15 at Crown Plaza, Springfield. Planning is underway.
- President Mohr is also planning a joint meeting with the Board of Directors and Circuit Visitors when Synod officials visit CID in September.
- Church Extension Fund actively supports our congregations and CID members with loans, investments, and grants. In April, CEF approved two Ministry Outreach Grant requests to help with Evangelism efforts.
- Dr. Schurb displayed statistical maps showing CID potential by county for New Church Starts.
- It was noted that only 1/6th of CID congregations have participated in Dollars for Missions. Consider discussing this and your congregation's Mission Offerings to CID, to continue to support all the ongoing work of the LCMS in our district.

The next CID Board of Directors meeting was set for Sept. 24th, 2024.

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 connected with us on Facebook and Instagram --**Central Illinois District-LCMS**

NEWS FROM CAMP CILCA

Camp CILCA has been blessed with a new head cook! There is still a need, however, for assistant cooks to fill in gaps and be extra hands around the kitchen. If you or anyone you know would be interested in making some extra money and helping in the kitchen in the summer, fall, and spring, please contact Pastor Joshua Theilen at director@cilca.org or 217-487-7497.

Celebrate the close of the 2024 camp season at Homecoming on Saturday, July 27 from 10am-2pm at Camp CILCA. There will be craft and food vendors, live music performed by Lloyd Garrelts, games, balloons, face painting, and more. There is no cost for the event. Just pay for your food and drinks. Come and enjoy one more summer day at Camp CILCA.



Calling all men! Act Like Men Field Training takes place every Saturday morning in the Camp CILCA athletic fields at 6:30 sharp. There is 30 minutes of exercise, 10 minutes of status update from each man, and 5 minutes of prayer. There is no equipment to buy and no price to attend. Let iron sharpen iron as we push one another physically and spiritually. See you there.

PRAY FOR OUR NATION

1 Timothy 2:1-2 (ESV): Pray For Those in Authority

"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way."

Psalms 22:28 (ESV): Pray for Leaders to Seek God's Will

"For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations."

Proverbs 28:2 (ESV): Pray for Our President

"When a land transgresses, it has many rulers but with a man of understanding and knowledge, its stability will long continue."

Ephesians 6:12 (ESV): The Real Battle

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."

Psalm 86:9

"All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name."

Psalm 96:1

"Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!"

Psalm 96:3

"Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!"



Lord God, Your Word says that You are "high above all nations, and [Your] glory above the heavens." We live in a nation of many different creeds and convictions, ethnicities and backgrounds, but we know that You love and reign over us all.

Please let the ways we exercise our freedoms reflect Your holiness and Your compassion, "that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations".

God, "be gracious to us and bless us and make [Your] face shine on us" as a nation.

As Your Word says, Lord, "How good and pleasant it is" when people live together in unity. And how much sadness and suffering results when a nation and a people are divided.

Lord God, Maker of heaven and earth, the sea and everything in them—You remain faithful forever. On this day when we celebrate our freedoms, we remember those in different circumstances.

We ask You, as Your Word says, to uphold the cause of the oppressed and give food to the hungry. Set prisoners free, give sight to the blind, lift up those who are bowed down, wherever they are, whatever language they speak.

Jesus, while You walked this earth, You proclaimed, "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." Thank You for all of our freedoms, including those we often overlook or take for granted.

Please let the freedom found in Christ be known not only to us but to those who haven't yet experienced Your great love whether they live in our community, state, nation or in other nations from one end of the earth to the other.


Lamb of God, saints and angels in heaven are right in singing, "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation."

In the name of our precious Lord and Savior, Jesus, Amen.



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

July 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>God bless</i>  <i>our men and women in service</i>	1 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	2	3	4 	5	6
7 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am Elders' 11:30 am	8 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> <i>Pastor on Vacation—</i>	9 Council 6 pm	10	11	12	13
14 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10 am	15 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	16	17	18	19	20
21 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am Youth 11:30 am	22 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	23	24	25 SS Teachers 6:30 pm	26	27
28 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10 am Outdoor Worship Voters' Assembly 11am	29 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	30	31	<i>Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6"</i>		



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

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

WORSHIP SERVICES 10 am
(Holy Communion 1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays)

Live Streaming each week on Facebook

Outdoor Worship – July 28th

Quarterly Voters' Assembly - July 28th

