

ST. JOHN'S NEWSLETTER



BUILT ON CHRIST OUR CORNERSTONE

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

8948 North 1900 Avenue
Geneseo, Illinois 61254-8941
309-949-2516 Church Office
Rev. Timothy Nerud, Pastor
pastor@stjohnsgeneseo.org
churchoffice@stjohnsgeneseo.org
Website: www.stjohnsgeneseo.org
Hearing/Handicapped Assistance Available

Vol. 124, No. 7 JULY 2021

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

"CHRISTIAN WITNESSING Part V: OUR LIFE"

Our Lord Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). St. James wrote, "But someone will say, 'You have faith and I have works.' Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works" (2:18). St. John the Baptist put it like this, "Bear fruit in keeping with repentance" (Matthew 3:8). These make it clear that a true living faith will bring forth a new life in a person and, as Jesus and James indicate, such will be a witness to our own faith and, more importantly, to Christ who our faith is in and the heavenly Father who sent Him.

Hypocrisy is a major turn off for people. We need to be willing to walk the walk that we talk. Obviously, sinless perfection this side of eternity is impossible. But let's just be honest, there is a big difference between the sins of weakness that we struggle with every day and caving in to sin. Or again, when we condemn a certain sin *until* it appears in our family or one of our friends and then it "miraculously" becomes okay, or at least understandable and, therefore, not a real issue. Obviously, such hypocrisy in our own lives bears witness, *but not to Christ!*

But are we not hypocritical for condemning any sin since we still struggle with sin ourselves? Of course not! For example, St. Paul openly confessed that he still struggled with sin (Romans 7:13-25), yet he also condemned sin. First, to condemn sin is to simply declare God's Law which is true even if a total hypocrite speaks it! But more, as just mentioned, there is a difference between confessing to be a sinner and, empowered by the Holy Spirit, fighting sin, as compared to diving headfirst into sin, willingly doing it, even defending it while still claiming to be a Christian. The first is sanctification, the second is hypocrisy.

In fact, being honest about our own struggles with sin is both true and a true aid in witnessing. By such we step outside of the "holier-than-thou" and "hypocrite" models that many have in mind when they think of Christians. Our admittance to such weakness puts us on the same level as the one to whom we are witnessing, as well as showing our conviction which, despite what our sinful nature wants, we still work to fight it, deprive it. It also then highlights the power of Christ Jesus and His Spirit who is strong in our weakness (cf. 2 Corinthians 12:9).

But not all hypocrisy deals with flagrant sin. In fact, it quite often deals more with our hearts that are made cold by a lack of love (still is a sin, just not so obvious). We speak about loving others, even our enemies, but then our actions show that we only love those in our families, our circle of friends, and those who are like us. We might bend over backwards for such, but then will not lift a finger to help others outside of them, coming up with excuse after excuse of why we should not help them to justify our lack of love. First, this leaves those in need *still in need* as we fail to be Good Samaritans. But by such a failure to love, we also show that we do not practice what we preach and, therefore, are hypocrites, something which others will recognize.

Again, just like in battling sin, we shall fall short in love as well. **We never quit needing forgiveness!** But in the same way, it is one thing to confess that we fall short even as we try to grow in love; it is quite another when we have ready-made reasons, one after another, as to why a certain person, or group of people, do not deserve our love. Let us remember, we love because He first loved us, a love put in action when the Father gave His only Son to die for us when we did not deserve it, but were in fact His enemies (1 John 4:19; Romans 5:10).

Truly, the Christian life is always a work in progress this side of heaven! We will fall short time and time again. But we are not just doomed to failure either. Christ has freed us from sin's rule, freeing us to be more like Him, giving us His Holy Spirit who also works to make our lives more holy, more Christ-like. May we be the Spirit's willing recipient, actively struggling in the new life He has given us to grow in holiness and love, so that Christ is made visible in our life of repentance, sacrifice, forgiveness, and mercy. For such a life flows from the Word we hear even as it backs up the Word we speak to others. Such a life encourages people to listen to what we have to say, the Word of Christ which gives forgiveness and life now and forever!

Your fellow witness of Christ,

Pastor Nerud

APOLOGETICS: A LESSON FROM PLUTO¹

Pluto orbits 40 times further from the sun than Earth, and for over 70 years it has been regarded as the ninth planet of our solar system. Clyde Tombaugh (1906–1997) discovered Pluto in 1930 by comparing photographs of stars taken two weeks apart at the Lowell Observatory in Arizona.^a

Because of perceived irregularities in the motion of Uranus, Percival Lowell (1855–1916), the founder of the observatory, believed in the existence of a ninth planet. He dubbed it Planet X and calculated that it would be six times more massive than Earth. He even specified its location.^b Lowell searched for the planet without success from 1906 until he died.

Tombaugh was hired by the observatory in 1929 and discovered the planet near where Lowell suggested. This apparently vindicated Lowell's predictions so the discovery was appropriately announced on Lowell's birthday (13th March) and the first two letters of Pluto's name are his initials.^c

Pluto is so faint that it can only be seen with a telescope 30 cm (12 in) or larger, and astronomers were unable to determine its size and mass. Early estimates could rely only on the deviations of the orbits of Neptune and Uranus. The size was quickly revised down from Lowell's estimate, and eventually astronomers settled on a mass about three quarters that of Earth.

All this changed around 1978, nearly 50 years after Pluto's initial discovery. The key evidence was found by James Christy of the US Naval Observatory when he realized that Pluto has a moon. He noticed that some of the images from their 1.5 meter telescope showed Pluto slightly elongated but the stars in the same photographs were not. From those images he was able to estimate the diameter of the moon's orbit and its orbital period. As a result, astronomers could calculate the mass of Pluto with far more certainty.^d It is now accepted that Pluto is only 1/500th the mass of the earth. Ongoing observations confirmed Pluto's moon, and the International Astronomical Union gave it official status in 1985 and named it Charon.^e

With such a tiny mass, Pluto could not possibly have affected the orbits of the gas giants Uranus or Neptune. In 1983 astronomers searched the entire sky by the Infrared Astronomical Satellite but no hidden planet was found. It is now generally believed that the perturbations to the orbits of Uranus and Neptune were imaginary, that Lowell's calculations were wrong, and Tombaugh's discovery was a coincidence.^a

How could so many scientists be so wrong for so long about the mass of Pluto—by a factor of 400? A similar question is often asked when creationists speak of the earth being only 6,000 years old instead of the generally accepted age of 4,600 million years.

The mass of Pluto, like the age of the earth, has not been measured directly. It is calculated from scientific models that are all based on *assumptions*. All the scientists got the same wrong answers because they all used the

¹ by Tas Walker; <https://creation.com/a-lesson-from-pluto>

same models and the same assumptions. However, ongoing observations of the behavior of Pluto led to more information that enabled an entirely different approach to the problem, overturning the previous assumptions and coming up with a radically new and soundly-based estimate.

There is another big difference. The mass of Pluto is *operational* science, where we can continue to make observations in the present using newer and better instruments and technology. But the age of the earth is *historical* science. We cannot travel back in time to make observations of things that only happened in the past. For information about the past we need reliable reports from eyewitnesses.

References and notes

1. Abell, G.O., Morrison, D. and Wolff, S.C., *Exploration of the Universe*, 6th edition, Saunders College Publishing, Philadelphia, USA, p. 186, 1993.
2. Ref. 1, p. 185.
3. Ref. 1. The name is from classical mythology and was suggested by Venetia Burney, an 11-year-old school girl from Oxford, England.
4. Using Newton's formulation of Kepler's third law.
5. Ref. 1, pp. 288–289.

Pluto contradicts the nebular hypothesis²

Pluto belongs to a class of objects that orbit the sun beyond Neptune, called TNOs (Trans Neptunian Objects). Astronomers regard these as material left over from the gas and dust nebula from which the solar system supposedly formed, supposedly 4.6 billion years ago.

But Pluto is a problem for the nebular hypothesis. First, it does not orbit in the same plane as the other planets (i.e., the ecliptic) but at an angle of 17°. Why not? Second, its axis of rotation is not perpendicular to its orbital plane but tilted so that it points almost directly at the sun at present. How come? Third, Pluto's orbit is not circular but highly elliptical. In fact, it occasionally comes closer to the sun than Neptune. Why? These features of Pluto contradict the predictions of the nebular hypothesis, so astronomers have had to invent *ad hoc* secondary stories to explain them. So much for the nebular hypothesis.

Pluto and its moons* don't support the idea of billions of years either. Analysis of light from Charon suggests that its surface is covered with active volcanoes of ammonia-rich water spewing out of the moon's deep interior. Similar conclusions have been reached for many TNO's. This means there must be a source of internal heat within these objects. But if they are billions of years old they should have been cold and dead billions of years ago.

*Apart from Charon, two smaller moons, Nix and Hydra, were discovered in 2005.

A LOOK at the LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

In Article VIII (What the Church Is) we confessed that only believers are truly members of the Church, but since God is the One who creates and sustains faith through His Word and Sacraments, even the ministry of an unbelieving pastor is effective, as long as the Word is still purely taught and the Sacraments are still rightly administered. Now in Article IX we confess that Baptism, one of those Sacraments, is necessary for salvation since God gives grace through it.

Augsburg Confession Article IX: Baptism³

Concerning Baptism, our churches teach that Baptism is necessary for salvation [Mark 16:16] and that God's grace is offered through Baptism [Titus 3:4-7].⁴ They teach that children are to be baptized [Acts 2:38-39]. Being offered to God through Baptism, they are received into God's grace.⁵

Our churches condemn the Anabaptists,⁶ who reject the Baptism of children and say that children are saved without Baptism.⁷

² This was an additional block of material included with the online article. I thought it was well-worth keeping.

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

⁴ Baptism is no mere ordinance that we are called to obey, but it is a *means of grace* by which God brings the benefits of Christ's saving work to us as individuals.

⁵ Since all people have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23), all people need God's grace, *which obviously includes infants and children since they are people too!* That grace they need is given to them through Baptism.



PASTOR AND FAMILY ON VACATION

Pastor Nerud will be out of town July 2-5 to celebrate Sarah's High school graduation with family in Minnesota. They will then leave after Sunday worship on July 11 – 26 for their summer vacation. Pastor Mueller will be covering for any Pastoral needs during these times. Pastor Mueller's number is; 989-928-6603.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Several days ago, an email or letter was sent out to members of St. John's congregation. The Elders are seeking your thoughts on this question:

"Are you in favor of continuing to maintain and use the outdoor worship area for worship services during the summer months? Please be aware that some significant work will need to be done on the area (particularly to the seats) before it can be used again. Thank you."

Please send your thoughts to the Elders in a new email by Sunday July 11. PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THE OFFICE EMAIL. Elder email addresses are following:

Aaron Raschke - raschkeaaron@gmail.com

Mike Dahl - mike.dahl58@gmail.com

Carl Freeman - cfreeman51@hotmail.com

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".

QUARTERLY VOTERS ASSEMBLY

Mark your calendars for the Quarterly voters meeting on July 25th. This meeting will take place in the sanctuary directly after the worship service.

God is an 'orderly' God. He calls us to do His work in an orderly way, using sound judgement and showing love and grace to all. As a member of this congregation your thoughts are important. Anyone age 18 and older are invited to attend these meetings. Everyone has gifts and talents given to them to be used in this congregation. Are you willing to get involved?

OFFICE INFORMATION

- 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.

⁶ Anabaptist means "rebaptizer." During the Reformation, the name applied to groups that insisted on the 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-era Anabaptists include the Mennonites, Amish, Hutterites, and the various Brethren churches. Baptists came later, but were influenced by Anabaptists as far as their denial of the Holy Spirit working through the means of grace and thus their unbiblical requirement to only baptize adults after they decide to "accept" Jesus (General Baptists).

⁷ It is one thing to have a child die unexpectedly before Baptism; it is another thing to *deny* Baptism to them. We must never play games with baptizing our children, such as delaying it for unnecessary reasons. And we must certainly never deny them Baptism, for such is to deny them God's grace!

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.

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.



A DOXOLOGY SEMINAR

Speaking up – Christian Confession in an age of Sexual Confusion

The new federal administration has reimposed government policies at odds with historic Judeo-Christian positions regarding abortion, marriage, sex and gender. More pressing than political matters is the wide spread confusion in American culture regarding sex, marriage and gender which greatly complicates Christian life and witness. This Seminar prepares Christians to advocate confidently, purposefully and positively for the biblical vision of human sexuality within their families and in the public square not merely on religious freedom grounds, but as a matter of common sense, compassion and human flourishing. This seminar is appropriate for ages High school through adults.

Presenters for the day are: Dr. Ryan T. Anderson, President of the Ethics and Public Policy Center, and the Founding Editor of *Public Discourse*, the online journal of the Witherspoon Institute of Princeton, New Jersey and Rev. Dr. Lucas V. Woodford, President of the Minnesota South District of LCMS and Associate Pastor of Trinity Lutheran, Farmington MN.

This seminar will be held Saturday, August 28 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Davenport IA. The day begins at 8:15 am and will conclude at 3:15 pm. Registration cost for St. John's members will be covered by the church and includes lunch. Carpooling is available.

More detailed information is available from the church office. Early registration is advised. (Currently we have 4 members attending). Contact the church office if you are interested in attending.



Witnessing is about Jesus delivering people from their hopeless circumstance.

They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasene's. And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones. Mark 5:1-5

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

5 Broc/Jennifer Krantz (2009) – 12 yrs
5 Ky/Jamie Lambin (2003) - 18 yrs
12 Brad/Mary Jo Gehn (1997) - 24 yrs



17 Kyle/Ashton Wickwire (2010) - 11 yrs
24 Don/Rebecca Hickenbottom (2004) -17 yrs

JULY BIRTHDAYS

2 Tristan Blank
4 James Dahl
4 Calie McKibbin
5 Lynne Johnson
6 Alec Davila
8 Wanda Rahn
9 Scott Rahn



10 Stacie Rahn
11 Brianna Rodgers
14 Payten Helg
15 Lois Esterlein
15 Robert Wolfe
19 Elizabeth Bjork
19 Kaleb Rahn

21 Fern Kulpa
24 Mark Ague
24 Graysen Carlson
26 Suzanne Blank
26 Nicole Werling
28 David Schmedt
31 Elizabeth Hock
31 Joel Werling

JULY BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

3 Katrina Nerud
5 Cooper Freeman
8 Jessica Johnson
9 Nicole Nerud
13 Alexander Wolfe
15 Paula Chapa



15 Larry Hock
15 James Rahn
15 Kem Schillinger
20 Brennan Lambin
20 Vivian Smith
21 Julie Lage

21 Seth Winchell
21 Emma Yerkey
23 Rosalie Jorgensen
26 Trevor Eastburn
30 Kenneth Cullison
30 Kyle Rahn

LWML NEWS



**Lutheran
Women
in Mission**

St. John's LWML met Tuesday June 8, 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: *And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19*

Sherry Wechsler read an LWML devotion 'I Can do it Myself'. Sherry then led our Bible study, "When I am Weak, He Is Strong", which was published in the 2021 Summer Quarterly.

Minutes from the May meeting were approved as written.

Correspondence and newsletters are being passed on through email.

Treasurer's Report: Receipts for May - Mites: \$244.81; Missions: \$90; Operating: \$45; Disbursements - Mites: \$244.81, Operating: \$25. Balance (\$504.91) 6/8/2021: Missions - \$369.84; Operating - \$135.07.

Margo reported the new list of national Mite Grants proposed for the convention vote are on line on the LWML web site. The convention is in Lexington KY June 24-27. Parts of it will be lived streamed. Website has the streaming schedule.

OLD BUSINESS:

- We can go ahead and use the Thrivent Action Plan to purchase additional items for making health kits. VBS will be asked to contribute money in lieu of specific kit items.
- Mary Donegan and Liz meet to discuss the Fall Rally. More information will be coming after the July meeting in Springfield.
- It was suggested that Gift Basket made in cooperation with Concordia for the District Convention now be donated to Camp CILCA since it was used at the streamed convention. It will be used for their September Fund raiser.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A short new video on Prison Ministry can be watched on the CID website.

We closed the meeting with Mite Box Prayer #2. Next month devotion and topic are to be led by Liz Neumann. Birthday greetings were sung to Liz Neumann.

LWML-CID MISSION GRANT MITE BYTES

Food Banks at St. Louis & Ft. Wayne Seminaries..... \$10,000

The St. Louis and Ft. Wayne Seminary Food Banks supply food and hygiene products to seminary students and their families. Receiving help through the Food Banks lessens the worry about financial burdens of everyday life and may even keep a student from having to take a job to help with those expenses. Helping students and their families in this way hopefully helps the student to focus more on his/her training.

How can I help? Pray that God provides the seminary students and families support through the Food Banks with everyday life needs. Support this grant by donating to your church's LWML group mite fund.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



VBS is over for another year. We thank everyone who helped to make this year run smoothly. We also thank those who attended to hear about the saving grace and eternal life we have through Jesus our Lord and Savior.

Don't let summer and vacation days keep you from God's Word. Attend Sunday school/Bible class and Worship wherever you might be, find fun ways to explore and enjoy the beautiful world God's has given to us, and keep daily prayer and devotions active in your family's daily life.

PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH COUNCIL/VOLUNTEERS

During the month of July, we are encouraged to pray for those who are on the Board of Stewardship: Sherry Wechsler and Linda Aper. Encourage them and pray for their work at St. John's.

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

Lois Esterlein

Jim Dahl

Linda Aper

Jim Rahn

Lynne Johnson

Betty Firch

Marilyn Woods

Paula Chapa

Derek Helke

John Erdman

Arlyn Helke

Lillian Hock

Carolyn Werner

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)

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

Jodi Martins (daughter of Gary & Darla Johns)

Harley Hepner (cousin of Sarah Hock)

John & Anita Causling (missionaries in Kenya)

Delores Gonion (mother of Michele Barry)

Marilyn Potts (wife of Cal, former LFC)

Glen McAdam (friend of Bob/Sherry Wechsler)

Pam Bennett (friend of Dan/Roselyn Maeltzer)

Lonnie Anderson (employee of Brad Gehn)

Karen Wright (wife of Pastor Gary Wright)

Laurie Sanford (sister of Jan Dahl)

Virginia Miller (mother of Jamie Werling)

MILITARY, THOSE SERVING & THEIR FAMILIES:

Mandy/Richard Davila (daughter/son-in-law of Linda Aper)
Luke/Nicole Thompson (son/daughter-in-law of John/Kindra Thompson)
Ken Willeford (husband of Alicia Willeford)

Karl Flynn (son of Mr. & Mrs. Paul Flynn)
Zachary & Tiffany Gardner (nephew/wife of Lois Esterlein)
Casey Powers Jr (step-son of Lisa Powers)
Brittany Loenser (daughter of Gabe Loenser)



Jesus said, **“Pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”** (Mt. 9:38) He wasn’t speaking of corn, beans, or strawberries. People were His concern. People who were “like sheep without a shepherd.” Perhaps that’s a description of your congregation, as you wait for a pastor.

Regardless of the pastoral status of your congregation now, these are the days in which we can and ought to be praying for more harvest workers. We want our children, grandchildren, and their neighbors to have vibrant and faithful congregations fifty years from now. Thus, we pray and encourage today. That was the theme of our recent Circuit Convocation here in Effingham. It could be the theme of yours, too.

Take heart. We’re not in charge of this effort for recruitment and formation of harvest workers. We’re praying to the Lord of the harvest. Our role is crucial, but not supreme.

“Lord, the harvest is Yours. Send laborers into Your fields! Amen.”

-- Pastor Mike Burdick, Effingham

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 our District’s mission work in central Illinois prisons. Rev. Charles Olander, Rev. Stephen Southward, Rev. Rodney Blomquist, and a growing number of CID volunteers, eagerly tell the Good News of Jesus Christ to people who are incarcerated. And pray for additional volunteers!

Stay Connected with your District

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

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

Save the Date:

CID Junior High Lock in

November 12-13th 2021 Five Point – Washington, IL

CID- District Convention (moved to 2022)

July 17- 19, 2022 Crowne Plaza- Springfield, IL

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO SHARE

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

They say good things come to an end...

The Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund (CID-CEF) is Discontinuing its Growth Bond Program. The time has come for the CID-CEF to bring the Growth Bond Program to an end. Anyone who has stamps or partially-filled booklets should present them to the CID-CEF (1850 N. Grand Ave. W., Springfield, IL 62702) by December 31, 2021, for refund at face value. Growth Bonds that have not yet matured will be allowed to reach maturity value, and any Growth Bonds that have matured will be redeemed after a 60-day notification period, with an option to invest in the CID-CEF where qualified and permissible to do so. More information is on the CID-CEF website at www.cid-cef.org.

LERT Chainsaw Training Event

To be held at: Immanuel Lutheran Church
902 Cleveland Avenue
Charleston, Illinois 61920

Saturday, August 7, 2021 9 am to 5:00 pm

The registration fee (\$35.00) will include breakfast and lunch.

You must be a certified LERT member to attend this class.

If you are already LERT chainsaw certified, the event is considered continuing education (no charge). *Chainsaw Training Registration Online Link:* Please click on link below or copy and paste and complete the entire registration form.

https://www.lcms-lert.org/need/detail/?need_id=590681



Happy 4th of July!



*Whose, Who in the Pew Next to You
Why It's St. John's Own Swede,
Born on the 4th of July,
Jim Dahl*

I was born on the July 4th, 1932, at the Moline Public Hospital. I have retired from farming and moved from the country to living in town, and now I live back in the country again with John & Kindra. I bet you didn't know that I was in the Army from 5/10/53 – 5/10/55 and was stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. I have played with the best and ran with the best. Had last call for the 880 Yd run, and I could have gone to the Olympic Tryouts in 1955 but instead, I went home to raise pigs with my dad.

I have enjoyed making things from wood. I have made center pieces and decorations for many of St. John's celebrations. I have been asked to make items made of wood for friends and family, especially for my Grand Kids weddings! I have enjoyed playing basketball, coaching St. John's baseball team and the Osco Little League Baseball Panthers. I will be 89 this month and now I enjoy "Shooting the Loop" in town and watching my Great Grandkids at their sports. I love to mow the lawn at the farm.

St. John's has been a constant for memories. One of those memories was when Shirley and I were councilors for youth group. A memory that may not have been such a great one was when we were cleaning up around the church. We had a pile of leaves and brush that some were cleaning up to haul away. I told them we should just burn it. As you can imagine, the wind came up and that grass caught fire and it went through and burned 3 of John Neumann's newly planted evergreens. After that I gained the name "Torch Dahl". Another memory is at one of the Ice Cream Socials on the church parking lot, Joe Schillinger brought one of his hay racks and we used it as a stage. We used to do little skits for the ice cream socials. This particular skit, everyone was being introduced and would walk up to the front of rack and people would applaud. They introduced me and I stepped forward and walked right off of the hay rack. Oh, the people gasped and thought I must be hurt. That was a planned fall and boy were people worried. One Easter I was given the part of Jesus in St. John's Passion Play. They hung me on the cross and I had a real crown of thorns on. I was supposed to be completely still, but there was a real thorn digging into my head. Oh, boy was that a terrible thing to go through. As soon as that play was over, I took that crown off quick. Boy, that was something!


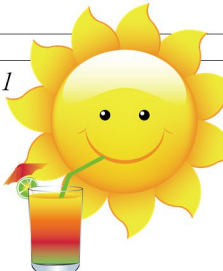
I learned to drive on a 1936 Minneapolis Moline tractor. My favorite Potluck Dish is Custard Pie and I have been influenced as a Christian by my wife Shirley when she would tell me to straighten up!

You might see me in Hardees, or up town, handing a stranger a Tootsie Roll and asking them if they know about Jesus. That's all it takes, love your neighbor and that perfect stranger. Never stop trying to teach or be the word of God.

*"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. " - Hebrews 11:1
Jim's Favorite Bible Verse*

JULY

2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ELDER Aaron Raschke				<i>1</i> Elders 6 pm Men's Bible Study 7 pm	<i>2</i> <i>Pastor and family</i>	<i>3</i> <i>Out of town</i> _____
<i>4</i> SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10 am _____	<i>5</i> <i>Pastor Returns</i> _____	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>11</i> SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm. 10 am Pastor on vacation —	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> LWML 1 pm Council 6:30 pm	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>18</i> SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am _____	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>25</i> SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10 am Voters' Assembly 11 am _____	<i>26</i> <i>Pastor Returns</i> _____	<i>27</i> SS Teachers' 6:30 pm	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<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

