

ST. JOHN'S NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Hearing/Handicapped Assistance Available



BUILT ON CHRIST OUR CORNERSTONE

- Vol. 126, No. 3

“CONVERSION Part 1: WHAT IS IT?”

I once was visiting with a member and in the midst of our devotion I happened to use the word “conversion,” to which the person quite honestly asked, “What exactly does conversion mean?” What an important question! And also an important reminder to all of us that just because we may have heard particular words numerous times over the years in confirmation class, sermons, Bible studies, devotions, etc., doesn’t mean that there is no value in reviewing them. After all, continuing education is essential in most vocations, both for the sake of gaining new knowledge, but also for the sake of being refreshed in the old, lest we forget what we once knew, the very foundation that the new is to be built upon. Surely this is no less true in our Christian knowledge of the Bible and Biblical doctrine and, as it deals with God, forgiveness, and eternal life, it clearly is of the highest importance. So in honor of that truth as well as in recognition that we all share that same need, this month I would like to begin a series on the topic of *conversion*.

Since there has historically been some confusion over conversion, let us first consider what conversion is *not*. *Conversion is not a mere expression of sorrow for doing something wrong*. When King Saul, who was trying to kill David, found out that David spared his life twice, each time Saul sincerely expressed remorse for his evil towards him (1 Samuel 24:16-22; 26:6ff.). Perhaps the greatest example of sorrow over evil is Judas Iscariot. For after his betrayal of Jesus, the reality that the religious leaders intended to have Jesus killed hit home, and he indeed felt so much sorrow that he confessed his evil to them, returned the money, and hung himself (Matthew 27:3-10). You cannot be much more sorrowful or have much greater regret than that! So yes, both of these men had sincere sorrow at the time, *yet neither was converted*. Of course, this being true, then how much truer still it is when someone is only sorry *that they got caught* and so are suffering the consequences of their own wickedness. Truly, that doesn’t even count as legitimate sorrow over their evil!

Conversion is not merely making promises of improvement. First of all, many a person who is caught makes the most wonderful sounding promises, yet they were often the person who time and time again failed to keep promises that they previously made, or only kept them for a little while, as did King Saul who each time after expressing sorrow and letting David go then went back to hunting him again. But what if the promises *are actually kept*?

Conversion is not merely getting rid of bad habits and making positive changes. A drunkard can stop drinking and remain sober; a thief can stop stealing and get an honest job, etc. Yet, as beneficial as such changes are for life on earth, as essential as they are to restore and heal an earthly relationship, yes, as necessary as they are for a converted Christian to do as fruits of faith, still these changes of themselves are not conversion. For while there is no doubt that the help of the Holy Spirit is of great value when turning from vice to virtue in one’s life, even unbelievers can and do make such outward changes. This is because God has given to all people by creation, not just believers, both reason and a will that can keep the hand from evil and extend it for good. Therefore, conversion is not merely changing a sinful behavior to an honest, healthy one, but goes much deeper still.

Put simply, conversion is *a real change of heart*, with the change being *in relation to God*. Conversion means to be *turned*, turned away from sin, but equally true, turned towards God. It is God who takes a sinner where He finds him or her, dead in sin, and turns them back to Him through faith in Jesus as their Savior from sin. Thus the starting point of conversion is unbelief and its goal is faith in Christ.

This sounds clear enough; and truly it is as the Bible is clear on this teaching.¹ However, sinful humans regularly take what is clear in the Bible and make it as muddled and muddied as possible! Therefore, we will continue our study of conversion, with our focus next month on who is the cause of a person's conversion. In Christ our dear Lord,
Pastor Nerud

APOLOGETICS: 'SEVEN SISTERS' SIMILARITIES POINT to BABEL, NOT EVOLUTION²

A Winston Churchill Fellow, Australian Aboriginal woman Susie Betts, studied indigenous creation stories involving the Seven Sisters star constellation, or the Pleiades.³ Her research took her to North and South America.

She anticipated similarities with her own Wirangu people's creation story. In this, the 'Orion the hunter' constellation (the hunter 'Tgilby' in their language) falls in love with and chases the Seven Sisters ('Yugarilya').

And so it proved. "Her research found Indigenous people from across the globe shared creation links to the Seven Sisters constellation."

But why should cultures as geographically diverse as these and others (e.g., ancient Greece, Ukraine) similarly regard the stars in the Pleiades as seven women? And most often sisters? And chased by a hunter? The oldest known Greek mythologist Hesiod (8th century BC) had a line "Pleiades flee mighty Orion". The book of Job, probably the oldest completed book of the Bible, records God asking Job, "Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades or loose the cords of Orion?" (Job 38:31).

It would be very difficult to explain from an evolutionary/long-age perspective! Nothing about the stars' appearance suggests sisters—or even women. Also, why would the same star pattern suggest a hunter to both the ancient Greeks and to the Wirangu people? So, it would be a remarkable coincidence if the stars-to-sisters connection had occurred more than once by chance—let alone in cultures across the globe!

Rather, this points to the truth of the Bible's account of the dispersal from Babel, just a few thousand years ago.

References and notes

- a. Hamilton, J., Seven Sisters stars creation story reconnecting people to their country after cliff-top massacre taboo lifted; abc.net.au, 8 Oct 2020

A LOOK at the LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

In the first half of Article XXIII, The Marriage of Priests, we rightly confessed that priests (pastors) should be allowed to marry if they choose since marriage³ is the only God-pleasing outlet for sexual desires so that lust does not take control. In addition, Jesus Himself said that not everyone is capable of leading a godly single life, but that such is a gift that God Himself must give to the person.⁴ A vow of chastity will not make the divine gift of celibate chastity "miraculously" appear! In addition, starting with many of the apostles themselves, including Peter, priests were married in the Ancient Church.⁵ The confession continues:

Augsburg Confession Article XXIII: The Marriage of Priests, 14-26⁶

Seeing that man's nature is gradually growing weaker as the world gets older,⁷ it is good to be on guard to make sure no more vices work their way into Germany.⁸

¹ This teaching that Bible is clear in what it says is known as the *Clarity of Scripture*.

² by David Catchpoole, Posted on homepage: 29 December 2022. <https://creation.com/seven-sisters-similarities-point-to-babel>

³ Today we must emphasize that God-pleasing marriage is *between one man and one woman*.

⁴ This is proven by the many "single" people who fornicate, whether freely, or with only one person. While earthly speaking the first is more harmful, in God's view, they are the same, both being *sexual immorality*. Such people must repent or they will not inherit the kingdom of heaven (e.g. 1 Cor 6:9-10).

⁵ Luke 4:38-39; 1 Corinthians 9:5.

⁶ From *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions*, Paul McCain, Ed. CPH, 2006. Due to the length of this Article, it is being broken into smaller sections.

⁷ Note how the Confessors rightly recognize not the evolution, but the *devolution* of man, not physically (man was created as man), *but morally*. This is visible as the moral standards continue to drip due to loss of self-control and unchecked lust and selfishness. It is interesting, though not surprising, that this decrease of purity has increased all the more with the increasing acceptance of evolutionary philosophy. "If we are only evolved animals, let's act like it." And they do. Lord, have mercy!

⁸ Or the United States, or wherever.

Furthermore, God ordained marriage to be a help against human weakness. Canon law itself says that the old rigor ought to be relaxed now and then, in these latter times, because of human weakness. We wish this would also be done in this matter. We expect that at some point churches will lack pastors if marriage continues to be forbidden.⁹

While God's commandment is in force, and the custom of the Church is well known, impure celibacy will cause many scandals, adulteries, and other crimes that deserve punishment from just rulers.¹⁰ In light of all this, it is incredibly cruel that the marriage of priests is forbidden. God has commanded that marriage be honored. Marriage is most highly honored in the laws of all well-ordered commonwealths, even among the heathen.¹¹ But now men, even priests, are cruelly put to death, contrary to the intent of canon law, for no other reason than that they are married. Paul, in 1 Timothy 4, says that a doctrine of demons forbids marriage (vv. 1-3). This is clearly seen by how laws against marriage are enforced with such penalties.

Since no human law can destroy God's command, neither can it be done by any vow. So Cyprian¹² advises women who do not keep the promise they made to remain chaste, that they should marry. He says (Book I, Epistle XI), "If they are unwilling or unable to persevere, it is better for them to marry than to fall into the fire of their lusts. They should certainly give no offense to their brothers and sisters."¹³ And even canon law shows some leniency toward those who have taken vows before the proper age, as has been the case up to this point.¹⁴

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9). 'A Dollar for Missions' is a project hosted by Evangelism/Stewardship Bds. One EXTRA dollar given by EACH member of the churches of the Central IL District Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, will enable tremendous Mission work to be accomplished.

The current Dollar for Missions project is to provide the first half-years' worth of support for a Vicar to serve Immanuel Lutheran Church, Springfield, devoting most of his time to continuing development of this congregation's new church start in northwest Springfield, Immanuel Lutheran Chapel. CID's first \$30,000 of DFM funds will be applied to this endeavor. For more information, see <http://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-dfm-current-project.html>



CHRISTIAN LIVING

Lenten Discipline: Denying the Self

We are at the beginning of Lent. During the Lenten season, the church calls to our attention the sufficiency of what God gives. It points to the sufficiency of God's grace in the atoning work of Jesus. It shows us the sufficiency of faith in Jesus' work for us. It makes known the sufficiency of God's Word in faith and life.

But Lent doesn't just remind us of the sufficiency of God's spiritual gifts — the gifts that pertain to our redemption and salvation. Lent also reminds us of the sufficiency of the physical, temporal gifts of God which pertain to this body



⁹ Or will women, flagrant homosexuals or others who are not to be pastors take their place?

¹⁰ Pastors/priests who commit crimes (think pedophilia) *must not* be protected by the church bureaucracy!

¹¹ Only in recent history has mankind fallen so morally low that they are accepting homosexual relationships to be put on the same level as heterosexual marriage. See footnote #5.

¹² Church father who was the bishop of Carthage (c. 248-258). Was martyred for his faith in A.D. 258.

¹³ See 1 Corinthians 7:9, where Paul gives this same advice to *both* men and women.

¹⁴ Vow of celibacy being taken before puberty.

and life. In other words, it reminds us of the importance of godly contentment and of outward discipline and training of the body.

This outward training of the body teaches us not to give in to every desire of our flesh, but to learn to say no to them. And it does this in such a way that if you fail, it is no sin. It is a way to practice without putting yourself into a compromising situation.

Fasting is a good example of this outward training. When you fast, you are practicing saying no to the desires of your body. But if you fail in this, if you break your fast, you have not sinned. But you have learned something about how your flesh works, how difficult it is to fight against it, and how you need help from above to discipline the desires of your body.

Another example is almsgiving. An increase in giving to the church and its mission during Lent is also a form of outward training. We all know that our flesh finds security in money and stuff. By committing to give more to the church, you are training your flesh. You are, by this outward discipline, training yourself to be content with what God gives. You are practicing saying “no” to your desires. Again, if you fail, you have not sinned. But you’ve learned just how powerful your flesh is — it leads you instead of you leading it. You’ve learned how you need help from above in being content with what God gives.

This is why St. Paul instructs young Pastor Timothy in this way: ***But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. (1 Tim. 6:6–10)***

Our sufficiency is not of ourselves; it is in God. Let us learn this without sin by training our flesh this Lenten season. – LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org.

What is a witness? “Witness” takes place among God’s people. To instruct and strengthen believers. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him, He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. John 1:6-8

LENT

The season of Lent has begun. Weekly we gather together each Wednesday evening for worship and meditation of all that Christ has done for us as our Savior. We invite your participation in these services. Before Wednesday worship we are gathering for a light supper. Please join us for this time of good food and fellowship.

- Wednesday, February 22 (Ash Wednesday) – Hosts: Sheila Magerkurth, Bob Erdman
- Wednesday, March 1 – Hosts: LWML
- Wednesday, March 8 – Hosts: Thad/Kathy Curry
- Wednesday, March 15 – Hosts:
- Wednesday, March 22 – Hosts:
- Wednesday, March 29 – Hosts:
- Easter Breakfast, April 9 – Hosts: Paula Chapa, Carolyn Werner, Barb Miller, Kindra Thompson, and Marilyn Woods



MARCH Birthdays

5 Beverly Peterson

8 Jaimie Jorgensen

9 Don Hock

10 Dan Maeltzer

12 Kathy Remick

13 Adam Hock



14 Arlyn Helke

14 Andrew Hock

14 Coy McKibbin

17 Francie Kolb

20 Roselyn Maeltzer

23 Kenneth Allison
23 Gayla Kroll

24 Derek Helke
25 Kevin Rahn

29 Martin Himmelman
31 Harrison Wright

MARCH Anniversaries

1 Mitch/Erin Erickson(2020) – 4 yrs
5 Joel/Jaime Werling (2005) - 18 yrs



31 Brad/Michele Barry (1990) - 33 yrs
31 Mike/Jan Dahl (1979) - 44 yrs

MARCH Baptisms

2 Robert Erdman
7 Janet Bertoso
8 Jackson Bellmyer
8 Makeena Wickwire



15 Sean Helke
23 Aaron Raschke
24 Adam Hock
24 Joel Jorgensen

25 Bailie Bauchmann
27 Don Hock
29 Carmen Sette



Our youth are meeting each month on the third Sunday. They are also involved in activities planned within the Rock Island Circuit. All middle school and high school youth are encouraged to get involved. This is a great way to grow in your faith.

The Christian life of a person begins at their baptism and hearing of God's Word. From birth, parents should begin teaching their child/children of their sin and need of a Savior, Jesus Christ. Regular Sunday school attendance is an opportunity in a child's life where the foundation of his/her faith continues to be built upon. They learn the basic stories of God, His relationship to the world and the people He created. The need for continued learning does not stop as we grow older. Confirmation classes and Youth/Adult Bible classes are the logical next step.



You are encouraged to take advantage of every opportunity to study God's Word as He has revealed Himself in the Bible. The benefits and blessings are given to all who would receive them.

GROWING IN THE WORD OF GOD

- Sunday morning Adult Bible class – 8:45am in the Fellowship Hall. The study of the book of Colossians continues.
- Men's Bible Study – 7 pm the first Thursday of each month. The study topic is; ***How We Got the Bible***. Don't miss this opportunity to grow in God's word as well as build and strengthen relationships with other men at St. John's.
- Adult Instruction classes meet each Tuesday evening @ 7 pm



- 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/>

- All Sunday services are 'Live' streamed at 10am and posted to our church website the following day.
- All newsletter articles need to be into the office no later than the 15th of each month.
- Bulletin blurs must be to Terri by Wednesday morning each week.



ALTAR FLOWERS

Easter lilies will adorn the sanctuary for Easter Sunday. The congregation is invited to donate a lily in memory of someone or something. A sign-up sheet is on the table next to the coat room. Sign your name and memory. Please pay Terri Hock by March 19th. Cost is \$12 each plant.

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

Marilyn Woods

Paula Chapa

Betty Firch

Jessica Johnson

Mary Jayne Nash

Jim Dahl

Arlyn Helke

Drew Schillinger

Anthony/Sami Sedotto (Seminararian)

Andrew/Sarah Hill & family (Seminararian)

Don Eggers (son of friend of Marilyn Woods)

Jodie Martin (daughter of Gary/Darla Johns)

Jon/Anita Clausung (missionaries in Kenya)

Marilyn Potts (wife of Cal Potts, former LFC)

Rev. Justin Kane (son of Sandra Kane)

Laurie Sanford (sister of Jan Dahl)

Susan Mayden (sister of Michele Barry)

(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:

Mandy/Richard Davila (daughter/husband of

Casey Powers Jr. (step son of Lisa Powers)

Linda Aper)

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

Luke/Nicole Thompson (son/wife of Joh/Kindra Thompson)

Brittany Loenser (daughter of Gabe Loenser)

Karl Flynn (son of Mr/Mrs Paul Flynn)

SET APART TO SERVE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Set Apart to Serve, the LCMS initiative to recruit future pastors and church workers to hand over the saving faith to God's people, needs your help again this year as we strive to continually improve our efforts.

We would appreciate input from you and the members of your congregation through a short online survey. Is there a young man in your congregation you would like to encourage to consider becoming a pastor? How about someone who would be a great Lutheran school teacher, deaconess or DCE? Jesus gives His church people who work full time in service to the Gospel. He told us to pray for such workers. Along with our prayers, the

LCMS has begun *Set Apart to Serve (SAS)*, an intentional effort to encourage young people to consider church work as their career. Your opinion can help improve *SAS*. Please take a brief survey at lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve-survey and let us know how you think *SAS* can be beneficial to your congregation. Thank you.

The more responses we receive, the better equipped we can be to serve the church in this effort. We would appreciate receiving all responses by March 15. All responses are completely anonymous and confidential. If you have any questions, please reach out to the LCMS Church Information Center at [888-THE LCMS \(843-5267\)](tel:888-375-5267) or infocenter@lcms.org.

Thank you for your time and support in helping the LCMS with this important initiative.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. James Baneck

Executive Director

LCMS Office of Pastoral Education

When we seek the Lord, we soon discover that he has never been far away.

-Chan Hie Kim



NEWS YOU CAN USE!

March 2023

What Does This Mean?

In each of the six parts of his Small Catechism Dr. Luther asks: “What does this mean?” We might ask this question as we contemplate the significance of Christ’s resurrection.

Christ’s resurrection means that God’s Word is true and He keeps his promises. The Old Testament prophecies concerning Christ’s life, death, and resurrection were all fulfilled in Jesus. (Ps.16:10; Ps.22; Is.53, etc.) This means that God’s promises of forgiveness, new life, and eternal salvation for us are true and will never be broken.

Christ’s resurrection means that He is truly God as well as man. Psalm 49:7 states “no man can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for him”. Someone might give their life in an attempt to save another person from a tragedy as firefighters or policemen sometimes do. But only God himself can save us from eternal death!

Christ’s resurrection means that His sacrifice on the cross was sufficient ransom for all mankind. God wants no one to die, but for all to be saved. (John 3:16; 1 Tim.2:4) He rejects no one. Though many reject him. Jesus, the second Adam, removed the curse of death that the first Adam had placed on all humankind. (Rom.5:18)

Christ’s resurrection means that all who trust in him as Lord and Savior have a new and eternal life. (Rom.6:3-11) This new life begins not with our physical death, but with faith. (John 5:24; 11:25-26; 10:10b; 17:3). This new life in Christ includes peace, hope, love, meaning, and strength.

Easter is celebrated by many people – believers and unbelievers. The chocolate egg candy makers claim that they know what Easter is all about. Though I enjoy those delicious cream-filled eggs, I contend that they know nothing about the true meaning of Easter. On that special day we who trust in Jesus celebrate that He rose from the dead. And we celebrate all that this wonderful event means for us!

Rev. Jeff Harter

ATTENDING THE ILLINOIS MARCH FOR LIFE ON MARCH 21

The rally preceding the **2023 Illinois March for Life** will begin on March 21 at noon at the Lincoln statue on the front (east) lawn of the state capitol building in Springfield. The *March* itself, walking a perimeter around

the capitol complex, will follow at about 1:00 p.m. Thereafter, **March** participants from Illinois are encouraged to visit the offices of their state legislators.

Preceding all these events, at 10:30 a.m. Trinity Lutheran Church will conduct a Matins service commemorating Joseph, Guardian of Jesus. Central Illinois District (CID) President Michael Mohr will preach. (He will also speak at the noon rally.) The church is across the street from the capitol building (on the northeast corner of 2nd and Monroe streets), about a block north of the Lincoln statue.

Please consider attending on March 21. You might find these notes helpful:

Transportation

There are several parking garages downtown. In addition, parking will be available at the former campus of Lutheran High School, 3500 W Washington St., Springfield, IL, 62711-7923. If you plan to travel to the **March** in a private vehicle (not a commercial bus or school bus, for example), you can consider parking there. NOTE: The building there will **NOT** be accessible for restroom use, filling water bottles, etc.

CID strongly encourages people to share rides to the March 21 events. It will provide shuttle service downtown and back from the Lutheran High parking lot for DRIVERS ONLY. If, for instance, you drive from Quincy with two or three passengers in your car, please drop your passengers off downtown, then head out to Lutheran High. We have bus capacity to shuttle the drivers of vehicles, but not all of their passengers. Plan to pick up your party downtown at the end of the day's activities.

Shuttles will begin leaving the Lutheran High parking lot at 9:30 a.m. Seven shuttle runs will leave between 9:30 and 10:10. If you live in or near Springfield and wish to park a vehicle at Lutheran High, please arrive early so your driver can be on one of the first shuttle runs of the day, allowing the later runs to transport drivers who are traveling from a greater distance.

At the end of the **March**, shuttle runs will depart from downtown starting at 1:45 through 3:05, with "straggler" runs at 3:50 and 4:00. If you are the driver who brought the two or three from Quincy, they can look up their legislators while you go and fetch your vehicle. Later in the afternoon, you can all rendezvous at a time and place of your choosing.

Food

A light lunch will be available at Trinity Lutheran Church for those attending the Matins service. It will consist of: a 4-inch Subway sandwich (ham or turkey), a bag of potato chips, a chocolate chip cookie, and a bottle of water. Suggested donation: \$5. Please use a \$5 bill. It's a fitting Illinois thing to do, since Lincoln is on the \$5!

Issues, etc.

Issues, etc. will cover the **Illinois March for Life**, recording in-person interviews at Trinity starting at 11:30 and continuing to record through the early part of the afternoon. These will be broadcast on KFUO (850 AM, audible in southern and much of central Illinois) that same afternoon between 3:00 and 5:00. The entire program can be live-streamed or accessed on-demand at www.issuesetc.org

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 all our CID campus ministries, especially Rev. Kenneth Hoover and Immanuel Lutheran Church in Charleston, serving students, faculty, and staff at Eastern Illinois University. And pray for the "Keeping Christ on Campus campaign," building endowments to help CID support our campus ministries.

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO SHARE

CID BOARD OF DIRECTORS REVIEW REPORT 01/24/23

The CID January Board of Directors began with their continued devotion on 1 Peter. Rev. Bill Jensen gave a Mission Presentation, Campus Ministry Pastor at Illinois State University, in which he summarized their 2023-2024 school year theme: "Our Talking God." Reports were given by President Mohr, Mrs. Chris Andersen (CID CEF), Rev. Olander (Gift Planning Counselor), Mr. Trip Rodgers (Congregational Life and Education), and Rev. Schurb (Mission, Stewardship, Evangelism, and Human Care). "Beyond the Classroom" was further

explained as a module presented by Trip Rodgers and Rev. Schurb to help train congregations and schools to reach out to unchurched families in school communities. Look for dates and locations for training in your area. Mr. Joel Oschwald was welcomed as our new CID treasurer and gave initial remarks and commitments to CID.

The action was taken to approve the purchase an updated security system at the District Office. The BoD also approved a drafted overture to send to the 2023 Synodical Convention: “To Reorganize the Synod’s Higher Education” (not including Seminaries).

Following the procedures for Dollars for Missions Funding, all of the submitted DFM requests were approved. They are:

- i. Immanuel Lutheran Church, Springfield: Delayed Vicar (2023-2024)
- ii. St. John Lutheran Church, Beardstown: Spanish-speaking delayed Vicar (2023-2024)
- iii. University Lutheran Church, Champaign: for purchase of 12-passenger van
- iv. Prison Ministry: Rev. Olander increase stipend for weekly visits
- v. Prison Ministry: Payments for other pastors to visit (4) new prisons/jails (2024)
- vi. Budgeted CID mission efforts

President Mohr and Rev. Schurb will give specification to the ways DFM can support budgeted CID missions.

The next CID Board of Directors meeting will be March 28th, 2023, 9am.

CID LLL District Convention

Saturday, March 4, 2023

Redeemer Lutheran Church, 6801 N Allen Rd, Peoria, IL 61614

Doors Open at 8:00 am. Convention Begins at 9:00 am

Cost: \$25.00 per person (includes Lunch). Checks payable to CID LLL District. The registration deadline is February 28, 2023

For More Information, contact Deloris Blessman at delorisblessman@yahoo.com.

THE CAMP CILCA LOWDOWN

February, 2023

217-487-7497 / camp@cilca.org

4124 Camp Cilca Rd.

Cantrall, IL 62625



SAVE THE DATE:

- **March 4 Pancake Dinner 10am-1pm**
A *free* “Thank You” for all CILCA supporters! Come anytime between 10am and 1pm and let the CILCA staff and Board serve you delicious pancakes & sausage. *Also, take a tour of the Camp CILCA maple syrup farm!*
- **March 10-11 Act Like Men: Woodcutters Retreat**
Men felling trees, splitting wood, and growing your soul in God’s Word. Log splitters, chainsaws, axes, strong backs, and willing hands are all needed and welcomed. Sign up at cilca.org/act-like-men-woodcutters-retreat, email director@cilca.org, or call 217-487-7497.
- **March 26 Annual Banquet 5-8pm**
Tickets are \$40 and must be reserved by Wednesday, March 22. Contact the camp office at 217-487-7497 or director@cilca.org to reserve your spot today!
Special Guest Speaker Mrs. Katie Schuermann
- **April 1: Spring Work Day 8-11:30am**
Help open up the camp for the season.

SUMMER PROGRAMS 2023

The Central Illinois Lutheran Camp Association (CILCA) exists to foster and strengthen faith in Jesus Christ and fellowship with others in a unique outdoor setting. CILCA strives to reconnect Christians to Christ and Creation.

JOYFUL HEARTS

Campers of all ages with developmental disabilities experience the joys of the outdoors during a 4- or 2-night stay. **\$350/*\$175**

- Full Week: **June 5-9**
- Half Week: **June 5-7* or 7-9***

GENERATIONS

Campers age 4 thru 4th grade are introduced to camp with a 1-night stay with a parent or other adult. **\$65 per person**

- Session I: **June 16-17**
- Session II: **June 30-July 1**
- Session III: **July 28-29**

PATHFINDERS

1st- thru 4th-grade campers break out on their own with a 2- or 3-night stay. **\$150/*\$175**

- Session I: **May 31-June 2**
- Session II: **July 5-7**
- Session III: **July 31-August 3***

BOLD SPIRITS

4th- thru 6th-grade campers experience 5 nights of Camp CILCA. **\$350**

- Session: **June 18-23**

AQUA WEEK

4th- thru 6th-grade water-loving campers will enjoy a full week of water-based activities. **\$350**

- Session: **July 9-14**

ART, DRAMA & ATHLETICS

5th- thru 8th-grade campers choose one track-**Art, Drama or Athletics**-for the week & are led by experienced instructors. **\$350**

- Session: **July 16-21**

DAUNTLESS SOULS

6th- thru 8th-grade campers gather for a screen-free week of life-changing outdoor adventure. **\$350**

- Session I: **June 11-16**
- Session II: **June 25-30**

NIGHT OWL

6th- thru 8th-graders experience camp while staying up all night and sleeping all day. Enough said! **\$350**

- Session: **June 25-30**

INTREPID HEARTS

High-School students enjoy the rejuvenation of God's creation in a laid-back week before school starts. **\$350**

- Session: **July 23-28**

WE NEED YOU!

9th-graders and up, serve as a Junior Counselor or Joyful Hearts volunteer absolutely free!

- Joyful Hearts Volunteer - **June 4-9**
- J.C. Training - **May 30**

REGISTER TODAY!

Find in-depth details on each camp & **register*** at:

WWW.CILCA.ORG

*\$75 deposit due at time of registration
Registration is according to the grade most recently completed.



St. John's has scholarships available for any of our children/youth who want to attend a summer camp. Check with Barb Miller or Sandy Rahn for details.



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
GENESEO IL
309-949-2516



2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|-----------|--|
| | <u>ELDER</u> Preston Smith | | <i>1</i> Confirmation 5 pm Supper 5:15 pm Lenten Service 7 pm | <i>2</i> Elders 6 pm Men's Bible Study 7 pm | <i>3</i> | <i>4</i> |
| <i>5</i> SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am | <i>6</i> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> | <i>7</i> | <i>8</i> Confirmation 5 pm Supper 5:15 pm Lenten Service 7 pm | <i>9</i> | <i>10</i> | <i>11</i> Daylight Savings begins tomorrow, turn forward your clocks 1 hour. |
| <i>12</i> SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10 am | <i>13</i> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> | <i>14</i> LWML 1 pm Council 6:00 pm | <i>15</i> Confirmation 5 pm Supper 5:15 pm Lenten Service 7 pm | <i>16</i> | <i>17</i> | <i>18</i> |
| <i>19</i> SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am Youth Group 11:30 am | <i>20</i> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>  | <i>21</i> | <i>22</i> Confirmation 5 pm Supper 5:15 pm Lenten Service 7 pm | <i>23</i> | <i>24</i> | <i>25</i> |
| <i>26</i> SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10 am | <i>27</i> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> | <i>28</i> | <i>29</i> Confirmation 5 pm Supper 5:15 pm Lenten Service 7 pm | <i>30</i> | <i>31</i> |  |



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



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

**WORSHIP SERVICES 10 am
(Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays)**

Live Streaming each week on Facebook

**Wednesday Lenten services (March 1,8,15,22,29)
@ 7 pm**

Lenten Theme “Chronicles of The King”