

First Reading: Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60

¹Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ²And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. . . .

^{7:2a}And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me.

... ⁵¹"You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵²Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."

⁵⁴Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Epistle: 1 Peter 2:2–10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men

but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture:

"Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,"

⁸and

"A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Holy Gospel: John 14:1–14

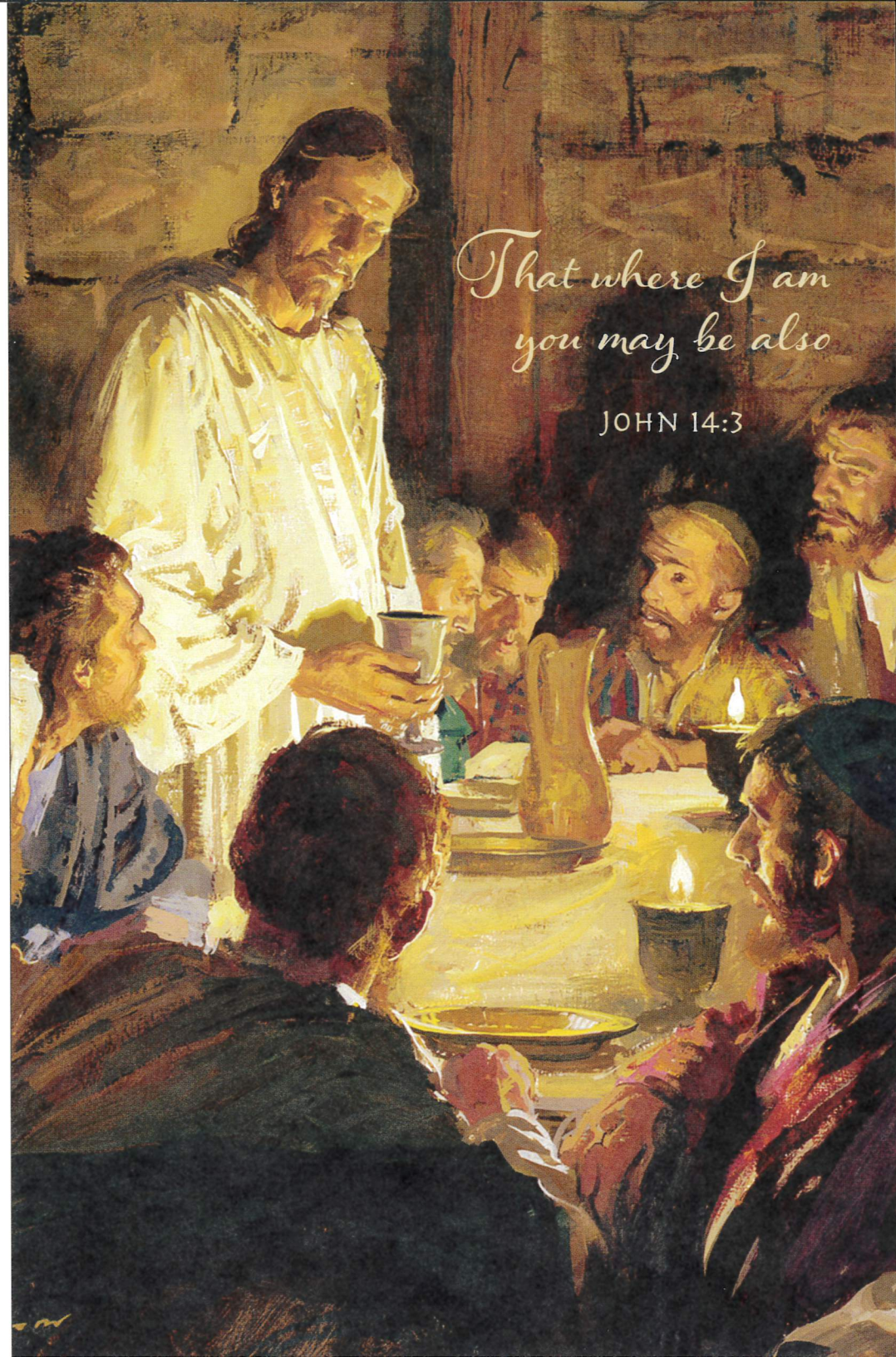
¹[Jesus said:] "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." ⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

¹²Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it."



About the Cover: Jesus' work on the cross and His resurrection was all done so that we may be with Him forever. There is no good apart from Jesus. Jesus is indeed with us this day by the promises of Baptism. We have the promise that He will never leave us. In His Word, He is with us by the power of the Holy Spirit. In the Lord's Supper, He is with us in His very body and blood to bring us forgiveness and strengthen our faith. When we die, we will be with Jesus. Finally, when we are raised on the Last Day, we and all believers will be in heaven with Him forever.



*That where I am
you may be also*

JOHN 14:3

St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS)

8948 N 1900 Ave Geneseo, IL 61254

815-989-2025

May 3, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Divine Service Three (Lutheran Service Book, p. 184)

Hymn of Invocation 477 Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

Invocation and Versicles (p. 184)

Introit

Psalm 30:1-5; antiphon: Psalm 149:1

Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the godly!

I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me.

O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.

O Lord, you have brought up my soul from Sheol; you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.

Sing praises to the Lord, O you his saints,
and give thanks to his holy name.

For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song,
his praise in the assembly of the godly!

Gloria Patri and Kyrie (p. 186)

Gloria In Excelsis (p. 187)

Salutation and Collect of the Day (p. 189)

P O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen. (*sung*)

Readings (on back of bulletin)

Gradual

adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

Christ has risen from the dead.

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor.

**He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;
he has put all things under his feet.**

Alleluia (p. 190)

The Nicene Creed (p. 191)

Hymn of the Day 633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

Sermon

Offertory (p. 192)

Presentation of the Offering

Prayer of the Church

After each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

The prayer concludes:

P ...one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Service of the Sacrament (p. 194)

(Please read the statement below before receiving Holy Communion.)

Distribution Hymns

466 Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

798 The God of Abraham Praise

Nunc Dimittis (p. 199)

Hymn to Depart 478 The Day of Resurrection

Silent Prayer

Receiving Holy Communion at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at St. John's in the confession and confidence that, as he says, our Lord Jesus gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins, to strengthen our fight against sin and grow in His likeness, to assure us of our own bodily resurrection on the Last Day, and to increase our unity of love with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, so that they may show forth his death until he comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and judgment, and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, are asked to first speak with the pastor before receiving the Sacrament.

For further study: Matthew 5:23-24; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor 10:16; 11:17-34; 27-30; Acts 2:42; 20:27.

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH-LCMS

churchoffice@stjohnsgeneseo.org

pastor@stjohnsgeneseo.org

Website: www.stjohnsgeneseo.org

**HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE
LARGE PRINT HYMNALS AVAILABLE**

Rev. Timothy Nerud, Pastor 815-989-2025 (Office)
612-940-8138 (Cell)

Elder: Mike Dahl

Hymn Leader: Larry Kane or Bobby Wolfe

Greeter: Janet Bertso

Videographers: Joel Werling, Nicole Nerud, or Heidi Nerud

WE PRAY: Holy Spirit, who in the waters of our baptism ordained us to priesthood, equip us by the Word and faith to proclaim the kingdom of God, that all who have rejected the Headstone of the Corner, be given a second opportunity to become living and lively stones in the house of God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Father are one God with dominion over us forever. Amen

WELCOME TO ALL!

We are anxious to share with you the Christ-centered ministry at St. John's. Our Liturgy follows closely the pattern of Word and Lord's Supper handed down from the ancient Church. It is our hope that you will make the Church's life of prayer your own. If you have difficulty following our order of service, please ask someone sitting near you for assistance. We pray that you will receive rich spiritual blessings from your presence here. May the peace and power of our risen Christ be yours always.

OFFICE HOURS

Terri Monday—Friday, please call ahead
Pastor Tuesday—Friday please call ahead

STREAM SERVICES <https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo/>
and on the website: www.stjohnsgeneseo.org.

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

Sunday school—5 Adult Bible class—8 Worship—38

OFFERING

Offering last Sunday \$2,255.00
Weekly Budget for 2026 \$4,379.13

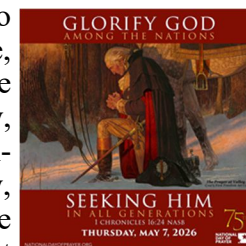
WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT ST JOHN'S

Today	8:45 am	SS/Adult & Youth Bible Study
	10:00 am	Divine Worship/Holy Communion
Wednesday	5:30 pm	Confirmation
Thursday	6:00 pm	Elders' meeting
Friday	10:00 am	RI Circuit Secretaries meeting
Sunday	8:45 am	SS/Adult & Youth Bible Study
	10:00 am	Divine Worship

I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." Psalms 122:1

WAYMAKERS: Your Change Changes Everything! - Pregnancy Resources Baby Bottle campaign is underway. Grab a baby bottle, sign your name on the sheet next to the bottles, fill the bottle with change or a check (**make checks to Pregnancy Resources**) and return the bottle anytime until June 21. Thank you for caring for the unborn and their parents.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, MAY 7, 2026—Join with Christians throughout the United States on Thursday, May 7 to pray for our nation. Pray for our country, its people, relationships, and responsibilities. Pray for the Church, families, education, businesses, the military, the arts and entertainment, the media and the government. A bulletin insert has been prepared for Sunday, May 3. If you are unable to attend the worship service that day, you can request one from the office and it will be emailed to you.



Building Healthy Families: Would your mom or dad make it into a "Perfect Parent Hall of Fame"? Probably not—because let's be honest, there's no such thing as a perfect earthly parent. But imperfect, amazing Christian parents for whom we're eternally thankful? Absolutely! Open your hymn book today and revisit Luther's explanation of the 4th commandment. How are you doing with this one? Where does it challenge you—or gen-



tly nudge you to do something different? Prayerfully consider how you might better apply this instruction. In doing so, may you discover a deeper joy in following God's path – honoring, loving, respecting, and appreciating the imperfect parents who are part of your story. www.LutheranFamilyService.org **Lutheran Family Service**

ALTAR FLOWERS—Please consider providing Altar flower for a Sunday. Sign the flower chart found on the bulletin board next to the rest rooms. Sign your name for the date of your choice. Use the yellow envelope write the occasion you are celebrating and to pay for the flowers (\$30 for two arrangements, checks made out to St. John's church). Place the envelope in the offering plate. The rest will be taken care of.

PRAYER MINISTRY

Remember God's work through missionaries on home service:

MISSION—*Pray for missionary families to be able to visit as many congregations and other groups as possible, while managing their limited time in the United States.*

ST JOHN'S—**Miss Autumn Raschke**—We offer before You our common request for the well-being of Your church throughout the world that it may be so guided and governed by Your good Spirit that all who profess themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth and hold the faith in unity of spirit in the bond of peace, and the righteousness of life. Specifically, we pray for Autumn asking Your blessings on her.

ST. JOHN'S FAMILY—O Lord, You are the great Physician of soul and body. We pray that You would show mercy to Your servants:

Linda Aper	Paula Chapa	Joyce DeFauw
John Erdman	Betty Firch	Marcia Helke
Jessica Johnson	Rosalie Jorgensen	Linda Lundquist
Mary Jayne Nash	Aaron Raschke	Drew Schillinger
Dave Schmidt	Carolyn Werner	Denice Winchell
Carolyn Wildermuth		Marilyn Woods

Jon/Anita Clausing (missionaries in Kenya)
Jodi Martins (daughter of Gary & Darla Johns)
Justin Rittenhouse (grandson of John/Nancy Wickwire)
Marty Cavato (cousin of Mary Jo Gehn)
Ellen Bauer (grandmother of Joel Werling)
Joline Parrish (sister of Gayla Kroll)
Ann Behrendt (daughter of Carolyn Wildermuth)
Lyll Talarico (niece of Mary Jo Gehn)
Cindy Davenport (cousin of Terri Hock)

Chad Gehn (nephew of Brad Gehn)
Jeff Schreck (cousin of Terri Hock)
Ralph Boney (uncle of Larry Hock)

MILITARY—Pray for our military and their families:

Luke Thompson (son of John/Kindra Thompson)
Karl Flynn (son of Mr/Mrs Paul Flynn)
Casey Powers Jr. (step son of Lisa Powers)
Brittany Lenni (daughter of Gabe Loenser)
Rylie Hallendorff (grand-daughter of Carolyn & Dan Werner)
Chase Werling (nephew of Joel Werling)
Carter Martwig (nephew of Joel Werling)

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

“When Jesus returns, all who believe in Him will be raised up from death to live in His presence forever. That is the promise of His enduring, steadfast love: ‘I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ’ (Philippians 1:6). The purpose of God for us will be fulfilled!” *Dr. Carol Geisler, Lutheran Hour Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransfor-life.org*

CIRCUIT MOVIE OUTING, Thursday, May 7 at 3pm

The Story of Everything is a cinematic exploration of the cosmos that reveals the hidden hand behind our universe. The film provides an evidence-based answer to the ultimate mystery of the universe: how did we get here? And it reveals a stunning conclusion: scientific evidence supports not just the existence of an intelligent designer of some kind — but the existence of a personal God. The scientific rediscovery of God provides hope of purpose and meaning to human existence, contrary to the claims of atheist scientists who assert that human life lacks any ultimate significance.

- **Please RSVP by Sunday, May 3rd, directly to Holy Cross Lutheran Church at office@holycrossmoline-lcms.org, or call 309-764-9720**
- Tickets are \$8.00 each (bring cash or a check written to Holy Cross to the movie)
- We will have reserved a theater at VIP Moline (near Lowes and Applebee's)
- We will be inviting the rest of the Rock Island Circuit as well.
- Invite a friend to join us!

You can watch The Story of Everything, Official Trailer on YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pwL3ZKlwEoc>



*"Tell of His glory among the nations,
His wonderful deeds among all the peoples." 1
Chronicles 16:24 NASB*

He is the God of Hope and the reason for our hope!

The National Day of Prayer is held annually on the first Thursday of May, inviting people to pray for the nation. It was created in 1952 by Congress, and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. The purpose of the National Day of Prayer is to communicate with every individual the need for personal repentance and prayer and to mobilize the Christian community to intercede for America's leaders and its families. The National Day of Prayer stands as a call for us to humbly come before God, seeking His guidance for our leaders and His grace upon us as a people.

Prayer for the 2026 National Day of Prayer

God of hope, fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

You have caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead; therefore, we hope in what we do not see.

This world is not our home or reality, but the Lord is our Rock, our Truth, our certainty.

God of hope, we pour out our praise and are filled with Your powerful presence.

We pour out repentance of sin and are filled with forgiveness and righteousness.

We pour out pain from the attacks of the enemy—*anxiousness, fear, anger*—and You fill us with courage, assurance, and love.

We pour out our needs, the desires of our hearts, and are filled with Your Kingdom's provision and purpose.

We pour out our hearts for our nation, for the people and places, relationships and responsibilities the Lord has established: the Church, Family, Education, Business, Military, Arts, Entertainment, Media, and Government. May all who live, serve, and steward in these be filled with Your purpose, wisdom, strength, and truth.

Let Your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us, as we have hoped in You.

In abounding hope, anchored by our hope in the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen!