

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...Where Is It? The Marks Part 1"

Last month we saw how Scripture teaches that the Church is believers in Christ, and only believers, for it is faith that unites a person to Christ and thereby makes one a member of His body (the Church). But we also noted that since faith is invisible to all but God, we cannot say, "Oh there's the Church because I see faith in those people." But does this then mean that the Church cannot actually be found? Not at all.

As just said, faith in Triune God which is centered on the incarnate Christ Jesus crucified and risen, *that faith* is what makes a person a member of the Church. But this faith is not, nor can it be the result of a person's work, decision, or "assistance" as Scripture declares people to be spiritually blind, even dead in their sins, yes, enemies of God who are under the devil's rule and so are objects of His wrath by nature.¹ Therefore it is obvious that a person coming to faith is nothing less than the gracious acting of the Holy Spirit upon that person working *the miracle* of conversion.² But the Holy Spirit is invisible as well, as is His working on a person's heart. So where does this leave us?

The thing for us to remember is that the Holy Spirit does this work, but that He does it *through His chosen tools or instruments*, what we call the means of grace. Just as the "X" on the treasure map is not the treasure itself, but shows you where the treasure is, so also the means of grace are not the Church itself, but they do locate it, hence they are *Marks of the Church*. This is because we can be certain that where the Holy Spirit's chosen means are, there shall be believers (the Church) there as well. So identifying these means is then critical. So let us consider what God's Word says.

"For as the rain and snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout...so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:10,11).

The first mark of the Church then, quite obviously, is where *the Word of God* is present. It is the most important thing since, without the Word, there can be no believers, and hence no Church, for faith comes by hearing the Word of Christ (Rom 10:17). This is why God called the patriarchs, the prophets and the priests of old to keep on speaking and teaching His Word. So also, this is why God calls pastors and teachers (Eph 4:11), to make sure His Word is still being read, proclaimed and taught so that He might make Christians and preserve them as such. It is no surprise then that the Lutheran Church, in line with the orthodox ("right teaching") Church throughout the centuries, has made the reading and the preaching of the Word central to public worship. This is also why the hymns we sing, and the liturgy and ceremonies that we use are so "Word-centered," that we would hear God's Word in more than one way.

¹ 1 Corinthians 2:14; Ephesians 2:1-3; Romans 5:6, 8, 10; 8:7-8; cf. Psalm 51:5.

² 1 Corinthians 12:3; Ephesians 2:8-9.

This is why then that a true believer will desire nothing more than to be gathered in public worship to hear God's Word in the many ways it comes, especially the sermon. It is as Luther insightfully wrote as the meaning for the Third Commandment in the Small Catechism, "We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it."

The Holy Spirit uses the Word of Law to convict us of our sins (John 16:8), thus revealing our ongoing need of Christ Jesus. The Word of the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation for all who believe it (Rom 1:16), the faith needed being created by the Spirit through the very Word being heard. The Spirit then, through His Word, the power of the Gospel and the guidance of the Law, works in us growth in our Christian life of love, holiness, virtue, prayer, and hope of eternal life. *This is why* Scripture admonishes us to not skip public worship (Heb 10:25); but instead calls us to come regularly (cf. Acts 2:42), not for mere duty, but in joy for the gifts being given through the Word we hear!

One final consideration before we leave the first mark of the Church, the Word of God. Where the Word is preached, there the Holy Spirit is working, and so there is the Church. But what about where false teaching is present, adulterating the Word. Consider, those who have the pure Word of God are those who build on the foundation of Christ crucified with "gold, silver, and precious stones," while those who have it impurely are those who build on the same foundation, but with "wood, hay, or straw" (1 Cor 3:11-12). This truth is both grace and warning.

On one level, where the pure Word is still coming through, even though mixed with error, the Holy Spirit is still working and building Christ's Church. That is why we never say that there are no Christians in an erring church. However, logically speaking, the more the errors, the less of the truth, and so again, logically, the fewer Christians as a whole and, also, those who are believers are more prone to have a sicker faith, as it is not being fed the pure spiritual milk of God's Word (1 Pet 2:2). And please note that this "sickness" may not manifest in what we easily note as spiritual weakness (though it may), but it may well be hidden under a spirituality that seems quite impressive. We need only remember that the Pharisees were such externally fine, seemingly quite strong believers full of works, who were actually sick even unto spiritual death. Therefore, recognize that here too "looks may be deceiving."

So dear friends, let's be exceptionally joyful that we can be sure that the Church is right here at St. John's. How can we be sure? We have the gift of God's Word and, by God's grace alone, have it in its truth and purity. So let us never take that gift for granted, but instead joyfully come to hear it, for the Spirit is working on us and in us through it. And then let us confess it before men in our lives (Matthew 10:32) and be willing to defend it from all corruption and error for the sake of God's glory, and the salvation of every soul that hears it now or in the future.

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

Pastor Nenad

Apologetics Article: Our shrinking brains³

Thousands of years ago, humans had bigger brains. That conclusion was reached after researchers showed that ancient human skulls from Europe, the Middle East and Asia had an average brain capacity of 1500 cubic centimeters, compared to today's 1359 cc.^{a,b}

The old skulls tested were almost certainly post-Flood, hence at most a few thousand years old by biblical reckoning, and 'only' tens of thousands of years old in evolutionary belief.

If the result had shown that today's brains are bigger, this would no doubt have been interpreted as humans evolving more 'smarts'. But this outcome has caused surprise—not just for being contrary to evolutionary expectations, but because of its extent and speed. John Hawks of the University of Michigan called it "a major downsize in an evolutionary eyeblink".

In reality, bigger brain size does not *automatically* correlate with higher intelligence, and evolutionists who mention this in response to this unexpected finding have a point. However, this needs to cut both ways. Skulls labeled as *Homo erectus* (which creationists would regard as one group of the post-Flood descendants of Adam, and which even some evolutionists say should be reclassified as *Homo sapiens*^c) have a brain capacity which, while still within the modern human range,^d is on *average* smaller than that of the average human today. This is

³By [Carl Wieland](https://creation.com/our-shrinking-brains); <https://creation.com/our-shrinking-brains>. First posted on homepage: 26 October 2013, Re-posted on homepage: 9 February 2022.

taken to mean that, being ‘less evolved’, *erectus* specimens had less intelligence; but as we’ve seen, this does not necessarily follow.

This finding nevertheless reminds us that humans today, while they have more *knowledge*, accumulated from many predecessors, are certainly not *smarter* than their predecessors. The ingenuity of ancient man is clearly displayed in such things as the construction of the pyramids. If there is going to be a trend in intelligence, one would expect today’s humans to be less intelligent, if anything. This is because of the load of mutations (inherited genetic copying mistakes) increasing with each generation since the Fall of Adam. And in recent times, an extremely rapid documented rate of these human mutations has emerged (see geneticist John Sanford’s book and DVD on creation.com/store^e).

Other evolutionists, perhaps trying to put on a brave face *post facto*, have claimed the result was “not surprising”. Duke University anthropologist Brian Hare speculates that modern humans “developed different, more sophisticated forms of intelligence”, presumably somehow requiring less brain size.

Other anthropologists say that because early people were “larger and stronger” they needed “more grey matter” to “control this larger mass”.

Note the ‘heads we win, tails you lose’ approach. If our brain size had been enlarging, it would have been taken as evidence for humans evolving more intelligence. Since it is getting smaller, evolutionists have to put a new ‘spin’ on it. E.g. David Geary, evolutionary psychologist at the University of Missouri, says: “As complex societies emerged, the brain became smaller because people did not have to be as smart to stay alive.” It seems that whatever the data, or whichever evolutionist is making the *reassessment*, evolution itself is never doubted.

But consider ... our ancestors just a few thousand years ago were larger, stronger, and had more grey matter than we have—Genesis creation, anyone?

References and notes

- a. Our brains shrinking, *The Courier-Mail*, 7 February 2011, p. 21.
- b. Santini, J., Are brains shrinking to make us smarter?, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, news.smh.com.au, 6 February 2011.
- c. E.g. Milford Wolpoff, also at the University of Michigan.
- d. Woodmorappe, J., [How different is the cranial-vault thickness of Homo erectus from modern man?](#) *J. Creation* **14**(1):10–13, 2000; creation.com/cranium.
- e. And [interview](#) in *Creation* **30**(4):45–47, 2008; creation.com/sanford.

A Look at the Lutheran Confessions

*In Article XVII, Christ’s Return for Judgment, we clearly confessed the Biblical view of the end times, confirming the resurrection of all the dead (both believer and unbeliever) and eternal heaven and hell. We then rejected false teachings, such as an end to suffering in hell and the various forms of millennialism.*⁴

*Now in Article XVIII, Free Will, we confess the Biblical truth that while human beings have a level of free will in earthly affairs (though human reason is much weaker even in such things due to sin), we have no power whatsoever to choose the good in spiritual matters.*⁵ *This is because, since the Fall into sin, by nature humans “freely” choose only the evil and can do nothing else until they are converted by the Holy Spirit working through the Gospel Word.*⁶

*Augsburg Confession Article XVIII: Free Will*⁷

Our churches teach that a person’s will has some freedom to choose civil righteousness and to do things subject to reason.⁸ It has no power, without the Holy Spirit, to work the righteousness of God, that is, spiritual

⁴ 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 others, from early days, have introduced foreign and false concepts about earthly rules of Christ and believers.

⁵ Certainly human beings can choose “spiritual things” since we are spiritual by nature, created having both a body *and* a soul. However, spiritual *does not automatically equal good* as is too often assumed. After all, Satan and the demons are spirits! Only the Holy Spirit, working through the Word and Word-empowered Sacraments, can work in us “good” spirituality (e.g. 1 Cor 12:3).

⁶ E.g. John 3:3-6, 27; Rom 8:7; 1 Cor 2:14; Eph 2:1-9. Thus Scripture teaches that it is impossible for an unconverted person “to choose” Jesus. If they “choose” Him, it is because they already have been converted and have the Holy Spirit in them (1 Cor 12:3). In such a case, they take at least partial credit for something that God alone deserves all the glory for working, that is, *the gift of faith!* (See again Eph 2:8-9)

⁷ From Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions, Paul McCain, Ed. CPH, 2006. It is critical to understand that this article deals with *unregenerate* mankind, the natural person after the Fall *before being converted*.

⁸ This would be the various “good works” that unbelievers do. They are limited to the externals of the Second table of the Law (Commandments 4-10).

righteousness. For “the natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God” (1 Corinthians 2:14). This righteousness is worked in the heart when the Holy Spirit is received through the Word [Galatians 3:2-6].⁹

This is what Augustine¹⁰ says in his *Hypognosticon*, Book III:

We grant that all people have a free will. It is free as far as it has the judgment of reason. This does not mean that it is able, without God, either to begin, or at least to complete, anything that has to do with God. It is free only in works of this life, whether good or evil. Good I call those works that spring from the good of nature, such as willing to labor in the field, to eat and drink, to have a friend, to clothe oneself, to build a house, to marry a wife, to raise cattle, to learn various useful arts, or whatsoever good applies to this life. For all of these things depend on the providence of God. They are from Him and exist through Him. Works that are willing to worship an idol, to commit murder, and so forth, I call evil.

Our churches condemn the Pelagians¹¹ and others¹² who teach that without the Holy Spirit, by natural power alone, we are able to do God’s commandments according to the letter. Although nature is able in a certain way to do the outward work (for it is able to keep the hands from theft and murder),¹³ yet it cannot produce the inward motions, such as the fear of God, trust in God, chastity, patience, and so on.¹⁴



Mark the followings dates and times on your calendars.

- April 6, supper - 5:15-6:30pm, worship @ 7 pm
- April 10, Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week
- April 14, worship/Holy Communion @ 7 pm (Holy Thursday)
- April 15, The Rock Island Circuit **Tre Ore** is hosted by St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church, 115 12th Ave W, Milan IL. The **Tre Ore** runs from 12 - 3 pm. You may come and go as your schedule allows.
- April 15, Service of Darkness @ 7 pm (Good Friday)
- April 17, Easter worship/Holy Communion @ 7 am
- April 17, Easter Breakfast following Easter Worship (*Please sign the sheet found on the table next to the coat room for the number coming to the Easter Breakfast. Include the number of extended family or guests you may have coming with you. Thanks!*)

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



⁹ Faith comes from hearing the Gospel Word of forgiveness of sins in Christ (Rom 10:17).

¹⁰ Lived 354-430 AD. Christian bishop of the North African city of Hippo.

¹¹ Followers of Pelagius (c. 354-c. 420), a British or Irish monk who taught that human nature is not corrupt but is still in its original state of moral indifference. Thus it is up to the individual to develop their morality and be saved, making grace and Christ unnecessary. Note how Pelagius not only denies *original sin*, but also denies that man was created with *original righteousness* (moral indifference!).

¹² This included the Papal party which, while details might vary between the different schools, in general believed that a person was able, to some degree, to strive for and receive God’s grace, “doing the good that is in them,” which then God completes. Ultimately, grace and man cooperate in his conversion.

¹³ This outward obedience is what was previously referred to as “civil righteousness.” See n. 5 above.

¹⁴ Thus faith is necessary to please God (cf. Heb 11:6) because only through faith in Christ, worked by the Holy Spirit, can the heart’s motives be right for doing the works that God commands. For He commands not merely external actions, but a heart that fears, loves and trusts in Him above all things which then brings forth the external actions *for the right (holy) reasons*.

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.



- 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.



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.

QUARTERLY VOTERS' ASSEMBLY

All members are encouraged to attend this meeting after the worship service April 24th.

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|---|--|
| 5 Ken/Lisa Allison (1986) - 36 yrs | 26 Thomas/Emily Marckese (2008) - 14 yrs |
| 8 Carl/Heidi Freeman (2006) - 16 yrs | 27 Gary/Kathy Post (1968) – 54 yrs |
| 8 Marty/Coni Himmelman (1995) - 27 yrs | 30 Jason/Cassie Dahl (2011) - 11 yrs |
| 14 Randy/Karen Rasmussen (2009) - 13 yrs | 31 Brad/Michele Barry (1990) - 32 yrs |
| 18 Don/Sarah Hock (1998) - 24 yrs | 31 Mike/Jan Dahl (1979) - 43 yrs |
| 21 Jerry/Peggy Hickenbottom (1990) - 32 yrs | |



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 4 Mary Jo Gehn | 20 Sabrina Smith | 23 Linda White |
| 8 Brian Magerkurth | 21 Trevor Eastburn | 24 Brenda Hallendorff |
| 9 Brad Gehn | 21 Margo Schillinger | 30 Gannon Marckese |
| 13 Jennifer Magerkurth | 22 Jamie Eastburn | 30 Theresa Mosher |
| 13 Thad Curry | 22 Rylie Hallendorff | 30 Sarah Nerud |
| 15 Olivia Loenser | 23 Marcia Helke | |
| | 23 Christian Loenser | |



APRIL BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Carolyn Werner | 13 Karen Rasmussen | 27 Gayla Kroll |
| 5 Beverly Peterson | 14 Justine Mitchell | 27 Avery Magerkurth |
| 8 Luke Davila | 14 Marilyn Woods | 28 Jaimie Jorgensen |
| 10 Roselyn Maeltzer | 15 Kathy Remick | 29 Andrew Hock |
| 10 Paul Mosher | 15 Mike Kolb | 29 Brian Magerkurth |
| 11 Lois Esterlein | 19 Logan Raschke | 30 Mary Jo Gehn |
| 12 Joseph Schillinger | 22 Derek Helke | |
| 13 Dan Maeltzer | 24 Caleb Nash | |



LWML CID MISSION GRANT #6

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School in Uganda – partial funding. \$7,750

In 2011, the Lutheran Church of Uganda Seminary established Our Savior Lutheran Church as a mission to share the Gospel in a predominantly Muslim area. These funds would be used to purchase land adjacent to the Seminary on which a church and Christian day school for youth would be built.

How can you help? Pray that God provides the opportunity to expand the Gospel in Uganda through the purchase of land on which a church and day school would be built. Support this grant by donating to your church'

Blessed Shall You Be

“Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.” (Deuteronomy 28:3-6)



This is God’s promise to the Israelites as they stood beyond the Jordan outside of the Promised Land. He promises blessing to His people. He will make them prosper, whether they are in the city or the field. He will make their fruit of their work to prosper, whether from the ground, their wombs, their flocks, or their herds. He will make them to prosper in all things, whether upon their coming in or their going out.

But there’s a catch. He would do this for Israel only “if you obey the voice of the LORD your God.” (Deut. 28:2b) If they did that, He would cause that “all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you.” (Deut. 28:2a). If they didn’t obey the voice of the Lord, if they didn’t keep the commandments of the Lord and “walk in his ways” (Deut. 28:9), they would be met with curse and woe. The blessings would be replaced with curses. Everything that the Lord promised to prosper and bless would be cursed and fail.

Thanks be to God that our Lord Jesus Christ has come into our flesh and fulfilled the law for us – in our place and for our benefit. Our Lord Jesus Christ died for us – in our place and for our benefit. Our Lord Jesus Christ is risen from the dead for us – in our place and for our benefit. By this we have justification before God. We are forgiven, clean, holy, and righteous. The blessing of God is promised to us in Christ Jesus. It depends upon his work, not ours.

All this is ours in Holy Baptism. For in Holy Baptism, God claims us as His own, makes us His children, His heirs, and His holy people. And so it is that the work of our hands and its fruit is holy because we are holy in Christ. It is pressed into His service, and it thereby becomes a blessing to us and to our neighbor.

For this great gift, our reception of the blessings of God because of Christ Jesus our Lord, it is our duty to thank and praise, serve, and obey Him. This is not in order to receive the blessings but because in Christ we already have. With this in mind, we sit down on the first day of the week and set aside as He has prospered us to give to His church for His work of blessing in our midst (1 Cor. 16:2).



Jesus is the faithful witness. He came from heaven to bear witness. His witness is the truth that brings life to the world. His ultimate witness of God’s love, mercy, and grace is in His Cross and Resurrection.

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the first born of the dead and the ruler of on earth. Rev 1:4-5

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE @ ST JOHN’S

There will be workdays for weeding, trimming and maintaining our outdoor plantings at St. John’s. Please add your name to the signup sheet on the table by the coat room at church if you can help. Please bring rakes, pruning shears or other tools you may have to help with the work. John Neumann and Beverly Peterson will be available to help give directions. Dates will be announced. Call John Neumann (309-945-2712) if you have questions.



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
Jim Dahl

Lois Esterlein
Betty Firsch
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)



CENTRAL ILLINOIS
DISTRICT
of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Sin: A Hole In Our Boat!

“There but for the grace of God go I,” said 16th century reformer and martyr, John Bradford. God graciously leads us around temptation and delivers us from evil. In response to our humble repentance in Christ, our sins are washed away and our just punishment is placed on Christ.

However, no one is less a sinner or more deserving of temporal and eternal punishment than any of us. Jesus warns all who think they deserve God’s favor. “Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.” (Luke 13:4-5) We dare never become like the prodigal son’s elder brother who harbored sinful pride in his heart. He sinned as greatly as his brother!

Sin is like a hole in our boat. If I were in the middle of a large, deep lake and had a hole in my boat I

would need to fix it or get rescued. The size of the hole is not an important point. With no means to fix it and no one to rescue me, I am going to sink. It would make no sense for me to imagine that if my hole is smaller than someone else's I am safe. God tells us in James 2:10 "Whoever keeps the whole Law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it." Our good deeds cannot fix the hole. In fact, if we depend on them to fix the hole our situation becomes even worse! St. Paul warns us in Galatians 5:4 "You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen from grace."

So, what shall we do? We must recognize by faith that Jesus is in the boat with us. Jesus repairs the hole by his grace. He bails out the stagnant water of sin. He steadies our boat and keeps it afloat during the most violent storm. We can look to our destination of heaven and confidently say, "There, by the grace of God, go I!" And we can sing: "When at last I near the shore And the fearful breakers roar Twixt me and the peaceful rest, Then, while leaning on Thy breast, May I hear Thee say to me, 'Fear not, I will pilot thee.'" God bless!! Rev. Jeff Harter

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. For more information visit: <http://www.cidlcms.org/outreach-church-planting.html>

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.

LERT Training – Basic Class Participants will be introduced to the LCMS Disaster Response program and learn the basic nature of a disaster, the opportunities to respond to personal needs in such disasters and how a Christians can support families, congregations, and the public, as the hands and feet of Jesus during trying times.

- Location: Trinity Lutheran Church (1201 West Jackson, Auburn)
- Date: May 21, 2022 (9:00 am – 3:00 pm) (registration 8:00 – 8:30 am)
- Cost: \$35.00 per person (includes: continental breakfast, lunch, training materials, certification, and LERT T-shirt) Checks should be made out to Trinity Lutheran Church
- For Additional information see the following website: https://www.lcms-lert.org/need/detail/?need_id=668961

Celebrate the 175th anniversary of the LCMS! April 26, 2022

Visit the following website for information on the 175th anniversary of Synod.

<http://www.cidlcms.org/news-lcms-175.html>

Anniversary Hymn Sing

Trinity Lutheran in Springfield is hosting a hymn sing to highlight the works of LCMS composers and lyricists in celebration of the 175th anniversary of the LCMS. All are invited to come on Sunday, May 1st at 3:30pm to Trinity Lutheran Church at 220 S. Second St. Springfield, IL. We will raise our voices to praise God and hear from the Trinity Wind Ensemble for musical interludes between hymns.

JOB OPPERTUNITY

The City of Davenport, Iowa is currently accepting on-line applications for Police Officer until 11:59 P.M. on Sunday, April 17, 2022. Visit www.davenportiowa.com/policecareers for details. We are looking for applicants who possess:

- Integrity, character and a strong work ethic
- Passion to serve
- Motivation to make a difference

Openings: 10 police officer positions: The Davenport Police Department has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) since 2003. Detailed application and benefits information is attached including expanded residency options. Apply Now!

Be part of the excitement of Call Day 2022!

Join us on campus or online at csl.edu/callday

Anticipation is building for Call Day 2022! Join us for two special services Tuesday, April 26, when second-year students receive their vicarage or deaconess internship assignments at 3 p.m. (CDT) and concluding students receive their pastoral and diaconal calls at 7 p.m. (CDT) in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus. **(Our seminarian, Matt Carlson will receive his call to his Vicarage.)**

FROM OUR SEMINARIAN

Dear St. John's, Spring quarter is finally here. I survived winter taking the maximum number of credits. It felt like there was always a major assignment due in the next few days. While I learned a lot, my stress level was high and there was no time outside of class work. This final quarter I am taking fewer credits which will free up some time to teach Sunday morning Bible class at my field work church, help produce a podcast with some classmates, and maybe even play some flag football. However, the real highlight is on April 26th at 7 pm eastern time. I will find out where my vicarage placement will be. While there is still much to do, the end is in sight. With that I once again need to say thank you. If it was not for the people at St. Johns supporting me, I am not sure I would have been able to make it through the seminary. You will never know how much all this support has meant to me.

God's peace, Matt Carlson

"Awake, My Heart, with Gladness"

A Service of Sacred Music for the Season of Easter

3 p.m. CDT Sunday, April 24

Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus

Featuring *Laudamus*, the St. Louis Lutheran Chorale, the Concordia Seminary String Ensemble and the Clarion Bass

Celebrate with song our risen Lord this Easter season! Join us in person or via livestream at csl.edu/live



ENCHILADA SALE FUNDRAISER! \$15 PER DOZEN

2 Flavors: Chicken or Beef

SATURDAY MAY 7TH, 2022

PICK UP ORDERS: 1-2PM

LOCATION:

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH

1301 19TH ST. EAST MOLINE, IL

80 dozens available - Order by 4/24/22

Jose Nunez (309) 373-1788

Proceeds will go towards
Lutheran Women Missionary League (LWML)



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church—Geneseo IL

April 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>ELDER</u> Mike Dahl	<u>GREETER</u> Janet Bertsos	<u>USHERS</u> Dan Maeltzer Rollin Miller			1	2
3 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am	4 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	5 Adult Instruction 7pm	6 Confirmation 5 pm Lenten Supper 5:15pm Lenten Service 7 pm	7 Elders 6 pm Men's Bible Study 7 pm	8	9
10 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10 am	11 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	12 LWML 1 pm Council 6:30 pm	13	14 Holy Thursday Service /comm 7 pm	15 Tre Ore @ St. Mat- thew, Milan 12—3pm Service of Darkness 7 pm	16
17 Easter Service/Comm 7 am Easter Breakfast 8 am	18 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> OFFICE CLOSED	19 Adult Instruction 7pm	20 Confirmation 5 pm	21 Bible Study 1:30 pm	22	23
24 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10 am Voters' Assembly 11 am	25 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	26 Adult Instruction 7pm	27 Confirmation 5 pm SS Teachers' 7 pm	28	29	30



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 Service – 7 pm – April 6

Holy Thursday Service – 7 pm – April 14

Good Friday Service – 7 pm – April 15

Easter Service – 7 am – April 17

Easter Breakfast follows the Easter Service

