



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

8948 N 1900TH AVE, GENESEO IL

815-989-2025

www.stjohnsgeneseo.org

August, 2026

From the Pastor:

Why Did *That* Happen?

People wonder about how God is working, often asking “Why did *that* happen?” And then many will make some pretty strong statements about how they believe God to be at work, whether in their lives or that of others. But can we be certain of His working? Is it discernable, that is, perceivable to us so that we understand what He is doing? While much more could be said, I would like to offer a few thoughts which I pray they will be helpful in this matter.

I. God's Working through the Means of Grace is Certain and Discernable

God the Holy Spirit works in and through the Means of Grace, *the Gospel in Word and Sacraments*, to create, strengthen, and preserve saving faith in Christ Jesus by giving the forgiveness of sins won on the cross.¹ In addition, when that saving *faith* is present, the converted believer has within them a true heartfelt desire to *love* God and others by living in accordance with His will as expressed in the Ten Commandments and is filled with a sincere *hope* for eternal salvation in the new heavens and earth. Therefore, we can be *certain* that God is working through these means and, more, with the eyes of faith we can *discern* what He is doing for we know His gracious will enacted through the means of grace.

II. God's Working through the World is Certain but not Discernable

That last statement, however, is only partly true when dealing with God's working through earthly events, whether on the cosmic or the personal level. God's control of, and actions through earthly events are clearly taught in the Scripture.² We call this *divine providence*. It denotes that God neither deserted the world after He had created it nor merely watches it from afar, but in fact He still preserves and governs the whole universe and all the individual creatures through His almighty power and His omnipresence. His working through the world is *certain*, but His ways are not always discernable, even by those who have saving faith in Christ Jesus.

To be sure, there are times when “causes and effects” are perceivable in the world. This is most often observable in the case of disobedience to God's Laws in our outward lives. The person who harms or steals from another may end up with prison time or other consequences. Those who have sex outside of marriage may end up dealing with an unplanned pregnancy, sexually transmitted disease or, in the case of adultery, divorce and a destroyed/harmed family. The teenagers who give their parents a difficult time often have less freedoms and happiness due to family stress and less parental trust. Many more examples should be obvious. Just consider how even simple external obedience to God's Law would stop such consequences from occurring in the first place.

However, there are many more times when this is not the case. Someone suddenly contracts a serious illness. An accident leaves someone dead or paralyzed. The drunk driver walks away from the crash *while the innocents in the car they hit* are seriously injured or killed. A disaster of some sort strikes, leaving a family without a house and valued possessions. Perhaps a whole community is nearly wiped out. In such times we ask, “Why did that happen?” and try to figure out what we, or somebody else, *did wrong* in order to make God to punish us (or them). Interestingly, the flip-side is also often the case. That is, if things are going well, we just simply assume that God must be pleased with us (or them) even though they might be in faith-destroying sin! As the above examples indicate, the one thing that becomes clear *is that things are not always clear* when we deal with God's work in and through worldly events.

Consider Job. Job's friends assumed that he must have done something horrible to deserve the “punishments” that he was suffering. Yet Job is vindicated, because the terrible suffering he faced was not caused by any particular sin(s). Instead it was a part of God's plan to silence Satan, strengthen Job's faith, and teach Job's friends (and believers of all time) to give up such a simplistic mindset. But no one, not even Job, had any idea that such was the case at the time the tragedies

¹ E.g. Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-47; 2 Corinthians 5:19; John 20:19-23; Acts 2:38; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 3:21; Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:17-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

² E.g. Psalm 103:19; 104:27-29; Matthew 5:45; 6:25-30; Acts 17:28; Jeremiah 10:23; Colossians 1:16-17.

were occurring. Or again, we might consider the man born blind and Jesus' disciples' asking who sinned to cause the blindness, to which Jesus replied, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him." (John 9:3).

III. God Works through All Things for the Good of His People

St. Paul records one of the most beautiful promises of God, "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him" (Romans 8:28). In all things, the good, the bad, and even the indifferent, God, as a master craftsman, is working for our good. What is our good? Certainly our earthly good is a part of it. We are God's creation, and He does care about our earthly life. We know this by how we continue to receive our daily bread and so much more. But we also know that a wonderfully long, happy, carefree life here on earth that ends in eternal condemnation is meaningless and, in fact, might be what caused a person to not care about eternal truths. So an even higher priority is our *eternal* good. *God is working to make sure that each of us will join Him in the new creation!*

So when tragedy strikes, don't think that God is out to get you!³ () Unless you can draw the clearest line of cause and effect, don't even try to figure out exactly what you did wrong that caused it. After all, it might not be caused by any particular sin. Instead of such fruitless, frustrating, and faith-harming thinking, recognize the reality that all tragedies are God's wrath over sin as a whole, and therefore rightly repent of your sins, whether they be "the cause" or not (Romans 1:18; Luke 13:1-9). But then also recognize that your loving Savior is working right at that moment, in the midst of it all, to strengthen your faith by leading you to rely on Him alone more and more. And He may even be working to strengthen the faith of others through your example of patience and trust during your time of suffering, similar to that of Job.

So, "Why did *that* happen?" Specifically, we probably don't know. But ultimately, *because God loves you!* He knows that it was the right thing at the right time to keep you on the narrow path to heaven. And when you think about it that way, despite not being able to discern many of the specifics, you increasingly recognize that your trials and suffering, while still painful, take on tremendous meaning because you can be certain that God is working all things for your eternal good!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Verud

Apologetics—Drilling Down: Neanderthals Practiced Dentistry⁴

Over 60 years ago, conventional scientists taught that Neanderthals were slouching, subhuman brutes—just another evolutionary link bridging the gap between animals and people. But recent research calls such a claim into question once again.

According to evolutionary theory, Neanderthals lived 34,000 to 400,000 years ago, but creationists would say they lived only about 4,000 years ago, shortly after the Flood (early Ice Age). Fossils from this extensive archaic people group have been found from Israel to Siberia, from Wales to Western Eurasia.

Through the decades, discoveries and research have clearly revealed that Neanderthals were just as human as you and your neighbor. They cooked and ate crabs (possibly seasoned with wild herbs!),¹ made practical tools and equipment,² and used a "sophisticated" method to produce tar.³ People have done these things throughout history and still do them today.

Now another fascinating clue has been found pointing to Neanderthals belonging to the human population. In a Russian cave, researchers discovered what they believe to be a 60,000-year-old Neanderthal molar tooth with a hole in it. A *LiveScience* article has dubbed the discovery "the oldest evidence of intentional dentistry to date."⁴

During the Neanderthal's lifetime, part of the tooth began to rot. So, they treated it like any modern dentist would, drilling a hole to clear away the rotten tissue and filling the cavity to avoid further damage. Clearly, whoever performed the feat "had the brains to recognize this painful tooth cavity could be treated and possessed the fine motor skills to successfully execute the procedure."⁴ The scientists added in *PLOS One*,

³ Nor be confident that you are fine with God just because earthly things are going well. Cf. Psalm 73.

⁴BY FRANK SHERWIN, D.SC. (HON.); <https://www.icr.org/article/16014/>

“Evidence suggests they cared for sick, injured, and elderly group members, with possible use of medicinal plants.”⁵

Unsurprisingly, Neanderthals continue to reveal distinctly human traits, as would be expected on the basis of God’s creative activity on the sixth day of the creation week: creating mankind in His own image ([Genesis 1:27](#)).^{6,7} These competent dentists were 100% humans.

So much for Neanderthals being our subhuman ancestors.

References

1. Sherwin, F. [Neanderthal Crab Bake](#). *Creation Science Update*. Posted on ICR.org March 9, 2023.
2. Pennington, L. [A Single String Just Helped Confirm Genesis](#). *Creation Science Update*. Posted on ICR.org April 24, 2020, accessed June 9, 2026.
3. Clarey, T. [Neanderthals Possibly Used Pre-Flood Methods to Make Tar](#). *Creation Science Update*. Posted on ICR.org July 27, 2023, accessed June 9, 2026.
4. Berdugo, S. [‘Exceptional’ Drilled Tooth Reveals Neanderthals Practiced Dentistry in Siberia 60,000 Years Ago](#). *LiveScience*. Posted on livescience.com May 13, 2026.
5. Zubova, A. V. et al. 2026. [Earliest Evidence for Invasive Mitigation of Dental Caries by Neanderthals](#). *PLOS One*. 21 (6).
6. Thomas, B. [Neanderthal Babies Were Human Babies](#). *Creation Science Update*. Posted on ICR.org September 26, 2008.
7. Sherwin, F. [Breaking News: Humans Procreated With . . . Humans](#). *Creation Science Update*. Posted on ICR.org October 20, 2022.

* Dr. Sherwin is a science news writer at the Institute for Creation Research. He earned an M.A. in invertebrate zoology from the University of Northern Colorado and received an honorary doctorate of science from Pensacola Christian College.

Why we do what we do in worship⁵

Notes on the Liturgy #16 — Preface and Proper Preface

The Divine Service is composed of two overarching parts, *The Service of the Word* and *The Service of the Sacrament* (*Confession and Absolution* is considered a preparatory rite). With the Preface begins the second half, The Service of the Sacrament. The Preface is an Ordinary, that is, it remains the same throughout the Church Year. It is an ancient dialogue between the pastor and the people, the words being recorded as early as the 3rd century A.D. and may reflect even earlier usage. Of course, ancientness, by itself, does not make it right. But since the words are faithful, it is just one more example of how we Lutherans, far from being a group formed in the 1500’s, are actually the true descendents of the ancient church where and when it was faithful to Christ and His Word. The Preface is broken into three statements by the pastor with the corresponding responses by the gathered people:

1. The **Salutation**. “The Lord be with you...and also with you.”⁶ Earlier these same words were spoken before the readings. Now they are spoken again before Communion. Why? The salutation focuses us where God is for us and how He comes to us — in Word and Sacrament. “The Lord be with you” was first spoken to focus our attention to His speaking to us in His Word. Now these words focus our attention on His coming to us in the Sacrament. The congregation responds to the pastor blessing him in return as he prepares the Sacrament where the Lord is with us in grace!
2. The **Sursum Corda**. “Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.” Here we are called to look away from this world unto heaven, to put our trust (heart) in our ascended Lord Who now comes to us from

⁵ These notes were originally written in 2001 by Pastor David Oberdieck and have been edited both on the site listed and furthermore by Pastor Nerud. The entire original series of articles may be found at <http://steadfastlutherans.org/liturgy>.

⁶ Or “And with your spirit,” which emphasizes that it is the Spirit of Christ who is speaking through the called minister.

heaven. We encourage one another to anticipate His coming where He gives us the forgiveness of sins sealed with His body and blood.

3. The **Eucharist**. “Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give Him thanks and praise.” The Greek word *eucharist* means “thanksgiving.”⁷ This line recalls Jewish prayer before meals. Also, at the Passover, the head of the family would speak similar words. The Scripture records that when Jesus instituted the Communion He gave thanks to God. Following Jesus example, we begin Communion with thanks as well, for it is truly the most appropriate response for what He gives to us in the Sacrament.

In Jewish tradition, prayers often recounted the whole salvation story of God’s people. In Eastern Christianity, the Preface continued this tradition, recalling the history of salvation, beginning with creation and moving to Christ and the institution of the Lord’s Supper. Western Christianity shortened this long recitation. However, it then focused on a specific aspect of salvation appropriate to the Church Year. These seasonal prefaces, known as the Proper Preface, provide concrete reasons for why “We should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Holy Lord...” etc.

The conclusion of the Proper Preface, “Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven...,” is a confession that Christian worship is not limited by time or space. We join in worship with the Church Triumphant, all our loved ones who have died in faith in Christ. We are singing *with them*, feasting with the same Lord Jesus *as them*. It is a powerful reminder that in the Christian Church, we are a part of something much greater than what our earthly eyes and ears can see or hear. Just one more glorious truth for which “It is right to give Him thanks and praise”!

CONVENTION NEWS

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in convention has elected its first vice-president and five regional vice-presidents, who will also serve as the second through sixth vice-presidents for the next triennium:

- **First Vice-President** — Peter K. Lange (MO)
- **Second Vice-President** — Benjamin T. (Ben) Ball (SI)
- **Third Vice-President** — Alfonso O. Espinosa (PSW)
- **Fourth Vice-President** — Christopher S. Esget (EN)
- **Fifth Vice-President** — Nabil S. Nour (SD)
- **Sixth Vice-President** — Eric C. Skovgaard (SW)

More convention information can be found at: <https://reporter.lcms.org/category/convention/>

OUTDOOR WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Weather permitting, Sunday worship will be held in our Outdoor Worship Area August 9 (rain date Aug.23).

⁷ *Eucharist* is an ancient name for the Lord’s Supper and is coming more in vogue again today amongst many Lutherans. This name, by its very meaning, focuses on *our sacrifice of thanksgiving for the gift of the Sacrament*. Therefore, it is not the most accurate title since the Sacrament *is God’s gift to us*. In addition, it is a title commonly used in the erring Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches (who also use Mass), thus its regular use by us could lead to confusion and even offense. Therefore, while we will not condemn those in our communion who use the term, the better names remain the Lord’s Supper, Holy Communion, and the Sacrament of the Altar.



OFFICE INFORMATIONS

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
- Website address – www.stjohnsgeneseo.org
- Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo/>
- **We are now on YouTube:** www.youtube.com/@StJohnsLutheranChurchGeneseo
- All Sunday services are 'Live' streamed at 10am and posted to our website

VBS 2026



It is Vacation Bible School season. St. John's will be digging into the 23rd Psalm during our week of food, Bible study, games, crafts, and song. ALL ages are encouraged to attend so mark your calendars for August 2nd – 6th. This is Sunday – Thursday evenings. We will begin with a light meal at 5:30pm then off to our time of study and fun beginning about 6pm. Each evening will wrap up about 7:30. Take this opportunity to bring your children, grandchildren, neighborhood children and all your adult friends. It will be a time of enrichment and fun for all.

Use the barcode shown to register and get more information.

“Exploring God’s Mission Here”

A presentation by Central Illinois District

Dear Pastors, Vacancy Pastors, Congregational Leaders and Laity,

We, the member congregations of the Central Illinois District, have received a new resource developed by the Office of National Mission called *Exploring God's Mission Here*. This tool leads congregational leaders in Bible study about the work of God in accomplishing His mission through the local congregation, and, through specific, objective, appraisal questions, leads these leaders into conversations about next steps to best accomplish that work in a given place for this given time. Through this discussion, leaders are made aware of resources in church planting, revitalization, partnership formation, and other possible courses of action.

Through a generous grant from CID Church Extension Fund, we are able to present this resource in workshop form as circuits. Each congregation will send their pastor, lay leadership and interested laity. **It would be helpful if each congregation bring a Current Budget, the last 3 annual reports (including a statement of financial reserves/current long-term loans and lines of credit -which is not on the annual report to Synod) or someone who has a general familiarity with those current statuses.** To encourage broader participation from congregations, a grant will cover mileage



reimbursement for a second vehicle full of attendees for travel to/from the workshop. This grant will also provide a free lunch to all attendees.

WHAT: *Exploring God's Mission Here*, a district presentation to our circuit

WHEN: Saturday, August 8, 2026

WHERE: St. John's Lutheran Church, Geneseo - 8948 N 1900th Ave, Geneseo IL

Phone: 819-989-2025,

Following is a tentative schedule for the day.

TIME: 8:30 am – 9:00 am, Registration/Coffee

9:00 am – 12:00 pm, Morning Session

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm, Lunch

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm, Afternoon Session

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm, Wrap Up

3:30 pm, Dismissal

Reservations are requested by **July 30th** for the purpose of planning. Please call the church office 815-989-2025 or email: church office@stjohnsgeneseo.org with your congregation's attendee count.

A DOLLAR FOR MISSIONS

The second 2026 project for Dollars for Mission is a new lighted sign for Wittenberg Lutheran Center. \$7,000 will be collected for the cost. The cast aluminum sign will be of the Wittenberg logo and will be placed on the steeple of the building to proclaim the work of Christ and the Holy Spirit for all.

Amount to be funded: \$7,000

Project: A new lighted, cast aluminum sign for Wittenberg Lutheran Center at ISU



PRAYER GROUP (CHAIN)



All are invited to participate by either requesting prayers or praying for others. Prayer requests are sent to Pastor who then sends them out by email to those praying members. This is a blessing for everyone.

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16

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 direct and guide all students in understanding God's love and mercy in Jesus Christ. Lead parents to diligently teach their children of Jesus.

Youth – pray the Holy Spirit provide means to work with our youth to encouraging their faithful walk with Jesus. 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
Paula Chapa
Joyce DeFauw
John Erdman
Betty Firch
Marcia Helke

Jessica Johnson
Rosalie Jorgensen
Linda Lundquist
Mary Jayne Nash
Aaron Raschke
Drew Schillinger

Carolyn Werner
Carolyn Wildermuth
Denise Winchell
Marilyn Woods
Larry Kane

Jon/Anita Clausing (missionaries in Kenya)
Jodi Martins (daughter of Gary/Darla Johns)
Justin Rittenhouse (grandson of John/Nancy Wickwire)
Ellen Bauer (grandmother of Joel Werling)
Ann Behrendt (daughter of Carolyn Wildermuth)
Chad Gehn (nephew of Brad Gehn)

Marty Cavato (cousin of Mary Jo Gehn)
Loyall Talarico (niece of Mary Jo Gehn)
Ralph Boney (uncle of Larry Hock)
Joline Parrish (sister of Gayla Kroll)
Cindy Davenport (cousin of Terri Hock)
Jeff Schreck (cousin of Terri Hock)
Ken Mirocha (brother-in-law of Terri Hock)

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 a regular life. We love to give thanks to God for His healing just as we send Him our requests.)

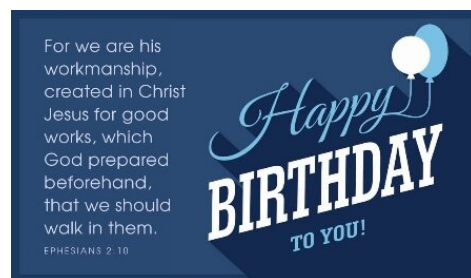
MILITARY – We pray for those serving in our military and their families:

Karl & Hannah Flynn (son and daughter-in-law of Mr/Mrs Paul Flynn)
Rylie Hallendorff (grand-daughter of Carolyn & Dan Werner)
Chase Werling (nephew of Joel Werling)
Carter Martwig (nephew of Joel Werling)

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1 Gary Johns
3 John Thompson
7 Autumn Raschke
8 Kristy Rodgers
9 Matthew Werling
9 Griffin Marckese
13 Olive Rose Scharpman
15 Kathy Curry

15 Janice Dahl
18 Joel Goetz
19 Don Hickenbottom
21 Jamie Lambin
22 Lisa Powers
24 Lauren Curry
27 Linda Lundquist
31 Kindra Thompson



*I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.
Psalm 139:14*



AUGUST BAPTISMS

1 Aidan Coppejans
3 Tristan Blank
3 Sandra Rahn
7 Broc Krantz
9 Sabrina Smith
10 Cali McKibbon
14 Rylan Mitchell
16 Kira Roberts
19 Lisa Allison

21 Scott Rahn
24 David Schmedt
26 Gage Gehn
30 Jan Dahl
31 Gary Johns
31 Rodney Miller

*Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."
John 3:5*

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

12 Rodney/Theresa Miller (1989) - 37 yrs
16 Kem/Linda Schillinger (1997) - 29 yrs
19 John/Elizabeth Neumann (1961) - 65 yrs
21 Shane/Heidi McKibbon (1999) - 27 yrs



27 Nick/Kristin Miller (2022) – 4 yrs
29 Richard/Trish Anderson (1998) - 28 yrs
30 Brian/Jennifer Magerkurth (1997) - 29 yrs
30 John/Kindra Thompson (1989) - 37 yrs

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." Ephesians 5:31

APOLOGETICS BOOT CAMP

Apologetics Boot Camp | Aug. 16–19

Concordia University Chicago | 7400 August St., River Forest, IL

Have you ever been asked questions—or have your own questions—about faith, the reliability of the Bible, the truth of Jesus' resurrection, or how Christianity connects with society and science? Join Concordia University Chicago for an in-depth exploration of apologetics during its second annual Apologetics Boot Camp. Find strength and confidence as you learn to defend your faith, fortify yourself against personal doubt, and respond to the many and various challenges posed to our faith in recent years.

This four-day on-campus event includes an agenda full of presentations from world-class speakers and panel discussions, as well as opportunities for chapel services, film screenings, interactions with others interested in apologetics, and more.

Adult lay member registration ranges from \$25 to \$75, with single-session, one-day, and full-conference options [available here](#). Learn more about the event on the [university's website](#). If you have any questions, please reach out to Rev. Dr. Kirk Clayton, assistant professor of theology and director of CUC's Pre-Seminary program, at Kirk.Clayton@CUChicago.edu or by calling 708-209-3195.

In Christ, Megan



The Camp CILCA Lowdown

July, 2026

217-487-7497 / camp@cilca.org

4124 Camp Cilca Rd.

Cantrall, IL 62625

SAVE THE DATE:

❖ HOMECOMING

- August 1, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.- most events will available 12-2 p.m.- Beach is open.
- Outdoor Games- cornhole/bags, giant checkers, gagaball; Face Painting, Wagon Rides/Camp Tours, Live Music, & more!
- Trading Post will be open with brats, hotdogs, and other food and drinks for lunch.
- Swimming & Boating in the afternoon

❖ S.E.L.F. RETREAT: August 28-30

- What does S.E.L.F. stand for? Singles Engaged in Lutheran Fellowship.
- It's the least awkward singles' retreat you'll ever attend. Will all the other the retreat attendees be single? Yes. Will we make you go speed dating? No. What's our goal? Our goal is fellowship and fun. We are planning to do lots of activities and have a ton of fun with other Lutherans who happen to be single. Who can attend? Anyone over the age of 18.

LCMS MEN & WOMEN'S BOWLING LEAGUE

2026-2027 Season Starting Soon!

Did you know that our LCMS league has served the Quad Cities since 1962? Come join us for fun and fellowship with other local church members. Join a team or get a group and create your own. All skill levels are welcome.

WHERE: Highland Park Bowl (Location Change) – 4204 Ave. of the Cities – Moline, IL

Informational Meeting – August 17th, 2026 @ 6 pm (In the bar area)

Fall Season – Starting September 14th, 2026

Winter Season – Starting December 14th, 2026 (Tentative)

Questions can be directed to Michael Wagner 309-453-7206 or Jim Pearson 563-293-6456.

We look forward to seeing you there!



COLLEGE BOUND STUDENTS?

The Evangelism and Stewardship Board would like to know if you have someone attending college the 2026-2027 school year. Please email Paula Chapa at chapa1962@gmail.com or call (309)945-5591 to let her know if you do. We will be asking St. John's members to adopt a college student for the upcoming year. Please notify Paula by August 15, 2026.



TRAUMA INFORMED MINISTRY – CARE THROUGH THE LENS OF GOD’S MERCY – DAKOTA BOYS & GIRLS RANCH

Recently a representative from the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch in North Dakota spoke at Concordia in Geneseo to LWML. Since 1952, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch has grown from a small group of dedicated volunteers in North Dakota into one of the state’s leading social service agencies. Throughout their history, they have stayed true to mission of providing hope, healing, and opportunity to children and families in need.

The Ranch began near Mapleton, ND by a small group of families from The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregations, and in 1954 moved to a 960-acre property near Tolley, ND. In those early years, eight boys lived at the Ranch, sharing in daily chores and farm work. Their days included spiritual life, recreation, work-study, and public school, with the goal of providing a stable home that met their immediate physical and spiritual needs and laid the foundation for the faith-based care that continues to guide the Ranch today.



The Ranch continues to provide specialized psychiatric and educational services to the most troubled, complicated, and amazing children. Christianity remains the foundation on which they operate and do their work, and their Spiritual Life programs and facilities are 100% funded by generous people throughout the United States.

Headquarters

6301 19th Ave NW
PO Box 5007
Minot, ND 58702-5007



<https://dakotaranch.org>

Main Phone: 800-593-3098

Foundation: 800-344-0957 Tax

ID# for Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation: 23-7139546



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
GENESEO IL
815-989-2025
ELDER: LARRY KANE

August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am VBS 5:30—7:30 pm	3 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> VBS 5:30-7:30 pm	4 VBS 5:30-7:30 pm	5 VBS 5:30-7:30 pm	6 Elders 6 pm VBS 5:30-7:30 pm	7	8 <i>'Exploring God's Mission Here'</i> 8:30am—3:30pm
9 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Outdoor Worship 10 am	10 Winkel	11 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	12	13 Council meeting 6:30	14	15
16 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am Youth 11:30 am	17 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	18 SS. Teachers 6:30 pm	19	20 Men's Bible Study 6:30 pm	21	22
23 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10 am	24 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	25	26	27	28	29
30 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am	31 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>					



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
8948 N 1900 AVE
GENESEO IL 61254-8941



BUILT ON CHRIST OUR CORNERSTONE

Pastor: Rev. Timothy Nerud

pastor@stjohnsgeneseo.org

churchoffice@stjohnsgeneseo.org

Phone: 815-989-2025



VBS – August 2 – 6, 2026

Sunday school/Adult & Youth Bible Class - 8:45am

Worship Services - 10 am

(Holy Communion 1st & 3rd)

Outdoor Worship August 9 (rain date Aug. 23)

Live Streaming each week on Facebook

YouTube: www.youtube.com/@StJohnsLutheranChurchGeneseo



**Click on QR Code to register or for
more information.**