

ST. JOHN'S NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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BUILT ON CHRIST OUR CORNERSTONE

DECEMBER 2022 - Vol. 125, No. 12

-IN GOD'S GRACE - IN GOD'S SERVICE-

"Attributes of the Christian Church...It Is *Apostolic*"

In previous articles we have shown how the Church is *invisible*, *one*, *holy*, and *universal* (catholic/Christian). Now we'll consider another attribute of the Church, "I believe in one holy Christian and *apostolic* Church" (Nicene Creed). So what does it mean that the Church is apostolic?

A simple answer might be that the Church was first planted by the apostles. While such is a true fact of history, clearly more must be meant as by the time the third article of the Nicene Creed was complete (AD 381) the majority of the congregations could not trace their founding to any of the apostles anymore, but to other missionaries.

Another answer is that of "Apostolic Succession." This is the understanding that the Church is present wherever there is a pastor/priest that has been rightly ordained by an unbroken succession of bishops which can be traced back to the apostles themselves. While acknowledging that different churches have differing shades of opinion on this, the main point is that being apostolic means a direct line of ordination back to the apostles.¹

To be fair, this does have some early Christian tradition behind it. The concern was how could a congregation know if their pastor was a faithful undershepherd or not? A common and, understandable, answer was, "He is if he can trace his call/ordination back to the apostles through a series of faithful teachers." The implicit idea was that these would be the ones who were both correctly instructed and so approved. No doubt, early on, this mentality was not without some merit.² Yet, *already in the late first century*, St. John, the last living apostle warns,

Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come...They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us (1 John 2:18,19).

In other words, some who were once with the apostles later deserted them, teaching false doctrine. Yet, they could claim to know an apostle and to have learned from him. While in the earliest days one could maybe go and check with the apostle, "Is so-and-so an approved pastor?" this would get increasingly difficult as time went on, for the church grew into new areas and the apostles, already only thirteen in number,³ were being martyred. Historically, heretics arose *within* the Church, including by those who could claim apostolic succession. And so today, the churches that require such Apostolic Succession are, each in their own ways, actually continuing the errors that their churches teach, *their succession perpetuating the false teaching within!*

But what then does it mean to be *apostolic*? As always, the Scripture tells us. Just consider these passages: [Jesus to His Apostles:] "...teaching them to observe all that *I have commanded you*" (Matthew 28:20).

¹ Church bodies in the U.S. that practice apostolic succession in some form include Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Episcopal Churches.

² However, we need to recognize that the distinction between a bishop (who can ordain another) and a pastor/priest, as is present in this understanding, is *man-made*. The Scripture does not distinguish a rank between bishops and pastors since both terms *are used for the same office*, what we call the pastoral office.

³ The original eleven, Matthias who replaced Judas Iscariot (the Lord's betrayer), and Paul.

[Jesus in His high priestly prayer:] “I do not ask for these [the apostles] only, but also for those who will believe in me *through their word*” (John 17:20).

And they [the baptized believers] devoted themselves *to the apostles’ teaching*... (Acts 2:42).

[St. Paul writes,] ...the household of God, *built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets*, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone (Ephesians 2:19, 20).

[St. Paul warns,] If anyone is preaching to you a gospel *contrary to the one you received*, let him be accursed (Galatians 1:9).

Based upon these (and other) clear Scriptural texts, we see that what makes the Church (and the individual congregations thereof) “apostolic” is when they faithfully believe, teach, and confess the truths of the Word of God. They are “apostolic” when they are being faithful to the doctrine of Christ which the apostles preached and taught in person, wrote in letters, and which was finally recorded and collected in the Bible. And lest we wonder if such is a new interpretation, something invented by Martin Luther in the 1500’s, consider these testimonies from antiquity:

Irenaeus (AD 130-200, bishop), “We have learned the plan of our salvation through none others than the apostles through whom the Gospel has come to us. In fact, what they then preached, they later by the will of God handed down to us in Scripture to be the foundation and pillar of our faith.”⁴

Tertullian (AD c. 155-c. 225, theologian), “Although those churches mention none of the apostles or their disciples as their founders (since they are much later and are still being built today), nevertheless as they express as with one breath the same faith, they are considered no less apostolic because of a consanguinity⁵ of doctrine.”

Jerome (AD c. 340’s-c.420, theologian), “The church consists not in walls but in the truth of her teachings. The church is where the true faith is.”

Recognizing that the Church is founded on this apostolic doctrine as contained in the Bible is of no small importance. It gives us our confidence of what the Church is and whether we are a part of it. For if we put our trust in something other than the Word, say some sort of succession of ordinations of our ministers, we are leaving ourselves wide open to destruction if they should teach wrongly. So understanding now what apostolicity really means, let us hear and heed St. Jude’s exhortation to us, “I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3). The faith, that is, the objective teaching of the Apostles as contained in the inspired Scriptures, delivered to the saints by preaching and teaching that is faithful to those apostolic Scriptures. Let us praise God that we have the truth of the apostles, and so contend for it against any and every false teaching, all for the glory of God and the salvation of sinners for whom Christ Jesus bled and died!

In the name of the Lord of the Christian Church,

Pastor Nenad

A Look at the Lutheran Confessions

Last month we rightly confessed that our teachings, as given in the Augsburg Confession, are correct according to Scripture and in agreement with the ancient Church where it was faithful to Scripture. This month, we reaffirm that confession and lead into the final seven articles of the Augsburg Confession which deal with abuses that have been corrected in our churches.

*Augsburg Confession “A Review of the Various Abuses That Have Been Corrected”*⁶

Our churches do not dissent from any article of faith held by the Church catholic.⁷ They only omit some of the newer abuses.⁸ They have been erroneously accepted through the corruption of the times, contrary to the

⁴ Irenaeus, who is very early on, did espouse Apostolic Succession. However, here he indictates *why* he thought such was critical: the passing down of the pure teaching of the Word of the apostles.

⁵ “Being descended from the same ancestor.” So the churches are of the same ancestor *when their doctrine agrees with one another*, which is due to it being from Scripture, and not by a trail of ordained ministers traced back to an apostle.

⁶ From *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions*, Paul McCain, Ed. CPH, 2006

⁷ Note here the proper distinction of the Roman church, underneath the pope, and the Church catholic. The Roman popes say they are the same, but both Scripture and church history teach otherwise.

⁸ This denies the false claim of the papal group that their teachings and ceremonies are those of the ancient church.

intent of canon law.⁹ Therefore, we pray that Your Imperial Majesty¹⁰ will graciously hear what has been changed and why the people are not compelled to observe those things that are abuses against their conscience. Your Imperial Majesty should not believe those who have tried to stir up hatred against us by spreading strange lies among the people. They have given rise to this controversy by stirring up the minds of good people. Now they are trying to increase the controversy by using the same methods.¹¹ Your Imperial Majesty will undoubtedly find that the form of doctrine and ceremonies among us are not as intolerable as these ungodly and ill-intentioned men claim. Besides, the truth cannot be gathered from common rumors or the attacks of enemies.¹² It can easily be judged that if the churches observed ceremonies correctly, their dignity would be maintained and reverence and piety would increase among the people.¹³

Apologetics: The fossil record is complete enough¹⁴

Ever since Darwin wrote the *Origin of the Species*, evolutionists have regarded the fossil record as vastly incomplete. The fossil record is the actual record of past life in which evolution should be obvious. Darwin believed that the fossil record should be full of transitional fossils and blamed the lack of such fossils on the extreme imperfection of the fossil record:

“But just in proportion as this process of extermination has acted on an enormous scale, so must the number of intermediate varieties, which have formerly existed, be truly enormous. Why then is not every geological formation and every stratum full of such intermediate links? Geology assuredly does not reveal any such finely-graduated organic chain; and this, perhaps, is the most obvious and serious objection which can be urged against the theory. The explanation lies, as I believe, in the extreme imperfection of the geological record.”^a

Numerous secular scientists after Darwin have continued to use this excuse that the fossil record is vastly incomplete. For instance, renowned evolutionist, Stephen Jay Gould, wrote:

“All paleontologists know that the fossil record contains precious little in the way of intermediate forms; transitions between major groups are characteristically abrupt. Gradualists usually extract themselves from this dilemma by invoking the extreme imperfection of the fossil record.”^b

Most scientists have heard of the imperfection of the fossil record, and paleontologists,

“... have underscored and emphasized Darwin’s point for the past 150 years by routinely highlighting incompleteness and bias. And if bias was not good enough at scaring off the biologists, we have added megabias.”^c

The fossil record is essentially complete

Scientists have had more than 160 more years to collect fossils. Evolution should be obvious within the fossil record by now. Steven Holland points out that the fossil record is imperfect in a sense, but really nearly complete. It is imperfect in that it did not record every organism that has ever lived. So, “all data sets are incomplete”,^c and he believes we need to “take a different path.”^d

First of all, we need to recognize that the imperfection of the fossil record is exaggerated:

“Our exaggerated emphasis on the imperfection of the fossil record feeds the perception among scientists in general that the fossil record is an unusually poor data set. It isn’t. ... We already know much about the structure of the fossil record.”^d

Holland recommends that paleontologists should not emphasize the incompleteness of the fossil record any more, although not ignoring it completely.

⁹ “Canon law” is church law.

¹⁰ Charles V, Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, who was the one to whom the Augsburg Confession was read, along with members of his court and representatives of the papacy.

¹¹ Refers, at least in part, to *The Four Hundred Four Articles*, written by Professor John Eck, a committed member of the papal group and, therefore, an opponent of Church reform. This writing included both misrepresentations and outright lies about the teachings of Luther and other reformers trying to connect them to ancient heresies.

¹² A good reminder for us still today who are quick to judge because “we heard something.”

¹³ Note here that while certainly secondary to doctrine (teaching), ceremonies are accorded an important role in increasing both reverence and piety among Christians. This is one important reason that we continue to use the liturgical services as given in our doctrinally approved hymnbooks.

¹⁴ By Michael J. Oard; from the *Journal of Creation* 35(1):8–9, April 2021; <https://creation.com/fossil-record-is-complete-enough?>

Second, Holland contends that instead of concluding as many do that the fossil record is not worth considering, scientists should ‘embrace’ it along with the sedimentary record, and work with it. The fossil record is better than most scientists recognize, since: “We know much about the structure of the fossil record.”^e Not only do paleontologists know the structure of the fossil record, but also that it provides a good record of species richness:

“Through her comprehensive examinations of live-dead comparisons, Susan Kidwell (2002, 2013) showed the fossil record contains a high-fidelity record of species richness and especially abundance, a pattern both unexpected and most welcome.”^e

Holland praises the fossil record as a record of past life:

“As paleontologists, we have an extraordinary data set at our disposal, and we have the expertise to understand it. We have something that no other field of biology has—time, deep time—and we need to play to that strength. We have access to worlds far different from our own, with biotas, geographies, and climates unlike anyone has seen.”^e

I agree that paleontologists and scientists in general need to embrace the fossil record and accept the fossil record for what it is saying today. But doing so raises a conundrum for the evolutionist: the higher the fidelity of the record (of fossil species richness) is, the less evolutionists can appeal to the incompleteness of the fossil record to explain away the morphological gaps between fossil taxa. If the fossil record is so good, why have these gaps not been filled after 160 years more of collecting fossils, if evolution is true? The lack of intermediates, the gaps, are not only real and universal, but they are even more glaring after so many years of digging up fossils.^f Michael Denton documents that 100,000 taxon-defining novelties are “not led up to gradually from some antecedent form, and which remain invariant after their actualization for vast periods of time.”^g The glaring, universal gaps in the fossil record should easily be enough to reject evolution, but paleontologists and many other scientists rarely draw this conclusion, likely because of a previous commitment to naturalism and evolution.

The fossil record is nearly complete due to Flood burial

Within creation science, the Flood buried the pre-Flood world. We would expect sudden appearance of fossils followed by stasis, unlike what is expected for evolution. Therefore, we would expect the fossil record to be complete, except for the small number of new fossils being discovered every year. These fossils do not change the nature of the fossil record: it contains universal gaps that can be explained by the creation orchard of life (figure 1).¹⁵ The fossil record is just what is expected from the creation of kinds in Genesis 1 with much variety within the kinds.

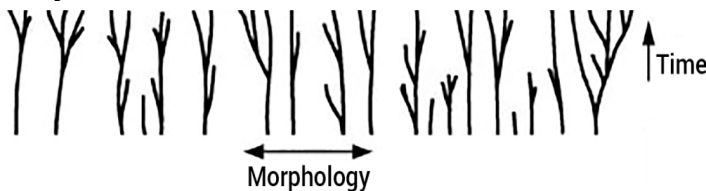


Figure 1. The creation orchard of life

References and notes

- a. Darwin, C., *The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection of the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life*, 6th edn, Mentor Books, The New American Library, New York, pp. 287–288, 1872.
- b. Gould, S.J., *The Panda’s Thumb*, W.W. Norton & Company, New York, p. 189, 1980.
- c. Holland, S.M., Presidential address: structure, not bias, *J. Paleontology* **91**(6):1315–1317, 2017.
- d. Holland, ref. 3, pp. 1315–1316.
- e. Holland, ref. 3, p. 1316.
- f. Bergman, J., *Fossil Forensics: Separating fact from fantasy in paleontology*, Bartlett Publishing, Tulsa, OK, 2017.
- g. Denton, M., *Evolution: Still a theory in crisis*, Discovery Institute Press, Seattle, WA, p. 53, 2016.

¹⁵ This pictures the Scriptural teaching that God created various “kinds” of animals on days 5 and 6 of creation week that had the genetic capacity for much variation (natural selection). Thus the created “Kind” is larger than the modern taxonomical *species*, but would be on the level of *genus* and, in some cases (such as some fish), *family*.

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HOLIDAY SERVICES & INFORMATION



Following is the worship schedule for December's extra worship services:

- SS will practice Sunday, December 4, 11, and 18 beginning at 8:30 am in the sanctuary.
 - Wednesday, December 7th & 14th will continue our Advent services @ 7pm.
 - Saturday, December 24th – Christmas Eve service @ 6:30 pm with the Sunday school children's program as part of the service.
 - Sunday, December 25th – Christmas Day worship @ 10:00 am (NO SS/Adult/Youth Bible classes).
 - Saturday, December 31st – New Year's Eve @ Concordia church @ 6 pm.
- Pastor Nerud and his family will be on vacation December 26, 2022 - January 2, 2023.
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The family of Joyce DeFauw invites all friends, relatives, and St. John's congregation to an OPEN HOUSE on Sunday, December 4th in honor of her 90th birthday (November 7) and her graduation from Northern Illinois University NIU (December 11th). A cake/punch reception will be served from 2-4 pm in the Fellowship Hall at St. John's church. No gifts are requested, as your presence will be gift enough.

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EVANGELISM:
Sharing Christ With Others

Thank God for bringing into your life friends who need to know Him. Ask God to give you the courage and opportunities to tell them Good News of Jesus Christ.

ANXIETY VS. TRUST

Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, teaches those who follow Him that worrying about the necessities of life is idolatry: worshipping a false god. Worry and anxiety show what we care about. Our anxiety reveals what we love and what we're devoted to. It reveals what we trust in.

This is why our Lord begins this section with an overarching principle: "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money" (Matt. 6:24).

But you say: "I must eat and drink. I must have clothing to wear and have a home in which to dwell." Yes, all these things you need. And Jesus says that your Father in heaven will ensure that you have them. He demonstrates this with a simple argument: your Father in heaven feeds the birds of the air, who neither sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns. He clothes the lilies of the field, who neither toil nor spin but are arrayed more luxuriously than Solomon in all his glory. If, then, your Father in heaven feeds the birds, if He clothes the lilies, how will He not also feed and clothe you, when you are worth more than they are? (Matt 6:25–33).

Do you know that you are worth more than them? You are worth infinitely more. You are worth the price of the eternal Son of God. Did the Son of God come down from heaven and become a lily? Did he descend and take on the form of a bird? No! He came down from heaven and became a man: flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone (Gen. 2:23). He is one of us, our brother. And what did He do when He became flesh to dwell among us? He gave His holy, precious blood, through His innocent suffering and death, that you might be His own and live under Him in His kingdom forever.

God became man in Christ Jesus. He lived the life we failed to live, and He died the death we deserved. He was raised again on the third day overcoming sin and death ... for us. He was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification. So, if your Father in heaven has given His Son to die for us in order that we might live with Him eternally, how will He not also give us all things to support this body and life?



To be anxious about the necessities of life, to devote yourself to food and clothing, to care about these things and find security in them, is to serve another god. It is to deny that you will live forever because Jesus, the Son of God, is risen from the dead and lives and reigns for all eternity. It is to believe that the God who created you, redeemed you by the death and resurrection of His Son and sanctified you by His Spirit, will not keep His promise to sustain you in this life.

Jesus says, “Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness” (Matt. 6:33). God’s kingdom is His rule among us. His rule among us comes when our Father in heaven gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His Holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity. This is what we ask God to do for us in the prayer that Jesus taught us.

Your Father in heaven knows what you need — food and clothing, house and home — and He promises to give it to you. Chief of the things you need is His grace and mercy in His Son, Jesus Christ. So, seek after that. And those who seek will find. And all the necessities of life, our Lord says, will be added to you.

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9). As God’s blood-bought people, we therefore give of the resources that the Lord has placed at our disposal. We make contributions to support the proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments at home and elsewhere.

Will \$1 each week really make a difference? There are 57,650 members in the Central Illinois District. If each member gave a dollar for 52 weeks that would provide an additional \$2,997,800 for missions. If only 50% gave that would still provide an additional \$1,498,900.

We give sacrificially, digging deep at times. Realistically, one dollar per week does not amount to much of a sacrifice for most of us. Still, many gifts of one dollar a week add up, and they enable CID to provide funding for missions in a new way.

We at St. John’s know first hand the grace, mercy and tremendous blessings our God provides. Please consider participating in this opportunity to enable the saving message to even more in 2023. A receptacle will be available early January for you ***“Dollars for Missions”***.



A Dollar for Missions

DECEMBER Birthdays

1 Jack Magerkurth
2 Trey Blank
5 Cathy Schillinger
5 Marilyn Woods
9 Alan Magerkurth
11 Bailie Bachmann



12 Michele Barry
17 Jaime Werling
19 Janet Bertso
24 Faye Piepho
24 Lucas Thompson
24 John Wickwire

27 Cooper Freeman
27 Alex Miller
30 Conner Helke
31 Heidi McKibbin
31 Carolyn Wildermuth

DECEMBER Anniversaries

23 Jaimie/Kirsten Jorgensen (1995) - 27 yrs
28 Rev Tim/Heidi Nerud (1996) – 26 yrs



30 Dale/Linda Aper (1970) - 52 yrs
31 Peter/Janice Neeld (1995) - 27 yrs

DECEMBER Baptisms

1 Wanda Rahn
4 Joyce DeFauw
7 Heidi Nerud
9 Kaleb Rahn
9 Stacie Rahn
10 Olivia Loenser
10 Autumn Raschke
11 Dakota Grant



12 Jaelyn Lambin
13 Teresa Firch
13 Rollin Miller
18 Stephanie Andre
22 Drew Schillinger
23 Lynne Daniels
23 Don Hickenbottom
23 Jerry Hickenbottom

24 Kathy Curry
26 Zane Roberts
27 Trey Blank
27 Jonathan Barry
28 Keagan Daniels
30 Lincoln Mosher



The LWML Christmas Party is Tuesday, December 13 at 1:00 p.m. We would like to invite all ladies to join us for some devotion time, games and refreshments. Please let Liz Neumann know if you plan to attend to help in our planning.

GROWING IN THE WORD OF GOD

- Sunday morning Adult Bible class – 8:45am in the Fellowship Hall. The current study is the book of Colossians.
- Men's Bible Study – 7 pm the first Thursday of each month. The study topic is; *How We Got the Bible*.
- Adult Instruction classes meet each Tuesday evening @ 7 pm. This is a great opportunity to review the teachings of God's Word.



Our next meeting will be on Sunday December 18th after church. We will be putting together the goodie bags for Christmas Eve. Come with ideas for future events and meals.

The month of December we will be starting at 8:30 am to practice the Christmas program. We will be having an evening practice the week before Christmas. Please be using the devotion sent home with your children. It is written to go along with our program "This is My Son".



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
Paula Chapa
Jim Dahl
Don Eggers (son of friend of Marilyn Woods)
Jon/Anita Clausing (missionaries in Kenya)
Rev. Justin Kane (son of Sandra Kane)

Lois Esterlein
Betty Firch
Arlyn Helke

Lynne Johnson
Jessica Johnson
Drew Schillinger
Jodie Martin (daughter of Gary/Darla Johns)
Marilyn Potts (wife of Cal Potts, former LFC)
Laurie Sanford (sister of Jan Dahl)

(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/husband of Linda Aper) **Luke/Nicole Thompson** (son/wife of Joh/Kindra Thompson)
Ken Willeford (husband of Alicia Willeford) **Karl Flynn** (son of Mr/Mrs Paul Flynn)
Casey Powers Jr. (step son of Lisa Powers) **Brittany Loenser** (daughter of Gabe Loenser)
Zachary/Tiffany Gardner (nephew/wife of Lois Esterlein)

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11

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.



- 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 20th of each month.



In Acts 27, St. Paul gave thanks. On a ship caught in a terrible storm, buffeted by wind and waves for two weeks, he gave thanks and encouraged the 275 others on board to eat.

It wasn't their fault that they were caught in the storm, but they were sinners in a sinful world. Sinners need to repent. All sinners need Christ. When we have Him, we need not fear any act of God, not a violent storm or anything else.

When we face storms in life, it is easy to grow self-absorbed and focus on self-reliance. Yet the One Who took all our sins to the cross and left them there when He rose from the dead tells us to cast all our care on Him.

In Him there is hope: the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Hope for tomorrow makes us thankful today.

Rev. Dr Ken Schurb- CID Office

Pray For Our Central Illinois District Missions supported by your church's Mission Dollars to the District. "Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the Word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored."

Please remember in your prayers all our CID campus ministries, especially Rev. William Jensen and Wittenberg Lutheran Center in Normal, serving students, faculty, and staff of Illinois State University and other institutions. And pray for the "Keeping Christ on Campus" campaign, building endowments to help CID support our campus ministries.

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO SHARE

Beyond the Classroom

Beyond the Classroom is from the *re: Vitality* outreach module *Connect to Disciple*, which is about moving new people from the initial connection with a congregation and its members to being gathered around Word and Sacrament with the members as a disciple. "Beyond the Classroom" applies *Connect to Disciple* to churches with Lutheran schools.

CID has been awarded a multi-year LWML grant to bring Beyond the Classroom to our schools. This will be a discussion topic at our upcoming C-WOW meeting. This is an excellent time for Lutheran schools and outreach through them!

- Training Dates: (second dates are possible snow dates)
 - Feb. 4/11 Springfield Area
 - Feb. 18/25 Quincy Area
 - April 1 Altamont Area
 - April 22 Peoria/Morton Area
 - May 6 Champaign Area

Small Church Summit:

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Farmersville, Illinois, invites members of small churches in the Central and Southern Illinois Districts to the second "Small Church Summit" on the day after Epiphany, Saturday, January 7, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. ("Snow date" is Jan. 14.) This free event is open to all. It will work

best for your church to send your pastor and one to three laypeople. For more information, see the Gatepost (<http://www.cidlcms.org/resources/gatepost/2022.GatePost.3.>) pg. 8. To register for this event, please visit <https://forms.gle/Z1Xey4BQNiLN533q8>

Reimbursements for Prison Ministry Materials

Consider donating printed Gospel-centered materials to a nearby state or federal prison or county jail. Thanks to a generous grant from central Illinois LWML, members of CID congregations or these churches can make such donations and receive at least partial reimbursement from the District. CID will reimburse up to \$200 on a donation.

The printed materials you donate can get into a facility and remain there even if something like a COVID spike occurs and prevents prison chaplains from entering the facility. These materials make for an ongoing Gospel presence within jails and prisons here in Illinois.

The aim is to provide materials to as many such institutions as possible. CID encompasses half of the counties in Illinois, every one of which has some jail.

There is one other thing to consider. Here we have an opportunity for our congregations to participate in prison ministry, even if they never personally visit an inmate.

Start by contacting a prison or jail near you to learn of their ground rules and procedures for donated materials. Contact CID Prison Ministry Coordinator Rev. Rodney Blomquist if you have questions. Telephone him at (217) 825-6160 or send an e-mail message to prisonministry@cidlcms.org

See the Prison Ministry page of the CID website at <http://www.cidlcms.org/outreach-missions-prison.html>. For the present program's reimbursement voucher, guidelines, and list of approved materials, please see

<http://www.cidlcms.org/outreach-missions-prison.html>

Stay Connected with your District

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

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



The Camp CILCA Lowdown

December, 2022

217-487-7497 / camp@cilca.org

4124 Camp Cilca Rd.

Cantrall, IL 62625

FIRST EVER ACT LIKE MEN RETREAT:

January 20-22, 2023

Men in high school and up will gather for a weekend of activity and instruction, food and encouragement. Assertiveness, health & fitness, competence, vocation, adventure, piety, and more will be discussed ***and practiced***. Don't miss this opportunity to gather with other Christian Men and explore what Saint Paul meant when he admonished the Corinthians to "act like men." (First Corinthians 16:13)

\$50 per person. Participants will stay in the Retreat Center, a 42-bed dorm-style house. Meals will be provided. You will need to bring your own bedding, towels, and toiletries. Register today at **cilca.org/act-like-men-retreat**

SAVE THE DATE:

- March 4 Pancake Dinner
A "Thank You" for all CILCA supporters!
- March 10-11 Act Like Men: Woodcutters
RetreatMen felling trees, splitting wood, and growing in the Word.
- March 26: Annual Banquet
Special Guest Speaker Mrs. Katie Schuermann
- April 1: Spring Work Day
Help open up the camp for the season.

SUMMER PROGRAMS 2023

The Central Illinois Lutheran Camp Association (CILCA) exists to foster and strengthen faith in Jesus Christ and fellowship with others in a unique outdoor setting. CILCA strives to reconnect Christians to Christ and Creation.

JOYFUL HEARTS

Campers of all ages with developmental disabilities experience the joys of the outdoors during a 4- or 2-night stay. \$350/*\$175

- Full Week: June 5-9
- Half Week: June 5-7* or 7-9*

GENERATIONS

Campers age 4 thru 4th grade are introduced to camp with a 1-night stay with a parent or other adult. \$65 per person

- Session I: June 16-17
- Session II: June 30-July 1
- Session III: July 28-29

PATHFINDERS

1st- thru 4th-grade campers break out on their own with a 2- or 3-night stay. \$150/*\$175

- Session I: May 31-June 2
- Session II: July 5-7
- Session III: July 31-August 3*

BOLD SPIRITS

4th- thru 6th-grade campers experience 5 nights of Camp CILCA. \$350

- Session: June 18-23

AQUA WEEK

4th- thru 6th-grade water-loving campers will enjoy a full week of water-based activities. \$350

- Session: July 9-14

ART, DRAMA & ATHLETICS

5th- thru 8th-grade campers choose one track-Art, Drama or Athletics-for the week & are led by experienced instructors. \$350

- Session: July 16-21

DAUNTLESS SOULS

6th- thru 8th-grade campers gather for a screen-free week of life-changing outdoor adventure. \$350

- Session I: June 11-16
- Session II: June 25-30

NIGHT OWL

6th- thru 8th-graders experience camp while staying up all night and sleeping all day. Enough said! \$350

- Session: June 25-30

INTREPID HEARTS

High-School students enjoy the rejuvenation of God's creation in a laid-back week before school starts. \$350

- Session: July 23-28

WE NEED YOU!

9th-graders and up, serve as a Junior Counselor or Joyful Hearts volunteer absolutely free!

- Joyful Hearts Volunteer - June 4-9
- J.C. Training - May 30

REGISTER TODAY!

Find in-depth details on each camp & register* at:

WWW.CILCA.ORG

*\$75 deposit due at time of registration
Registration is according to the grade most recently completed.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!
Sign up before December 31 and save 15%.

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Wishing all a blessed Christmas and Joyous New Year!





St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church—Geneseo IL

December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>ELDER</u> Aaron Raschke				<i>1</i> Elders 6 pm Men's Bible Study 7 pm	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>4</i> SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am	<i>5</i> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	<i>6</i> Adult Instruction 6:30 pm	<i>7</i> Confirmation 5 pm Advent Service 7 pm	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>11</i> SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10 am	<i>12</i> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	<i>13</i> LWML 1 pm Council 6:30 pm	<i>14</i> Confirmation 5 pm Advent Service 7 pm	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>18</i> SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am	<i>19</i> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	<i>20</i> Adult Instruction 6:30 pm	<i>21</i> Confirmation 5 pm	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> Christmas Eve Service 6:30 pm
<i>25</i> Christmas Day Worship 10 am	<i>26</i> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> OFFICE CLOSED	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> New Year's Eve Service 6 pm @ Concordia, Geneseo



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
Sundays)**

**Live Streaming each week on
Facebook**