

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 IVb: The Basics, The Apostles' Creed"

We previously noted how Luther's catechisms nicely sum up "the basics" of Christian doctrine. Last month we discussed the Ten Commandments and their value in witnessing. After all, there's no reason to talk about a Savior until there's recognition that one is necessary! This month we'll continue looking at the doctrine laid out in the Catechism by considering what is taught in the Apostles' Creed, which, as we will see, rightly follows the commandments.

The most obvious and basic truth drawn from the creed is who God is. God always was, still is, and will always be *the Trinity*, one divine essence that exists in three distinct persons. Reflecting this reality, we have *one Apostles' Creed* teaching about the one true God, but a single creed which has *three distinct articles*, one for each distinct Person of the Godhead. And so we witness to others not about some generic "God," nor one who is knowable by other names, whether Allah of Islam, the god of Judaism, "Jehovah only" (Jehovah's Witnesses), or even the "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" as taught by the Mormons who use the right words, but mean something entirely different than what the creed and the Bible mean by them. One author put this truth quite well:

There is no generic category of god containing "Holy Trinity" or "Allah" or whatever other gods, like chocolate could be Hershey or Nestle or Dove. There is one God and He is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, from and to all eternity, and revealed once and for all in the flesh in the person of Jesus Christ. Know Him, and you know God. Don't know Him, and you have no idea what "God" is about—except, perhaps, that you should be afraid of Him. That is not faith.¹

So the creed begins by confessing "the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth." This confesses the original creation which sets God apart from all created things and which shows mankind's special relationship with Him. But it goes beyond that, confessing His providence, that is, His ongoing sustaining and ruling of His entire creation and each component thereof, including you, me, and those to whom we are witnessing, for the blessings of the creation are enjoyed even by those who reject the Creator (Matthew 5:45). And this is quite important because this truth that God rules all, along with His promise to provide daily bread and to work out all, even the worst of things, for the good of those who love Him, allows Christians to live a life of security in a very unstable world. This frees us to confidently face this life and to live for others. Such an attitude, when expressed in word and deed, especially in the face of misfortune, speaks of our confidence in our heavenly Father and will draw others as well.

The creed continues, "I believe...in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord." In this article we confess the full divinity and humanity of our Lord. Even more, we now confess why God is gracious to a world of sinners: because His Son became the true man Jesus, the Christ of God, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary in order to suffer under Pontius Pilate, be crucified, die and be buried. That is, God became a man so that He could take our place under the Law, suffering and dying under its condemnation of our sins. But this man is also God, so therefore His blood can cleanse

¹ John Wollenburg Sias; *5 Things You Can Do To Witness Christ*; p. 34; CPH, 2013. Note how the author does not deny that a person can know that there is a god, as this is revealed in nature, by the creation as a whole as well as the conscience. But he rightly points out that without the Holy Spirit revealing Christ who is the image of the Father, we could never know who God is nor that He is truly gracious and forgiving for the sake of Jesus. And the Spirit does this through the Word alone.

the worst of sinners, His life given can ransom the lives of others (cf. Psalm 49:7). And we know this because His bodily resurrection from the dead proves this is most certainly true.

People ask, “How can a loving God allow...?” We hear this question and, let’s be honest, we’ve probably asked it ourselves, perhaps on more than one occasion. While we cannot plumb the depths of the mind of God and determine every aspect and detail, the Commandments and the Creed do allow us to speak to this question. The Law teaches that God is also just and holy, hating and punishing evil. Therefore, as this is a fallen world full of sin, corruption, and evil, and since every person has that sinful corruption within them and so is also evil, God is not wrong when He allows war and tragedy, for such are deserved by all sinners, even the youngest. Yet, that’s not the whole answer. For God is also love, and He has revealed that love in *His incarnate Son, Jesus*. He gave His Son to suffer evil, tragedy, and death, personally undeserved as He was sinless, but did such to bring forgiveness, life, and salvation to fallen, sinful, mankind. The resurrection of Christ is the promise that sorrow, evil, and death are not the last word, for life has conquered death, *a victory already won for all people!* A truth that will be made fully manifest when the ascended Lord returns visibly to judge the living and the dead, bringing His people into the fullness of everlasting life.

The creed concludes, “I believe in the Holy Spirit.” The Bible teaches that by nature we cannot believe in Jesus or come to Him in any way, but that only the working of the Holy Spirit can bring one who is dead in sin and an enemy of God to faith in Christ. While this is not flattering to people at all, it is a wonderful comfort to us as we witness to others. How? Because it is not up to us to get a person to “decide for Jesus” or to “pray the believer’s prayer and invite Jesus into their heart.” After all, a person *cannot* do these. (And if they “do them,” the Holy Spirit *has already done His work*, and so they’re robbing Him of the credit that is His alone!)

We confess faith in the holy Christian Church, all those whom the Holy Spirit has called to faith in Christ through Word and Sacrament. And so *we*, the Church, do what the Church is called to do, *to speak the Word*. We speak the Law *so that the Spirit* may convict people of sin (John 16:8), and we speak the Gospel, that He may give to them the forgiveness of sins which Christ has won for them. We share with them the hope that all who have forgiveness of their sins through faith in Christ have: the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting in glory.

So we witness not of “god,” as that is to easily misunderstood. No, we witness of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and specifically of the incarnate Son, our crucified, risen and ascended Savior. It seems that something so little as sharing the Word would be nearly useless, but we can trust that the Holy Spirit will work through His Word and do what only He can do, change a heart from unbelief to faith in Christ. And our trust is not in vain. For this is the same God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who spoke His powerful Word and created everything out of nothing. Yes, conversion takes a miracle. But the Spirit-filled Word is up to the task!

Your fellow witness of Christ, *Pastor Nenud*

A LOOK at the LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

In Article VII (The Church²) we clearly confessed that the Church’s unity is based upon the pure Gospel Word (which assumes the pure Law Word) and the faithful administration of the Sacraments according to Christ’s institution. Now in Article VIII we confess that only believers are part of the Church, made such by faith in Christ, and therefore hypocrites are not truly members. Yet, because it is God who is working through His Word and Sacraments, even the ministry of an unbelieving pastor is effective, as long as the Word was still purely taught and the Sacraments were still rightly administered.

Augsburg Confession Article VIII: What the Church Is³

Strictly speaking, the Church is the congregation of saints and true believers.⁴ However, because many hypocrites and evil persons are mingled within them in this life [Matthew 13:24-30], it is lawful to use Sacraments administered by evil men, according to the saying of Christ, “The scribes and Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat” (Matthew 23:2). Both the Sacraments and Word are effective because of Christ’s institution and command, even if they are administered by evil men.

Our churches condemn the Donatists,⁵ and others like them, who deny that it is lawful to use the ministry of evil men in the Church, and who think that the ministry of evil men is not useful and is ineffective.⁶

² As noted last month in Article VII, 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.”

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

⁴ This is what we refer to as the Invisible Church. It is called such since faith makes one a member, but faith is invisible to our eyes. In contrast, the Visible Church are those people who are gathered around the Word and Sacrament. As these are the means the Holy Spirit uses to create and sustain faith, if they are present, then believers are as well. Thus the presence of the means of grace is like the “X” on the map. The Church is there, even though the believers and hypocrites are mingled together here on earth.

⁵ Named after Donatus, a North African bishop in the early 4th century A.D. Donatists denied the validity of the ministry of those who had become unfaithful under Roman persecution, especially those who had surrendered the Holy Scriptures. While zeal for holiness is

APOLOGETICS: The SOPHISTICATED NEANDERTAL⁷

Is *The Flintstones* a more accurate picture of Neandertals than evolutionary documentaries?

Many people watched *The Flintstones* growing up. This popular cartoon show from the 1960s featured two families of ‘cave people’ enjoying all the conveniences of modern life, albeit in dinosaur- and mammoth-powered versions. There’s no evidence that Neandertals actually vacuumed the floor using a mammoth’s trunk (trunks don’t tend to fossilize). But new evidence suggests that they enjoyed sophisticated home comforts that are a surprise only because we’ve been told for years that they were brutish ape-people only one step up from gorillas.

In fact, modern geneticists have confirmed that Neandertals were human.^a And they contributed a significant amount of DNA to the *modern* gene pool, to the point where they are the ancestors of billions of people alive today. Let’s take a look at these ‘mysterious’ people. When you consider the evidence for their humanness, they stop being so mysterious.

The homey cave dwelling

Neandertals may have lived in caves, as some people still do today. But don’t let that fool you into thinking that these abodes were primitive. They divided the cave into rooms, built wind breaks to keep the draft out, and strategically placed hearths for cooking and warmth. The stone dividers that survive could have supported barriers made of skin or other materials that simply didn’t survive to the present day.^b

What’s for dinner?

It turns out that Neandertals may have been quite the culinary artists! Unlike the secular documentaries which show Neandertals as barbarians eating raw meat or burning it over a fire, they had a variety of cooking methods. For example, just like we do today, they seasoned their meat with herbs to enhance the taste.

There is even evidence they boiled bones to extract nutrients. Many modern recipes call for ‘bone broth’, which adds a nutritious and tasty angle to a lot of our traditional foods. They also ate quite a large range of plant-based foods like pine nuts, moss, legumes, and palm dates, as well as a selection of non-poisonous mushrooms.^c And they ate the seeds of grasses which are comparable to early versions of barley, wheat, and rye.

Call the doctor!

When Neandertals got a headache or an infection, they could pull out their ‘first-aid kit’. It seems they used bark or buds from the poplar tree as a pain reliever. This contains salicylic acid, which was first isolated from willow tree bark, and is a precursor of aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid). Poplars, aspens, and willows are in the same family, the Salicaceae, but not all species contain salicylic acid. Neandertals would have needed a basic knowledge of botany to know which parts of which tree species contained the desired ingredient. They also consumed the antibiotic-producing mold *Penicillium*.

Neandertal remains also show evidence of medical procedures applied to crushed limbs, fractured skulls, and tooth abscesses. Many of these individuals survived these conditions, indicating that Neandertals gave their injured and sick effective medical care.^d One researcher stated,

“The high level of injury and recovery from serious conditions, such as a broken leg, suggests that others must have collaborated in their care and helped not only to ease pain, but to fight for their survival in such a way that they could regain health and actively participate in the group again.”^e

Neandertals were seemingly able to dress wounds, manage fevers, and call on a surprising number of plants for their ‘cave man’ pharmacy.

Also, like humans today, Neandertals often required assistance to give birth. This was due to the size of the baby’s head relative to the size of the mother’s pelvis. Neandertal researchers concluded they must have had midwives.^e

When Neandertals died, they were often buried *intentionally*, involving ritual elements.^f

The latest fashions

There’s a lot we don’t know about Neandertal clothing, because materials don’t generally survive the ravages of time. But we know that Neandertals living in the coldest climates must have covered 80% of their body to survive the weather. They likely would have made fur boots and mittens, though it is unclear whether they actually engaged in sewing—they may have tied skins around their bodies rather than tailoring garments. But this is hardly a ‘primitive’ behavior. Some modern people living in cold climates still do this today, and it allows them to stay both warm and dry.^g

good, they had forgotten that the Church is not a bunch of holy people gathered by God, but is instead a bunch of repentant sinners who are being made holy by God and, therefore, who will still sin out of spiritual weakness, sometimes even greatly.

⁶ The Reformers are by no means encouraging having unfaithful pastors, for a faithful pastor is truly a great blessing. But consider this: what if you find that the pastor who baptized you or your child, who married you, who regularly preached and administered the Lord’s Supper to you, and who buried your loved one is a hypocrite? Was anything he did valid? Yes! You can be certain that the work he did was still valid *as long as it was faithful to God’s Word*. His personal faith does not make the preaching and teaching of the Word or the administering of the Sacraments valid, nor does his personal lack of faith invalidate them, since it is God who is working through them. Thus the point of this confession is actually one of tremendous comfort for Christians who can no more see the faith of their pastor than he can see theirs.

⁷ By Lita Cosner and Robert Carter; <https://creation.com/sophisticated-neandertal>

And not all that Neandertals wore was solely utilitarian. Neandertals had an eye for beauty as shown by their jewelry. Bone, stone, and shell pendants have been found in which a hole was drilled. A leather strap could have been threaded through these, allowing them to be worn as a necklace.^h

And they even had makeup! Archaeologists have found containers of crushed minerals which they surmise were used as ‘war paint’ or cosmetics. They even mixed minerals in complex combinations.ⁱ Today, all-mineral makeup is sold as ‘natural’ and beneficial to the skin, but Neandertals had such things thousands of years ago!

The Neandertals were ancient, but not primitive

Given the harsh circumstances in which many Neandertals lived (e.g. in Europe during the Ice Age that was caused by the biblical Flood^j), it is impressive to consider the progress they made as they fought against the elements. The picture is not one of primitive ‘apemen’, but of distinctly human people who were smart, inventive, creative, and loving. They, like you, were made in the image of God, and descendants of Adam through Noah.

References and notes

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- b. Spinney, L., Cosy up with the Neanderthals, the first humans to make a house a home, *New Scientist*; newscientist.com, 6 Feb 2019.
- c. Harmon, K., Fossilized food stuck in Neandertal teeth indicates plant-rich diet, 27 Dec 2010; blogs.scientificamerican.com.
- d. Robson, D., Neanderthals suffered a lot of traumatic injuries. So how did they live so long? *The Atlantic*; theatlantic.com, 15 Oct 2018.
- e. University of York, Neanderthal healthcare practices crucial to survival; eurekalert.com, 4 Oct 2018.
- f. Gray, R., Cave fires and rhino skull used in Neanderthal burial rituals, *New Scientist*; newscientist.com, 28 Sep 2016.
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- i. Carter, R.W., [The painted Neandertal: ancient cosmetics are upsetting evolutionary stories](#), 20 May 2010; creation.com/neander-painted.
- j. [Ice Age and Mammoths Questions and Answers](#); creation.com/ice-age.

ANNIVERSARY THANK OFFERING

Can you believe we will soon be celebrating our 9th Anniversary worshipping in this build? Where has the time gone? God never has failed to care for the members of this congregation and He does it all out of His grace and mercy, though we deserve nothing.

We will once again give the offering from June 6 as a ‘Thank Offering’ as we remember the great gift given to us in this building after the fire destroyed our previous one. Since Laborers For Christ are no longer together as a ministry, our gift will be sent to the Disaster Response Ministry of the LCMS. These funds aid those congregations experiencing disasters (hurricanes, tornadoes, fires, floods). Just as so many reached out to us during our disaster, it is with great joy that we can share the same love to others in need.

Note: You may designate a portion of your offering for that day stay at St. John’s. This desire must be given to the Office Secretary (Terri Hock) BEFORE June 6th.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

The members of this congregation are some of the most loving and generous people. Even during these difficult days of the pandemic, your hearts have been open to helping others. We thank you so much for your support of the ‘extra’ mission projects you have supported this year: Cristo Rey, “Here I Stand” special offering, Bottles for Pregnancy Resources, CID Scholarship Endowment Fund, Health Kits Ingathering, and LCMS Ministry to Armed Forces. May we continue to share all our blessings from God with those in need.

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
Website address – 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 and occasion/memory and place envelope in the offering plate. The rest is done for you.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1 Jessica Johnson
1 Jerry Hickenbottom
4 Aidan Coppejans
5 James Rahn
6 Mike Kolb
7 Darla Johns
7 John Neumann
7 Kem Schillinger
8 Coni Himmelman
8 Katrina Nerud
9 Richard Anderson



9 Dominick O'Neil
12 Paula Chapa
12 Emerson Mitchell
12 Seth Winchell
13 Mandolyn Davila
15 Lexie Ague
15 Richard DeWulf
16 Rachael Himmelman
16 Denise Winchell
17 Kelsey Ague
18 Sharilyn Iliff

18 Sandra Rahn
19 Nicole Nerud
24 Haillie Miller
24 Rodney Miller
25 Rosalie Jorgensen
27 Rebecca Ague
27 Kyle Rahn
28 Liz Neumann
30 Maxx Hermann

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

6 Rufus/Kristin Hamby (2013) - 8 yrs
7 Gary/Darla Johns (1964) - 57 yrs
14 David/Denise Schmedt (2015) - 6 yrs
15 Evan/Kate Rocheford (2019) - 2 yrs
18 Arlyn/Marcia Helke (1967) - 54 yrs



20 Justin/Justine Mitchell (2009) - 12 yrs
22 Jay/Janelle Gibson (2014) - 7 yr
24 Fred/Sheila Magerkurth (1962) - 59 yrs
25 Bill/Julie Lage (1999) - 22 yrs
27 Mike/Francie Kolb (1970) - 51 yrs

JUNE BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

2 Rylie Hallendorff
3 Jennifer Magerkurth
4 Dan Werner
5 Harrison Wright
6 Ben Schillinger
8 Matthew Gehn
8 Linda White
10 Kyle Wickwire
12 Addison Jorgensen



14 Gannon Marc kese
15 Linda Aper
16 Charles Johnson
16 Theresa Mosher
17 Randall Rasmussen
18 Martin Himmelman
18 Janice Neeld
22 Mike Dahl
22 Lindsey Gustafson

24 Payten Helg
26 Richard Anderson
26 Craig Mosher
27 Gabe Loenser
28 Kyle Miller
29 Claire Yerkey
30 Marcia Helke
30 Jacob Miller

LWML NEWS

St. John's LWML met Tuesday May 11, 2021 at 1:00 pm. There were 5 members 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: ***The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged. Deuteronomy 31:8***

Bev Peterson read the devotion 'Hang On' based on Revelation 3:11. Bev then led our Bible study, "Thy Word", which was published in the 2020 Summer Quarterly.



Minutes from the April meeting were approved as written.

Correspondence and newsletters are being passed on through email. A letter was read from our seminary student, Andrew Hill. He and his family will soon move to Imperial NE to serve as vicar to Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church for the next year. The move will be slightly delayed until after the birth of their 3rd child expected around July 13. Andrew and his family are so appreciative of the support financially, through prayers and encouragement.

Treasurer's Report: Receipts for April - Mites: \$258.37; Missions: \$40; Operating: \$30; CID convention Offering: \$90 (Mites \$45 & Operating \$45). Balance 5/11/2021: Missions - \$279.84; Operating - \$115.07.

Margo did not have a Mission Grant to highlight. The new grants which will be considered at the national convention can be reviewed on-line.

OLD BUSINESS

- It was suggested to send a greeting card to Paula Mooney and Betty Firch.
- VBS will also collect items for the Health Kits. We will assemble the kits at our June meeting. The total of kits made needs to be reported before the July LWML CID Officers' meeting.
- Karna Hollatz was writing to confirmand, Vivian Smith. Sherry Wechsler will continue in Karna's place.
- Streaming the convention was a problem for those who tried. Liz will inform us if this is become available for future viewing.
- New list of Mite Grants was passed out to each person.
- Liz typed up specific jobs and responsibilities needed for the Rally. Some jobs were given to others since some ladies will not be available. Sherry showed a suggestion for a table favor to be made. It was decided to use her suggestion. Now we must wait until we get more information from our Zone and District officers.

NEW BUSINESS (None)

We closed the meeting with Mite Box Prayer #3. Next month devotion and topic are to be led by Paula Mooney.

Respectfully submitted by, Terri Hock, Secretary

LWML-CID MISSION GRANT MITE BYTES

Student Aid for Church Workers.....\$30,000

Due to the high cost of becoming a full-time church worker, many students find it difficult to complete their schooling. This grant will provide partial funding to CID students so they may realize their dreams of becoming full-time church workers. These funds would be distributed through the LCMS CID Scholarship Committee.

How can I help? Pray that God provides men and women willing to become church workers to spread the Gospel message throughout the world. Support this grant by donating to your church's LWML group mite fund.



RAMSEY PLUS

A Biblical Guide for Finances

Everything we have is a GIFT from God!

How are You using the Gifts God has given You?

Beginning July 4, 2021, our congregational member will have free access for one year to the Ramsey Plus Program (normal cost per household \$179.00). You will have access to financial guides which include; teaching money management beginning with children to Seniors. There's help with budgeting, saving, investing, and retirement. There's even guides for leaving a 'legacy' after one is gone. All ages can benefit from instruction in this program. All this information will be available directly to your own home. Watch for more details to come.



"There are three conversions necessary to every man: the head, the heart, and the purse." Attributed to Luther, though yet to be located in his vast writings, this statement echoes what Jesus taught about hearts and treasures. He said, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:21; Luke 12:34)

But which conversion comes first? I submit that the order is this: first the head, then the purse, then the heart. Let's explore this topic.

Our Lord Jesus Christ dwelt among us to save us. He took on our flesh, fulfilled the demands of the law in our place, became sin for us, and suffered torture and death on our behalf. He did this in order that we would be free from sin, death, and hell. He gives us what He accomplished through Baptism, Absolution, and the Lord's Supper. And so, He doesn't just do it for us but gives it to us. He makes what He did ours by making us His. Thus, we are called by His name: Christians. We have a new life in Him.

Through the preaching of Law and Gospel, God grants us repentance, a changing of our minds. It is a conversion of the mind. We are called to turn away from our sins and turn toward Him for forgiveness, life, and salvation. For when God calls us away from something, He is, at the same time, calling us to something.

And thus, He calls us to a new life, with new deeds. This is the conversion of the purse. Jesus said that “it is easier for a camel to enter through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” (Matthew 19:24) “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Notice that our hearts follow our treasures, not the other way around. As Christians, God calls us to invest our treasures in His Kingdom to ensure that the gospel is preached and the sacraments are administered. He calls us to share all good things with the one who teaches us the doctrines of Christ. He calls us to be generous in giving to the church, for it is more blessed to give than to receive.

So where is your treasure? If it is not invested in the kingdom of God, then the only response is repentance – a conversion of the heart – and to begin doing just that. And as our Lord promised, where your treasure is there your heart will be also. This is not to say that you earn your way into heaven. It is simply to say that as Christians, those who have been made to be temples of the Holy Spirit, who have been given a new life in Christ, who are dead to sin and now alive in Him, we are actually to live – think (conversion of the mind), do (conversion of the purse), and be (conversion of the heart) – a new life in Him. And when you fail, know that God in Christ loves and forgives you and still calls you away from that and to Himself.



As the faithful witness, Jesus shows us what witnessing is all about. Many encounters, various settings, differing reactions, addressing one great need and showing God’s love, mercy, and grace through the cross.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and bear witness to what we have seen but you do not receive our testimony as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. John 3:11-18

WHO’S WHO in THE PEW NEXT to YOU?

It is Wanda Rahn!

I grew up in Princeton, Illinois. Before I was married to Edwin (Ed) Rahn. I worked as a final inspector at Harper-Wyman in Princeton. Harper-Wyman is a leading manufacturer of components for ranges and stoves. After I married, I became a cheap hired hand on the farm. A boyfriend in high school taught me to drive a car (Ford) and my hubby, Edwin, taught me to drive a tractor. I really enjoy doing counted cross stitch and crocheting. Large puzzles are fun too!

I have too many fond memories of St. John’s to pick from. Memories are such a big part of my life here at St. John’s. Friends I have made & children I have taught through the years. Another fondness many of us have for St. John’s are the potlucks! I would have to say that taco salad is my favorite if I had to choose. Really, there are too many to list and there is always plenty to pick from. They are all very good.

My life as a Christian has been influenced by our Sunday School teachers, my family and so many here at St. John’s through these many years. They influence by example of how they live their lives, their acceptance and caring for others and always, by studying God’s Word.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Sunday school will continue through the summer months. Our next big event is VBS. Invite your family, neighbors and friends to come with you to explore, “God’s Wonder Lab”. A sign-up sheet is available for those wishing to help during that week. We do need lots of people to be involved.

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. Please sign-up to help during that week.

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



PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH COUNCIL/VOLUNTEERS

During the month of June, we are encouraged to pray for those who are on the Board of Evangelism, Paula Chapa and Margo Schillinger. They remind and encourage us to live and witness for our Risen Lord and Savior. Offer your help to them whenever you can and always keep them and their work in your prayers.



Three young ladies graduated from high school during this past month: Avery Magerkurth and Sarah Nerud graduated from Geneseo (Sarah plans on attending Northland University in WI to study Outdoor Education and Ecological Restoration). Cali McKibben graduated from Annawan. May God's protection, guidance, and blessings continue to be showered upon them as they continue to walk as His faithful daughters in all they think, say and do.

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:

Don Eggers (son of a friend of Marilyn Woods)

Kelly Wechsler (cousin of Bob Wechsler)

Mike Miller (friend of Bob & Sherry Wechsler)

Joseph Baamonde (friend of Paula Mooney)

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)

Lonnie Anderson (employee of Brad Gehn)

Virginia Miller (mother of Jamie Werling)

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)

LETTER FROM OUR SEMINARIAN, ANDREW HILL

God has provided me with a vicarage for next year at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Imperial, NE. I have heard nothing but good things about the pastor and the vicarage as a whole. My family and I are very excited for this next

year. We will move as soon as Sarah give birth (due 7/13). Pastor Kahle has been very gracious and understanding regarding our start date.

I want to thank all of you for the various prayers, gifts, financial support and other kindnesses which you all have showered upon me and my family these past two years. We are so richly blessed. Because of everyone's generosity, I have been able to spend more hours home with my family instead working. I have been able to spend more time reading and studying. These gifts you have given me have already had invaluable benefits to me and my family. They are as thankful as I am.

Please continue to pray for me and my family as I transition to a new phase of theological education. Please pray for my wife as the time to give birth approaches. I encourage you to pray for and encourage all mothers. Pregnancy is hard and birth does not end the difficulties. Our world needs more mothers and more fathers raising Christian children together. We have nothing to lose and everything to gain. To Christ alone be the glory.

In Christ, Andrew R. Hill



CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT

of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

[W]e have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh... (Heb. 10:19–20 ESV)

We typically think of the Ascension from our perspective - the day that the resurrected Jesus departed from the earth and was hidden from view by the clouds. Ascension is the arrival of our victorious Lord entering the

throne room of heaven to take His place as the King who conquered sin, death, and the power of the devil by His work upon the cross. Because He sits, in His flesh, upon that throne, we have confidence that we too will rise from our graves and sit in that same throne room with Him for all eternity. Join your congregation this coming Ascension, celebrating not just the departure of Christ, but His arrival - the seal and guarantee of our arrival and life with Him forever.

For where the Head is, there as well / I know His members are to dwell / when Christ will come and call them. (LSB #492:1)

Rev. Michael Mohr

Holy Cross Lutheran Church- Vandalia, IL

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. Kenneth Hoover and Immanuel Lutheran Church in Charleston, serving students, faculty, and staff at Eastern Illinois University. And pray for the "Keeping Christ on Campus campaign," building endowments to help CID support our campus ministries.

Prison Ministry Video

The CID video "Prison MinisTRY: Will You TRY?" has just been released. It aims to interest pastors and others in helping with prison ministry.

There is a lot of evangelism work that can be done with those in prisons or jails throughout Central Illinois. This evangelistic frontier can all too easily be overlooked. Let's not overlook it!

In the new video, veteran CID Prison Chaplain Chuck Olander describes his own involvement with prison ministry. He also offers suggestions for bringing the Gospel to prisoners.

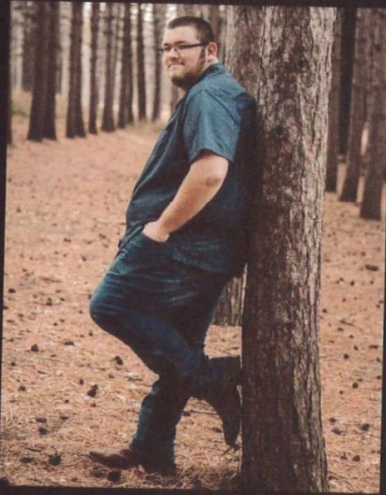
See the video from the CID website: <http://www.cidlcms.org/outreach-missions-prison.html>

If you have any questions about the video or about prison ministry opportunities, please contact Pastor Rod Blomquist, CID's new

Prison Ministry Coordinator, by e-mailing prisonministry@cidlcms.org

Connect to Disciple: Is your church currently planning for Vacation Bible School, 2021? What about your follow-up? That is, when you meet new pupils and their parents at VBS, have you plans for how they might be moved from this initial connection with your congregation to being disciples who are gathered around Word and Sacrament with you? Connect to Disciple, a module in the Synod's re:Vitality program, can help. For more information, contact Dr. Ken Schurb at the CID office. Telephone (217) 793-1802 or e-mail kschurb@cidlcms.org

2021 *class of* GRADUATE



Aidan M. Bushre

Waukesha North High School Class of 2021

JOIN US FOR AN OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, June 19, from 1-5 PM
2332 Judith Lane, Waukesha, WI 53188



ENCHILADA SALE FUNDRAISER! \$15 PER DOZEN

2 Flavors: Chicken or Beef

**SATURDAY JUNE 26TH, 2021
PICK UP FOOD TO GO: 1-2PM**

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60 dozens available

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HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



JUNE

2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Happy Summer Vacation		1	2	3 Elders 6 pm Men's Bible Study 7 pm	4	5
6 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am	7 Pastor's Day Off	8 LWML 1 pm Council 6:30 pm	9	10	11	12
13 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10 am	14 Pastor's Day Off	15	16	17 Bible Study 1:30 pm	18	19
20 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am VBS _____	21 Pastor's Day Off	22	23	24	25	26
27 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10 am	28 Pastor's Day Off	29	30	ELDER Carl Freeman		





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

Vacation Bible School
June 20 – 24 @ 6:30 pm

