

ST. JOHN'S NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Hearing/Handicapped Assistance Available



BUILT ON CHRIST OUR CORNERSTONE

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From the Pastor

“God Removes the Skeleton”

Most people walk around burdened with guilt of some sort. It is true that sometimes we feel guilt over that which we had no control, what is sometimes referred to as false guilt.¹ While that may well be true in some situations, on the flipside, we have all said or done a thing or two (or ten!) that makes us feel guilty. We may not have been the parents to our children that we should have been. We may have never told our parents that we loved them before it was too late. More drastically, we may have committed a big sin that has caused negative consequences not only for ourselves, but also for our loved ones (hurt, shame), perhaps even beyond.

Certainly all of us have that skeleton in our closet that we hate, that we wish wasn't there, yet it is present nonetheless. We try to rationalize it, blaming circumstances, even others, “I did it because...” but such is a pathetic excuse and deep down we know it. We try to ignore it, but the realities of what we have done may not just “go away.” So our conscience accuses us, making us feel miserable, even filthy. We wonder, “Can God really love someone like me, someone who actually did ____?” And so Satan works us over, attempting to get us to doubt our Father's love and our Savior's forgiveness. Not doubt them in the general sense necessarily, not for other people, just for someone as rotten and undeserving *as me*.

Now, it's not that guilt, in and of itself, is bad. After all, *sin is bad*. It hurts others; it hurts us. It is an offense against God, which destroys our relationship with Him and puts us under His wrath now and forever. We *should* feel guilty when we sin. Truly, if we don't feel guilty, if we're not sorry and don't intend on stopping the sin, we're also *not* forgiven. Such a lack of guilt is a certain indicator of an impenitent heart, one filled with unbelief and so resists the Holy Spirit and rejects Christ Jesus and the forgiveness He won. God's Law accuses us of our sins, showing His attitude towards them, which is normally far more serious than our own! Thus guilt is not only normal, it is *the proper response* to the Law's accusation. Guilt is *necessary*.

Consider this, only a person who feels guilt over his or her sins is willing to repent of them and turn to Jesus as his or her Savior from them. But here's the clincher: once sins are repented and Christ Jesus is trusted as Savior, then *guilt* is no longer necessary over them and, in fact, becomes *a false guilt*. *Not* because we didn't commit the sin in the first place; clearly we did. But because God no longer sees that sin since Christ paid for it in full, washing it away in His blood,² thereby taking it away from us “as far as the east is from the west.”³

¹ One thinks of the innocent victim of sexual abuse who often wonders, “What did I do to cause/deserve it?” Such shows the depths of Satan's evil, as he pushes *the victim* of another's terrible sin against them to feel guilt over it.

² Revelation 1:4b

³ Psalm 103:12

Yet as mentioned earlier, we may know this in our head, we may even acknowledge it as true in general, yet we may still question if it is true *for me*. After all, when the pastor proclaims the Absolution⁴ over the congregation as a whole, maybe I'm *the exception* since my sin was so terrible. When I hear that Christ died for sinners in the sermon, I might still wonder if a truly rotten sinner *like me* is included. So is there someplace I can go to find the assurance that I am truly forgiven the sin and evil I committed that truly trouble me, fill me with doubt and despair?

Yes there is! First, there is the Holy Communion where God puts the forgiveness of sins right at my lips, sealed by Christ's body and blood. Second, His Son, our Savior, gave the Holy Spirit to His disciples, giving them the authority to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, not just in name, but in reality, as true in heaven as on earth.⁵

Consequently, private Confession and Absolution is given by God, not to torture us, but as a gift to us. It is a place where a repentant sinner who is burdened by guilt, shame, and doubts may go in order to have God deal with them, not as one in the crowd, but *personally*. For there God's Word of Absolution is applied directly to me concerning that very sin that is causing the guilt and shame. It removes *that* sin and so removes any and all doubt that God's love and Christ's forgiveness is *for me*.⁶ There I don't hear about God's love *for people*, but God's love *for me*! There I unload the burden of my sin and guilt, and have it lifted off of me by the pierced hands of Christ through His Word. And even more (God just keeps giving!), the pastor can also bring more of God's Word to comfort me, strengthen my struggling faith, and to counsel me in moving forward as a fully forgiven Christian who will, yes, still remember the sin (and it won't be happy), but instead of being overwhelmed by guilt, I can now learn from it so it is never repeated, which is a part of growing in sanctification.

No, private confession is not required, *nor should it be*. For that would take a precious gift of God which is to relieve the burdened conscience and turn it into a burden itself. Instead, it is given to hurting Christians who desire, yes *need*, His personal and tender touch. Thus it is a gift that true Christians will never allow to be lost, whether they are using it or not at a given moment is immaterial. For when the Absolution is spoken, Satan can take the guilt he's heaping on us straight to hell with him, because the forgiveness Christ won for us has freed us from our sins, even the worst of them, and the condemnation they bring!⁷

The skeleton of your sins, *all of them*, has been removed from your closet and has been safely laid to rest in the tomb out of which your Savior rose victorious over sin and Satan! Any doubts? Guilt still weighing you down? If so, God's gift of Confession and Absolution is waiting to free you from them.⁸

In Christ's service,

Pastor Nerd

APOLOGETICS: Confronting a Clever Classroom Con⁹

Many Christian students in secular universities can relate to this scenario: An evolutionist college professor is doing his best to convince his class that biblical creation is absurd. To this end, he peppers students with challenging questions: How can you see distant starlight in a young universe? If there was a global flood, where did all the water come from? Where did it go?

One of the unspoken assumptions behind this barrage of questions is that you shouldn't hold a particular worldview unless you know the answers to all possible objections. If a student can't answer on the spot every objection the instructor throws out, it's seen as evidence that biblical creation is inherently irrational.

⁴ The announcement of the forgiveness of sins which follows confession.

⁵ John 20:23; also Matthew 18:18 and Luke 10:16

⁶ It is neither a better nor a different forgiveness than is offered in the public Absolution or in the sermon. The forgiveness is the same, but the setting is different, allowing for a personal, one-on-one encounter with God through His Word.

⁷ John 8:36

⁸ There is a rite for Individual Confession and Absolution on pp. 292-3 of our hymnal. Maybe check it out and see that it is neither terrifying, nor "Catholic," but a good and holy practice of the Christian Church.

⁹ By Dr. Jake Hebert; <https://www.icr.org/article/confronting-a-clever-classroom-con/>

However, this is an intellectual con job. Knowing the answers to all possible questions would require perfect knowledge, which none of us possesses. If one follows this logic to its natural conclusion, it means that no one—evolutionist or creationist—is allowed to hold any kind of worldview! But how can you live your life without some kind of belief system? How can you function if you can't trust the information coming from your senses? And why even bother to do science or anything else if you think the world is an illusion?^a

Of course, evolutionist professors who challenge biblical creation don't hold themselves to the same standard they impose on their Christian students. They insist that living things somehow arose from non-living chemicals, yet they have no idea how this happened.^{b,c} Despite this enormous unanswered question at the very foundation of their belief system, you can be sure evolutionist academics don't consider their worldview to be irrational.

Unfortunately, many Christians also won't consider biblical creation unless they get all the questions answered ahead of time. This "wait and see" approach results from a lack of faith in God's Word. Furthermore, although it may seem intellectual, the approach has a huge practical problem. Our limited knowledge makes it impossible for any of us to answer all questions up front.

Actually, creation scientists have excellent reasons for their "bias" in favor of biblical creation. There is zero scientific evidence that life can or ever did arise from non-living chemicals. Evolutionists acknowledge that living things appear designed, although they vehemently deny this is the case.^d The billions of fossils found in water-deposited rock layers all over the world are exactly what one would expect from the global Flood described in Genesis 6–9, as are the hundreds of traditions and stories of this catastrophic event in cultures throughout the world.^{e,f}

Biblical creation makes far better sense of the big picture of Earth history than does the evolutionary story. Creation scientists have already answered many questions and objections simply by taking the Bible's narrative at face value. Yes, questions remain, but we'll never correctly answer them by starting from a flawed evolutionary premise. Those who accept evolutionary ideas should quit leaning on their own understanding ([Proverbs 3:5-6](#)) and instead trust the words of the perfectly truthful, all-knowing, all-powerful Creator. Genesis really does have the answers.

References

- a. For a more detailed discussion of this topic, see Lisle, J. 2011. *The Ultimate Proof of Creation*. Green Forest, AR: Master Books.
- b. Horgan, J. [Pssst! Don't tell the creationists, but scientists don't have a clue how life began](#). *Scientific American*. Posted on blogs.scientificamerica.com February 28, 2011, accessed July 29, 2019.
- c. Esson, A. [\\$5 Million Tech Prize Seeks Answer to Origin of Life](#). *Front Line Genomics*. Posted on frontlinegenomics.com March 1, 2018, accessed August 1, 2019.
- d. Guliuzza, R. 2011. [Evaluating Real vs. Apparent Design](#). *Acts & Facts*. 40 (1): 10-11.
- e. Morris, J. 2012. *The Global Flood*. Dallas, TX: Institute for Creation Research.
- f. Morris, J. 2014. [Traditions of a Global Flood](#). *Acts & Facts*. 43 (11): 15.

* Dr. Jake Hebert is Research Associate at the Institute for Creation Research and earned his Ph.D. in physics from the University of Texas at Dallas.

A Look at the Lutheran Confessions

Last month, we continued our reading Article XXVII, Monastic Vows, and saw how monasteries were originally a place of learning, but that over time many in the church erroneously came to believe that monastic vows were greater than Baptism and that those who took them earned forgiveness of sins and other graces. This month we confess the Scriptural truth on the lack of binding authority of monastic vows, with a special view on the vow of chastity.

Augsburg Confession Article XXVII: Monastic Vows, 18-26¹⁰

First, concerning monks who marry, our teachers say that it is lawful for anyone who is not suited for the single life to enter into marriage. Monastic vows cannot destroy what God has commanded and ordained. God's

¹⁰ From *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions*, Paul McCain, Ed. CPH, 2006. Due to the length of this Article, it is being broken into smaller sections.

commandment is this, “Because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife” (1 Corinthians 7:2).¹¹ It is not just a command given by God. God has created and ordained marriage for those who are not given an exception to natural order by God’s special work.¹² This is what is taught according to the text in Genesis 2:18, “It is not good that the man should be alone.” Therefore, those who obey this command and ordinance of God do not sin.

What objection can be raised to this? Let people praise the obligation of a monastic vow as much as they want, but they will never be able to destroy God’s commandment by means of a monastic vow. Canon law teaches that superiors can make exceptions to monastic vows; how much less are such monastic vows in force that are contrary to God’s commandments!

If, in fact, an obligation to a monastic vow could never be changed for any reason, the Roman popes could never have granted exceptions to the vows. For it is not lawful for someone to make an exception to what is truly from God.¹³ The Roman pontiffs have wisely judged that mercy is to be observed in these monastic obligations. That is why we read that many times they have made special arrangements and exceptions with monastic vows. The case of the King of Aragon,¹⁴ who was called back from the monastery, is well known, and there are also examples in our own times.

EASTER LILIES



Lilies will decorate our sanctuary Easter morning. If you would like to donate a lily in memory of someone or event, please sign the sheet found on the table next to the coat room. You may also call the church office with your order. Cost is \$11/plant. Please sign up no later than March 10th and pay Terri Hock.

SPECIAL SERVICES/EVENTS for LENT and EASTER

- Midweek Lenten service (March 6th, 13th, 20th) @ St. John’s – 7 pm. Light supper served 5:15-6:30 pm.
- Holy Thursday service/Holy Communion, Marth 28th @ 7 pm
- Tre Ore hosted by Holy Cross Lutheran (4107 21st Ave., Moline) 12pm – 3 pm, Good Friday, March 29th.
- Easter Worship Service/Holy Communion 7am.
- Easter Breakfast following worship in the Fellowship Hall.



LENTEN “HOME-COOKIN” SUPPERS

Everyone is invited to enjoy a light supper before each Wednesday night Lenten Service (March 6th, 13th, and 20th). Suppers will be served from 5:15 – 6:30 pm. A sign-up sheet is located on the table next to the coat room for those willing to serve a supper.

EASTER BREAKFAST

Tradition! We can thank God that the tradition of St. John's EASTER BREAKFAST lives on. All are invited to the Easter Breakfast which will be served after the Easter Sunday morning Worship Service. Bring your family and friends for good food, fellowship and fun. Contributions will be given to Cristo Rey Lutheran Church.



¹¹ Let us note that it does not say “committed girlfriend,” but *wife*. Marriage between one man and one woman is the only God-pleasing outlet for our sexuality. Outside of such a marriage it is sin. Within such a marriage it is not only “not sinful,” *but is blessed by God who gave the gift in the first place!*

¹² This means the special God-given gift of chastity, that is, perpetual virginity. Jesus speaks of this gift in Matthew 19:11-12.

¹³ Again, consider this in light of footnote #2. God has commanded sex only in marriage. Whatever excuses we might give, the simple fact is that there are *no exceptions permitted*.

¹⁴ Ramiro II (ca. 1075 –1157), a monk, was released from his vows after the death of his childless brother so that he might assume the throne. The Kingdom of Aragon was located in the northeast of modern Spain.

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/>
- 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 announcements must be to Terri by Wednesday morning each week.**

CHRISTIAN LIVING

Cherish What God Has Given

In the Small Catechism, Luther follows a pattern when explaining the Ten Commandments. With each commandment, there is something prohibited, and something commanded. There is something wrong which must be avoided, and there is something right which must be done.

The one time this pattern is not followed is with the Sixth Commandment.

“You shall not commit adultery. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other” (SC I).

Here, the catechism focuses solely on the positive: we should live in a chaste and decent manner in both word and deed, and husbands and wives should cherish and honor one another.

Keeping this commandment, and all of the commandments, is a lot easier if you see your chastity and your spouse as a gift from God that is to be protected and cherished. In the same way, you will find keeping the Fourth Commandment easier if you see your parents and other authorities as a gift from God, given to you for your blessing.

This is the key stewardship insight that runs through all of the Christian life: Everything that we have has been given to us by God. We deserve none of it. All of it comes to us by God’s fatherly kindness and open-handed generosity. If I know that everything I have — every possession, every relationship, every ability — is a gift from God, then my perspective changes. All of these things are both gifts to be cherished, and things that I should direct towards God’s purposes. My possessions should be shared generously according to how God has called me in my family, church and community. My spouse should be cherished, loved and encouraged in faith. My children are on loan from my own Heavenly Father, and I have but a brief time to show them the path of righteousness. My neighbor is a gift from God so that I can imitate His kindness toward me.

No matter the gift, everything has been given to me by God so that I may participate in His own goodness and open-handed generosity.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

5 Beverly Peterson
8 Jaimie Jorgensen
9 Don Hock
10 Dan Maeltzer
12 Kathy Remick



13 Adam Hock
14 Arlyn Helke
14 Coy McKibbon
17 Francie Kolb
20 Roselynn Maeltzer

23 Kenneth Allison
23 Gayla Kroll
24 Derek Helke
25 Kevin Rahn
29 Martin Himmelman

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

1 Mitch/Erin Erickson(2020) – 4 yrs
5 Joel/Jaime Werling (2005) - 19 yrs



31 Brad/Michele Barry (1990) - 34 yrs
31 Mike/Jan Dahl (1979) - 45 yrs

MARCH BAPTISMS

2 Robert Erdman
7 Janet Bertso
8 Makeena Wickwire

15 Sean Helke
23 Aaron Raschke
24 Adam Hock



24 Joel Jorgensen
27 Don Hock
29 Carmen Sette



A DOLLAR FOR MISSIONS UPDATE

Help hold up a prophet's hands, as it were, with contributions to the current Dollar for Missions project. It will provide funding for mileage reimbursements to facilitate Pastor David Dunlop's weekly trips from Clinton to Lincoln for prison ministry. The goal for this project is \$1,800. For more information, see <https://youtu.be/q5TVKAhLZk0>

We are looking into VBS materials and checking out times that will work for VBS this year. This all depends on the children schedules and our helpers.

Devotional booklets will be passed out for March. This is a great way to have devotional time with the family.

We are updating the bulletin board by the youth room. Check it out! Pictures of the youth in church activities will be on display as we receive pictures. We are very PROUD of our youth in many ways, they are helpers to the church and they do awesome job and so willing to help out.

Carolyn Werner and Barb Miller



PRAYER GROUP (CHAIN)



All are invited to participate either by becoming an email prayer warrior or asking for prayers. Prayer warriors receive requested prayers from the Pastor via email which then can be used as they pray throughout the day. Those desiring prayers can make a request to the Pastor.

This is a blessing to those requesting prayers and those praying for our brothers/sisters in need of prayers.

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
Paula Chapa
Joyce DeFauw

Betty Firch
Arlyn Helke
Lynne Johnson

Jessica Johnson
Aaron Raschke
Drew Schillinger

Denise Winchell
Marilyn Woods
Carolyn Wildermuth

Linda Lundquist

Anthony/Sami Sedotto (Seminararian)

Jodie Martin (daughter of Gary/Darla Johns)

Marilyn Potts (wife of Cal Potts, former LFC)

Shandel Loenser

Laurie Sanford (sister of Jan Dahl)

Scott Wilson (great nephew of Darla Johns)

Marty Cavato (cousin of Mary Jo Gehn)

Theresa DeFauw (daughter-in-law of Joyce DeFauw)

Don Eggers (son of friend of Marilyn Woods)

Jon/Anita Clausing (missionaries in Kenya)

Mike Erdman (nephew of Bob Erdman)

Paul Werner (brother of Dan Werner)

Ron Powell (friend of Brad Gehn)

Justin Rittenhouse (grandson of John/Nancy Wickwire)

Todd Erbst (former member of St. John's)

(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/son-in-law of Linda Aper)

Luke/Nicole Thompson (son/daughter-in-law of John/Kindra Thompson)

Karl Flynn (son of Mr/Mrs Paul Flynn)

Casey Powers Jr. (step son of Lisa Powers)

Brittany Loenser (daughter of Gabe Loenser)

Rylie Hallendorff (grand-daughter of Carolyn & Dan Werner)

**CONCORDIA LUTHERAN
ACADEMY**

WHY CLA?

**COMMUNITY
MEETING**

MARCH 3, 2024

Join us for a community informational meeting to learn more about what our micro-school can offer your elementary school student, including a discussion for a hybrid 6-8th grade school.

MORE INFORMATION

📞 309-944-3993

🌐 www.concordialutheranacademy.org



**4:00 -
5:30PM**



“Change and decay in all around I see”
(LSB 878:4).

Plants which died in the fall decay rapidly in spring. Human beings can die at any time of year, followed by our own decay. The ethical decay around us “stinks to high heaven.” Our sinful nature is so decayed that “I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want, that I do” (Rom. 7:8).

But God provides the antidote to decay. Psalm 16:10 expresses our Christian hope: “You will not leave my soul for sheol; You will not allow Your Holy One to see decay.” St. Paul (following St. Peter’s Pentecost sermon) explained this: “David, after assisting with the plan of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was added to his fathers and saw decay. But He whom God raised [Jesus Christ] did not see decay. So, it should be known to you, brothers, that through Him forgiveness of sins is announced to you; and from all things from which you could not be justified in the law of Moses, in Him everyone who believes is justified” (Acts 13:36-39).

The sinless Son of God “died for our sins” (1 Cor. 15:3) “and was raised for our justification” (Rom. 4:25), so that “everyone who believe in Him would not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). “In Him we live and move and exist” (Acts 17:28). “Oh, Thou who changest not, abide with me!”

Rev Mark Eddy – CID Board of Directors- 1st Vice President and Zion Lutheran Church, Taylor Ridge, Illinois

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 Cristo Rey (Christ the King) Lutheran Church in East Moline, and Pastor Pablo Dominguez, where the ministry is conducted almost entirely in Spanish.

Items of Interest to Share

Dollar for Missions (DFM) Update: After two months of 2024, CID has completed its first two DFM projects this year: 1) mileage money to support Pastor David Dunlop’s Prison Ministry visits to Lincoln, Illinois every week (\$1,800) and 2) funding for St. John, Beardstown to purchase a few Spanish language hymnals (\$300). The current DFM project is for \$2,100 to provide Pastor Pablo Dominguez of Cristo Rey, East Moline honoraria as he conducts Spanish languages services and Bible classes in Beardstown twice a month for the second half of this year. Thanks to all CID churches participating in DFM! For more, see <https://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-a-dollar-for-missions.html>

The latest CID *GatePost* issue, released at the beginning of Lent, contains important information about decline in the District’s capacity to continue supporting missions here and through the national Synod. Every CID congregation is receiving a letter from the District President, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Treasurer, and Financial Secretary on this important subject. Watch for it! (see News and Event Tab on CIDLCMS.org website or see <https://www.cidlcms.org/resources/gatepost/2024.GatePost.1.pdf>)

Every-weekday Lenten Services continue at Trinity, Springfield (across the street from the state capitol) through Good Friday, 12:15-12:40 p.m. Short sermons are on “The Life of All the Living – Jesus,” telling the story of Christ winning salvation for us, with applications to life today. If you know people who work in downtown Springfield or have other reasons to go there, please suggest that they attend – and bring friends!

Illinois March for Life: Wednesday, April 17, 2024, As last year, Trinity Lutheran Church in downtown Springfield (across the street from the state capitol building) will host a Matins service in the morning, before the rally and march, and a light lunch will be provided at a nominal cost. Precise times are being determined. This year, parking will be available to you downtown at the State House Inn, a block north of the capitol and near Trinity. However, please make plans now to carpool whenever possible.

2024 Institute on Liturgy Preaching and Church Music Scholarships: July 9-12, 2024

Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska

Thanks to a generous grant from the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund, 35 full scholarships (early bird registration fee) are available for church musicians. For more information on the conference and application, see the CID website News and Events tab or visit the following link: <https://www.cidlcms.org/resources/gatepost/2024.GatePost.1.pdf>

2024 Central Illinois District Youth Bible Bowl: “The Gospel according to St. John.” In the best way you know how, study the Gospel according to St. John with your young people so they get to know better the only true God, and Jesus Christ. The CID Bible Bowl is planned for Sunday, April 14 at Camp CILCA. Circuit Bible Bowls may be held in March. If you would like more information, you may contact Pastor Mark Eddy at Zion Lutheran Church, Taylor Ridge, Illinois (zionlcms@juno.com) or 309-795-1063.

National Youth Gathering – Summer 2025 – New Orleans

Plans are already underway to bring your youth and adults a fantastic experience. The theme for this upcoming Gathering is Endure, based on Hebrews 12:1-3.

Jonathan Guse is the DCE from Bethel, Morton, and Christy Malinowski is the DCE from Trinity, Bloomington, and they will be the District Coordinators for CID! Both have had many years experience in not only leading a group, but each has also had experience as District Coordinators!

We wanted to make sure you are connected to the LCMS Youth Gathering website: <https://www.lcmsgathering.com>. There you can find information, FAQ, resources, zoom link sign-up for monthly meetings, and more.



The Camp CILCA Lowdown
217-487-7497 / camp@cilca.org
4124 Camp Cilca Rd.
Cantrall, IL 62625

March, 2024

SAVE THE DATE

- **March 2: Free Pancake Dinner**
 - All are invited to this free “thank you” dinner to the community for everyone’s support.
 - 10am-1pm
- **March 30: Spring Work Day**
 - Help get camp ready for the warmer weather. Many hands make light work. 8am-12pm. Lunch will be provided.
- **March 31: Early Bird Discount Ends!** Sign up before midnight to save 10% off every week of camp!
- **April 14: Annual Banquet** This year’s speaker will be Mary Kate Zander, the Executive Director of Illinois Right to Life. **Tickets are \$40 and must be reserved by April 10 by calling 217-487-7497 or emailing camp@cilca.org.** Find out more at cilca.org/annual-banquet.
- **May 29: First Day of Summer Camp!** Registration is OPEN for to 2024 camping season. Sign up today for a summer full of adventure in God’s creation!

Camp CILCA exists to strengthen and foster faith in Jesus Christ and relationships with others in a unique outdoor setting. Find out more at www.cilca.org

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Summer Programs 2024

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. **\$360/*\$180**

- Full Week: **June 2-6**
- Half Week: **June 2-4* or 4-6***

BOLD SPIRITS

4th- thru 6th-grade campers experience 5 nights of Camp CILCA. **\$360**

- Session I: **June 9-14**
- Session II: **July 7-12**

DAUNTLESS SOULS

6th- thru 8th-grade campers gather for a screen-free week of life-changing outdoor adventure. **\$360**

- Session I: **June 16-21**
- Session II: **July 14-19**

FAMILY CAMP *New!*

Parents and children of any age are able to enjoy 4 days and 3 nights at camp with their family. **\$500** for up to 5 family members + **\$80** for each additional person.

- Session: **July 24-27**

We need you!

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

- Joyful Hearts Volunteer - **June 2-6**
- J.C. Training - **May 28**

GENERATIONS

Campers age **4 thru 4th grade** are introduced to camp with a 1-night stay with a parent or other adult. **\$70 per person**

- Session I: **June 14-15**
- Session II: **July 5-6**

AQUA WEEK

4th- thru 6th-grade water-loving campers will enjoy a full week of water-based activities. **\$360**

- Session: **July 7-12**

ART, DRAMA, ATHLETICS & SURVIVAL

5th- thru 8th-grade campers choose one track—**Art, Drama, Athletics, or Survival***—for the week & are led by experienced instructors. **\$375**

- Session: **June 16-21**

*SURVIVAL WEEK *New!*

Grades 6-8 learn fire starting, outdoor cooking, shelter building, sleeping under the stars, and more. Each day will teach and develop a new skill useful to surviving outdoors. *Limited to 10 campers.* **\$375**

- Session: **June 16-21**

PATHFINDERS

1st- thru 4th-grade campers break out on their own with a 2- or 3-night stay. **\$155/*\$180**

- Session I: **May 29-31**
- Session II: **June 30-July 3***
- Session III: **July 21-23**

NIGHT OWL

6th- thru 8th-graders experience camp while staying up all night and sleeping all day. Enough said! **\$360**

- Session: **July 14-19**

INTREPID HEARTS

High school students enjoy the rejuvenation of God's creation through a week or half week of camp. **\$360/\$180* (half)**

- Full Week: **June 23-28**
- Half Week: **June 26-28***

DAY CAMP *New!*

Grades 1-8 come for the day Monday – Friday. A daily lunch is provided. **\$150/week.**

- Session: **Every week June 10- July 26**

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.





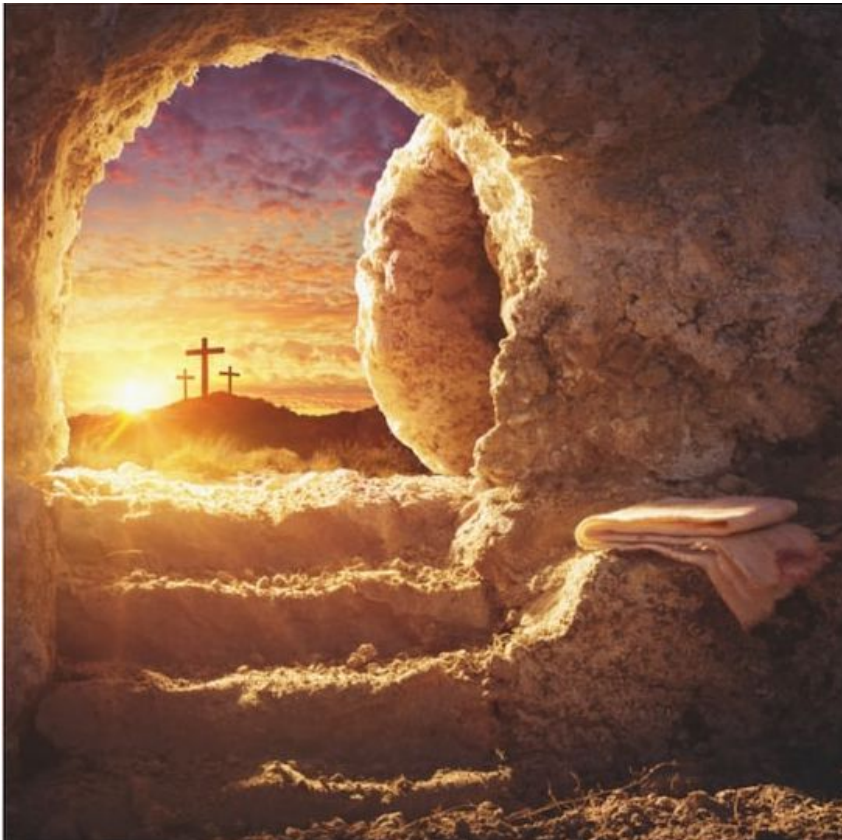
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
 GENESEO IL
 309-949-2516

March 2024

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-------------------------------|--|---|---|---|--|
|  | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am Elders' 11:30 am | 4 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> | 5 | 6 Confirmation 5 pm Supper 5:15 pm Lenten Service 7 pm  | 7 Men's Bible Study 6:30 pm | 8 | 9 Move clocks ahead 1 hour for Daylight Saving Time |
| 10 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10 am | 11 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> | 12 Council 6 pm | 13 Confirmation 5 pm Supper 5:15 pm Lenten Service 7 pm  | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am Youth 11:30 am | 18 | 19 LWML 1:00 pm <i>hello Spring</i>  | 20 Confirmation 5 pm Supper 5:15 pm Lenten Service 7 pm  | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10 am | 25 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> | 26 | 27 | 28 Holy Thursday Worship 7 pm  | 29 Good Friday TreOre 12-3pm Worship 7 pm  | 30 |
| 31 Easter Sunday Worship/Comm 7am Easter Breakfast 8am  | | | | <p><i>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.</i> <i>2 Corinthians 5:21</i></p> | | |



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

**Lenten Midweek services
March 6th, 13th, 20th – 7 pm**

**Easter Worship/Holy Communion
March 31 – 7 am**

**Easter Breakfast
(in Fellowship Hall) 8:30 am**

HE'S ALIVE AND RULING IN ALL GLORY!