

ST. JOHN'S NEWSLETTER



BUILT ON CHRIST OUR CORNERSTONE

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Hearing/Handicapped Assistance Available

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-In God's Grace - In God's Service

“The Christian Church...What Is It?”

In the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed, we confess, “I believe in...the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints.”¹ Similarly, in the Third Article of the Nicene Creed we profess, “And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.” Have you ever considered that the Church is an article of faith, that is, something you *believe*? With that teaser in mind, we will begin a series of articles on the Christian Church, to instruct us in what we believe about it.

To begin, what do we mean by the word *church*? After all, we use it in a variety of ways, don't we? It is the building in which we gather for worship services, “We're going to church.” It refers to specific congregations, such as St. John's Lutheran Church, St. Mary's Catholic Church, First Baptist Church, etc. And it is used to refer to denominations and synods, e.g. The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. These are not incorrect per se, but we shall see that they can only be called “church” for a specific reason.

When the Scripture speaks about the church (Greek: *ekklesia*), it refers to an assembly of believers, often in a specific place, for example, “To the church of God that is in Corinth” (1 Cor 1:2). As that very wording indicates, the Church is both 1) *fully present in that congregation* in Corinth, even as it is clear that 2) the Church is *larger than that one congregation* (cf. Acts 20:28 for a similar usage). But is everyone who happens to be physically present in an assembly of Christians automatically part of the Church? Once again, the Bible tells us, as other names for the Church give further details as to what it is.

The Church is called the “the body of Christ” (Rom 12:5; 1 Cor 12:27, etc.) of which Jesus is the head (Eph 4:15). But no one can be bound to the Head *without faith in Him* (Eph 3:17; cf. John 15:1-10). This necessity of faith is confirmed when the Church is called “the household of faith” (Gal 6:10). Other terms, such as “bride of Christ” (2 Cor 11:2, also “pure virgin”), “household...of the living God (1 Tim 3:15), “living stones...built up as a spiritual house” (1 Pet 2:5), and “members of the household of God...a holy temple in the Lord” (Eph 2:19-21) all further prove beyond any doubt that only those who have a living faith in the Triune God which is centered on the crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ are actually members of the Church. True, a person may be a member of a particular congregation, their name in the registry, but only faith makes them a member of *the Christian Church*, a person who will be in the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end (Rev 19:6ff.).

And so we come to the first attribute of the Christian Church for us to consider: the Church is *invisible*. Why? Because faith makes one a member of the Church, but an individual's faith is invisible to us.² This is why

¹ Normally the word “Church” is capitalized when it refers to the universal Christian Church (as we confess in the creeds) or when it is used as part of a proper name, e.g. St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Otherwise lowercase “church” is preferable.

² Obviously, faith is *not* invisible to God, see 1 Kings 8:39; 2 Tim 2:19.

we say that we *believe* in the Church, that is, we trust that it exists even though we cannot see it. We do such because we live by faith, not by sight (2 Cor 5:7), being absolutely confident that God's Word cannot lie. And that very Word tells us that the Church not only exists, but that the very gates of hell will not prevail over it (Mt 16:18). Of course, invisible does not mean "pretend," "make believe," or "not real," but only that it is not able to be directly seen. After all, Christ is invisible, yet very real; so too then is His Church. And so we see that when we use the word "church" for a building, a congregation, or a denomination, it is being used in reference *to the believers who are present* in that building, congregation, denomination, etc.

As faith is invisible to all but God, two questions come up:

1. What do we do when dealing with people since we cannot be sure if they are truly a believer or a hypocrite?
2. Is there any way for us of locating the Church here on earth?

The answer to the first question is that out of Christian charity and hope, we consider as believers all who:

1. Confess the Christian faith with their mouth,
2. Faithfully gather around the Word and Sacraments,
3. Do not live in a way that openly denies their confession of faith (no open, impenitent sin).

As far as the second question, well, that will be the topic of our *next few* articles.

Sincerely in the name of the Lord of the Church, even Jesus Christ our Savior,

Pastor Nerud

Apologetics Article: FOX News Discusses Creation, Evolution, and Adam³

FOX News recently ran internet and television coverage discussing the creation/evolution controversy. Specifically, they discussed Adam's place in history (if any) and the nature of the six days of Creation in [Genesis 1](#).^{a,b} It is commendable that a major media outlet covered this high-interest topic, but unfortunately, the young-Earth creation perspective was almost (though not completely) ignored. Had biblical creationists been allowed to present some of the powerful scientific evidence against human evolution and for the historical Adam, it would have made for a much more enlightening (and interesting!) discussion.

The internet article highlighted Dr. Joshua Swamidass, associate professor at Washington University in St. Louis, who argues that Adam and Eve could have been created by God just 6,000 years ago but that humans are also descended from ape-like ancestors. In an Amazon.com review, Swamidass praised William Lane Craig's book *In Quest of the Historical Adam*, even though creationists, as well as intelligent design theorists, have been highly critical of Craig's recent proposals.^{c,d}

The Lauren Green television interview with astronomer Dr. Hugh Ross also had very little (if any) hard science. Dr. Ross spent most of his time arguing (very unconvincing, in my opinion) that Genesis teaches (or is at least compatible with) a billions-of-years-old universe.^b

I was struck that nearly every Christian spokesman represented in these segments simply assumed that evolutionary claims made by the scientific establishment *had* to be accepted as true, and that Christians had no choice but to accommodate evolutionary thinking into our theology. If the last two years of this coronavirus pandemic have taught us anything, it is that scientists, even *evangelical* scientists, are fallible, and do not always behave in an ethical manner.^{e,f,g} Moreover, evolutionists have repeatedly been caught red-handed making brazenly false claims about the strength of the evidence for evolution:

- ICR (*Institute for Creation Research*) geneticist Jeff Tomkins conclusively demonstrated that the oft-cited claim of 98-99% human-chimp DNA similarity was obtained by cherry-picking the genomic data.^h His more objective comparison shows the true similarity is at best 84%. Evolutionary biologist Richard Buggs

³ By Jake Hebert, Ph.D. Dr. Hebert is Research Scientist at the Institute for Creation Research and earned his Ph.D. in physics from the University of Texas at Dallas.

https://www.icr.org/article/FOX-news-discusses-creation-evolution/?utm_source=phplist9848&utm_medium=email&utm_content=HTML&utm_campaign=The+Creation+Podcast+Episode+16%2C+Creation+Q%26A%3A+Campus+Edition%2C+TCP+Featured+Resource%2C+and+More%21

(Queen Mary, University of London) obtained the same result with a different method.ⁱ

- Embryos do not recapitulate an evolutionary history in the womb.^j
- Alleged “missing links” between apes and humans have been repeatedly refuted, only to be replaced by still more dubious “ape-men.”^k

For these reasons, it is naïve in the extreme for Christians to uncritically accept evolutionary claims at face value. Moreover, many would be shocked to learn the following:

- When secular scientists used measured mutation rates in their calculations, rather than rates calibrated with evolutionary assumptions, they estimated that “mitochondrial Eve” lived just 6,500 years ago!^l
- Creation scientists have performed similar calculations of their own, with similar results.^{m,n} Mitochondrial DNA and Y chromosome “clocks,” when stripped of biased evolutionary assumptions, indicate a recent (less than 10,000 years ago) origin for life on Earth, including humans.

One of the ironies of this debate is that the popular perception (even among most evangelical Christians) is that biblical, young-earth creationists are “weak” in scientific research, whereas Christians holding more liberal views on creation are much stronger in this area. Yet the exact opposite is the case.

For instance, the BioLogos website (which encourages Christians to accept evolutionary claims at face value) has few, if any, “hard” science articles. Rather, nearly all the posted articles are wordy essays attempting to make Christians comfortable with accepting the evolutionary story, despite the obvious contradictions to Scripture. In contrast, articles on ICR’s website discuss the assumptions underlying secular claims, rather than just assuming that the claims are true. And ICR articles routinely refer (often with active hyperlinks) to both secular and creation research *technical* papers.

In many ways, the evolutionary story (and that includes the concept of deep time) is truly on unstable ground. Original “soft” dinosaur tissue is powerful evidence that dinosaurs lived just thousands of years ago, and the billions of fossils contained in water-deposited Flood rocks bear mute testimony to the reality of the Genesis Flood.^{o,p} Yet many evangelical scholars seem content to serve as “controlled opposition” to atheism and materialism, always “dialoguing” and pleading for a place at the secularist table, but never affecting the debate in any meaningful way. Christians should not be seeking out a peaceful coexistence with evolution—a philosophy that contradicts Scripture (i.e., death before sin, etc.) in multiple ways. Rather, they should be “casting it down,” along with “every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” ([2 Corinthians 10:5](#)).

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- i. Buggs, R. 2018. [How similar are human and chimpanzee genomes?](#) Posted on richardbuggs.com July 14, 2018, accessed January 4, 2022.
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- k. A single reference cannot do justice to this topic, but a good place to start would be the book [Contested](#)

[Bones](#) by Dr. John Sanford and Chris Rupe.

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o. Clarey, T. 2017. [South America Shows the Flood Progression.](#) *Acts & Facts*. 46 (3).

p. Thomas, B. 2014. [Original Tissue Fossils: Creation's Silent Advocates.](#) *Acts & Facts*. 43 (8).

A Look at the Lutheran Confessions

In Article XVI, Civil Government, we clearly confessed that God cares for our bodily needs through the civil government. Thus we rightly hold up that governmental authority is a gift from God and that a Christian can, in good conscience, serve in the government, military, etc.

Now in Article XVII, Christ's Return for Judgment, we confess the Biblical view of the End Times, confirming the resurrection of all the dead, the eternalness of heaven and hell and, on the basis of Scripture, rejecting both apocatastasis⁴ and millennialism.⁵

Augsburg Confession Article XVII: Christ's Return for Judgment⁶

Our churches teach that at the end of the world Christ will appear for judgment and will raise all the dead [1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:2].⁷ He will give the godly and elect eternal life and everlasting joys, but He will condemn ungodly people and the devils to be tormented without end [Matthew 25:31-46].

Our churches condemn the Anabaptists,⁸ who think that there will be an end to the punishments of condemned men and devils.

Our churches condemn those who are spreading certain Jewish opinions,⁹ that before the resurrection of the dead the godly shall take possession of the kingdom of the world, the ungodly being everywhere suppressed.¹⁰

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

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".
- Adult Instruction – Tuesday evenings, 7 – 8:30 pm. This a new class just beginning March 1st. It is a wonderful opportunity for anyone to review the teachings of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. All members of the congregation are invited to attend. Please contact Pastor before attending.

⁴ Greek meaning "restitution." The teaching that hell is temporary and that all the damned, even Satan and the fallen angels, will eventually be restored to God and enter heavenly bliss.

⁵ Latin term referring to the 1,000 years mentioned in Revelation 20:2. This millennium is the Time of the Church between Christ's First and Second Coming. Sadly, some have introduced foreign and false concepts about an earthly rule and reign of Christ and believers before the Last Day, something opposed by clear Scripture (e.g. John 18:36, "My kingdom is not of this world").

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

⁷ All people, believers and unbelievers alike, will have their bodies raised. This will lead to greater joys in heaven or greater pains in hell as physical joy or suffering will be added to the spiritual.

⁸ Anabaptist means "rebaptizer." During the Reformation, the name applied to groups that insisted on rebaptism of people who were baptized as infants, as they favored adult "believers' baptism" along with other unscriptural practices such as refusal to take oaths, serve in a governmental office, etc. Modern groups most closely associated with Reformation Anabaptists include the Mennonites, Amish, Hutterites, and the various Brethren churches. Other groups have been influenced by their false teaching on Baptism.

⁹ Called such because many Jews were (wrongly!) waiting for a Messiah who would restore the kingdom of Israel on earth. This continues today with false teachings concerning the current nation of Israel.

¹⁰ This is the false teaching of a physical "millennial reign" of Christ and His saints on earth before the Last Judgment.



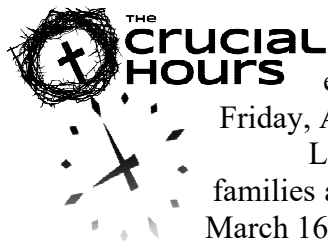
- Please call the office or Pastor if you desire private communion during this time.
- Please call the office when someone is ill, hospitalized, or homebound.
- Please use this email to contact the office: churchoffice@stjohnsgeneseo.org
- Website address – www.stjohnsgeneseo.org
- Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo/> All Sunday services are 'Live' streamed at 10am and posted to our church website the following day.

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.



LENTEN SEASON



This year's focus will be on "The Crucial Hours" in those last days of our Savior's life here on earth. We invite all to come meditate with us each Wednesday evening at 7 pm. Beginning on March 2, Ash Wednesday and continue through Good Friday, April 14th.

Light suppers will be served before each Wednesday evening service. Groups or families are asked to volunteer for a Wednesday supper. The following dates are still available: March 16, March 23, March 30, and April 6. Each group can serve whatever you desire. Plan for app. 20-25 people. Serving time is 5:15-6:30 pm.

Lenten services are March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6, Holy Thursday April 14, Good Friday April 15. Easter Sunday is April 17. Service begins at 7 am followed by a breakfast in the Fellowship Hall.

COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED-We still need someone willing to serve the three-year term as a Trustee and also need someone to fill the remainder of this year on the Board of Education. Please contact Don Hock or Pastor Nerud if you will give some of your time to either of these positions.

ADULT INSTRUCTION classes will begin this Tuesday, March 1 at 7 pm. This is a great opportunity to learn the teachings of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. All are invited. Please contact Pastor Nerud if interested in attending.

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

1 Mitch/Erin Erickson(2020) – 3 yrs
5 Joel/Jaime Werling (2005) - 17 yrs



31 Brad/Michele Barry (1990) - 32 yrs
31 Mike/Jane Dahl (1979) - 43 yrs

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

5 Beverly Peterson
8 Jaimie Jorgensen
9 Don Hock
10 Dan Maeltzer
12 Kathy Remick
12 Dylan Slonecker
13 Adam Hock



14 Arlyn Helke
14 Andrew Hock
14 Coy McKibbin
17 Francie Kolb
20 Roselyn Maeltzer
23 Kenneth Allison
23 Gayla Kroll

24 Derek Helke
25 Kevin Rahn
29 Martin Himmelman
31 Harrison Wright

MARCH BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

2 Robert Erdman
7 Janet Bertson
8 Jackson Bellmyer
8 Makeena Wickwire



15 Sean Helke
23 Aaron Raschke
24 Adam Hock
24 Joel Jorgensen

25 Bailie Bauchmann
27 Don Hock
29 Carmen Sette



What is a witness? “Witness” takes place among God’s people. To instruct and strengthen believers.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him, He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. John 1:6-8

GOD’S PROVIDENTIAL CARE

Everything we have and everything we are is a gift of God’s providential care. We understand that we’re not islands unto ourselves, that we could not exist without those who have gone before us and are alongside us. God has given us forefathers in family, country, and faith. We are recipients of what God worked through them. We know that God provides for our well-being through these means.



He gives us farmers and ranchers of all sorts so that we can eat. But more than that God created and gave us all the things that those farmers and ranchers cultivate. He gave us the corn, the beans, the wheat, the cows for milking, the steers for grilling. He gave each of those things, properties for our nourishment and sustenance. Without God creating and instilling in those things their taste and their nutritional value, we would not exist.

He gives us doctors, surgeons, nurses, and hospitals. He gives us medicine and medical instruments. Again, he gave us all things that go into making those medicines and medical instruments. He instilled in those things the properties that can be utilized for that purpose. Without God creating and instilling those healing properties into those things, and without God creating the ability within man to find this out and press it into service of our medical needs, we would not enjoy the kind of health we do now.

But there’s more. He gives us gainful employment through our employers and provides for the necessities of life through the labor of our hands: “Then Moses said to the people of Israel, ‘See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan.’ ” (Exodus 35:30–34)

And one step back from that, He has created and given us hands. And attached to those hands are arms with strength. He created us with minds in order to make those arms and hands move to accomplish the work set before us. And He has given us reason and senses. That mind, because of the reason God has instilled in it, is able to work through difficult problems before we press those arms and hands into labor. It allows us to grapple with concepts and run through scenarios instead of having to experience every situation personally. It allows us to learn from the mistakes as well as the accomplishments of others. This can be done for our entire body, all our skills and talents, everything that makes us ... us. So that everything we have AND everything we are is a gift from Him.

This is what we confess in the First Article of the Creed when we say that we believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

But that is just the First Article of the Creed. We confess two more articles that deal with God’s provision for our spiritual well-being. That He sent His son to die and be raised on the third day for our justification. That He delivers that justification through the Means of Grace (Baptism, preaching, the Word of God, and the Lord’s Supper). And to give you those Means of Grace, He gives pastors and teachers, etc. Again, this could be expanded and expounded upon. So that literally everything that we have and everything that we are – in this life and the next – is an inexpressible gift from God.

And it is for this, all of this, that we give thanks. And that is what stewardship is all about – giving thanks for God’s provision for us. To give thanks is more than having an attitude of gratitude, more than just a feeling in our hearts. It is an action. It begins in the heart, but it doesn’t stay there. It works its way out through the mouth in praise for God’s gifts and in love and charity through the hands to our neighbors in family, country, and church. “For all this is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey him” (Luther’s Small Catechism, 16).

So give thanks to God for His inexpressible gift – for everything we have and everything we are. Do this not in word only but also in deed.

CRISTO REY ENDOWMENT

In the near future Cristo Rey will be establishing an endowment with Lutheran Legacy located in Paris, Illinois. This is planning for the future of Cristo Rey. It will give individuals, congregations, and organizations the opportunity to support the work of Cristo Rey for years to come. As plans progress, more information will be shared with you. This is an exciting time, and we thank God for providing us with the means to do this. “Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come.”

KAMMERCHOR

Concordia University Wisconsin’s select touring choir, will be singing a concert at Trinity Lutheran Church in Davenport, Iowa, on Sunday, March 13, at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, you may call Trinity Lutheran Church at 563-323-8001 or email Trinity’s Director of Parish Music, Jacquelyn Magnuson, at jacquelyn.magnuson@trinitydavenport.org.

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:

Linda Aper

Elizabeth Bjork

Paula Chapa

Jim Dahl

Lois Esterlein

Betty Firch

Arlyn Helke

Lynne Johnson

Jim Rahn

Drew Schillinger

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 Clausing (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/husband of Linda Aper)
Luke/Nicole Thompson (son/wife 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)

CAMP CILCA NEWS

Pick up a brochure telling of all the camping opportunities at CILCA. This is not just a camp for our children. It is a great place for family camping. CILCA is a short, 5-mile drive from Springfield. Wouldn't this make a wonderfully close and safe vacation spot? All contact details are in the brochure, which is found on the table next to the coat room.

Also check out the NEW camping adventures for men of all ages. Information for all camps are found on their website: www.CILCA.ORG. ***Early Bird discounts are available with paid registrations by March 31. St. John's also offers scholarships for youth desiring to attend summer camp.***



News You Can Use ***February 2022***

“Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.” – 1 Cor. 16:13

The Lord is strong and mighty (Ps. 24:8). “Great is our Lord and abundant in power” (Ps. 147:5). And He has shown us His strength, most of all, in carrying the full weight of the world's sin to the cross. Consider the strength of Jesus—the Man of all men—stronger than sin, death, and hell.

And who among us doesn't want to be stronger? God's answer for that is Christ. “The Lord is my strength and my song” (Ps. 118:14). Christ strengthens us through His powerful Word and Sacraments.

Now all Christians, male and female, need to be strong in Christ. But there is a special strength that God requires of men as sons, brothers, husbands, fathers, etc. There's a special call to them when Paul commands, “Act like men!” The Church and all of society need men who are strong in Christ.

Camp Cilca wants to play a part in strengthening the men of the CID. This year we're starting with some “Act like Men” events throughout the year (check them out at cilca.org). And we have other plans for the future. Join us for an event this year or encourage other men to attend.

God give you strength in Jesus Christ!
Rev. Jon Boehne, Camp CILCA Board Member

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. Michael Schuermann and University Lutheran Church in Champaign, serving students, faculty, and staff of the University of Illinois 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

60th Regular Convention Central Illinois District July 17-19, 2022

Crowne Plaza Springfield, Illinois (additional information of the CID website under the *News and Events* tab. (<http://www.cidlcms.org/events-2022-district-convention.html>))



Spring (Church) Planting Season

At its last convention, our Synod resolved “That congregations and circuits be encouraged and supported by their respective districts to investigate and identify new mission plants” (2019 Res. 1-02).

To enable pastors and others to begin talking about church planting, CID is cooperating with the Synod’s Office of National Mission to produce these resources: a.) a brochure, in two parts and b.) a set of four short videos. These tools will help inform and stimulate church plantings conversations in congregations. They should be available about Easter time, in mid-April, if not before.

Congregations are urged to use these tools during May, a month we might call “Spring (Church) Planting Season.” Talk church planting at Bible classes on four of the five Sundays in May. Devote time at a regularly scheduled meeting to a discussion of church planting. Hold a special meeting for such discussion. Or encourage church members to view the videos and read the brochure, then talk amongst themselves.

The District will be discussing church planting at its convention in July. Why not “prime the pump” via congregation-level conversations during May?

On a related note, over the next year or so CID Mission Executive Ken Schurb and his predecessor Joel Cluver are attempting, between them, to visit every Circuit Winkel in the District to encourage discussion of church planting prospects. Central Illinois Church Extension Fund has generously given CID a grant to help pay for these visits. It will also pay for subsequent visits to congregations showing particular interest in church planting.

Seizures Strike Lots of People

Seizures are more common than you might think. A seizure is a brief disruption of electrical activity in the brain resulting in movement, sensation, behavior, awareness and speech.

Anyone with a brain can have a seizure. Think of the child who seems to be “acting out” at home or school but is really having a kind of seizure. Or consider the adult who just underwent brain surgery, has experienced two or more breakthrough tonic clonic seizures, and is now diagnosed with epilepsy.

Or think about yourself. A mixture of societal stressors, navigating the virtual world, and one’s own inadequacies and inability to keep up with life can take a toll on our bodies. Stress can mount, then anxiety can step in to make your heart palpitate uncomfortably fast.

Would you like to learn more about seizures, and what you can do with respect to them? CID’s Human Care Committee is interested in increasing the level of seizure awareness in our churches and schools. Contact Human Care executive Ken Schurb at (217) 793-1802 or e-mail kschurb@cidlcms.org

Did you Know that the 175th Anniversary of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod is April 26th, 2022?

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

[Set Apart to Serve](#) is the LCMS’ initiative to recruit pastors and church workers to hand over the saving faith to God’s people, passing on the Christian faith from one generation to the next until our Savior’s return. Christ provides workers for His church through His people. That’s why we need your help to make this initiative the best it can be.

Do you know any young man who would make a great pastor? How about someone who would be a great Lutheran school teacher, deaconess or DCE? Jesus gives His church people who work full time in service to the Gospel. He told us to pray for such workers. The LCMS continues to pray, and has begun Set Apart to Serve (SAS), an intentional effort to encourage young people to consider church work as their career. Your opinion can help improve SAS. Please fill out a brief survey at

lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve-survey by March 15, and let us know how you think SAS can be beneficial to your congregation. Thank you.

The more responses we receive the better equipped we can be to serve the church in this effort. We would appreciate receiving all responses by March 15. All responses are completely anonymous and confidential. If you have any questions, please reach out to the LCMS Church Information Center at [888-THE LCMS](tel:888-526-7323) (843-5267) or infocenter@lcms.org.

Thank you for your time and support in helping the LCMS with this important initiative.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. James Baneck

Executive Director

LCMS Office of Pastoral Education



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church—Geneseo IL

March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ELDER Aaron Raschke		<i>1</i> Adult Instruction 7pm	<i>2</i> Confirmation 5 pm Lenten Supper 5:15pm Ash Wed. Service 7pm	<i>3</i> Elders 6 pm Men's Bible Study 7 pm	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>6</i> SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am	<i>7</i> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	<i>8</i> LWML 1 pm Evang/Stew meeting 5:30 pm Council 6:30 pm	<i>9</i> Confirmation 5 pm Lenten Supper 5:15pm Lenten Service 7pm	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>13</i> SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10 am	<i>14</i> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	<i>15</i> Adult Instruction 7pm	<i>16</i> Confirmation 5 pm Lenten Supper 5:15pm Lenten Service 7pm	<i>17</i> Bible Study 1:30 pm	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>20</i> SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am	<i>21</i> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	<i>22</i> SS Teachers' 6:30 pm Adult Instruction 7pm	<i>23</i> Confirmation 5 pm Lenten Supper 5:15pm Lenten Service 7pm	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i> SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10 am Pregnancy Resource Baby Shower 2 pm	<i>28</i> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	<i>29</i> Adult Instruction 7pm	<i>30</i> Confirmation 5 pm Lenten Supper 5:15pm Lenten Service 7pm	<i>31</i>		



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 -1st, 3rd Sundays of this month)

Live Streaming each week on Facebook

Lenten Services – 7 pm – March 2, 9, 16, 23

