

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

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

"The Christian Church...Where Is It? The Marks Part 2"

The first article in this series¹ on the Christian Church ended, in part, with the question, "Since faith makes one a member of the Christian Church and since faith is invisible to all but God, how can we locate the Church?" And so we began looking at the *marks of the church*, that is, those things by which a Christian holy people can be found. Last article, we considered the primary mark, *the Word of God*. As we heard, God's Word cannot be without God's people, nor can God's people be without God's Word, for the Holy Spirit uses the Word to both make them such and keep them such until they enter the fullness of the heavenly kingdom. However, while the Word read and purely preached is the *primary* mark, it is not the only one. There are also the Word empowered Sacraments and the Keys by which the Word is applied to specific people.

Therefore, the second mark of the church by which God's Christian holy people are recognized is the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Wherever baptism is correctly taught, believed and used according to Christ's institution, there Christians will be found. For baptism unites us to Christ's death and resurrection (Romans 6:3-5). It is a washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5), the blessed combination of water and Spirit through which we are born again from above (John 3:5), the means by which we receive forgiveness of sins and the Holy Spirit and the new life He gives (Acts 2:38) and, consequently, the very salvation that Christ won for us by His life, death, and resurrection (1 Peter 3:21). While this is generally downplayed, even outright denied by many Protestants, it does not surprise the biblical Christian at all, for as we heard last month, God's Word is the means by which the Spirit gives faith and salvation, and baptism is "the washing of water with the word" (Ephesians 5:26). Since "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mark 16:16), we can be sure that where true Christian baptism is found, there will be found true Christians, that is, the Church!

Continuing on, we now consider the third mark by which a Christian holy people (the Church) can be located: the holy Sacrament of the Altar. Like baptism, wherever the Lord's Supper is rightly given, believed, and received there you can be sure that the Church is present. For what is the Lord's Supper other than Christ Jesus' true body which was given unto death and true blood which was shed on the cross?² And as this holy meal gives the forgiveness of sins, the very thing needed to make one holy, then where it is being consecrated, distributed, and received in true faith according to the Word of Christ's institution a holy people is certainly present! As with baptism, so also the truths and blessings of Holy Communion are regularly minimized, ignored, even by many Protestants, thereby proving that they are an erring church as a whole and erring Christians individually. But repentant believers who trust Christ's Word over the theories of sinful men come to this meal both in humble repentance, but also in reverent joy, knowing they are receiving the heavenly manna

¹ March 2022.

² See Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20; 1 Cor 11:23-26.

their souls need to sustain their faith and grow in holiness as they continue on their pilgrimage to the kingdom of glory!

The fourth mark by which you can identify the presence of a Christian holy people is the use of the Office of the Keys. The term “keys” comes from our Lord’s own mouth when He states, “I will give to you the keys of the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 16:19). As a key unlocks or locks, so the authority to forgive or retain (withhold forgiveness) sins either unlocks or locks the kingdom of heaven. While originally spoken to Peter after his great confession, we note that this same authority is given to all the apostles (John 20:22-23) and to the whole congregation (Matthew 18:17-18).

When one who claims the name of Christian falls into sin, he is to be rebuked. If he does not repent (which includes amending his sinful ways), he is to be bound in his sin and, if he continues in impenitence, finally be cast out (excommunication). This is using the binding key for the purposes Christ has given it: 1) calling the sinner to repentance through “tough love”³ and 2) warning others so that they are not led into sin by witnessing an attitude of tolerance towards it by their fellow Christians.⁴ If the sinner does repent, intends to mend his ways, and desires to be forgiven and looks to Christ for such, he should be absolved, that is forgiven. And so the using of the loosing key heaven’s gates are unlocked and thrown wide open once again. Where this rebuking of sin, forgiving repentant believers, and exercising discipline upon impenitent sinners, even unto excommunication if they will not change their ways, is happening, you can be sure that a Christian holy people, the Church, is present!

Next month we will continue our discussion on marks of the Church.

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

Pastor Nenud

Apologetics Article: Binary-coded human beings⁵

Every computer program, or ‘software’, can be reduced to a sequence of two numbers—zero and one. This *binary system* is entirely composed of these two symbols. For example, here is a binary number: 11110111010. This is the same number as the decimal 1978, the year *Creation* magazine began. In the binary system, it is either one or the other, with no ‘extras’ or alternatives available—only 0 and 1.

Certain people object to referring to human gender in ‘binary terms’—how dare anyone refer to only two options, male and female! The Bible, however, teaches clearly on marriage and gender in [Genesis 1:27](#): “So God created man in his own image ... male and female he created them.” Our Lord Jesus confirmed this ([Matthew 19:4](#); [Mark 10:6](#)). He quoted [Genesis 1:27](#), the creation of the first human couple, the ancestors of everyone else who ever lived. Thus, the original and flawless plan of our Creator is clearly for every human being to be *either* a male *or* a female.

However, because we live in a post-Fall world, many things are now out of line with our Creator’s original intentions. For example, problems can occur in the division of germ cells, resulting in ‘assembly-line errors’ in affected humans.^a Nevertheless, biology overwhelmingly affirms the biblical teaching. Such rare, tragic glitches aside, humans are indeed binary—either woman or man.

But despite matching reality, this truth, along with much other biblical teaching, is under severe attack nowadays. Fallen humans are leading themselves as well as others astray by claiming that the very notion of gender as such, of binary sexes, does not exist. Instead, they say, all that is involved are individual, changeable mental constructions of one’s gender.^b What a stark contrast to the Bible’s clear teaching!

The Lord Jesus, the Master Designer and Programmer, ensured that the very definition of our sex is encoded onto *every single one* of our trillions of DNA-containing cells!^c As a software engineer, I cannot imagine a more robust, fundamental way to ‘hardcode’ a static, immutable, unchangeable value, which could well be declared as a *constant*. This is in perfect harmony with Scripture’s clear teaching of two sexes.

³ 1 Corinthians 5:1-5.

⁴ 1 Timothy 5:20.

⁵ By Ari Takku. Posted on homepage: 18 April 2022. <https://creation.com/gender-binary-coded>

Follow the Maker's instructions

The many clear instructions in the Bible, given by our caring Creator, are motivated by love, by what is best for us. So it's even more important for us than for a car owner to follow our Manufacturer's instructions. If we decide to rebel against the Creator's will in matters of marriage, sex, and gender definitions, we do it to our detriment. The Bible is the cutting-edge care instruction manual from the brilliant Super-Engineer to those of His beloved creatures created for fellowship with Him. Our every cell is in effect signed with 'designed in Heaven'.

The enigma of sex

The origin of sexual reproduction is a mystery to evolutionism. In the evolutionary narrative, the early ancestors of all living things simply divided, making copies of themselves by this asexual reproduction. This is a highly successful way of having offspring. So what could have driven the change? From an evolutionary perspective, this remains a puzzle. Sexual reproduction has advantages, like ensuring genetic diversity to maximize the ability to adapt to changing environments. But a 'partway' transition from asexual to sexual reproduction would not provide any selective advantage, but rather the opposite. So the origin of sex remains a huge problem for evolution, but it makes perfect sense as part of God's deliberate design.

References and notes

- Wallace, K., [Male and female He made them ...](#) creation.com, 7 Oct 2013.
- See Loiterton, J., [review of *The Global Sexual Revolution: Destruction of freedom in the name of freedom*](#) by Gabriele Kuby (2017), *J. Creation* **33**(1):26–29, 2019.
- A 70 kg man has ~38 trillion bacterial cells (total mass 0.2 kg) and ~30 trillion human cells (only ~ 3 trillion still have nuclei/DNA, unlike red blood cells). Sender, R. *et al.*, Revised estimates for the number of human and bacteria cells in the body, *PLoS Biol* **14**(8):e1002533, 2016.

A Look at the Lutheran Confessions

*In Article XVIII, Free Will, we clearly confessed the Biblical truth that while mankind does have some free will in earthly matters, where human reason prevails, there is no free will at all in spiritual matters.*⁶

Now in Article XIX, The Cause of Sin, we confess the Biblical truth that the Triune God is the creator of our human nature, which He still preserves even after the Fall into sin, but that He in no way is a cause of sin. The blame for sin falls squarely upon the devil and mankind who willingly rebelled against God. Thus we see God's mercy in that He preserves the human race not because He approves, condones, or ignores our sin, but because in His infinite grace He desires to save us sinners.

*Augsburg Confession Article XIX: The Cause of Sin*⁷

Our churches teach that although God creates and preserves nature, the cause of sin is located in the will of the wicked, that is, the devil and ungodly people. Without God's help, this will turns itself away from God,⁸ as Christ says, "When he lies, he speaks out of his own character" (John 8:44).⁹

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".

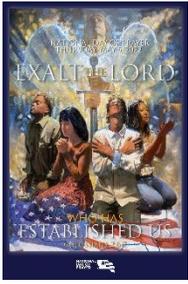


⁶ The "decision for Jesus" that some Christians emphasize is misplaced since such a decision cannot be made by a person without the Holy Spirit (e.g. 1 Cor 2:14; 12:3). Once the Spirit is there, they are already a Christian and thus haven't really "chosen" Jesus since Jesus has chosen them (John 15:16). The "decision" is actually *the Holy Spirit's working of conversion in a person through the Word* by which *He* changes a person's mind and will from sin to Christ (i.e. conversion) as faith is a gift from God (Eph 2:8-9). Thus *God alone* deserves the glory for all aspects of our salvation!

⁷ From Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions, Paul McCain, Ed. CPH, 2006

⁸ Here we see a connection to the previous article on free will, showing how the will is enslaved to sin and Satan until it is set free by Christ (conversion).

⁹ This text indicates that the character of the devil and those who are enslaved to him (those without saving faith in Jesus Christ) is twisted, sinful, and evil, and thus cannot produce anything pleasing to God



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER, MAY 5, 2022

Join with Christians throughout the United States on Thursday, May 5, to pray for our nation. A bulletin insert has been prepared for Sunday, May 1, with prayer suggestions. 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.

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.



- Please call the office or Pastor if you desire private communion.
- 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.

SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE AT ST. JOHNS

There are many opportunities to help out at St. John's. Some area that need your help now include: Council members (Sunday school person & trustee), a Head Usher, and song leaders during communion worship hymns. Serving the Lord takes a willing heart and some time. Contact the office if you are interested in any of these.

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

1 Ken/Alicia Willeford (2010) - 12 yrs
 4 Ron/Brenda Hallendorff (1996) - 26 yrs
 4 Reon/Marta Haughton (2012) – 10 yrs
 16 Alan/Jamie Eastburn (2001) - 21 yrs



17 Mark/Rebecca Ague (2014) - 8 yrs
 21 Adam/Samantha Hock (2016) – 6 yr
 23 Gabe/Shandel Loenser (2012) - 10 yrs
 23 John/Nancy Wickwire (1981) - 41 yrs

MAY BIRTHDAYS

1 Matthew Gehn
 3 Ben Schillinger
 3 Kyle Wickwire
 4 Joshua Hock
 6 Steven Magerkurth
 8 Charles Johnson
 9 Jacob Miller
 9 Alexander Wolfe
 11 Daniel Werner
 12 Broc Krantz



12 Julie Lage
 13 Craig Mosher
 14 Karen Rasmussen
 16 Blake Hallendorff
 16 Ryan Hallendorff
 17 Gracelyn Kulpa
 19 Linda Aper
 20 Kyle Miller
 21 Claire Yerkey
 25 Heidi Freeman

25 Brittany Loenser
 27 Lindsey Gustafson
 27 Randy Rasmussen
 28 Gage Gehn
 28 Nick Miller
 30 Mike Dahl
 30 Emma Yerkey
 31 Gabe Loenser

MAY BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

1 Conner Helke
 2 Francie Kolb
 2 Kevin Rahn
 10 Kristin Mosher
 11 Jamie Eastburn
 11 Sarah Nerud
 12 Preston Smith
 15 Coy McKibbon
 16 Sandra Kane
 17 Blake Hallendorff
 17 Ryan Hallendorff

18 Bradford Gehn
 22 Bridgette Smith
 23 Brenda Hallendorff
 28 Thad Curry
 28 Joshua Hock
 28 Nicholas Miller
 29 Steven Magerkurth
 30 Margo Schillinger





The focus of Jesus' witness bearing witness to the truth. The truth about sin, the truth about forgiveness and the truth about salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king? Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose, I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world-to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." John 18:17

MEET OUR CONFIRMANDS (Confirmation is May 22, 2022)



Memphis Lee Ague was born in Geneseo IL on September 15, 2007 the son of Mark and (Teri Lynne Diaz) Becky Ague. He became a child of God through the washing of Baptism on October 19, 2014 at St. John's Lutheran Church. His favorite Bible story is 'The Good Samaritan'.

Memphis attends Washington Jr High with his favorite subject being History. In his free time, he enjoys reading. Future education desires would be attending college to learn Automotive Mechanics.

Memphis has 2 dogs and 4 cats as pets. He like to eat hamburgers and Mexican or Chinese food. If he could go anywhere in the world he would like to visit France.

Vivian Lane Smith was born in Silvis IL on November 21, 2007 the daughter of Preston and Sabrina Smith. Sher became a child of God through the washing of Baptism on July 20, 2008 at St. John's Lutheran Church. Her favorite Bible verse is Jeremiah 29:11 which is also her Confirmation verse.



Vivian attends Northeast Junior High school with her favorite subject being Social Studies. She too enjoys reading in her spare time. Her future education desires would lead her into the studies in the medical field.

Vivian has a pet dog named Maggie. She likes to eat Italian food. She would love to travel to Greece for a visit.

LIVING SACRIFICES

Stewardship is not just about giving money to the church. It includes this, to be sure, but it is not limited to it. Stewardship involves our whole life – everything we have and everything we are.

Let us not, though, fall into the trap of thinking that because we give of ourselves in one area then we can neglect giving in another. Stewardship is not stealing from Peter to pay Paul. It is not a game that we play whereby we justify ourselves in not giving a tenth of our income because we have given in some other way.

This is why our Lord warns: "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others." (Matthew 23:23) We are given to do both – tithe of ourselves and what we have.

And so it is that St. Paul makes his appeal to us: "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:1-2)

We are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. We are not to have the mind of the world, where we exchange equal weight of this for an equal weight of that and think that we have done what God has required. Our whole life is given over for service in and for the Church of God. This is to be done in thanksgiving for what God in Christ has accomplished for us. This is our spiritual worship, the reasonable response to what He has done for us. Not one for the other but all in all.



But what does this look like? St. Paul never lays down a general principle without also giving us some practical application of what shape that principle is to take concretely. He gives the general principle that our bodies are to be living sacrifices to God. And, after admonishing those who have been given particular gifts of grace to serve the church, St. Paul then speaks generally of what is expected of all. He says:

“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.” (Romans 12:9–13)

This is what it looks like to present your bodies as living sacrifices. This is how we live out the grace of God here in time.

Let us then heed the apostle’s teaching. Let us present our bodies – everything that we have and everything that we are – as living sacrifices to God, our reasonable response to what God in Christ Jesus accomplished for us by His death and resurrection. Through this, we have forgiveness of sins, a new life in Christ, and eternal salvation. And through this worship, the grace of God is made manifest in His saints – for the church and the world.



Lutheran
Women
in Mission

President Liz Neumann opened the meeting in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Members present were Carolyn Werner, Wanda Rahn, Liz Neumann, and Bev Peterson. Mary Donegon was our guest speaker who told about her experiences as a delegate to the national LWML Convention in Lexington, KY.

God’s promise this month – Bible Verse: Joshua 1:9.

Liz read a devotion for Holy Week. This is the week that changed everything.

The minutes from the March meeting were approved as read.

A thank you note from Justin Kane was read. He appreciated receiving our Christmas sock money.

Treasurer’s report – Receipts: Feb. Mites-\$18.43, March Mites-\$454.61, Missions-\$20, Operating-\$20, Memorials -\$15. Dispersions: Mites-\$488.04 (sent to CID). Balance 4/12/22: Missions-\$262.14, Operating-\$133.45. Bank Balance \$395.59.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Paula Mooney is at Hill Crest Home recovering from a broken leg.
- Thank you to all who provided food for a Lenten supper.
- The party for Pregnancy Resources was very successful. Over \$300 in cash and approximately \$400 worth of clothing was collected.
- Seven women have expressed interest in being ‘Mail Box Members’. Liz showed what she had sent out this month.

NEW BUSINESS:

- It was decided to go back to meeting at 1:00 pm from now on.
- CID Convention is April 29-30 in Springfield.

The meeting closed with Mite Box prayer #2. The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 14 @ 1 pm. Carolyn will have the devotion and lesson.

Respectfully submitted, Beverly Peterson

MITE BOX MISSION GRANTS FOR LWML

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

The St. Louis & 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.



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

Lois Esterlein

Lynne Johnson

Carolyn Werner

Elizabeth Bjork

Betty Firch

Jim Rahn

Marilyn Woods

Jim Dahl

Arlyn Helke

Drew Schillinger

Don Eggers (son of friend of Marilyn Woods)

Jodie Martin (daughter of Gary/Darla Johns)

Jon/Anita Clausing (missionaries in Kenya)

Marilyn Potts (wife of Cal Potts, former LFC)

Virgina Miller (mother of Jamie Werling)

Rev. Justin Kane (son of Sandra Kane)

Bill Erdman (brother of Bob Erdman)

MILITARY – We pray for those serving in our military and their families:

Mandy/Richard Davila (daughter/husband of Linda Aper) **Luke/Nicole Thompson** (son/wife of Joh/Kindra Thompson)

Ken Willeford (husband of Alicia Willeford)

Karl Flynn (son of Mr/Mrs Paul Flynn)

Casey Powers Jr. (step son of Lisa Powers)

Brittany Loenser (daughter of Gabe Loenser)

Zachary/Tiffany Gardner (nephew/wife of Lois Esterlein)

BRING US YOUR SHOES!

Concordia Lutheran Church in Geneseo is raising funds for a Classical Lutheran school and is participating in fundraiser where there is nothing to buy or sell. All that is needed is your support and your old shoes. We are asking that members in churches in the Rock Island Circuit help support the school by collecting gently worn, used, and new shoes and bring them to the shoe collection box placed at your church. Start in your family’s closets and gather pairs of shoes that are out grown, out of style, or out of season – any size or type of shoe: work boots, high heels, children’s shoes, athletic shoes, even flip flops. You can help even more by challenging yourself to collect 25 pairs of shoes, and then challenging your friends and family to do the same. At the end of the collection period, the shoes will be picked up and sent to developing countries to create job opportunities. Shoe drive fundraisers provide inventory to 4,000 micro-entrepreneurs who sell the shoes to support their families. Thank you for your support.



CALL DAY, April 26, 2022

Matthew G. Carlson has been our seminary student for the past two years. Matthew received a call for his Vicarage to Messiah Lutheran Church in Danville, CA. Please continue to pray for Matt as he continues his education towards becoming a minister for our Lord Jesus.



ENCHILADA SALE

Cristo Rey members are selling their fabulous enchiladas in either chicken or beef. Cost is \$15/dozen. Orders are picked up on Saturday, May 7th from 1-2 pm at Cristo Rey Lutheran Church. To place an order, call Jose Nunez (309)373-1788. Proceeds go to Lutheran Women Missionary League.

PREGNANCY RESOURCES' ANNUAL BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

St. John's will once again participate in support of this mission. Pick up one or more baby bottles from the basket on the table next to the coat room. ***Please sign your name on the sheet and how many bottles you are taking.*** Fill your bottle with loose change, paper bills, or a check (make checks out to Pregnancy Resources). When you return your bottle simply write down the return date on the sheet next to your name and place the full bottle back into the basket or on the secretary's desk. Thanks for all your help.



SAVE the DATE for TRIVIA NIGHT at Immanuel Lutheran Church (To Benefit the Immanuel Youth), Saturday, May 14th beginning at 7 pm. (doors open @ 6 pm). This will be a night of fun with trivia and a silent auction. Tables are \$80 each (8 seats per table). More details to come! Questions can be directed to Helen Vogel @ 309-781-9627.

“Destiny”

There came a point at which Jesus would not be dissuaded from accomplishing the mission for which He was sent. After His discussion with Moses and Elijah on the transfiguration mountaintop He did not turn His face away from Jerusalem. In that city our redemption by His crucifixion, death, and resurrection would be “finished”. This was the reason for His earthly and messianic visitation!

We sometimes talk of destiny as if it was a yet unrealized desire or hope, or it was a pathway from which we could not find release, sort of like a Star Trek tractor beam. For Jesus, His destiny, figured out within the conversation of the holy Trinity before the creation, was something that plotted out the reason, meaning, and purpose of His incarnate life. His love must rescue the lost and do it so that fallen mankind's destiny would become something new and godly.

He did this through His obedient life lived as our substitute. He achieved this by suffering under our iniquities, though innocent, to conquer sin and Satan's grip on us. He completed it by the shedding of His blood and succumbing to death. His resurrection was the final piece that cemented our victory. This was His destiny, and now the destiny of those condemned by sin is that repenting, and trusting in Jesus, we are headed for heaven and our intended inheritance in His heavenly Kingdom. When your destiny is settled for good and in God, there is found peace found nowhere else!

Rev. Mark A. Miller, President CID

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 the outreach of Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf and Pastor Tom Phillips. Pastor Phillips is our CID missionary to the deaf. He serves in Jacksonville, but also spans the District to bring the Good News about Jesus to the hearing- impaired.

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](#)

Statistical & Lay Leaders Reports are due April 30, 2022

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>))

Small Church Summit

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Farmersville, Illinois, is inviting members of small churches in the Central and Southern Illinois Districts to a “Small Church Summit” on St. Barnabas Day, Saturday, June 11, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This free event is for both pastors and laypeople.

What is a small church? “If your church thinks of itself as small, consider yourself invited,” said Pastor Micheal Strong of Zion. “We want to encourage and help one another as Lutheran congregations.”

After opening worship and introductions, participants will talk about positive points concerning their churches as well as challenges. After lunch at the church, they will apply various positives to various challenges identified that morning and consider ways in which future small church summits might prove helpful.

Interested? Please contact the CID office: **PHONE:** (217) 793-1802

E-MAIL: cid@cidlcms.org

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?

SUMMER CAMPING

Camp CILCA is a super place to spend time for the whole family. Check out their website: www.CILCA.ORG or call 217-487-7497 for all the wonderful camping opportunities available for all ages. We have brochures available on the table next to the coat room. St. John’s also have scholarships for youth wanting to attend a week summer camp. Your questions can also be directed to Terri Hock in the church office.

Jesus is the way.

Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me.”
John 14:6



I praise you, for I am
fearfully and wonder-
fully made.

Psalm 139:14

THANK YOU
for the monetary donations and baby items
so generously given to support the ministry of
PREGNANCY RESOURCES!

*You are cordially invited to
St. Johns' Hymn Festival:*

"Faith Sings!"

The Active Witness of the Church's Song

Join us as we proclaim how active Christ is in the Church!

When: Sunday, May 29th at 3pm

Where: St. John's Lutheran Church

1450 30th Ave.

East Moline, IL 61244

With special guest:

Phillip Magness, cantor and missionary!

Phillip Magness serves the Lord through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in French-speaking countries in West and Central Africa (Togo, Guinea, Congo—Brazzaville, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Burkina Faso, Congo—Kinshasa and Burundi). As a sacred music educator, Phillip teaches hymns, psalms and spiritual songs — and develops the musicianship of song leaders so that they are better able to teach, share and nurture music for worship.

Phillip received a Bachelor of Music degree and a Master of Music degree from the University of North Texas, Denton. He then received his Director of Parish Music colloquy from Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Ill. He serves a dual call as a missionary and as cantor at Village Lutheran Church in Ladue, Mo. Before serving in these roles, he was cantor at LCMS congregations in Oklahoma, Illinois and Texas.





St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church—Geneseo IL

May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am</p>	<p>2 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i></p>	<p>3 Adult Instruction 7pm</p>	<p>4 Confirmation 5 pm</p>	<p>5 Elders 6 pm Men's Bible Study 7 pm National Day of Prayer</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10 am</p>	<p>9 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i></p>	<p>10 Council 6:30 pm</p>	<p>11 Confirmation 5 pm</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am</p>	<p>16 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i></p>	<p>17 Adult Instruction 7pm</p>	<p>18 Confirmation 5 pm</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10 am Confirmation Sunday</p>	<p>23 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i></p>	<p>24 Adult Instruction 7pm</p>	<p>25 SS Teachers' 7 pm</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am</p>	<p>30 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>31 Adult Instruction 7pm</p>			<p>ELDER Carl Freeman</p>	



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, 5th Sunday)**

Live Streaming each week on Facebook

