

# ST. JOHN'S NEWSLETTER



**BUILT ON CHRIST OUR CORNERSTONE**

## ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

8948 North 1900 Avenue  
Geneseo, Illinois 61254-8941

309-949-2516 Church Office

Rev. Timothy Nerud, Pastor

[pastor@stjohnsgeneseo.org](mailto:pastor@stjohnsgeneseo.org)

[churchoffice@stjohnsgeneseo.org](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsgeneseo.org)

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

Hearing/Handicapped Assistance Available

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

### "A Time for Giving"

We've all heard, "Christmas is a time for giving." While culturally true, many of the people who say it fail to understand the full depth of it. It certainly is a time of giving presents. Yet, here many still rightly recognize that it should go deeper than that, and so they give to the needy often via the Salvation Army bell-ringers, Toys-for-Tots, food shelves, and other charities during the Christmas season. And all that is good! The problem is not with such actions, but with the thought that such charitable giving takes us deep enough. And so, as is often the case, it is necessary to take the focus off of us and what we give to others, and look to God.

Yes, Christmas is about giving because it is really about what *God has given* to us. Without doubt, He has given us our many earthly blessings: family, friends, work, and numerous material items. And we should be exceedingly grateful for these "presents under the tree" as they make it possible for us to put presents under the tree! But greater than all these is the gift of His grace, that is, His undeserved love for sinners. And this grace is found in the person of His Son who was born in a stable, laid in a manger, and named Jesus, which means "the Lord saves," because He would save His people from their sins.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, it is because of Jesus, *and Jesus alone*, that the angelic hymn "of peace on earth" has any meaning beyond just being a wish that fails to come true year after year. For in Jesus we have peace with God which lasts forever, since He has paid for our sins which had put us at war with God. And having peace with God, we also have peace with our fellow brothers and sister in Christ, for how can we not share the gift of forgiveness which we have received with others, forgiving as God in Christ has forgiven us.<sup>2</sup>

Two things often make a gift more meaningful. One is a homemade gift "from the heart." The second is one that costs more, as it often is a "nicer" item, thus showing that you cared enough to "get the best" (or at least not the bottom of the barrel!). Consider how Christ is both of these to the highest degree. How much more "from the heart" could God give than His only-begotten Son? What could be pricier than that, especially when we remember that He didn't come to be a present under the tree, but the present *on* the tree, dying in agony on the cross to redeem us sinners! It is that gift, the baby wrapped not in colored paper, but in swaddling clothes, that makes Christmas "a time for giving," for truly God gave the greatest gift of all *to us*.

It is as *recipients* of this great Gift that we, God's redeemed children for Jesus' sake, now give as well. We give of our time and money to our church and to charities in thanksgiving to God and out of love for others that His Spirit has worked in us, His saved children.

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<sup>1</sup> Matthew 1:21

<sup>2</sup> Ephesians 4:32. So also the Fifth Petition of the Lord's Prayer, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

So please remember that Christmas *is* a time for giving. It is the time we celebrate the greatest gift ever given, our Savior Jesus. And so, in faithful, thankful response to that gift, we freely give as well, not just at Christmas time, but year around. God grant us His Spirit that we freely give our life and all that we have in service to Him by serving others in true Christian charity. Amen!

In Christ's service,  
*Pastor Nenad*

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

*In Article XIII, The Use of the Sacraments, we clearly confessed that God has given the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper to show us His gracious will towards us. He truly gives to us through the Sacraments all the gifts Christ won for us: forgiveness of sins, new spiritual life now, and eternal salvation. We also confessed that faith in Christ's Word attached to the Sacrament is necessary to receive the benefits He gives through them. Thus we confess the Biblical truth that: 1) Our faith does not make the Sacraments real, God's Word does that whether we believe or not, but 2) Faith is necessary to receive the benefits God is giving through the Sacraments.<sup>3</sup>*

*In Article XIV, Order in the Church, we confess that no one can take the authority of the pastoral office onto himself or bestow that authority on his own. Instead, the ministry of preaching and teaching is conferred by means of a formal, public, official call from the Church, usually a congregation, through which God places a personally and theologically qualified man into the office of the ministry.<sup>4</sup> In addition, in line with the Church's practice that goes back to the days of the Apostles, a pastor's first call is publicly confirmed by the laying on of hands, or ordination.<sup>5</sup> We continue this ancient practice in The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Augsburg Confession Article XIV: Order in the Church<sup>6</sup>*

Our churches teach that no one should publicly teach in the Church, or administer the Sacraments, without a rightly ordered call.<sup>7</sup>

### **Apologetics Article: Designer didn't design junk<sup>8</sup>**

The term 'junk DNA' refers to those portions of the genome that have long been said to have no purpose. But a team of IBM researchers led by Dr Isidore Rigoutsos report that these 'non-coding parts' of the human genome actually contain patterns or 'motifs' which suggest an important functional role. In the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* they wrote: 'These unexpected findings suggest potential unique functional connections between the coding and noncoding parts of the human genome.'<sup>a</sup>

In other words, as Rigoutsos told *BBC News*, 'junk DNA may not be junk' given he and his team found 'a connection between a vast area of the genome we didn't think was functional with the part of the genome we knew was functional'.<sup>b</sup> Thus Rigoutsos was echoing even stronger comments by Prof. John Mattick of the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia:

'the failure to recognize the implications of the non-coding DNA will go down as the biggest mistake in the history of molecular biology'.<sup>c</sup>

In the light of these findings, geneticists are acknowledging that the genome is far more complex than they had imagined. And why would anybody think there could be lots of 'non-functional' DNA in the first place? It derives from an evolutionary view of origins—see DNA: marvelous messages or mostly mess? and No joy for junkies.

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<sup>3</sup> These two points are equally true of the Gospel Word when it is read and proclaimed, as well as the Absolution.

<sup>4</sup> See 1 Timothy 2:11-14; 3:1-2; 2 Timothy 2:2, 15; Titus 1:6-9; 1 Corinthians 14:33-34.

<sup>5</sup> 1 Timothy 4:14; 5:22; 2 Timothy 1:6.

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

<sup>7</sup> This is God's will so that His people are cared for only by qualified pastors (shepherds) and not by any person who "feels the Spirit is moving them" (sinful arrogance at best, thieves and wolves at worst). Truly, if a person believes that the Lord is calling them into church work, then they should pursue the appropriate path and God will reveal if such is the case by successful completion of the required schooling, etc. and the call into an office in the church (Pastor, Deaconess, DCE, etc.).

<sup>8</sup> David Catchpoole; <https://creation.com/designer-didn-t-design-junk>. Underlined texts are hyperlinks in online article which are worth reading.

In contrast, knowing that we've been designed would logically lead one to expect that *all* parts of the body have been made for a purpose. (Note though, considering we live in a fallen world (Genesis 3:14–19, Romans 8:19–23), it is possible that small parts of the DNA could be defective due to mutations. See Genetics—no friend of evolution and Mutations Questions and Answers.)

### References and notes

- Rigoutsos, I., Huynh, T., Miranda, K., Tsirigos, A., McHardy, A., Platt, D., Short blocks from the noncoding parts of the human genome have instances within nearly all known genes and relate to biological processes, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA* **103**(17):6605–6610, 25 April 2006.
- Rincon, P., Salvage prospect for 'junk' DNA, *BBC News*, 9 June 2006, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/4940654.stm>.
- From a transcript of the ABC TV science program *Catalyst*, episode titled 'Genius of Junk (DNA)', broadcast 10 July 2003, 19 July 2006, [www.abc.net.au/catalyst/stories/s898887.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/catalyst/stories/s898887.htm).

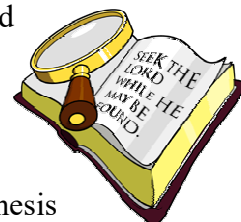


### SPECIAL WORSHIP OPPERTUNITIES

- Mid-week Advent services will be Wednesday, December 1, 8, 15.
- Christmas Eve service is Friday, December 24 beginning at 6:30 pm.
- Christmas Day service with Holy Communion is Saturday, December 25 beginning at 10 am
- New Year's Eve service is December 31 beginning at 6 pm. Concordia's congregation will be our guests.

### BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

All high school age and adults are invited to participate in any or all Bible studies offered at St. John's. We are thankful we can gather together around God's Word. You are welcome to attend anytime.



- Sunday morning Adult Bible class – 8:45am in the Fellowship Hall. The current study is the book of Colossians.
- 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".

During the month of Dec/Jan the church office will be closed December 24th & 25th and December 31st & January 1st. Have a blessed Christmas and Joyous New Year.



- 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.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

The Office would greatly appreciate each member verifying their contact information and that of your family members. This information would include: complete mailing address, land-line phone numbers, cell phone numbers, and email addresses. It would be very helpful if you could also verify this information for any family members who don't regularly attend. Thank you.

## OFFERING ENVELOPES

It is time to get the contribution envelopes out to our members. Please let the church office know if you want envelopes for the year or do not want them. They will be assigned and distributed in several weeks. Please respond ASAP.



## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias will decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season. The order will be turned in the week of December 5<sup>th</sup>. Please let the office know if you would like to donate a flower. Cost is \$10/plant and can be paid to Terri Hock. You may take your plant home after the Christmas Day worship service.

## 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.



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Jack Magerkurth  
2 Trey Blank  
2 Paula Mooney  
5 Cathy Schillinger  
5 Marilyn Woods  
9 Alan Magerkurth  
10 Jim Stonehouse



11 Bailie Bachmann  
12 Michele Barry  
17 Jaime Werling  
19 Janet Bertsos  
24 Faye Piepho  
24 Lucas Thompson  
24 John Wickwire

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

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

23 Jaimie/Kirsten Jorgensen (1995) - 26 yrs  
28 Rev Tim/Heidi Nerud (1996) – 25 yrs

30 Dale/Linda Aper (1970) - 51 yrs  
31 Peter/Janice Neeld (1995) - 26 yrs



## DECEMBER BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

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  
17 Brooklyne Haughton  
17 Maxx Hermann  
17 Dylan Slonecker  
18 Stephanie Mosher  
22 Drew Schillinger  
23 Lynne Daniels  
23 Don Hickenbottom

23 Jerry Hickenbottom  
23 Robert Wechsler  
24 Kathy Curry  
26 Zane Roberts  
27 Trey Blank  
27 Jonathan Barry  
28 Keagan Daniels  
30 Lincoln Mosher



## LWML NEWS



St. John's LWML met Tuesday November 9, 2021 at 1:00 pm. There were 7 members present. Liz Neumann opened our meeting in the name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

**Lutheran  
Women  
in Mission**

Our promise verse for this month is: *"For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations." Psalm 100:5*

Bev Peterson read a devotion entitled, "Love Made Him Do It" based on John 14:31. We then went through the Quarterly Bible Study called; Love Abounding.

Minutes from the October meeting were approved as written.

Correspondence has been sent out through email.

Margo shared 2 National Mite Grant; Thirst to Learn: Bible Books for Africa's Children for \$100,000 and Making the Next Generation of Disciples for Life for \$92,000.

Treasurer's Report will be filed for review: Receipts for October - Mites: \$466.47, Missions: \$70, Operating: \$40. Disbursements – Mites: \$466.47, Operating: \$25, 3 Rally Registrations: \$36, Missions for Clausings; \$150. Oct 10th - Balances (\$428.29): Missions: \$334.84, Operating: \$93.45.

### OLD BUSINESS:

- Margo will have confirmation student Gannon Marckese and Bev Peterson will have Trevor Eastburn.
- Mailbox members – no good information is available. Liz printed the info from LWML website and read them to the group. After some discussion, it was decided that we will put together our own ideas and way of implementing this project.
- A discussion was held on the current membership in our society and proceeding forward. It was decided that during 2022 meetings will be held in March, April, June, September, October, and December. There will also be a change in meeting time. We will meet at 1:30 pm instead of 1 pm.

### NEW BUSINESS:

- The December meeting will be a Christmas Party. Officers will bring a snack to share. Liz will bring drinks. The afternoon will consist of some devotional time and games.
- Terri is stepping down as secretary. Bev volunteered to be both Secretary/Treasurer. The next meeting is December 14th. We closed the meeting by praying Mite Box Prayer #1.



**EVANGELISM:**  
*Sharing Christ With Others*

Witnessing is all about Jesus. We may make use of programs or methods that help us be more faithful and effective witnesses, but witnessing is not about those programs or methods. You are called and sent to be a witness of Jesus to the people in your everyday life, but witnessing is not about you or your abilities or even your faithfulness to your calling. Witnessing brings the good news of forgiveness, life, and salvation to people who are perishing in their sins and are hopelessly enslaved to death, but witnessing isn't even about the lost. Witnessing is about Jesus, only Jesus. But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:7-9

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the great physician of both body and soul, healed a man with dropsy by His Word on the Sabbath (Luke 14:1–6). Dropsy is a paradoxical ailment, with an unquenchable craving for drink even though the body is over inflated with fluid, a craving that, when indulged, served not to ease but to feed the disease.

And so, if a man drinks a great deal but is never filled, he sees a doctor to inquire about what ails him, what is wrong with his body, and how to remedy it. For that is not thirst but a disease (Seneca, *Consolation to His Mother Helvia*, 11.3).

But if the owner of five couches goes looking for 10, or the owner of 10 tables buys up as many again, and even though he has plenty of land and money, he remains unsatisfied and desires yet more, losing sleep and always in discontent, does he not also require a physician to diagnose the cause of this distress?

For this is not want or lack, it's a disease (Aristippus, quoted in Plutarch, *Love of Wealth*, 524b). As St. Augustine of Hippo wrote, "we may rightly compare the dropsical man to a covetous rich man: For the more the one is swollen with excess of water, the more he thirsts; so also the other: The more he abounds in riches ... the more eagerly he desires them" (*The Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers*, 4:135). Both require physicians. Both require diagnosis and medicine applied from the outside to the inward being. For these are not desires to be fulfilled but diseases to be cured.

This is why our Lord instructs us to not to be consumed by money. "No one can serve two masters ... You cannot serve God and money" (Matt. 6:24; Luke 16:13). Our desire for money, like the disease dropsy, is never satisfied. We always desire more. We think, "If I just had this much then I would be happy."

But even when that much comes, which God gladly gives, happiness evades us. The desire for more is never satisfied. It demands our constant energy, either in procuring more or protecting what we already have. When this happens, God, in His mercy, shows us that the money that He has given is no longer serving us, but we it. We have another master.

To overcome this, we need a physician's diagnosis and a physician's remedy. And our Lord Jesus Christ, our great physician of both body and soul, applies His Word to us as He did to the man healed of dropsy. He shows us how we have put our fear, love, and trust in our money and not feared, loved, and trusted in Him above all things.

In essence, He says, "Stop chasing after these fleeting things. They are vanity. They are the things that moth and rust destroy. You cannot have two masters. Repent!" And in seeing our great error, we are sorry that we have not fully feared, loved, and trusted in God above all things. And, in the mercy and grace that He earned for us on the cross, He takes away this sin, restores us to health, and bids us to live.

But then what? What do we do with this healing balm and care that our great physician has given? Do we simply go back to our old ways? "By no means!" St. Paul says (Rom. 3:31; 6:2). We do not just go back to the old ways, the ways that lead us to death. No, we live a new life, a life filled with the grace, mercy and love of God toward us. And God's great mercy, grace, and love toward is so abundant that it overflows and pours out onto those around us.

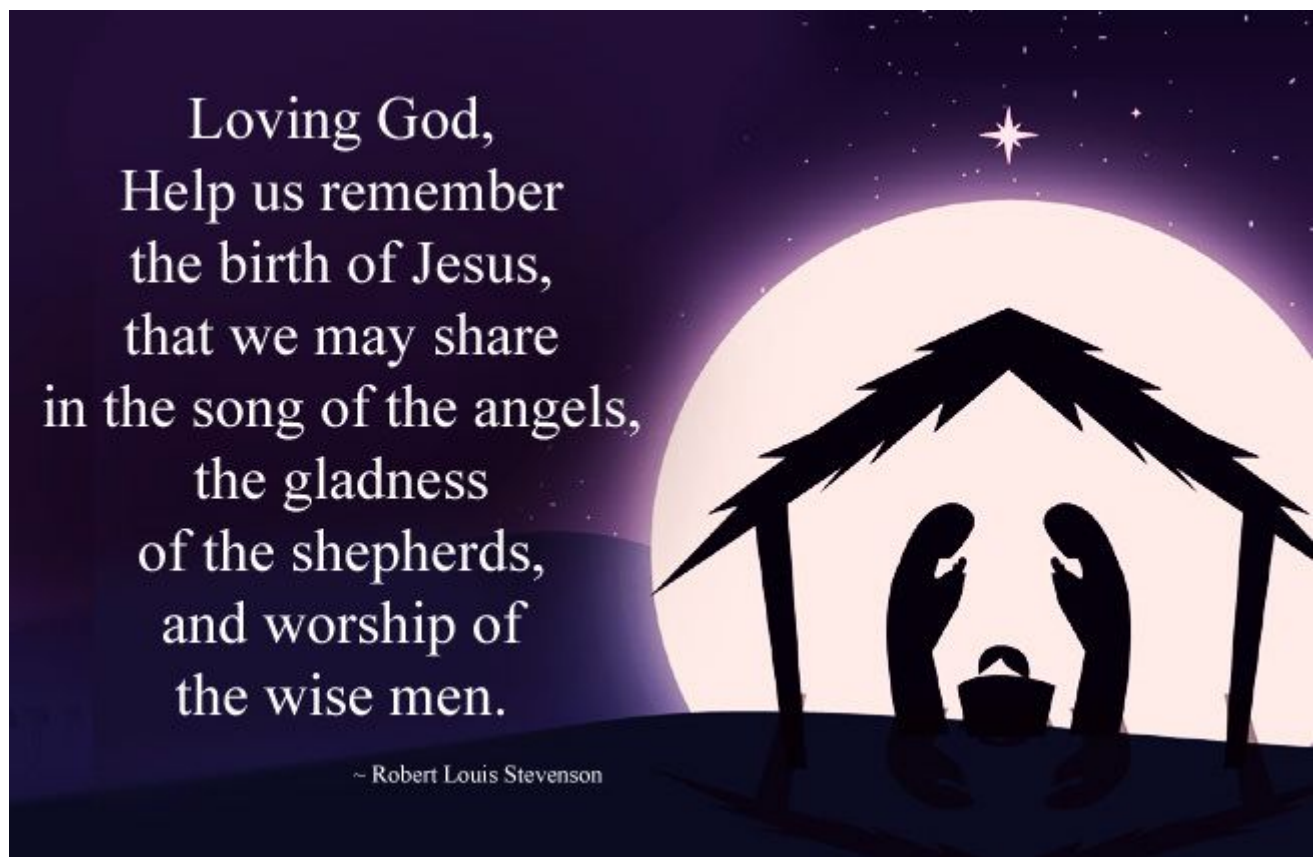
So, we no longer hoard money and possessions. We no longer scrape and crawl our way to amass more. We give to those around us, as God in Christ has given to us. We press our money and possessions into service for those who need it: our family, our society and our church. For money is God's gift to us to serve us and others. Not the other way around. It serves us because it is a gift from our Father in heaven.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The children are beginning practices for the Christmas Eve Program, 'Symbols of Salvation'. We ask all children are at Sunday school by 8:30 am Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup>. Watch the bulletin for more information about the program. The date and time for the Dress Rehearsal will also be published soon.





### 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 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.

### PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH COUNCIL/VOLUNTEERS

During the month of December, please pray for all who give of their time in willing service to this congregation, much of which no one sees what they do. These volunteers are truly blessings from the Lord. They willingly serve this congregation with the gifts and talents provided by our gracious Lord

### 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**  
**Betty Firch**

**Jim Dahl**  
**Linda Aper**  
**Jim Rahn**

**Lois Esterlein**  
**Lillian Hock**  
**Paula Chapa**

**Lynne Johnson**  
**Carolyn Werner**  
**Marilyn Woods**

### OUR EXTENDED FAMILY/FRIENDS:

**Don Eggers** (son of a friend of Marilyn Woods)  
**Jodi Martins** (daughter of Gary & Darla Johns)  
**John & Anita Clausung** (missionaries in Kenya)  
**Marilyn Potts** (wife of Cal, former LFC)  
**Virginia Miller** (mother of Jamie Werling)  
**Delores Gonion** (mother of Michele Barry)

**Rev Justin Kane** (son of Sandra Kane)  
**Bill Erdman** (brother of Bob Erdman)  
**Joan Barry** (mother of Brad Barry)  
**Susan Goetz** (wife of Joel Goetz)  
**Crystal Krause** (neighbor of Linda Aper)

### 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)



**CENTRAL ILLINOIS**  
**DISTRICT**  
*of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*

### NEWS YOU CAN USE!

December 2021

*Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So, his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword. Exodus 17:12-13*

Life can sometimes feel like a battle. This is true especially for Christians who are trying to honor the Lord by serving others and by proclaiming the Gospel. This is also true for pastors and other professional ministers in our Lutheran churches and schools. The world considers Christians to be intolerant, narrow minded, and out of touch with reality. We can become weary from always “swimming upstream” against the currents of popular opinion and world philosophies.



It is important to remember that Jesus already fought and won the battle against sin and the devil. All we must do is stand (Eph.6). The devil cannot harm us. Yet, still at times, we need people like Aaron and Hur to hold up our hands and the hands of God's professional workers so they can continue to bless us with God's Word.

In Exodus 17 we see the account of when Aaron and Hur stood with Moses while Moses blessed the people of Israel as they fought against the army of Amalek. As long as Moses held his hands up in blessing, the Israelites were winning. If he lowered his hands, they began to lose. So, Aaron and Hur stood beside Moses and held up his hands.

Are there any "Aarons" and "Hurs" in your congregation? If so, praise God and thank them for their service. If you are an Aaron or a Hur, never forget how important you are! God may be using you to uplift your pastor and other workers so they can continue to bless your congregation and/or school with the powerful and life-giving Word of God.

Rev. Jeff Harter

### **Stay Connected with your District**

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

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

### ***ITEMS OF INTEREST TO SHARE***

#### **Bible Bowl- 2022**

Announcing the 2022 Central Illinois District LC-MS Youth Bible Bowl topic: Romans and 1 Corinthians. We heard requests for the Bible Bowl to cover Luther's *Small Catechism*. This year's topic is as close to that as it comes. St. Paul discusses the Ten Commandments, the doctrine of God, Christ's atonement, and the work of the Holy Spirit. Paul deals with the church and proclaims the forgiveness of sins (justification by faith), the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and the Office of the Keys are explained. And prayer is interspersed with these basic Christian doctrines.

Date (Spring 2022) and location for the District Bible Bowl will be announced later. But now is the time to study these important epistles of the Bible with your youth and to talk within your circuit about holding a circuit Bible Bowl in preparation for the District Bible Bowl. Each circuit may send two teams to Springfield. For more information on how you can hold a Bible Bowl in your circuit, contact Pastor Mark Eddy at Zion Lutheran Church, Taylor Ridge, Ill. ([zionlcms@juno.com](mailto:zionlcms@juno.com)).

#### **The Rock in Shifting Sands**

Join us in-person or online for the Making Disciples for Life (MDFL) Winter 2022 Conference  
January 10, 2022—January 12, 2022  
LCMS International Center  
1333 S. Kirkwood Rd  
National Mission  
St. Louis, MO 63122-7226

- † *The Rock in Shifting Sands* conference is being held in-person and on-line.
- † The in-person portion of the conference will be held in the LCMS International Center in St. Louis. It is limited to 150 participants.
- † On-line participation is unlimited. An on-line registration can be used by an individual, couple, family, or group. We encourage "watch parties" and invite you to consider how the members of your congregation can participate in this conference together.

- † On-line participants will need a computer with a high-speed internet connection. Permission is granted to project the session videos to a large screen for "watch parties"
- † The conference sessions are presented live, but are also recorded for future viewing. Your conference registration provides you with access to all recorded sessions for 60 days after the conference ends.
- † For more information and registration <https://web.cvent.com/event/529ac398-e9fc-4a0d-b042-42991421e33a/summary>

### PRAYER SERVICE FOR LIFE

**November 30 at 5:00 pm, LCMS is hosting a Prayer Service for Life at the International Center in St. Louis. This is because the Supreme Court will begin hearing an abortion banning law on December 1st. The service will be streamed at [facebook.com/lcmslife/live](https://www.facebook.com/lcmslife/live). Your prayers are needed.**



### FROM OUR SEMINARIAN

St. John's,

Things are going good here at the seminary. Today was the last day of classes for the fall quarter and it will be good to have a little time off. I did enjoy all of my classes this quarter and I even got to audit a church history class that over-viewed from the Book of Concord until the present. Along with classes I also have done all my vicarage preparations so all I have left is to wait for placement in April. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

God's Peace, Matt Carlson





# 2021

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





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> Sundays of this month)**

**Mid-week Advent Services, 7 pm – December 1, 8, 15**

**Christmas Eve Service, 6:30 pm – December 24**

**Christmas Day Service w/ Communion, 10 am – December 25**

**New Year's Eve Service, 6 pm – December 31**

**Live Streaming each week on Facebook**

