

# ST. JOHN'S NEWSLETTER

## ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**BUILT ON CHRIST OUR CORNERSTONE**

SEPTEMBER 2022 - Vol. 125, No. 9

–IN GOD’S GRACE – IN GOD’S SERVICE–

“Attributes of the Christian Church...It Is *One*”

In previous articles we noted that the Christian Church is *invisible*, for true faith is what makes one a member, but faith is invisible to all but God (no “faithmeters”!). Because of this reality, we then considered the various “marks of the Church,” those visible things that are not the Church themselves, but are indicators that the Church, that is, a Christian holy people, are present.<sup>1</sup>

This month we now consider a different attribute of the Church: that it is *one* (Latin: *una sancta*). We confess this oneness of the Church in our Christian creeds. The Apostles’ Creed states, “I believe in...*the* holy Christian Church,” where the Church is clearly a singular entity. The Nicene Creed, as is often the case, is even more specific, actually using the word *one*, “I believe in *one* holy Christian and apostolic Church.”

The Church being one is something that we must believe, accepting it by faith, for it cannot be seen. On the contrary, we see a much-divided Christendom, with different confessions of the faith represented amongst varying denominations and subgroups within them, all the way down to individual members. Yet, despite what we see, we *believe* the Church is one *because the Word says so*. Consider the following examples:

- Our Lord declares, “So there will be one flock, one shepherd” (John 10:16).
- “There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all” (Ephesians 4:4-6).
- “For you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28).

As all of humanity is under the Law’s curse and God’s wrath due to sin, so also all those who have faith in Christ Jesus, crucified and risen as their substitute, are forgiven. All who lack this faith, whatever their claims may be, are not in the Christian Church. And all those who have this faith are thereby members of this one Church, for they are believers, Christians.

But then what do we say about the plethora of denominations,<sup>2</sup> pan-denominational groups, independent congregations, etc. which make up visible Christianity? Are these divisions only bad, being a denial of our true unity, and so we should get rid of them and start practicing full fellowship with every other Christian? While

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<sup>1</sup> Based upon Martin Luther’s *On the Councils and the Church*, we noted the following marks: 1) the purely preached Word, the Sacraments of 2) Holy Baptism and 3) Holy Communion administered according to Christ’s institution, 4) the Office of the Keys being rightly administered by forgiving repentant sinners and not forgiving impenitent sinners, 5) the presence of the Office of the Ministry overseeing the above means, 6) prayer, praise, and thanksgiving offered to God in public worship, and 7) bearing the cross, i.e. suffering for Christ. In addition we noted Christian obedience to the Second Table of the Law, loving the neighbor in our various vocations, and also “useful customs” (ceremonies) within the church that keep order, encourage reverence, and teach God’s people.

<sup>2</sup> It needs to be stated that so-called “nondenominational” churches are simply a denomination of their own. They, like Evangelical Free Churches, are generally Baptist in their confession, but are not associated with them by name or by any official convention.

that might seem to be the right answer at first, some things are not as simple as they seem (or as we would like them to be).

While it is absolutely true that God wants all His people to be one in this life as well as the next (John 17:20-23), it is also true that such unity of faith *is a unity around the Word of God* (John 17:17). Consequently, denominations, etc. actually serve a useful purpose in this fallen world. Since we cannot see faith in people's hearts (the Church is *invisible*), we must deal with them according to their confession of faith.<sup>3</sup> A church body's official confessions inform us what their members believe that the Word of God teaches. If a church body's confessions do not agree with Scripture, then we know *that doctrinal error exists in that church*, that the Word of God is not being proclaimed and taught purely and the Sacraments are not being administered according to Christ's institution.

If the Gospel is still present, then there will be Christians within that church body. Yet, we cannot join with such a church body since it teaches contrary to God's Word.<sup>4</sup> Love for Him and His truth overrides earthly love for visible unity as the only *true* unity is that which He gives through His Word. In fact, separating from fellowship with such churches and their members is actually an act of true Christian love. For all errors in teaching are from the devil, who will use such to hide and corrupt the Gospel that is still present with the sole purpose of destroying saving faith. So it is an act of (tough) love to not have earthly visible unity, because it warns both those who are in the erring church body as well as those who are in the orthodox church so that they are not led into thinking the errors are actually not errors or, at a minimum, are not really important. Here is a helpful quote from a recent Lutheran dogmatics (doctrine) text book:

Thus we do not join with Roman Catholics, Methodists, Presbyterians, or other church bodies that teach or tolerate error. Yet we know that there are Christians in those church bodies where the gospel is still present. All who believe in Christ are one with us in Christ's one church. However, since we cannot look into people's hearts to see if they believe, we will not be in the same denominations with these people on earth though we may be members together with them in the invisible church.<sup>5</sup>

Based upon this unity in the faith (what is believed), we recognize the Church is not divided by either time or space. So, even as we acknowledge the truth that the *condition* of the Church on earth is one of still living by faith and battling against the devil, the world, and the sinful flesh (Church Militant), whereas the *condition* of the Church in heaven (Church Triumphant) is radically different, living by sight and being at peace, we equally confess that this does not make two churches. It simply reflects the one Church in which the members are experiencing different conditions, similar to how even on earth two believers of the same time period are likely experiencing very different conditions, yet are still members of the one Christian Church.<sup>6</sup>

All of this is true, *but it is to be true for us as well*. That is, *this truth should impact us*. It certainly does so by encouraging us to become truly one with other Christians by full agreement in doctrine, and not just by sweeping our differences under the rug and saying nonsense like "We're all the same in the end" or "Don't judge" etc. But even more, it reminds us of the incredible gift that God has given to us *in this congregation and synod*, the gift of unity around the true confession of the Word of God, a oneness that is stronger than any earthly bond, because this oneness is founded on Christ Jesus. Therefore, may God grant us to grow in our appreciation of His gift of unity and so work ever harder to maintain it in our congregation and synod!

In the name of the one Lord of the one Church, *Pastor Nerd*

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<sup>3</sup> On an individual level, we would also judge if the person's life matches up to their confession, but that is not the point here. In this we are looking at the person's confession of the faith *which is based upon the church body in which they have chosen to be a member*.

<sup>4</sup> As this erring confession is also the confession of its individual members, this means that we must not let them receive the Lord's Supper at our altar, nor should we receive it there if, for some reason, we are present in their public worship. If they truly believe as we do, then they should leave their erring congregation (for they agree with us!), and become members here or another sister congregation that has the same confession. To say they agree with us, but to remain in a church body that teaches differently, shows that they are, at best ignorant, needing further instruction or, worse, indifferent towards God's Word.

<sup>5</sup> *God So Loved the World: A Study of Christian Doctrine*; Lyle W. Lange; Northwestern Publishing House, 2012, p. 537.

<sup>6</sup> Just consider a member of our parish and a member of an underground Christian congregation in North Korea, or a persecuted Christian in an Islamic country, etc.

## A Look at the Lutheran Confessions

*We now conclude our look at Augsburg Confession Article XX: Good Works.<sup>7</sup> In last month's reading, we pointed out that the Biblical teaching of justification by grace through faith in Christ is only appreciated by the one who recognizes their need for Christ, that is, those who have come to recognize their sinful state and rightly fear God's impending wrath upon them for their sin. In this month's reading, we confess that good works are to be done, but we point out that only one who is already good, that is, who has been justified before God and has the Holy Spirit, can actually do works that please God.*

*Augsburg Confession Article XX: Good Works, 27-40<sup>8</sup>*

Furthermore, we teach that it is necessary to do good works. This does not mean that we merit grace by doing good works, but because it is God's will [Ephesians 2:10]. It is only by faith, and nothing else, that forgiveness of sins is apprehended. The Holy Spirit is received through faith, hearts are renewed and given new affections, and then they are able to bring forth good works. Ambrose says: "Faith is the mother of a good will and doing what is right."<sup>9</sup> Without the Holy Spirit people are full of ungodly desires. They are too weak to do works that are good in God's sight [John 15:5]. Besides, they are in the power of the devil, who pushes human beings into various sins, ungodly opinions, and open crimes.<sup>10</sup> We see this in the philosophers, who, although they tried to live an honest life could not succeed, but were defiled with many open crimes. Such is human weakness, without faith and without the Holy Spirit, when governed only by human strength.

Therefore, it is easy to see that this doctrine<sup>11</sup> is not to be accused of banning good works. Instead, it is to be commended all the more because it shows how we are enabled to do good works. For without faith, human nature cannot, in any way, do the works of the First or Second Commandment [1 Corinthians 2:14]. Without faith, human nature does not call upon God, nor expect anything from Him, nor bear the cross [Matthew 16:24]. Instead human nature seeks and trusts in human help.<sup>12</sup> So when there is no faith and trust in God, all kinds of lusts and human intentions rule in the heart [Genesis 6:5]. That is why the Church sings: "Lacking Your divine favor, there is nothing in man. Nothing in him is harmless."<sup>13</sup>

### **Apologetics: Why did God make such a big universe?<sup>14</sup>**

Why did God make the universe so big compared to us? Interestingly, some skeptics have even turned this into an argument against God (or, at least an argument against the idea that God cares about us).<sup>a</sup>

The idea runs like this: the observable universe is 93 billion light-years in diameter, which makes the earth and us on less than a speck against the backdrop of such a vast cosmic dark. Nor do we seem to occupy a special physical location in the universe, e.g. at its center (at least, according to big bang theory).<sup>b</sup> And humans (per the standard scientific narrative) have only existed for the last 1 million years or so of its supposed 13.8-

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<sup>7</sup> Due to the length of this Article, it is being broken into smaller pieces.

<sup>8</sup> From Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions, Paul McCain, Ed. CPH, 2006

<sup>9</sup> At the time of the writing of the Confession, it was believed that the document that this quote comes from was written by the Church Father Ambrose. It is now recognized to be from the Church Father Prosper of Aquitaine. Either way, the quote shows that this teaching was not first introduced to the Church by the reformers, but was already present and proclaimed by those who believed Scripture rightly.

<sup>10</sup> E.g. Ephesians 2:1-3

<sup>11</sup> Justification by grace through faith in Christ without works.

<sup>12</sup> Whether from self or others, either way it is idolatry.

<sup>13</sup> From the medieval hymn "Come Holy Spirit." An English translation of this hymn, "Come, Holy Ghost, in Love" is in *The Lutheran Hymnal*, #227.

<sup>14</sup> By Shaun Doyle; published: 19 July 2022; <https://creation.com/why-did-god-make-the-universe-so-big>. Underlined texts are hyperlinks in the online article.

billion-year existence. We're not just a speck of dust in a vast cosmic dark, but we're also just a blip on the cosmos' supposed timeline.

However, Thomas<sup>a</sup> argues that this is unexpected if God cares about us: She avers:

Traditionally, the Christian God is held to be deeply concerned with human beings. Genesis (1:27) states: "God created mankind in his own image." Psalms (8:1–5) says: "O Lord ... What is man that You take thought of him ... Yet You have made him a little lower than God, And You crown him with glory and majesty!" And, of course, John (3:16) explains God gave humans his son out of love for us.

These texts show that God is human-oriented: human beings are like God, and he values us highly. Although we're focusing on Christianity, these claims can be found in other monotheistic religions, too. ...

If God is human-oriented, wouldn't you expect him to create a universe in which humans feature prominently? You'd expect humans to occupy most of the universe, existing across time. Yet that isn't the kind of universe we live in.<sup>a</sup>

Now, as biblical creationists, we of course reject the *temporal* dimension to this argument. Humans have been around "since the beginning of creation" (Mark 10:6). Nonetheless, the size and location issues for many are enough by themselves to create this impression. Carl Sagan eloquently pointed out as he meditated on the famous 'Pale Blue Dot' image from Voyager 1:

"Look again at that dot. That's here. That's home. That's us. ... Our posturings, our imagined self-importance, the delusion that we have some privileged position in the Universe, are challenged by this point of pale light. Our planet is a lonely speck in the great enveloping cosmic dark. In our obscurity, in all this vastness, there is no hint that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves."<sup>c</sup>

### Responses?

Now, it's always telling to see how proponents of arguments expect their opponents to respond. So, how does Thomas *expect* theists to respond? She canvasses three—mystery, beauty, and indifference:

Perhaps God exists but his motives for not creating humans sooner, or on a bigger scale, are unknowable. The divine is, after all, mysterious.

Perhaps the swathes of space strung with gossamer nebulae serve some aesthetic purpose, beauty wrought on an inhuman scale. Or, perhaps, God exists but isn't as human-oriented as we thought. Perhaps God values rocks and cosmic dust more highly than humans.<sup>a</sup>

Obviously, the 'indifference' response is off the table for Christians. After all, God became one of us 'for us and our salvation' (The Incarnation: Why did God become Man?). Whatever our size and location, if God becomes one of us to bring us into eternal communion with Him, He clearly cares about us.

Beauty is an interesting response. It is consistent with the Bible, since the heavens declare the glory of God and proclaim His handiwork (Psalms 19:1–2). But it doesn't really explain why the universe is so *vast* compared to us. After all, there is as much divine beauty to find at the end of a microscope as there is to find at the end of a telescope.

What about mystery? That *could* work as a response. However, God didn't leave this matter a mystery.

### The Bible and creation's vastness

The *biblical* response to this question begins right under Thomas' nose. She quoted from Psalms 8:3–5:

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, <sup>4</sup> what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

<sup>5</sup>Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

Note the contrast between vv. 3–4 and v. 5. Looking at the stars causes the psalmist to ask why he cares for us. And yet in verse 5 he crowns us with glory and honor. The psalmist is clearly capable of meditating on his own insignificance in light of the sky, and *yet* he also acknowledges God's care for us in the way He made us.

In 1 Kings 8:27 Solomon makes a similar observation, this time concerning God dwelling in the temple he has just built:

“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built!”

Solomon prayed these words *after* God had manifested his special presence in the temple (1 Kings 8:10–11), so he wasn’t questioning whether God would care enough to dwell in the temple. Rather, he was marveling that God would *condescend so far* and fill the temple with His glory. This is even more evident in the Incarnation, where the eternal Word of God “tabernacles among us” (John 1:14) *as the human Jesus of Nazareth*.

So, meditating on these verses, it becomes clear just how much the skeptics have missed the point. The vastness of the universe impresses on us God’s sheer immensity. Even the cosmos, as large as it is, can’t contain God! But we’re so small. Little dots on a single speck of a planet floating in some nondescript place in the vast cosmic dark. Does it make God feel immense? Of course it does!

And yet, we are right at the center of God’s spiritual concerns. The Incarnation proves that. But this disjunct is precisely what we’d expect of the God of Isaiah 57:15:

“For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: ‘I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.’”

God is a God of loving *condescension*. He voluntarily *descends* from His transcendent dignity to care for us ‘mere specks of dust’. What better way for God to create a context for that impression than to create a vast universe in which we’re alone on a tiny speck in the vast cosmic dark? He fills all things, yet concerns himself with us so much that He sends His eternal Son to become one of us to bring us into eternal communion with Him.

### References and notes

- a. Thomas, E., Can science prove God doesn’t exist? Vastness of space suggests there is no Almighty Creator, [newsweek.com/science-prove-god-doesnt-exist-vastness-space-indicates-700688](http://newsweek.com/science-prove-god-doesnt-exist-vastness-space-indicates-700688), 3 November 2017.
- b. Creationists have in the past argued that we are near the center of the universe based on quantized redshifts: Humphreys, R., Our galaxy is the centre of the universe, ‘quantized’ redshifts show, *J. Creation* **16**(2):95–104, 2002. However, a subsequent research program by ICR failed to confirm these results. As such, they wisely cautioned creationists against making strong claims regarding quantized redshifts: Hebert, J., Galaxy Redshift Research Update, *Acts & Facts* **48**(1), [icr.org/article/galaxy-redshift-research-update](http://icr.org/article/galaxy-redshift-research-update), 2019.
- c. Sagan, C., *Pale Blue Dot: A Vision of the Human Future in Space*, Ballantine Books, New York, pp. 6–7, 1994.

## GROWING IN THE WORD OF GOD

- 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. The new study topic is; *Alien Intrusion*.
- Adult Instruction classes meet each Tuesday evening @ 7 pm. This is a great opportunity to review the teachings of God’s Word.



### LWML ROCK ISLAND ZONE FALL RALLY

All women are invited to attend the LWML Rock Island Zone Fall Rally, at Faith Lutheran Church, in Kewanee. On Tuesday, September 20, beginning with registration/coffee time at 8:30. The Rally will begin at 9:15. The rally theme is “Light Up the World with Christ” based on Psalm 119:105. The cost is \$12.00 which includes lunch.

The guest speaker is Rev. Rodney G. Blomquist, CID Prison/Jail Coordinator and a member of the CID Human Care Committee. Retired, he is currently serving as vacancy pastor at Trinity Lutheran, Taylorville.

An ingathering will be collected for Abilities Plus (Childrens, Residential, Workshop Services and Agency Needs) in Kewanee; and for the East Moline Correctional Center. **Articles maybe left at the church in the box provided beside the coat room. Monetary donations may be given to Bev Peterson or Liz Neumann.**

Items suggested to bring include:

Large Duplo Lego Blocks	Receiving Blankets	Soft Baby Books
Adult Coloring Books	Colored Pencils	Art and Craft Supplies
Word Search Books	Paper Plates	Paper Napkins
Adult and Simple Puzzles	Plastic Tablecloths	Small Bingo Prizes
Adult and Children's Board Games		

Cash or checks are welcome also. Make checks payable to Abilities Plus.

Cash or checks are also being accepted for *Portals of Prayer* subscriptions for the East Moline Correctional Center. Make checks payable to Women of Faith.

If you would like to attend, call Liz Neumann or Bev Peterson by Sunday, September 4.

### MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Please note these changes in your Membership Directory.

Jim Rahn– Transferred to the Church Triumphant 7/9/2022

### What is Stewardship?

What is a steward? Most people, when asked this question, will reply: “A manager.” That is correct, but it is only half right. A steward is indeed a manager, but he is a manager of what does not belong to him. Someone else is the owner, and the steward manages the owner's property on the owner's behalf.

We are God's stewards. Our stewardship is that God has made us managers of what belongs to Him. For we have brought nothing into this world, and we can take nothing out of it (1 Tim. 6:7). Everything that we have and everything that we are comes from God's fatherly Divine goodness and mercy. God is the owner. Not only because, as the Creator, He created all things. But also, as the Redeemer, He has redeemed, that is, purchased and won all things. It all, therefore, belongs to Him.

We are simply managers of everything in this world. Like Joseph in Egypt, we are put in charge of managing what belongs to God. What a privilege. Think about that for a minute. The all-knowing, all-powerful, all-wise God has asked us to manage His possessions on His behalf here on earth. And by doing this, He invites us to take part in the allocation of His good gifts. He wants us to give our input and advise Him in where His gifts are to be used. What a privilege indeed.

What a responsibility. For to whom much is given, much shall be required (Luke 12:48). We are not the owners. And while He puts us as managers, we are still to do with His property what He wants done with it. That means we need to know what His desire and will for His property is.

How do we know this? How can we know the will and mind of God? We find the will of God in the Bible. There God tells us what His will for all His gifts are to be used. He tells us how we are to spend our time and use our talents and treasures. He instructs us in the use of our minds, bodies, and souls.

There is nothing that we have that doesn't belong to Him. “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price” (1 Cor. 6:19–20). He informs us of the big picture, the overarching policy, of how we as His stewards – His managers and custodians – of His property are to do the managing.

And that is what stewardship is. It is simply doing what God wants us to do with what He has given us. As St. Paul said: “Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness” (Rom. 6:13). So, let's dive into the God's Word and listen to what the owner desires from His stewards.





Is it time to invite your friend to get to know Jesus better? You can do this by offering a devotional booklet, tract or Bible study. You can invite your friend to come to a class, worship or some other event with you. Invite gently, warmly and often.

### 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.**

#### SEPTEMBER Birthdays

4 Lisa Peterson  
5 Lincoln Mosher  
7 Dennis Langdon  
7 Madison Winchell  
9 Barrett Hock  
9 Lillian Hock  
10 Jill Wickwire  
11 Keir Blank

13 Janelle Gibson  
14 Sheila Magerkurth  
15 Memphis Ague  
15 Barbara Miller  
16 Cheryl Loenser  
18 Jason Dahl  
21 Preston Smith  
23 Rollin Miller

24 Lauren Curry  
25 Gary Post  
28 Kate Langdon  
28 Stephanie Mosher  
29 Luke Davila  
29 Jaelyn Lambin



#### SEPTEMBER Anniversaries

5 Wayne/Denise Winchell (1992) - 30 yrs  
6 Dan/Carolyn Werner (1969) - 51 yrs  
7 Kevin/Stacie Rahn (2002) - 20 yrs  
10 Kevin/Kathy Remick (2011) - 11 yrs



Happy Anniversary

16 Larry/Terri Hock (1973) - 49 yrs  
24 Scott/Laurie Rahn (2016) - 6 yrs  
30 Paul/Theresa Mosher (1978) - 44 yrs

#### SEPTEMBER Baptisms

5 Elizabeth Neumann  
5 Kindra Thompson  
5 John Wickwire  
5 Jared Wright  
7 Darla Johns  
8 Brianna Rodgers  
8 Matthew Werling  
9 Betty Firch  
9 Barrett Hock



9 Lillian Hock  
9 Christian Loenser  
9 Dominick O'Neil  
10 Brittany Loenser  
11 Heidi Freeman  
11 Sharilyn Iliff  
18 Joel Goetz  
18 John Neumann  
19 Lynne Johnson

20 Dawn Daebelliehn  
20 Linda Pinegar  
24 Mandolyn Davila  
25 Griffin Marckese  
27 Kristy Rodgers  
28 Lisa Bear  
28 Sheila Magerkurth  
29 Jamie Lambin  
30 Joel Werling

### 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:

**Elizabeth Bjork**

**Lois Esterlein**

**Lynne Johnson**

**Carolyn Werner**

**Paula Chapa**

**Betty Firch**

**Jim Rahn**

**Marilyn Woods**

**Jim Dahl**

**Arlyn Helke**

**Drew Schillinger**

**Carolyn Wildermuth**

**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)

**Virginia Miller** (mother of Jamie Werling)

**Rev. Justin Kane** (son of Sandra Kane)

*(Please remember to call the church office if you are needing prayer. Also let us know when we can remove your name because your health has improved and you are living regular life. We love to give thanks to God for His healing just as we send Him our requests.)*

**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)



- Please call the office or Pastor when someone is ill, hospitalized, or homebound or you desire private communion.
- Please use this email to contact the office: [churchoffice@stjohnsgeneseo.org](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsgeneseo.org)
- Website address – [www.stjohnsgeneseo.org](http://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.



**WALK FOR LIFE**—Pregnancy Resources annual fund raiser is set for Saturday, September 10th. Walkers may check in between 8:30—11:00 am at the East Shelter of Ben Butterworth Park. Walkers may walk any time between 9-11:30 am. If you wish to support this event but are unable to walk, you may send your donation to: Pregnancy Resources, 3825—16th St., Moline IL 61265.

## LLL RETREAT

Please plan on attending the upcoming LLL “Retreat.” The Retreat will be held on September 10th at Camp Cilca. We are pleased to have Dr. Schurb from the CID District Office and Dr. Daniel Harmelink from the Concordia Historical Institute in St. Louis presenting together. They will present episodes of the 175 years of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. Registration will be from 8AM to 9AM. Registration is \$20 which includes lunch.

The LLL “Annual Retreat” began in 1955 and there have been “Retreats” every year since. A couple of men had attended a similar event in Indiana. They were instrumental in starting it in the Central Illinois District. What a heritage “The Retreat” has been. The LCMS had some interesting times through the years.

Reservations are requested by September 6 to Deloris Blessman at [delorisblessman@hotmail.com](mailto:delorisblessman@hotmail.com).



## ROCK ISLAND CIRCUIT YOUTH GROUP

Mark your calendars - regular meetings resume on Sunday, September 11th. All youth (7th grade thru High School) from all churches in the Rock Island Circuit are welcome to attend. Meetings are every Sunday from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 3300 24th Street, Rock Island. First hour - youth meet with Pastor Astrowski for a devotion followed by a discussion on Apologetics (learning to defend the faith). Second hour - youth gather in the fellowship hall and gymnasium with our Youth Leaders for activities, games and snacks. Make sure to bring your friends. Remember to wear comfortable clothes and shoes and for the activity hour. Please park and enter the church building on the west side. Continue to watch the newsletter and bulletin for upcoming fall events. For any questions, please contact Kathy Welch at 309-714-5491.



## CAMP CILCA NEWS

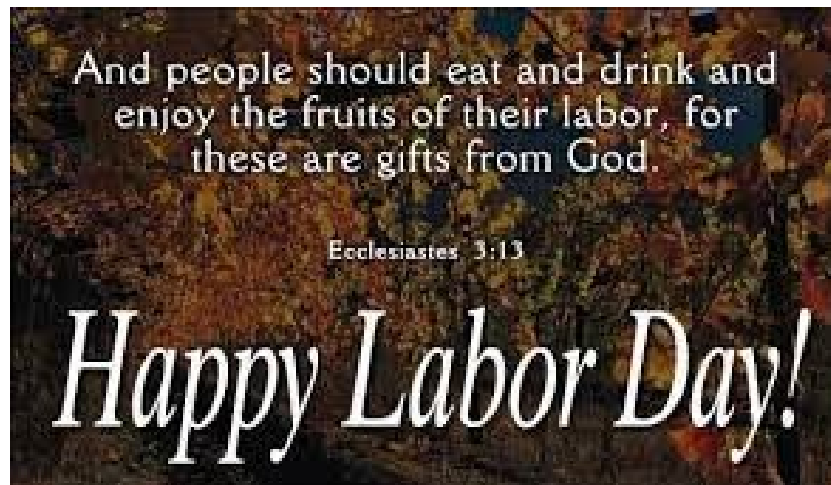
The annual Chicken Fry and Auction will be held Sunday, September 4 from 11:30am-2:30pm. Meals cost is \$10 for adults and will include fresh fried chicken, cole slaw, mashed potatoes, drinks and dessert. The live auction will begin at 12:30 pm in the air-conditioned Dining Hall. The Trading Post and beach will be open for a full day of food and fun.

## THE G.R.I.T. RUN

The G.R.I.T. is back on October 1 at Camp CILCA. Run trails, cross creeks, see great sights, and earn your place with the brave souls who meet this challenge each year. Cost is \$30 for adults and \$10 for children 17 and under. Register at [www.cilca.org/grit-run](http://www.cilca.org/grit-run).

## SIGN LANGUAGE CLASSES

Word of God Lutheran Church for the Deaf will offer free beginning sign language classes on Tuesday evenings, 7:30-8:30 pm, at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 115 W. 12th Ave., Milan, Illinois. The emphasis will be on conversational sign language. Classes will run ten weeks, from Sept. 13 – Nov. 15, and are open to the entire community. Pre-registration is not required. For more information, please call Rev. Tim Eckert, 563-359-7105, or e-mail him at [DeafLutheran@q.com](mailto:DeafLutheran@q.com).



**INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN COUNCIL (ILC)**  
Pastor and lay leaders of St. John Lutheran Church are invited to a  
**Breakfast Presentation**  
about the  
**INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN COUNCIL (ILC)**

@  
**Holy Cross Lutheran Church**  
**4107 21<sup>st</sup> Ave, Moline IL**  
**8:00-10:00 AM**  
**Thursday September 22, 2022**

Just returning from the ILC World Conference in Kenya on September 10 (God granting!), I will speak about the nature & work of the ILC in strengthening & encouraging Confessional Lutheran Churches around the globe as well as taking questions from those gathered.

We are very thankful the Rev. Wilfred Karsten & Holy Cross Lutheran Church for their kind hospitality.

**Please contact me at the email below before Wednesday, September 14 with the names and number of people attending so that our hosts can be adequately prepared.**

Feel free to contact me with any questions about the ILC, understanding that I expect to be in Africa September 9-19. You can also learn about the ILC at [www.ILCouncil.org](http://www.ILCouncil.org).

In Christ's service, Rev. Roger B. James  
Assistant to The General Secretary, International Lutheran Council  
[Roger.James@ILCouncil.org](mailto:Roger.James@ILCouncil.org), 260-413-7613





# St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church—Geneseo IL

## September 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>ELDER</b> Aaron Raschke				1 Elders 6 pm Men's Bible Study 7 pm	2	3
4 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am	5 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> <i>Happy Labor Day</i>	6 Adult Instruction 7 pm	7	8	9	10
11 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10 am	12 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	13 LWML 1 pm Council 6:30 pm	14	15	16	17
18 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am Confirmation 11:30 am Youth Group 11:30 am	19 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	20 Adult Instruction 7 pm	21	22   <i>First Day of Autumn</i>	23	24
25 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10 am Confirmation 11:30 am	26 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	27 Adult Instruction 7 pm	28 SS Teachers' 6:30 pm	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 -1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays)**

**Live Streaming each week on Facebook**

