

ST. JOHN'S NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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BUILT ON CHRIST OUR CORNERSTONE

- Vol. 125, No. 12

“ATTRIBUTES of the CHRISTIAN CHURCH...IT IS *IMPERISHABLE*”

In previous articles we have taught that the church is *invisible, one, holy, universal* (catholic/Christian), and *apostolic*, recognizing that all but the first of these is directly confessed in the Nicene Creed.¹ This month we will consider another attribute of the Church, that it is *imperishable*. This means that the Church will endure, continuing to exist to the end of time and even into eternity. While this attribute is not directly confessed in any of the three ecumenical creeds,² it certainly is not denied in them and is, in fact, assumed. For consider how the third article of both the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds naturally moves from confessing the Church to the resurrection of the body (the dead) and the life everlasting (of the world to come), thereby indicating *the continuation of the Church* even in glory.³ Yet, lest we assume that this attribute has never been officially confessed, we Lutherans may point to the Augsburg Confession where we state, “Our churches teach that one holy Church *is to remain forever*.”⁴

But how can such a claim be made? Do we not see the many and terrible outward persecutions of the Church as well as apathy, divisions, and heresies within it? Do we not recognize that Satan is working to destroy the Church, attacking it in any and every way he can? Certainly we recognize both of these facts. But our claim is made on another fact. *The fact that Jesus is the leader and protector of the Church.*

The Church cannot perish because of Jesus. Certainly, as previously mentioned, this means that those who have faith in Jesus (members of the Church) shall live eternally with Him. The Good Shepherd promises that no one can snatch His sheep from His hand, but that they will receive from Him eternal life and, accordingly, *will never perish* (cf. John 10:27,28). However, as true as this is, we note that the Church is not only imperishable in the sense of the world to come, but that it shall endure until the Church in heaven and earth are fully united at His return.

Jesus promises, “The gates of hell shall not prevail against it [the Church]” (Matthew 16:18). The context indicates that Jesus is speaking of those who confess Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God, *in this earthly life* as Peter had just done. Truly the book of Revelation, so often misunderstood, is Christ's revelation *that He will preserve His Church to the end* despite all the savage attacks of Satan and his minions.

This attribute of the Church is one of great comfort to us Christians. For while we are in this life, the Church is under assault on every level from without and within. It can seem as if she (and we her make her up) are doomed. But she is *imperishable*! Her Bridegroom has shed His blood for her and so will never forsake her or her children. Even now our ascended and enthroned Lord rules all things for the benefit of His Church (Ephesians 1:22,23).

Consequently, we can be absolutely sure that the Church will continue to exist on earth until Jesus' glorious return. Until then we, her members, shall be protected and preserved through all things in this life and, finally

¹ Along with invisible, the attribute of apostolic is not directly confessed in the Apostles' Creed, *though the very name itself attests to it!*

² That is, the Apostles', Nicene, or Athanasian creeds.

³ The words in parentheses are from the Nicene Creed while the words given first are from the Apostles' Creed.

⁴ From *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions, 2nd Ed.*, Paul McCain, Ed. CPH, 2006, (emphasis mine).

through death itself when we shall be translated into the Church Triumphant. Because of all this, we boldly and joyfully sing these true and beautiful words penned by Martin Luther:

Though devils all the world should fill,
All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill;
They shall not overpower us.
This world's prince may still
Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none.
He's judged; the deed is done;
One little word can fell him.⁵

In the name of the Lord of the Christian Church,

Pastor Nerd

APOLOGETICS: IS MAN an ANIMAL?⁶

One increasingly hears phrases such as 'humans and other animals'. This seems to be intended to attack the notion that people are special, being made in the image of God.

The answer to the question 'is man an animal?' is not, however, a simple one. In the technical biological sense, using the man-made classification criteria instituted by the creationist Linnaeus, the answer would seem to be 'yes'. Man is obviously not a plant, or a bacterium. Creatures are grouped together using various criteria of similarity, which do not need to have any evolutionary overtones. We obviously have backbones, which would place us in the group known as vertebrates. We give birth to live young, suckle our offspring, and so on, which would place us with mammals, specifically the placental mammals. Furthermore, we have many features in common with the group known as primates.

But the problem is not so much with technical classification as with the 'propagandistic' effect that labelling people as 'animals' achieves. The real point that evolutionists try to make, and which should be resisted, is that man is 'just one more animal'.

The potential for confusion is particularly strong because the word 'animal', in the layperson's understanding, means something other than a human being. Thus, when people say, 'animals are used to test cosmetics', it is obvious that man is not included in this use of the term 'animals'. (Equally, fish, insects and birds, though technically 'animals', are not usually talked about that way. E.g. 'The fire injured many animals and birds'.)

People are definitely not 'animals' in any normal sense of that word, nor are they related to animals by common descent. They have been made in the very image of their Creator, and an awesome gulf separates them from even the most similar of any other living creatures.

The ultimate solution might be a separate kingdom in technical classification to adequately reflect that fact. However, this is unlikely to appear anytime soon in a world dominated by evolutionary thinking.

In the meantime, when asked whether man is 'an animal', the best way to avoid fostering evolutionary notions may be to:

1. Carefully point out the different definitions of the term.
2. Affirm that man is not an animal in any common usage of the term, nor in any evolutionary sense whatsoever.

⁵ "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," *Lutheran Service Book* (LSB) 656:3.

⁶ From the article *Furry little humans?* by Carl Wieland. <https://creation.com/furry-little-humans?>

A LOOK at the LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

Last month we reaffirmed the first twenty-one articles of the Augsburg Confession, holding that these articles “do not dissent from any article of faith held by the Church catholic.”⁷ They only omit some of the newer abuses.”⁸ This month, we embark on our study of the last seven articles of the Augsburg Confession which address those “newer abuses.” We begin with our confession that, according to Scripture and the practice of the ancient church, the laity⁹ are to receive both the body and blood of Christ in the Sacrament of the Altar. Of note, the Second Vatican Council (1962-65) allowed for the laity of the Roman Church to receive the blood of Christ, acknowledging that it was the ancient practice of the Church. While this is very good, unfortunately, while admitting that communion under both kinds is “more complete,” it is still declared that receiving Communion under one kind gives “all the fruit of Eucharistic grace.”¹⁰ As receiving the Communion in only one kind is contrary to Christ’s institution, this claim is uncertain at best and so undermines the faith-strengthening purpose of Holy Communion.

*Augsburg Confession Article XXII: Both Kinds in the Sacrament*¹¹

The laity are given both kinds in the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper because this practice has the Lord’s command, “Drink of it, all of you” (Matthew 26:27). Christ has clearly commanded that all should drink from the cup.

And lest anyone misleadingly say that this refers only to priests, in 1 Corinthians 11:27 Paul cites an example. From this it appears that the whole congregation used both kinds. This practice has remained in the Church for a long time. It is not known when, or by whom, or by whose authority, it was changed. Cardinal Cusanus mentions the time when it was approved. Cyprian in some places testifies that the blood was given to the people.¹² Jerome testifies to the same thing when he says, “The priests administer the Eucharist and distribute the blood of Christ to the people.”¹³ Indeed, Pope Gelasius commands that the Sacrament not be divided.¹⁴ Only a recent custom has changed this.¹⁵

It is clear that any custom introduced against God’s commandments is not to be allowed, as Church law bears witness.¹⁶ This custom has been received, not only against Scripture, but also against old canon law and the example of the Church. Therefore, if anyone preferred to use both kinds in the Sacrament, they should not have been compelled to do otherwise, as an offense against their conscience. Because the division of the Sacrament does not agree with the ordinance of Christ, it is our custom to omit the procession [with the host], which has been used before.¹⁷

⁷ Note the proper distinction of the Roman church, underneath the pope, with the Church catholic, that is, the one holy catholic (Christian) and apostolic Church.

⁸ *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions*, Paul McCain, Ed. CPH, 2006, p. 45, A Review of the Various Abuses That Have Been Corrected, paragraph 1.

⁹ The non-ordained members of the congregation.

¹⁰ *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Doubleday, New York, New York, 1995, p. 389, paragraph 1390.

¹¹ From *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions*, Paul McCain, Ed. CPH, 2006

¹² Cyprian was the bishop of Carthage in North Africa in the early and mid-200’s A.D., being martyred in A.D. 258 during the persecution under Emperor Valerian.

¹³ Jerome (d. A.D. 420) was a monk and scholar and is best known for his translation of the Bible from the original Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek into the common language of the people of his time, Latin, known as the Vulgate. This quote is from Jerome’s *Commentary on Zephaniah*.

¹⁴ Found in the canon, “Concerning Consecration.” This collection of canon (church) law was believed at the time of the Reformation to have been done by Pope Gelasius. It is now known to have been done by Gratian, who collected the various canon laws together into a work known as the *Code of Canon Law*.

¹⁵ Histories of the church show that the cup was generally given to the laity until the thirteenth century A.D. (the 1200’s!).

¹⁶ Found in the canon, “Concerning the Truth.”

¹⁷ A reference to the *Corpus Christi* (Body of Christ) festival on the Thursday following Trinity Sunday. The Reformers rightly saw this as dividing the Sacrament and even idolatrous.

“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). As God’s blood-bought people, we therefore give of the resources that the Lord has placed at our disposal. We make contributions to support the proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments at home and elsewhere.

Will \$1 each week really make a difference? There are 57,650 members in the Central Illinois District. If each member gave a dollar for 52 weeks that would provide an additional \$2,997,800 for missions. If only 50% gave that would still provide an additional \$1,498,900.

We give sacrificially, digging deep at times. Realistically, one dollar per week does not amount to much of a sacrifice for most of us. Still, many gifts of one dollar a week add up, and they enable CID to provide funding for missions in a new way.

We at St. John’s know first hand the grace, mercy and tremendous blessings our God provides. Please consider participating in this opportunity to enable the saving message to even more in 2023. A receptacle will be available early January for you *“Dollars for Missions”*. A 5-minute video will be shown directly after worship on January 8th. This will clearly explain this new mission project.



A Dollar for Missions

CHRISTIAN LIVING

Remember the tortoise and the hare? The hare thought he had lots of time to win the race. The tortoise kept plodding along and won the race. Prepare yourself to run the race of life. Partake of the Sacraments. Study His word. Be ready to share your Savior with others. Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Hebrews 12:1b



YOUR PAST DOES NOT DEFINE YOUR FUTURE

New Year’s is a celebration of the past and the future. We take stock of the past with thanksgiving and sometimes even relief (that it’s over), and we look to the future in hope and anticipation, and perhaps with some worry, for what it holds.

The point is that New Year’s celebrations remind us of who we are as opposed to who we would like to be, what we have done in comparison to what we want to do. It reminds us of our accomplishments, but mostly it reminds us of our failures. What we’ve lost. Who we’ve lost.

New Year’s is our own version of Charles Dickens’ classic, *A Christmas Carol*. And we all play Scrooge. We are visited by the ghosts of our pasts, presents and futures.

St. Paul writes: “The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, ‘He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.’ He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God” (2 Cor. 9:6–15).

St. Paul tells us that the Lord will both supply and increase what we need to give to the church for its work in the world. He tells us that this work God does in us will enrich and bless us in every way, and through this, will produce thanksgiving to God. With this in mind, here is some practical advice to help you take stock of your giving in years past and change what needs to be adjusted, improved, or done away with altogether.

First, attend the Divine Service to receive God’s gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. If you’ve not been faithful in attending worship to hear the preaching of God’s Word, to receive forgiveness and feast on the rich food of our Lord’s body and blood for the eternal benefit of your body and soul, then repent and come to receive the gifts God freely gives. God doesn’t want your money. He wants you — all of you (Matt. 22:20–22).

Second, pray for the Lord’s help. Your right as a Christian is to speak with your Father, the King of all creation, freely through His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Go to the throne of grace and ask for strength and wisdom to follow His bidding faithfully (John 15:1–16).

Third, consider what the church is and what the church does. The church is a place of mercy. It inhales the mercy of the Father by the death, resurrection and ascension of His Son through the preaching of the Gospel and the Sacraments. It exhales this mercy in love toward neighbors. You are a member of the church, of God’s family. Thus, you are not only a recipient of God’s mercy, but a bearer of that mercy for the life of the world. You spread that mercy through the generous giving of your income to support the work of the church in the world, as the Israelites did in the Old Testament (Lev. 27:1–34).

Fourth, take stock of your current giving in light of the New Testament’s teaching on supporting the work of the church. Are you giving of your first fruits, taking it out of your paycheck first, or does God get what’s left over? Are you giving voluntarily and cheerfully? Are you giving proportionally and generously? The Old Testament required a tithe, or ten percent. The New Testament gives freedom to be generous, to give more for the Church’s work. Are you relying on God’s promise to provide and increase what you need to do His work? If your answer is no to any of these, repent. If God gave you His only Son, will He not provide for you all things, even physical things? Trust Him, His Word, and heed it.

So, don’t let your past define your future. Rather, commit for the year a generous proportion of your income, which is God’s gift to you for this body and life.

JANUARY Birthdays

- 3 Alicia Willeford
- 4 Addison Jorgensen
- 4 Avery Magerkurth
- 4 Bridgette Smith
- 5 Tricia Anderson
- 5 Emily Marckese
- 6 Larry Hock



- 6 Madeline Mosher
- 7 Makeena Wickwire
- 8 Jackson Bellmyer
- 11 Kelly Helge
- 11 Kyra Nash
- 12 Mary Jayne Nash
- 18 Teresa Hock

- 20 Paul Mosher
- 21 Aaron Raschke
- 23 Justine Mitchell
- 25 Sara Yerkey
- 28 Laura Anderson
- 28 Rylan Mitchell
- 29 Logan Raschke

JANUARY Anniversaries

- 5 Drew/Cathy Schillinger (2003) - 20 yrs
- 14 Richard/Mandolyn Davila (2006) - 17 yrs
- 25 Alan/Christy Magerkurth (2003) - 20 yrs
- 27 Thad/Kathy Curry (1990) – 33 yrs



JANUARY Baptisms

- 1 Nathaniel Helg
- 3 Kenneth Allison
- 6 Kate Rocheford
- 9 Alan Magerkurth
- 11 Laney Esterlein
- 13 Alicia Willeford



- 13 Wayne Winchell
- 14 Cole Freeman
- 14 Kayci Freeman
- 14 Larry Kane
- 16 Jack Magerkurth
- 18 Michele Barry

- 19 Heidi McKibbon
- 20 Carolyn Wildermuth
- 26 Alex Miller
- 26 Lucas Thompson
- 30 Haille Miller



We wish to thank the children who participated in our Christmas program this year and those who helped us in any way. It is always a joy to tell others of our loving Savior's birth.



Youth group will meet Sunday, January 15th after the worship service.

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 study topic is; *How We Got the Bible*.
- Adult Instruction classes meet each Tuesday evening @ 7 pm. This is a great opportunity to review the teachings of God's Word.

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	Carolyn Wildermuth
Jim Dahl	Arlyn Helke	Drew Schillinger	Carolyn Werner
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)	
Rev. Justin Kane (son of Sandra Kane)		Laurie Sanford (sister of Jan Dahl)	

(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 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)	

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 2 arrangements is \$30. Put money in a yellow envelope (found by the chart). Fill in the date for the flowers along with occasion/memory and place envelope in the offering plate. Flowers will be ordered by the office and picked up for you.



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

I do not know where to begin in thanking everyone for all the encouragement, support, prayers, cards, warm wishes, gifts and more. I am truly humbled by the blessings our God has poured out upon me during my return to school this past 4 years, my graduation and my 90th birthday celebration. This has been an experience that I would never have imagined. To God be all the glory and praise.

Your sister in Christ, Joyce DeFauw



- 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 20th of each month. Bulletin blurs must be to Terri by Wednesday morning each week.



He Has/Is/Will Come

“Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!” – Rev. 22:20b

Advent means “coming.” During this time of the year, the Church prepares for the coming of our Lord. The Advent season begins with our eyes turned to the fact that our Lord *will* come, returning upon the clouds on the Final Day to usher in the New Creation. With repentance, we mark this season in preparation for that great and final judgement. As the Advent season closes, we transition into the Christmas season, fixing our eyes of faith upon the great good news that our Lord *has* come – born of flesh and blood, “born of woman, born under the law to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive adoption as sons.” (Gal. 4:4b-5) In all of this, let us not forget that we are prepared by God for that final day when He *will* come by His work, from manger to cross to ascension and resurrection, when He *had* come because He *is* come to us each and every day in His means of grace. Turn your hearts and minds to His Word. Devote your time and work to receiving His Sacraments. Even as we await His return in glory, He is present with us now by His grace.

President Michael Mohr- Central Illinois District Office

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.”

We give thanks for the gift of our Savior’s birth, and we pray for the adherents of various world religions who do not believe that in Jesus Christ, the Word became flesh for the salvation of all people. We ask the Lord to shine His saving Gospel light to everyone, and to do so through us. “Thy kingdom come”!

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO SHARE

Small Church Summit:

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Farmersville, Illinois, invites members of small churches in the Central and Southern Illinois Districts to the second “Small Church Summit” on the day after Epiphany, Saturday, January 7, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (“Snow date” is Jan. 14.) This free event is open to all. It will work best for your church to send your pastor and one to three laypeople. For more information, see the Gatepost (<http://www.cidlcms.org/resources/gatepost/2022.GatePost.3.>) pg. 8. To register for this event, please visit <https://forms.gle/Z1Xey4BQNiLN533q8>

Reimbursements for Prison Ministry Materials

Consider donating printed Gospel-centered materials to a nearby state, federal prison, or county jail. Thanks to a generous grant from central Illinois LWML, members of CID congregations or these churches can make such donations and receive at least partial reimbursement from the District. CID will reimburse up to \$200 on a donation.

The printed materials you donate can get into a facility and remain there, even if something like a COVID spike occurs, preventing prison chaplains from entering the facility. These materials make for an ongoing Gospel presence within jails and prisons here in Illinois.

The aim is to provide materials to as many such institutions as possible. CID encompasses half of the counties in Illinois, every one of which has some jail.

There is one other thing to consider. Here we have an opportunity for our congregations to participate in prison ministry, even if they never personally visit an inmate.

Start by contacting a prison or jail near you to learn of their ground rules and procedures for donated materials. Contact CID Prison Ministry Coordinator Rev. Rodney Blomquist if you have questions. Telephone him at (217) 825-6160 or send an e-mail message to prisonministry@cidlcms.org

See the Prison Ministry page of the CID website at <http://www.cidlcms.org/outreach-missions-prison.html>. For the present program’s reimbursement voucher, guidelines, and list of approved materials, please see <http://www.cidlcms.org/outreach-missions-prison.html>

Are you Looking for supplemental musician?

If there is any interest in our congregations in having some brass instruments played at some worship service or some other function, please call or text Ralph Woehrmann at 217 494 4369 or email at ralphwoehrmann@gmail.com. Mr. Woehrmann is a lifelong trombonist familiar with the Central Illinois music scene and could put something together. Some costs may be involved to cover travel, music, or other expenses. Mr. Woehrmann's services are free of charge but may not be necessarily so for some others. Mr. Woehrmann is a member of Trinity, Taylorville.

Christian Citizenship – Living as Christian Citizens in the Here and Now

In January of 2023, the Illinois General Assembly will conduct a “lame duck” session and begin its regular 2023 legislative session. Visit our District website to read current and updated information regarding your role as a Christian Citizen.

<http://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-human-care-christian-citizenship.html>

Stay Connected with your District

Looking for additional information, visit <https://linktr.ee/cidlcms> or connect with the following items:

- † CID’s GatePost (newsletter) Subscribe to the E-GatePost/*News You Can Use*
- † Stay connect with us on Facebook and Instagram -- [Central Illinois District-LCMS](#)

And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Matthew 2:11a

FROM SEMINARIAN, ANDREW HILL

Dear loved ones, family and friends,

Greetings to you all. It was wonderful to see some of you over the summer. We think of you fondly very often. Particularly at this time of year when Indiana is cold and wet. In my limited experience, the snow falls less often than the rain. This week, in the middle of November, has been a welcome exception. It has snowed several days this week. While it has not amounted to anything, it has given my boys something new to throw at each other.

My family and I are thankful for so much during this past year. We moved back from Nebraska without any problems. The summer left a couple of months to enjoy some family time. John and Daniel loved camping (which means throwing rocks into the creek or throwing sticks into the fire). All the while, Lydia is trying her hardest to keep up.

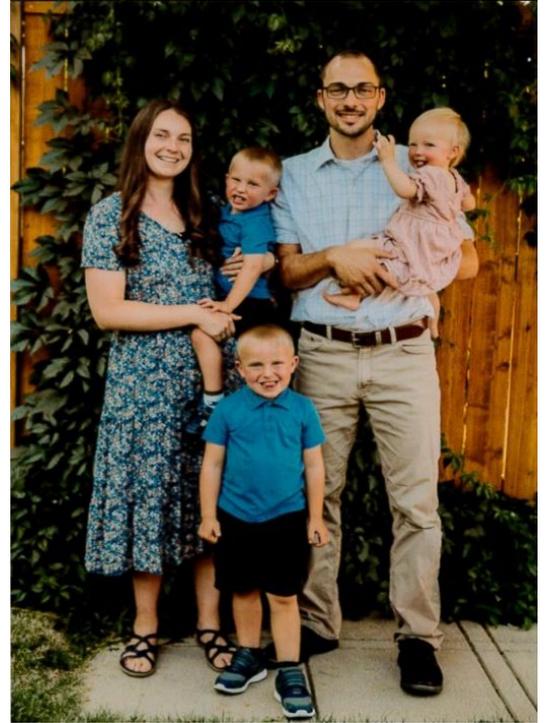
I have been busy with my studies. Already I have one third of my classes for the year completed! The time is simply disappearing. It is wonderful to be back at Seminary with everyone after vicarage. It is fascinating to see how people have grown and changed.

Sarah is busier than anybody else. It seems almost impossible to keep everyone fed at the same rate. I am so thankful for such a devout wife. Please keep her especially in your prayers as she is pregnant and expecting our fourth child in May. God has blessed me so very richly.

Thank you all for the various ways you support us. Your gifts keep my children fed and clothed. Your love and concern keep us going so far from our home. Your prayers, above all, avail much. We cannot express how much we appreciate all of these gifts. This season of the year I particularly have you all in my mind. Thank you!

In Christ, Andrew, Sarah, John, Daniel, Lydia, and baby Hill

*“Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us
And keep us in His grace and guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills in this world and the next!”*



Dear Saint John Lutheran Church,

My name is Anthony Sedotto, and I am the seminary student who you are supporting through the school's Adopt-A-Student program. First off, I wanted to thank you for your generous support! Without people like you, I would not be going to Concordia Seminary right now, but with your help and the help of others, I was able to come to Seminary without taking out any loans, so thank you again!

Second, I wanted to let you know a little about who I am. I am 25 years old and was born and raised in New York. We moved from South Huntington when I was 8 to Albany, and that is basically where I lived until I came to seminary. I graduated from University at Albany, SUNY with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, and then I went to law school at Wake Forest School of Law in North Carolina for a little less than a year, which is the time in my life where I accepted my call to the ministry.

While in high school in Albany, I met my wife, Sami. She is currently working as a pharmacist for Walgreens (and doing very well, might I add). We got married on January 10th, 2020, right before the pandemic started, and we were blessed to be able to have a normal wedding, with our ceremony at our home church in Albany, Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

It's difficult to believe that I have already been at the Seminary for over two years, and I have truly enjoyed the experience. This past August I was officially installed as the vicar for St. Paul Lutheran Church and School in Boca Raton, Florida! The vicarage has been a wonderful opportunity to utilize and hone the knowledge and skills that I have acquired in Seminary, as well as learn new ones (who knew that acting in skits for kids would be a vicarage skill I'd need!)

Hopefully this letter finds you in good health and in good spirits. Thank you again for your generous support, and if you ever want to know more about me or my studies, or if you have a prayer request, please feel free to contact me.

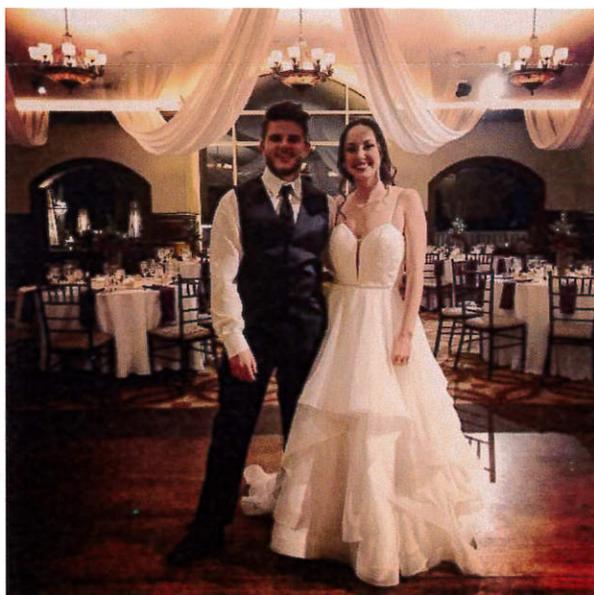
Sincerely,



Anthony Sedotto

acsedotto@gmail.com

(518) 944-3494





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



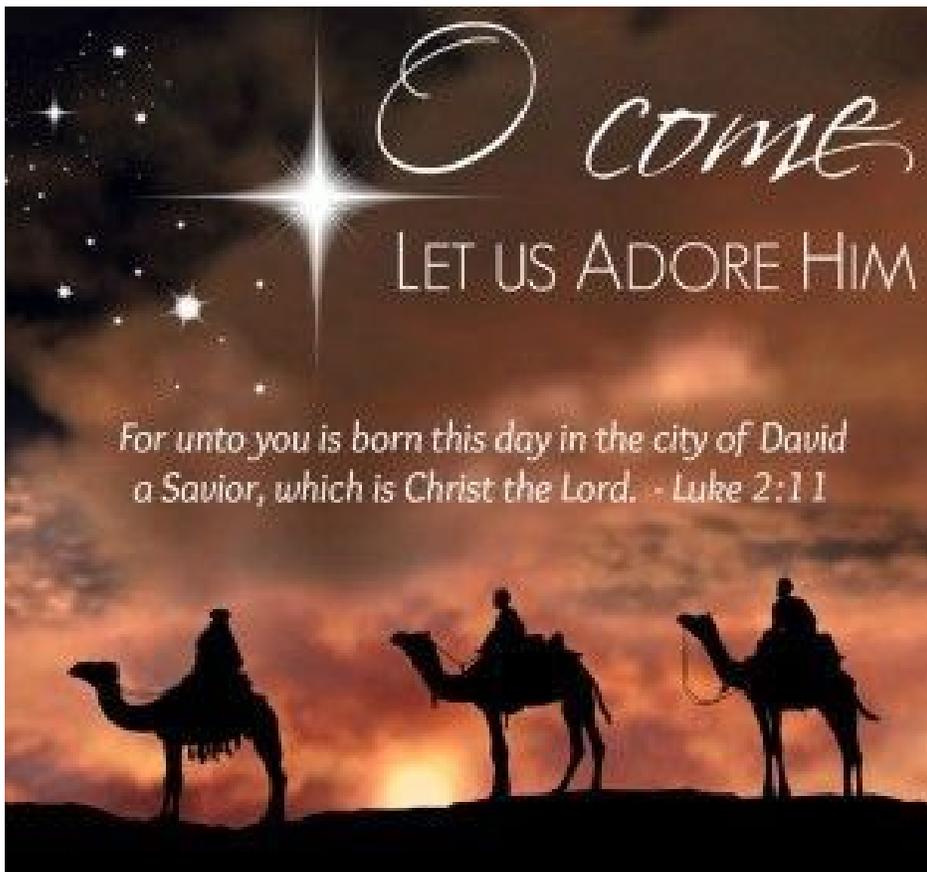
2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3	4	5 Elders 6 pm Men's Bible Study 7 pm	6	7 Take down Christmas decorations 9:30 am
8 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10 am	9 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	10 Council 6:00 pm	11 Confirmation 5 pm	12	13	14
15 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am Youth Group 11:30 am	16 OFFICE CLOSED	17 Adult Instruction 6:30 pm	18 Confirmation 5 pm	19	20	21
22 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10 am Voters' meeting 11 am	23 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	24 Adult Instruction 6:30 pm	25 Confirmation 5 pm SS Teachers 7 pm	26	27	28
29 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am	30 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	31 Adult Instruction 6:30 pm	ELDER Carl Freeman			





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 and 5th Sundays)**

**Live Streaming each week on
Facebook**