

# ST. JOHN'S NEWSLETTER



**BUILT ON CHRIST OUR CORNERSTONE**

## ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

#### "Christian Witnessing Part IV: The Basics, Ten Commandments"

Last month we recognized the value of knowing "the basics" of Christianity, and we noted how Christian (i.e. Biblical) doctrine has been summed up nicely for us by Dr. Martin Luther, the blessed reformer of the Church, in his Small and Large Catechisms.<sup>1</sup> The catechism begins with the Ten Commandments, so we will begin there as well.

Starting the catechism with the Law makes sense as the Ten Commandments sum up God's will for our relationship with Him (1-3) and other people (4-10). When unpacking the Commandments with additional teaching on the Law, such as Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), we also learn that the commandments are broader than the wording used (e.g. "adultery" covers all sexual sins, etc.), and go much deeper than the wording used, striking not only the hand and mouth, but the eye, ear, and even the heart and mind.

When it comes to Law, the one benefit we have is that it is written on the heart and, in addition, all people have a God-given conscience to help them read that Law (Romans 2:14-15). This natural law is the foundation for a civil society and so we thank God for it. However, the sinful nature within all people corrupts this natural law, twisting it so that it is no longer clear, even as it dulls our conscience thereby encouraging us to purposely ignore it until it "quits bothering us." Therefore, even in word and deed the natural law is weakened, and it pretty much completely fails to register when dealing with internal thoughts, feelings, and desires (just consider the false claim by many married people, "Can't touch, but it's okay to look").

Therefore, Christians, as citizens of a nation, out of love for the neighbor must speak about the Law so that the government would truly protect the externally good and punish externally the evil as that is its God-given duty (Romans 13:3-4). So we speak about abortion, euthanasia, promiscuity, pornography, homosexuality, transgenderism, divorce, greed, violence, etc., giving a voice that is necessary lest our society completely disintegrate! However, the Law of God was not given just so that people would "get their act together" or "straighten out." While such is necessary for a functioning society, such external conformity *is not enough for salvation*.

The simple fact is that the Law of God never excuses, but always accuses us of our sins (the 2<sup>nd</sup> purpose of the Law, "the mirror;" Romans 3:20; 4:15; Galatians 3:21). Our Creator made us to be perfect, but we are not. We are "faulty products," and the fault is our own. The Lord demands our all: our heart, soul, mind, and body. He demands that we are to love others as we would have them love us. Even more, we are to love others as *He* has loved us. We are to be holy, that is, perfect, as He is. According to the Law there aren't degrees of holy, there is only "holy" or "not holy." And the Law makes it clear that all people fall under that second category, and therefore punishment is deserved. And with God's Law there is no distinction between misdemeanors and felonies; all offenses are capital offenses, deserving death now and forever.<sup>2</sup>

Therefore, when witnessing, we speak the Law to help others see that whether they are blatant criminals or upright citizens, they still remain "not holy" in God's eyes. However, based upon what we have said, we speak this Law not with a "holier-than-thou" attitude, the idea that we, as the righteous ones, will now train those less righteous to be more

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<sup>1</sup> From this point on I will be only using the term *catechism*, which covers both the Large and the Small Catechisms, unless I draw specifically from one or the other, which will then be noted.

<sup>2</sup> This doesn't mean that we don't recognize differences in sins, for the Bible does that as well (consider how different ones receive different earthly judgments and punishments). But it does remind us that all sins condemn us as they make us "unholy."

righteous like us. On the contrary, we do such with the attitude of a fellow “not holy one,” but also as one who has been *declared holy* through the righteousness of another, our Lord Jesus Christ. Thus faithful Christian witnessing never comes across as boasting about ourselves, but boasting in our Lord who has washed us clean and covered us with His righteousness (perfect obedience to the Law in all ways). There may be a place to say how the Lord has helped us in our battle against sin, such as helping us “stay clean,” “keep our marriage vows,” or whatever, but we must be very careful to keep the focus on Christ and His life-giving Spirit, and not on “the new and improved me.”

To give a faithful witness to the Law means to show people that they are not right with God, just like us (according to our own person). This is necessary, for it is the terminal diagnosis that is required so that the person knows they need medicine. It shows them that they need *a Savior* and, by God’s grace, we can then show them Him by sharing the Good News of Jesus. And that is the goal of all true Christian witnessing!

Your fellow witness in Christ,

*Pastor Nenad*

*Next month, we will look closer at the basics taught in the Apostles’ Creed.*

### **A LOOK at the LUTHERAN Confessions**

*Last month we looked at Article VI (New Obedience) in which we clearly confessed how true faith will bring forth good works, since such is God’s will and a child of God delights in His will. Good works are not optional for Christians! However, we made it equally clear that faith alone in Christ saves and that our salvation is not dependent upon our works, which will always be impure in this life. Now in Article VII we confess that there is only one Church, and that unity in the church is not based upon any old “Jesus talk,” nor having similar external ceremonies, but is based solely on believing, teaching and confessing the same Biblical truths (doctrine).*

*Augsburg Confession Article VII: The Church*<sup>3</sup>

Our churches teach that one holy Church<sup>4</sup> is to remain forever.<sup>5</sup> The Church is the congregation of saints [Psalm 149:1] in which the Gospel is purely taught and the Sacraments are correctly administered.<sup>6</sup> For the true unity of the Church it is enough to agree about the doctrine of the Gospel<sup>7</sup> and the administration of the Sacraments. It is not necessary that human traditions, that is, rites or ceremonies instituted by men, should be the same everywhere.<sup>8</sup> As Paul says, “One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all” (Ephesians 4:5-6).

### **APOLOGETICS: Prewired language processing, An evolutionary ‘Catch 22’<sup>9</sup>**

“Humans are born with brains ‘prewired’ to see words.”<sup>a</sup> So said a news item on a science website. But this would hardly be news to any mother reading a book to a child sitting on her knee. She sees that her child quickly develops the ability to recognize the shape of letters and to associate names with the shapes. Her child can soon recognize whole words at a glance.

The study concluded that a part of the human brain from infancy “is more connected functionally to the language network of the brain than it is to other areas”. One of the researchers speculated, “It’s interesting to think about how and why our brains develop functional modules that are sensitive to specific things like faces, objects, and words.”

This speculation presents a key dilemma for the evolutionary paradigm—how could the brain be prewired and yet have developed through chance-based processes? It is an example of a paradoxical circumstance which appears in various forms, such as when a young person asks, “How can I get work experience if I cannot get a job that provides the experience?” or that in Joseph Heller’s novel *Catch 22*.<sup>b</sup> When we accept the historical accuracy of the Bible’s account, we are not confronted with the inconsistency of such a dilemma. Rather, we know that God created Adam and Eve with a fully formed ability to process language ([Genesis 1:28–30](#), [2:16–20](#), [3:1–3](#)).

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<sup>3</sup> *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*; Paul McCain, Ed. CPH, 2006.

<sup>4</sup> The singular “Church” in this article confesses the same Biblical truth confessed in the Nicene Creed, “I believe in *one* holy Christian and apostolic Church.”

<sup>5</sup> Our Lord Jesus promised that “the gates of hell shall not prevail against [His Church].” Matthew 16:18.

<sup>6</sup> Recall that the Gospel Word and Sacraments are the *means of grace*, that is, the means that the Holy Spirit uses to bring God’s grace and forgiveness to sinners and thus the means used *to create, strengthen and preserve saving faith*.

<sup>7</sup> While the Gospel Word is highlighted since it is this Word, and not the Law, that is a means of grace, we must note that the Law being purely taught is also understood here as there can be no pure Gospel if there is not pure Law as well. To mess with the Law always leads to a messed-up Gospel.

<sup>8</sup> This is not to say that there is no benefit to having similar, or even the same rites and ceremonies. Certainly, all of us have experienced how nice it is to go to another LC-MS congregation and have a service that we are familiar with, and how uncomfortable the opposite can be. This article simply points out that since such rites and ceremonies are not commanded in Scripture, they are not necessary for true fellowship. However, the rites and ceremonies are still important as they are to teach the pure Word, increase the sense of reverence towards God, and to help maintain good order in the service.

<sup>9</sup> James R. Hughes; Published: 8 April 2021; <https://creation.com/language-processing>

For Adam to have named the animals ([Genesis 2:19-20](#)) he needed tools with which to work. For example, Adam needed intelligence and understanding to discern the characteristics of the animals, and a logical reasoning capability to extrapolate from the animals' attributes to a symbolic representation as expressed in a name. He also required a language with which to provide the names, and organs of communication (i.e., eyes, ears, mouth) with which to examine the animals and to verbalize the names he assigned to them.

Therefore, the act of naming the animals implies that fully complete and complex operational systems were in place. Adam had these operational systems—his Creator endowed him with a functioning body with sensory organs, rationality and intelligence, creativity, and the ability to process language and communicate with God. Adam was not the product of a long and gradual process of evolution; he arrived fully formed and fully functional on the sixth day of creation ([Genesis 1:26–27](#)). All of Adam's posterity since then have been born with a prewired ability to process language—visual and oral processing of words and the ability to use grammars and construct sentences.

Evolutionists, on the other hand, claim that human language processing developed from the use of grunts and other noises made by early *Hominidae* creatures.<sup>c</sup> However, careful analysis of this explanation for the origin of language processing indicates that it is faced with challenges. For example:

- **Humans could not process an emerging language if they did not know how to process one.** A theory that assumes a *tabula rasa* (blank slate) for the emergence of a language runs into the classic 'boot-up' problem—i.e., we need the ability to parse language in order to learn or to use a language.
- **Our supposed ancestors would have had to agree on the meaning of sounds.** It might be possible to argue that the word 'Run!' would be interpreted over time by survivors as "Make a hasty exit before the lion gets you." However, it is more difficult to explain how the meaning of words such as 'life', 'love' and 'God' can be communicated from one person to another without a pre-existing ability to process language.
- **Language grammars are complex.** Languages require a complete syntax of verbs, nouns, prepositions, and so on, before they can be useful. A language cannot be formed of nouns only or verbs only. As one resource states, "language mastery can be no simple matter. Modern linguistic theories have shown that human languages are vastly complex objects ... Clearly, there is something very special about the brains of human beings that enables them to master a natural language."<sup>d</sup>
- **Over a dozen language families exist, with fundamentally different structures.** In theory, it might appear that the ability to process *one* type of language could have evolved from our supposed ancestors' grunts and squeals. But to suggest that evolution produced the ability to process all of the many independently structured language groups appears suspect.
- **Creating AI language processors is a challenge.** For the past 50 years, computer scientists and linguists have been trying to create artificial intelligence (AI) systems that can process languages. But this has required the application of considerable research, experimentation, and design effort.

Therefore, it is difficult to believe that the capability to process language evolved through natural selection acting upon accidental mutations, rather than being the product of an intelligent designer. However, evolutionists reject this explanation *a priori*. Instead, they claim that the emergence of language processing occurred in human prehistory. But this means there can be no historical evidence for its emergence.

Of course, no comparable emergence of language processing (as distinct from new languages) is observed today—it is therefore claimed to have been a one-time event in prehuman evolution. This is a way of espousing evolution without having to demonstrate that it occurs. However, contrary to this claim, the Bible provides the only historical record of how man came into existence, where the ability to process languages came from ([Genesis 1–2](#)), and then how the multiplicity of unrelated language families arose ([Gen 11:7–9](#)).

Because human beings are created in the image of God, we think God's thoughts after Him. Christians know and believe this. Non-Christians deny it, and yet affirm Christian presuppositions each time they think and communicate. As God's image-bearers, they cannot avoid using their innate, prewired ability to process language.

## References and notes

- a. Ohio State University, Humans are born with brains 'prewired' to see words: Study finds connections to language areas of the brain. *ScienceDaily*, 22 Oct 2020.
- b. The example there was that if one is crazy, he does not have to fly a bombing mission; but he must be crazy to fly a mission. He must make an application to be excused from flying a mission, but the act of applying demonstrates that he is not crazy.
- c. For an example of this hypothesis: In Will Durant's *Our Oriental Heritage* (The Story of Civilization series), chapter 5 ('The Mental Elements of Civilization'), he speculates about how an early human ancestor formulated the first word to define a group of entities and admits that 'all origins are guesses'.
- d. *Innateness and Language* (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy).

## TEMPORARY SERVICE CHANGES

During the month of May, Holy communion will be served on May 2, May 23 (the fourth Sunday and NOT the third) and May 30. This change is due to the day of Confirmation. Please make these notes on your personal calendars.

## 2021 CONFIRMATION QUESTIONING & CONFIRMATION DAY

There are 4 young people who are close to completion of their intensive confirmation studies. Carter Eastburn, Cole and Kayci Freeman, and Kaleb Rahn will have formal questioning of this Christian education, Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:00 pm. All congregational members are encouraged to come and support them on this evening. Confirmation Sunday will be May 23.

## 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. Topic of study is the book of Ecclesiastes.
- Men's Bible Study – 7 pm the first Thursday of each month. Topic of study is, "The Genesis Academy".
- Adult Bible study – 1:30 pm the third Thursday of each month. Topic of study is, "The Genesis Academy".



- 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 the email addresses below.: Terri Hock – [churchoffice@stjohnsgeneseo.org](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsgeneseo.org)

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

Facebook pages: <https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo/> (church page)

All Sunday services are 'Live' streamed at 10am. and posted to our church website the following day.

## ALTAR FLOWERS

Celebrate a special occasion with flowers given for a Sunday worship service. Sign the flower chart, found on the bulletin board next to the rest rooms. Put \$20 in a yellow envelope (found by the chart). Fill in the date for the flowers along with occasion/memory and place envelope in the offering plate. The rest is done for you.



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

1 Matthew Gehn  
3 Ben Schillinger  
3 Kyle Wickwire  
4 Joshua Hock  
6 Steven Magerkurth  
8 Charles Johnson  
9 Jacob Miller  
9 Alexander Wolfe  
11 Daniel Werner  
12 Broc Krantz



12 Julie Lage  
13 Craig Mosher  
14 Karen Rasmussen  
16 Blake Hallendorff  
16 Ryan Hallendorff  
17 Gracelyn Kulpa  
19 Linda Aper  
20 Kyle Miller  
21 Claire Yerkey  
25 Heidi Freeman

25 Brittany Loenser  
27 Lindsey Gustafson  
27 Randy Rasmussen  
28 Gage Gehn  
28 Nick Miller  
30 Mike Dahl  
30 Emma Yerkey  
31 Gabe Loenser

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

1 Ken/Alicia Willeford (2010) - 11 yrs  
4 Ron/Brenda Hallendorff (1996) - 25 yrs  
4 Reon/Marta Haughton (2012) – 9 yrs  
16 Alan/Jamie Eastburn (2001) - 20 yrs  
17 Mark/Rebecca Ague (2014) - 7 yrs



21 Adam/Samantha Hock (2016) – 5 yr  
22 Richard/Sharon DeWulf (1971) - 50 yrs  
23 Gabe/Shandel Loenser (2012) - 9 yrs  
23 John/Nancy Wickwire (1981) - 40 yrs

## MAY BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

1 Conner Helke  
2 Francie Kolb  
2 Kevin Rahn  
10 Kristin Mosher  
11 Jamie Eastburn  
11 Sarah Nerud  
12 Preston Smith



15 Coy McKibbin  
16 Sandra Kane  
17 Blake Hallendorff  
17 Ryan Hallendorff  
18 Bradford Gehn  
22 Bridgette Smith  
23 Brenda Hallendorff

28 Thad Curry  
28 Joshua Hock  
28 Nicholas Miller  
29 Steven Magerkurth  
30 Margo Schillinger

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Erin Erickson – 2575 Chesterfield Dr., Bettendorf, IA 52722-6232  
Karna Hollatz – Transferred to the Church Triumphant



## WHO'S WHO in THE PEW NEXT to YOU?

### It is Karna Hollatz!

I grew up a “city girl” from Rock Island, Illinois. Before I was married to Vernon Hollatz, I worked at a bank. After I married, I worked and retired from John Deere & Company. I had to learn to drive because Vernon told me he would not always be available to take me places. I had a new 1949 Pontiac to practice driving. I also practiced driving the Massey Harris and would pull up bales of hay out of the field. I really enjoy doing crossword or “pencil puzzles”. I am getting rather good too!

I have fond memories of St. John's such as, teaching the 5-year-old kids in Sunday School, leading the senior choir for 25 years and all the wonderfully faithful members who loved to do extra-ordinary things to praise the Lord.

I get a lot of requests to make my recipe of rice pudding. It is something that I enjoy making for church potlucks or funeral dinners. The recipe is a little complex due to the amount of time it takes to make, but it is tasty, if I do say so myself!

My favorite Bible verse is Revelations 2:10 “Be faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life.” A Christian life is influenced by the people around you. My parents, Vernon and various Pastors have influenced mine. I practice being a Christian by being in the word daily, studying for Bible Study or picking choir music.

Singing has been a blessing in my life, both religious and secular. I have sung at 40 plus funerals and 35 plus weddings, starting when I was 3 years old. I sang in high school operettas and after marriage, I sang in the music guild productions. “How Great Thou Art” is a favorite hymn and one that people have requested repeatedly. I feel the Spirit with me when I sing.



## How Great Thou Art

Oh Lord, my God

When I, in awesome wonder

Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made

I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder

Thy power throughout the universe displayed. Chorus

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing

Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in

That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing

He bled and died to take away my sin. Chorus

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation

And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart

Then I shall bow, in humble adoration

And then proclaim, my God, how great Thou art.

Chorus

**Chorus:** Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee

How great Thou art, how great Thou art

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee

How great Thou art, how great Thou art.

## LWML NEWS

St. John's LWML met Tuesday April 13, 2021 at 1:00 pm. There were 6 members and Pastor Nerud present. Liz Neumann opened our meeting in the name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Our promise verse for this month is: ***For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3: 16***



Lutheran  
Women  
in Mission

Terri Hock read the devotion ‘How, Lord ... can I be content?’ which is a Mustard Seed Devotion from the LWML website. Terri then led our Bible study, “LIFE is Like Swiss Cheese”, which was published in the 2021 Spring Quarterly.

Minutes from the March meeting were approved as written.

Correspondence received; Include the Cristo Rey and Clausings newsletters.

Treasurer's Report: Receipts for March - Mites: \$557.36; Missions: \$70; Operating: \$210. Expenditures Mites \$557.36; Zone Operating \$19.50; CID Operating \$150. Balance 3/31/2021: Missions - \$539.87; Operating - \$110.07. Paid April 8th to St. John's for Qt. 1 & 2 Clausings - \$300.

## OLD BUSINESS

- The National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 6. There will be a special bulletin insert Sunday, May 2. There will also be an article in the May newsletter.

- CID LWML Mite Grants were all fully paid with an additional \$11,000. God once again showed His power as there was a shortage of \$30,000 just 1 month before the fiscal year ended on March 31.
- We will be collecting for Health Kits as voted during the month of June/July. A Thrivent Action Plan has been changed from the Easter Breakfast to this project. A listing of all items will be in the newsletter and bulletin.

## NEW BUSINESS

- Liz and Margo attended an LWML Officer's meeting in Milan. This meeting concerned the CID convention in May. Due to the current health concerns, this convention will be streamed May 1 beginning at 9 am. This will last several hours and all are encouraged to watch. Each are to use the following email: [technology@lwmlcid.org](mailto:technology@lwmlcid.org). We reviewed the new Mite Grant proposals and voted for 4. St. John's group will submit votes for: Expanding Access at Camp CILCA, Food Banks at St. Louis & Ft. Wayne Seminaries, Our Savior Lutheran Church & school in Magamaga, Uganda, and Resourcing & Restructuring CID Prison Ministry. Eight pages of By-Law changes will also be voted on. Liz has read through the bylaws and highlighted the changes, most including verbiage. It was decided to accept these changes. A new position has been established and will be filled. This is Vice President of Communications. Positions to receive newly elected officers are VP of Mission Outreach & Grants, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and Councilor. We gathered the "Convention Offering". Beverly will send this into District. Half of this offering will be given to Mites and the other half to District LWML Operating. All LWML groups are encouraged to do their own "Ingathering". Information for these will be sent to District. **Liz requested that we collect the Health Kits in May instead of June. This would then qualify for the requested ingathering. All agreed.**
- Reservations for the National Convention are now closed. They have reached the maximum number of attendees due to all the gathering restrictions.
- A request was made that we disperse with the sweet treats at our meeting. Water will continue to be provide. This was agreed too.
- "Happy Birthday" was sung to Margo Schillinger, whose birthday is April 21.
- A prayer was said by Pastor Nerud for Karna Hollatz, who is currently in the hospital.

Beverly Peterson will have Devotion and Topic in May. We closed with Mite Box Prayer #1.

## PRAY FOR OUR COUNTRY ON THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, Thursday, May 6

This day, the first Thursday of May, has been designated by the United States Congress, when people are asked "to turn to God in prayer and meditation".

The National Day of Prayer has great significance for us as a nation as it enables us to recall and to teach the way in which our founding fathers sought the wisdom of God when faced with critical decisions. It stands as a call for us to humbly come before God, seeking His guidance for our leaders and His grace upon us as a people.

Suggestions to help you pray:

**OUR NATION** - Pray for: Our Federal Government - Our President, Vice President, Cabinet Members, Congressional Leaders, Supreme Court Justices; Our State Government - Our Governor, Legislative Leaders, Judicial Leaders; Our Local Government - Our City and Township Leaders, Our Law Enforcement Personnel, Our Fire Chief and volunteer firemen, Our Judges, and Our County Officials

**MILITARY** - Pray for: Courage and dependence on God (Psalm 91); Perseverance to endure hardship (Isaiah 43:2; Deuteronomy 31:6); Divine protection from the enemy (Romans 5:1-5); Wise leaders who inspire respect from those under their command (Romans 13:1); Confidence and vision to persist in the face of negative publicity (Psalm 18:31-39); Protection and support for the families they have left behind (Romans 1:8-10); Chaplains who deliver hope and spiritual strength (Proverbs 4:11)

**MEDIA** - Pray for: The decision makers within the media to realize they can make a profit by producing family-friendly projects (Proverbs 8:10-11); Christians in media to find favor and be filled with creative ideas that bring kingdom principles and life-giving messages to the public (Proverbs 2:1-15); Celebrities to be provided with repeated opportunities to hear and receive salvation (Proverbs 8:35)

**BUSINESS** - Pray for: Integrity among Christian workers so that they win the right to be heard (1 Chronicles 29:17); Impartation of ideas and resources to open principled businesses, especially in areas that need an economic boost (Psalm 132:15); Christian workers to display Christ-like humility and service to their co-workers (Philippians 2:3)

**EDUCATION** - Pray for: A return to truth and Judeo-Christian ethics (Psalm 1:1-2); A safe atmosphere conducive to learning; Excellence in educators (Exodus 18:20-21); Equal opportunities for every student to achieve their full potential (Philippians 1:9)



**CHURCH** - Pray for: A return to the absolutes of God's Word (Psalm 1:1-3); Integrity—that God's people look and act differently from the world (1 Peter 2:11; 1 Corinthians 13:6); A holy fear of the Lord released in the heart of God's people (Proverbs 9:10)

**FAMILY** - Pray for: Unity and love in individual families that reach out in hospitality toward others (Romans 12:9-13); The re-establishment of relationships between parents and children (Malachi 4:5-6); A return to family values that serve the nation as a whole (Job 22:21-22); A return to the biblical mandate to train their children at home in the fear of the Lord and not leave the responsibility to others (Proverbs 22:6)

### LWML INGATHERING

The congregation is invited to help LWML gather items for '**Personal Care Kits**', which will be sent to Lutheran World Relief. Items can be brought to the church anytime during the month of May. A box will be available for your donations. Items we are collecting include: light-weight bath-size towels (between 20"x40" & 52"x27") dark colors recommended, 2 or 3 bath size bars of soap in original wrapping, adult-size toothbrush in original wrapper, sturdy comb, and nail clippers.



St. Paul teaches us: "Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches" (Gal. 6:6). And again, he says: "Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:13-14). In other words,

ministers of the Gospel are supported by the offerings of those who are served by them.

And this is how the church lives even now. It is standard practice. But this deserves closer examination. For it instructs us not just *that* we are to give but also *what* we are to give. And it does so with four little words: "In the same way ..."

St. Paul is building his case for supporting the preachers of the Gospel with the sacrificial giving of individual members on the example of the Old Testament people who supported the Levites with their offerings and sacrifices.

We're to support the Gospel ministry "in the same way." But how did the Old Testament people support the Levites?

Moses records this: "You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always" (Deut. 14:22-23). The Levites were supported by the tithe, 10 percent of all the yearly yield of that which was harvested.

Does that seem like a lot? Does it surprise you that St. Paul instructs us that we are to support the New Testament Gospel ministry "in the same way?" If it does, ask yourself: Is the church's job in the New Testament bigger or smaller than the Levites' job in the Old Testament? Back then, there was one Temple, and the ministry was almost exclusively located in one nation among the descendants of Abraham. In Matthew 28, Jesus calls us to teach and baptize all nations, and there are churches and ministries all around the world! How could we support this new Gospel ministry with anything less than the Israelites supported the Old Testament ministry?

Of course, we are free to give more, for we have received more than those in the Old Testament. We have received the fullness of God's revelation, the fullness of His salvation, and the fulfillment of everything that God promised to do. For we have received Christ, God's own Son, in the flesh, who took upon himself our sins and in exchange gave us his righteousness. The Father claimed us as his own in Holy Baptism. He gathers us together in the place where his name dwells to feast on the first fruits of the resurrection, the risen and living body and blood of His Son – our Lord Jesus. He reminds us that we are His, that all things are ours because we belong to Him. He blesses us here in time with physical and spiritual gifts.

In the same way – and in response to His fatherly divine goodness and mercy – we gladly give to those who proclaim to us "the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light." For once we were not a people, but now we are God's people; once we had not received mercy, but now we have indeed (1 Peter 2:9-10).



The focus of Jesus' witness bearing witness to the truth. The truth about sin, the truth about forgiveness and the truth about salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. *Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king? Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose, I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world-to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." John 18:37* Source: "Everyone His Witness" Lutheran Evangelism, LCMS

There is still time to sign your youth up for Camp CILCA. Call the church office to enquire about a scholarship to camp.





## SUNDAY SCHOOL



Do you enjoy Bible stories and enjoy telling others about Those Bible stories? Do you like using crayons, glue and other craft materials? Do you like ‘fill-in-the-blank’, word searches and other puzzles? Then you are just the right person to teach Sunday school. We are looking for teachers and substitutes. Please contact Sandy Rahn for more information. She can walk you through the material currently being used in our classrooms and show you how ‘novice’ friendly the materials are.

We are needing a new ‘Cradle Roll’ person. This is someone who sends out materials to our new parents and the baby until they are 3 years old and ready to attend Sunday school. There is a packet of resources for each child and information for sending out these materials. This volunteer is asked to contact Sandy Rahn.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2021

**“God’s Wonder Lab”** Join us June 20-24 from 6:30-&:45 for Vacation Bible School. We will look into the Bible, God’s Holy Word, and discover that Jesus does the impossible, giving us eternal life with Him. Jesus shows that He is God with amazing miracles.

*“He has done marvelous things!” Psalm 98:1*



## MEET OUR CONFIRMANDS

**Alan Carter Eastburn** was born October 28, 2006 at Genesis East Hospital, the son of Alan E and Jamie J. Eastburn. He was baptized as God’s son on November 26, 2006 at St. John’s Lutheran Church, Geneseo IL. His sponsors are Callie Parrish and Eric Eastburn.

Carter attends Geneseo Middle school. His favorite subject is Science. At this time, he isn’t sure what he would like to do after graduating from high school.

In his spare time, he likes to watch TV. Spaghetti is a food he enjoys. He has a dog named Zeus and a goldfish that stares at people. His favorite Bible story is, ‘The Parable of the Good Samaritan’. If Carter could travel anywhere in the world, he would like to visit Japan.



**Cole Ryan Freeman** was born August 26, 2006 in Silvis IL, the twin son of Carl R and Heidi L Freeman. He was baptized as God’s son on January 14, 2007 at St. John’s Lutheran Church, Geneseo IL. His sponsors are Mindi Baumann, Marshall Freeman, and Don Hock.

Cole attends Geneseo Middle School. His favorite subject is History. Cole would like to get a scholarship for football and go on to college after high school.

In his spare time Cole likes sports and video games. Pesto Chicken is a food he enjoys. His family has two dogs as pets. His favorite Bible verse is *Ezekiel 25:17, “I will execute great vengeance on them with wrathful rebukes. Then they will know that I am the LORD, when I lay my vengeance upon them”*. If Cole could travel anywhere in the world, he would like to go to the Bahamas.



**Kayci Lyn Freeman** was born August 26, 2006 in Silvis IL, the daughter of Carl R and Heidi L Freeman. Cole and Kayci are twins. She was baptized as God’s daughter on January 14, 2007 at St. John’s Lutheran Church, Geneseo IL. His sponsors are Mindi Baumann, Marshall Freeman, and Don Hock.

Kayci Cole attends Geneseo Middle School. Her favorite subject is Mathematics. Kayci plans to attend college after graduating from high school.

Kayci is a sports girl. She enjoys soccer and volleyball. Chicken tenders and pasta are some of her favorite foods. She enjoys the family’s 2 dogs. Her favorite Bible verse is John 15:13, “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends”. If Kayci could travel anywhere in the world, she would like to visit Paris.



**Kaleb David Rahn** was born July 19, 2007 in Silvis IL, the son of Kevin W and Stacie A Rahn. He was baptized as God’s son on December 9, 2007 at St. John’s Lutheran Church, Geneseo IL. His sponsors are Scott Rahn and Sandra Rahn.

Kaleb attends Geneseo Middle School. His favorite subject is Science. Kaleb has interest in working at a zoo when he graduates from high school.

In his spare time, he enjoys riding bikes and drawing. Sushi is a food he enjoys eating. Kaleb is an animal lover and has 2 birds, a dog and lizard. His favorite Bible story is ‘David and Goliath’. If Kaleb could travel anywhere in the world, he would like to go to the Florida Keys.





## PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH COUNCIL/VOLUNTEERS

During the month of May, we are encouraged to pray for those who are on the Board of Trustees, Rod Miller, Randy Rasmussen, and Kurt Gehn. Caring for the church and parsonage property is a very big job and these men have been doing a wonderful job. Your support and actual help, when needed, is a great encouragement to them.

### 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*

We have a 'Prayer Chain'. All prayer requests can be made to the office and a special prayer will be sent to the prayer warriors.

*'What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer'!*



*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.

### 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**

**Jim Dahl**

**Lynne Johnson**

**Carolyn Werner**

**Arlyn Helke**

**Jim Rahn**

**Lillian Hock**

**Derek Helke**

**Lois Esterlein**

**Linda Aper**

**Betty Firch**

**Paula Chapa**

**John Erdman**

### OUR EXTENDED FAMILY/FRIENDS:

**Andrew, Sarah, John, Daniel Hill** (seminary student)

**Kathleen VanDe Rostyne** (friend of Bob/Sherry Wechsler)

**Don Eggers** (son of a friend of Marilyn Woods)

**Joseph Baamonde** (friend of Paula Mooney)

**Mike Miller** (friend of Bob & Sherry Wechsler)

**Clinton Kane Family** (son of Sandy Kane)

**Jodi Martins** (daughter of Gary & Darla Johns)

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

**John & Anita Causling** (missionaries in Kenya)

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

**Marilyn Potts** (wife of Cal, former LFC)

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

**Pam Bennett** (friend of Dan/Roselyn Maeltzer)

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

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

**Justine Fowler** (son of Kathy/Kurt Gehn)

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

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

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

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

### MILITARY, THOSE SERVING & THEIR FAMILIES:

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

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

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

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

**Ken Willeford** (husband of Alicia Willeford)

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

## SCHOLARSHIP SUNDAY

CID Scholarship Sunday is May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thirteen undergraduates and eleven seminarians, all from our Central Illinois District, are in great financial need to help them continue their studies. Please make a generous gift on May 2<sup>nd</sup> using a “Will They Always Be There?” envelope provided by your congregation, or mail your gift to:

**Scholarship Sunday Gift ~ Central Illinois District-LCMS ~ 1850 N. Grand Ave West ~ Springfield, IL 62702-1626**

You may write your check payable to the “CID Scholarship Endowment Fund”, which will be invested and the annual proceeds used to assist students for years to come, or to the “CID Scholarship Fund”, where your gift will be used to aid students in the 2021-2022 school year. Since the need for called workers is so great, we also ask you to encourage those who are qualified to serve to consider pursuing a called church-worker vocation. Thank you for your support of our present and future pastors, teachers, and full-time church workers.

## Me? In Church Work?

Our Lord said, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” (Matthew 9:37-38). These words remain as applicable today as when Jesus first spoke them.

*Ora et labora!* We pray, and we work too.

CID’s Shelby, Effingham, and Altamont Circuits are doing just that. On Pentecost, Sunday, May 23, they will hold a joint Circuit Convocation at St. John Lutheran Church in Effingham from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

The topic is church worker recruitment. Recruitment of pastors will be emphasized, but also including teachers, Directors of Christian Education, Deaconesses, and others.

The convocation’s keynote speaker will be Dr. Dale Meyer, former Lutheran Hour Speaker and recently retired President of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Representatives will be present from our Synod’s two seminaries and from the Concordia Universities in Chicago and Mequon, Wisconsin. Chaplain Craig Muehler from LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces and Pastor Josh Theilen from Camp CILCA will provide information on specialized ministries.

Here is a great opportunity for young people, even pre-teens, to come and learn about full-time church work, and for their parents to learn about the educational roads to such careers. The convocation also affords prospective second-career pastors a place to ask serious questions and get some answers.

Please help spread the word about the convocation! See the video at <https://youtu.be/gpHT0EcWpAU>

Please register for the convocation by May 7 at [www.stjohnsLCMS.net/harvest](http://www.stjohnsLCMS.net/harvest)

## EMPOWER THE JOURNEY

Crab a bottle. Gill it up. Bring it back!

An unplanned pregnancy can make a mom or dad’s journey seem uncertain. Their steps may falter, and life can hang in the balance. Pregnancy Resources is blessed to journey with parents by offering life honoring, medically accurate information regarding their pregnancy and the life of their unborn child. Moms and dads find hope at Pregnancy Resources every day.

You can help parents on this new journey by participating in Baby Bottle Boomerang. Money Raised through Baby Bottle Boomerang allows moms and dads to step with courage towards a new future. With your support, Pregnancy Resources can provide hope-filled, life-affirming pregnancy tests, limited ultrasounds, and medically accurate pregnancy options education. Parenting, pregnancy, and essential newborn care education, Biblical fatherhood education, limited material assistance, and post-abortion care are also available. Together we can journey with the most abortion-vulnerable among us and offer help and hope in the name of Jesus Christ.

Pregnancy Resources

Starting May 9 (Mothers’ Day) you have the opportunity to get involved. Take a baby bottle (or two), sign your name on the sheet, fill bottle with your gifts (checks can be made out to “Pregnancy Resources”) and return the bottle to church by May 30. Your gifts will aid in the saving of lives of the unborn.



*Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her. Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.*

*Proverbs 31:28 & 30*



# 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1  May Day
2 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am	3 Pastor's Day Off	4	5 Confirmation 5 pm	6 Elders 6 pm Men's Bible Study 7 pm	7	8
9 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10 am	10 Winkel 9 am @ St. John's	11 LWML 1 pm Council 6:30 pm	12 Confirmation 5 pm	13 Confirmation Exam 6 pm	14	15
16 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10 am	17 Pastor's Day Off	18	19	20 Bible Study 1:30 pm	21	22
23 Confirmation Sunday SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am	24 Pastor's Day Off	25 SS Teachers' 6:30 pm	26	27	28	29
30 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am	31 OFFICE CLOSED Pastor's Day Off 	<u>ELDER</u> Mike Dahl				







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>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of this month)

**Live Streaming each week on  
Facebook**

**Confirmation Sunday**  
**May 23, 2021**

