

# ST. JOHN'S NEWSLETTER

150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY 1869-2019



**BUILT ON CHRIST OUR CORNERSTONE**

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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## GROWING IN CHRIST'S FAMILY

**-In God's Grace**

**-In God's Service**

**"Thank You!"**

As I write this, my first newsletter article as the pastor of St. John's, I feel the necessity of beginning with my joy to be here. The thought of leaving Minnesota for Illinois never crossed my mind before receiving your call. And speaking of the call, I was very surprised when it came, as I was not seeking one, being very blessed with a great pastorate at Concordia, Fair Haven. But the Holy Spirit had other plans, for St. John's, for Concordia, and for my family and me. And, not surprisingly, He knows what's best for His people.

While typically this article will be used for the "normal pastor stuff" (theology, morals, culture, etc.), I believe that this one rightly needs to have a different focus. Therefore, please let me express both from and for my whole family, a tremendous "Thank you!" to the congregation. While there were no major hick-ups (*Thank You, Lord!*), the process of packing, saying "Goodbyes," leaving our old home, and entering a new community and a new house (one filled with boxes everywhere!), is exhausting, certainly physically, but also emotionally. How wonderful it was for us to enter our new home and find such a welcome waiting for us: pantry shower items, gift cards, and even flowers and a welcome board. I can assure you that many things have either already been used in making meals, stocking bathrooms, and for purchasing groceries and goods, or are in a closet waiting to be used (such as extra soap, paper towels, etc.). And beyond these were the personal gifts for Heidi and the girls. They were invaluable for helping them to feel more "at home" after having their life upturned through a move.

After mentioning the donated gifts in the house, I must now move to the parsonage itself. We want to express our deep gratitude for the beautiful home that you are providing for us. There is no doubt that both unselfish monetary giving and hard work have been put into it; and we are truly grateful to all of you for both, including those of you who are still helping out with some of the "finishing touches."

Now more directly from me, I want to thank all of you who contributed in making my installation service not merely functional, but so enjoyable and memorable. Thank you to everyone who worked on organizing, preparing, and serving both for the service proper and for the fellowship time afterwards. As far as the service specifically, I loved the '*The Presentation of the Symbols of the Ministry*' by the various congregational representatives. It was a powerful addition to an already solid rite, highlighting the primary duties of the called pastor, a reminder that is always beneficial for both the pastor and the congregation as a whole. As far as the meal, the food was fantastic (I'm noticing a fine trend with that around here!) and, through it all, the welcome was warm indeed (another glorious trend!). Also, thank you so very much for the installation gifts. The desk name plate was quite an honor.<sup>1</sup> And like food, theological books are a sure way to my heart!<sup>2</sup> And finally, while it does not deal with the congregation directly, I still think it is only right to publicly express my

<sup>1</sup> My daughters tell me I should have it facing me in case I forget who I am. Got to love children...

<sup>2</sup> As I explain to people, my library is my "tool box." And like any guy, I love getting new "tools"!

gratitude to those members of our sister congregations who attended the service, to each of the circuit pastors who participated within the service, and especially to Pastor Wright for his fantastic message, as well as all of the godly work he did as vacancy pastor and for his friendship, guidance, and help in getting me “on my feet.”

After receiving generous aid from the Philippian congregation, the Apostle Paul thanked them, but more, he assured them that their gifts were “a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God”<sup>3</sup> because they were offered out of true faith in Christ and sincere love for Paul and the Holy Ministry. I cannot help but believe that such is what motivated you, God’s holy people, to offer up the gifts that we have received. Consequently, like Paul, I too can assure you that not only are they received in deep gratitude by my family and me, which they certainly are, but far more, they are pleasing sacrifices to God in heaven. And what could be a greater motivation for giving, and a greater “thank you,” than that!

In Christian love and gratitude, Pastor Nerud

## A LOOK AT THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS WHY DO WE HAVE CONFESSIONS?

All Christians claim to follow the Bible, stating that it is God’s Word (at least in some way) and so an authority within the church (at least to some degree). After all, those who reject Scripture and its teachings outright are not even remotely worthy of the name *Christian*. However, it doesn’t take a professional theologian to recognize that while we all might claim to have the Bible as an authority, we clearly do not agree on everything it teaches, as can be seen by the various denominations and para-church groups (and by the way, “Non-Denominational” is really just a name of another denomination, at least as far as their theology is concerned).

In other words, when a church (or an individual for that matter) says, “I follow the Bible,” our response needs to be something like, “I’m glad to hear that, but *what do you believe the Bible actually says.*” As just one example to make the point, both Lutherans and Baptists officially claim that the Bible is the only source for doctrine in their churches (*Sola Scriptura*). Yet we baptize babies and they do not because *we disagree on what the Bible teaches on this issue*. Thus, simply saying that we “believe (or follow) the Bible” ends up not being enough. The church must have a *public confession of what they believe the Bible actually teaches* so that those within and without can judge the church. Without such, the words “we believe the Bible” become little more than vapor, that is, words without substance.

So, we come to the concept of the **official confessions** of a church. For some, this might be nothing more than a page or two “Statement of Faith” (or Beliefs, etc.) that they post on their website. For many it is longer, often scattered throughout a variety of books. For the Lutheran Church, historically called the Evangelical Lutheran Church,<sup>4</sup> we have “The Book of Concord of 1580.”

*Concord* (“being of one heart”) means having harmony and agreement. By putting the officially accepted Confessions of the Lutheran Church together into this single Book of Concord, a Scriptural based standard was introduced that allowed for the judging of the doctrine being taught as well as those who teach it. This then led to harmony (concord) as our churches were united around the same *confession* of what the Bible teaches. The official confessions found in the Book of Concord are:

- a) The Apostle’s Creed (ca. 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD, final form 8<sup>th</sup> century.)
- b) The Nicene Creed (formulated AD 325, finalized in 381)
- c) The Athanasian Creed (ca. 5<sup>th</sup> century AD)
- d) The Augsburg Confession (1530)
- e) The Apology (Defense) of the Augsburg Confession (1531)
- f) The Smalcald Articles (1537)
- g) The Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope (1537)
- h) Luther’s Small Catechism (1529)
- i) Luther’s Large Catechism (1529)
- j) The Formula of Concord (1577)

So what does a Lutheran believe? What makes a Lutheran distinct from other Christians? In this series of articles, we shall explore the Confessions, their history and their theology. This will allow us, first, to grow in our own understanding of what we, as Lutherans, believe, teach, and confess that the Bible, the Word of God, declares on various issues. Second, growing in that understanding, we will be more capable to judge the differences between various church bodies in a God-pleasing manner. May God in His grace, through this ongoing study of the Lutheran Confessions, grant us bountiful growth both in our knowledge of His Word and, by such, growth in our most holy faith in Christ our Lord!

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<sup>3</sup> Philippians 4:18.

<sup>4</sup> This is not to be confused with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or any other specific Lutheran denomination.

## APOLOGETICS ARTICLE: CAIN'S WIFE<sup>5</sup>

I was once asked by a member of a confirmation class who Cain's wife was. After that, I read an essay that mentioned that many people have actually given up their faith over this very issue!<sup>6</sup> Why? Because they believed that either Cain had to marry someone outside of Adam and Eve's descendants, which would then mean that they were not the first people from whom *all* others descended, or Cain would have had to marry a sister (or at least a niece, which would still require at least one of Adam and Eve's sons to marry one of their daughters) which is both biologically bad (inbreeding issues) as well as sinful *according to the Bible itself*.

Since this issue seems to be a "lose-lose" one for the Bible, it (the Bible) appears to have been shown to be unreliable, either due to error or contradiction. And certainly, if there is either an error or contradiction in the Bible, then it would be unreliable at best and clearly could not then be the inspired, inerrant Word of God. Fortunately, such is *not* the case! We will consider this issue from both the biological and the moral/theological standpoints. This month, we will begin with the *biological* issue of Cain marrying his sister.<sup>7</sup>

Hereditary information is encoded on stretches of DNA, referred to as genes, which are then passed on to the children. As this genetic information is copied, mistakes can and do occur (though how few do actually happen in the big picture is an amazing example of Divine Providence). These copying mistakes are called mutations<sup>8</sup> and, depending where they occur, they may lead to genetic disorders such as inherited diseases.<sup>9</sup> Once this mutation occurs, the error is then passed along from that person to their progeny. Over generations more mutations occur, thereby increasing the overall number of mutations in that genetic line. Consequently, each of us likely carries hundreds of copying mistakes passed down to us from our ancestors to which we then add as we have children of our own.

However, in most cases, genetic diseases and deformities normally don't occur even if a mutated gene is passed on to the child. Why? Because in most instances, the defective trait is expressed only when it is received from *both* parents; otherwise the normal gene acts as a "back up" of the correct code, effectively "covering" the defective one. The genetic mutations present in our spouse are normally not the same mistakes in us *since we have different genetic backgrounds*, and so genetic diseases and defects are rarely expressed, at least to their fullest extent. But if two people who have the same ancestral background produce a child, the same defective genes are then passed on to the child from both parents. In that instance, no normal gene is present to "cover" the defective one and the genetic disorder is expressed to its fullest extent. This then is biological danger of "inbreeding."<sup>10</sup>

But remember that this is only a concern *if mutations are present!* As Adam and Eve were created perfect in body as well as soul, so also their genome was perfect (no mutations) as well. While it is possible, even likely, that some mutations occurred during the copying process as they had children (because the Fall into sin had now occurred), these would have been minimal (since as already mentioned, the copying process is highly efficient, "Thank You, God!") and, even more, the odds of each of their children receiving *the same mistake* is mathematically tiny, since their genomes had no mistakes to "automatically" pass on to their offspring. Therefore, close relatives marrying and having children was not a serious issue *and would not be for some time*.<sup>11</sup> Because of this, the biological concern over the Bible's history is shown

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<sup>5</sup> *Apologetics* comes from the Greek word which means *defense*. Christian apologetics is the discipline that defends the Christian faith by showing the misunderstandings and errors that are present in the arguments which are used to oppose Scripture. It is a useful field for both breaking down such barriers in unbelievers so that the Gospel can get a hearing as well as strengthening believers by helping them recognize that they don't need "to check their brain at the door of the church" to be a Christian.

<sup>6</sup> "Who Was Cain's Wife?" *The Creation Answers Book*; Creation Book Publishers, 2012, pp. 127-139; see

[www.creationbookpublishers.com](http://www.creationbookpublishers.com). I am thankful to say that the confirmand was not one of these since, by God's grace and pastoral studying, I was able to give a scripturally faithful answer.

<sup>7</sup> Since Cain was the first child of Adam and Eve, most likely he would have been one of the first to marry, which would then mean a sister.

<sup>8</sup> It is important to note that mutations are *errors* introduced into the genetic code. Therefore they are *usually harmful*. Additionally, even if they do offer some specific benefit, they often still have negative consequences and, more, they are insufficient to produce the *new* genetic information which, for example, would be required for a fish to become an amphibian (the belief of the philosophy of Evolution which is falsely touted as "science").

<sup>9</sup> A few examples are cystic fibrosis, hemophilia, and sickle cell anemia.

<sup>10</sup> This can be seen, for example, in various dog breeds where the individual animals often have health issues that are common in that breed.

<sup>11</sup> Remember, even today after so many mutations have had a chance to come into being since the Fall, biologically speaking, it is *not* an absolute given that every incestual relationship would produce a genetic disease or deformity, just only that such makes it *more likely*. Obviously, such a likelihood increases with each generation of such close relative relationships, especially now with the many generations of mutations introduced since the Fall; just consider the health issues of certain noble/royal families throughout history where such close marriages were practiced. But this was not an issue for Cain and his sister, who were first generation and, as mentioned, would not become an issue for many generations to come.

to be no concern at all! So, with that said, next month we will address the moral/theological dilemma posed by a brother and sister marrying one another.

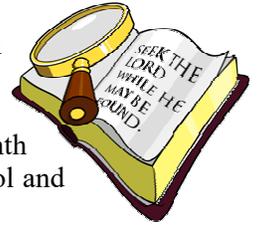
Pastor Nerud

### BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Join the Sunday morning Adult Bible class located in the Library. The current study is the role of a Pastor and the congregation according to Scripture's books of Timothy and Titus.

The Thursday night Men's Bible group are using a study entitled, "The Great Divide" which is a study of Islam. This is a great time to join with other men in the study of God's Word. They meet the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm in the library.

Steve Mooney leads a second Men's group, which meets the second Tuesday of every month @ 1 pm. The current study is; Jesus "I Am" Words, found in the Book of John. All men, high school and older, are welcome to these groups!



### OFFICE

- Please call the office when someone is ill, hospitalized, or homebound.
- Please use the email addresses below. Bulletins and sermons are posted on the website each week.  
Terri Hock – [churchoffice@stjohnsgeneseo.org](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsgeneseo.org)  
Website address – [www.stjohnsgeneseo.org](http://www.stjohnsgeneseo.org)  
Facebook pages: <https://www.facebook.com/St.JohnGLY/> (youth page)  
<https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo/> (church page)
- Submit bulletin articles by Wednesdays and Newsletter articles by the third Sunday each month.
- Church doors are locked when Pastor and Terri are not in the building.
- Check that all lights are off and all doors locked before leaving the building.

### ALTAR FLOWERS

Celebrate a special occasion with flowers. Sign the flower chart which is on the bulletin board next to the rest rooms. Put \$20 in a yellow envelope found by the chart. Fill in the date you want to provide flowers and the occasion/memory and place envelope in the offering plate. The rest is done for you.



### JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Tristan Blank
- 4 James Dahl
- 4 Calie McKibbin
- 5 Lynne Johnson
- 6 Alec Davila
- 8 Wanda Rahn
- 9 Scott Rahn
- 10 Stacie Rahn



- 11 Brianna Rodgers
- 14 Payten Helg
- 15 Lois Esterlein
- 15 Robert Wolfe
- 19 Elizabeth Bjork
- 19 Kaleb Rahn
- 21 Fern Kulpa
- 24 Mark Ague

- 24 Graysen Carlson
- 26 Suzanne Blank
- 26 Nicole Werling
- 28 David Schmedt
- 29 Norma Daniels
- 31 Elizabeth Hock
- 31 Joel Werling

### JULY BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Cooper Freeman
- 8 Jessica Johnson
- 8 Karna Hollatz
- 9 Kathy Welch
- 13 Alexander Wolfe
- 15 Paula Chapa



- 15 Larry Hock
- 15 James Rahn
- 15 Kem Schillinger
- 20 Brennan Lambin
- 20 Vivian Smith
- 21 Julie Lage

- 21 Seth Winchell
- 21 Emma Yerkey
- 23 Rosalie Jorgensen
- 26 Trevor Eastburn
- 30 Kenneth Cullison
- 30 Kyle Rahn

### JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Broc/Jennifer Krantz (2009) – 10 yrs
- 5 Ky/Jamie Lambin (2003) - 16 yrs
- 5 Bob/Beverly Peterson (1958) - 61 yrs
- 6 Stephen/Paula Mooney (1974) - 45 yrs



- 11 Jim/Joyce Dodge (1965) - 54 yrs
- 12 Brad/Mary Jo Gehn (1997) - 22 yrs
- 17 Kyle/Ashton Wickwire (2010) - 9 yrs
- 24 Don/Rebecca Hickenbottom (2004) -15 yrs

## THANK YOU!!!

Last month was such a busy month with so many important events including Pastor Nerud's installation, VBS, a float in several parades, and the special Anniversary Service. We thank every person who helped with these events. They are now a part of our history. We praise and thank God for His unending love, care and leading as we continue to serve His kingdom here on earth. God's blessings to all. St. John's Council

"THANK YOU" for attending my confirmation and for the cards, gifts, good wishes, and prayers. Conner Helke

## LWML NEWS

St. John's LWML met Tuesday June 11, 2019 at 1:00 pm. We had 10 members, Pastor Nerud, and 7 guests present. Joyce Dodge opened our meeting in the name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

This month our Biblical Paradox comes from Romans 6:18, *You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.*

Instead of a 'Topic' we had Claire Yerkey speaking to us about her involvement with The Navigators and upcoming mission work in Puerto Rico for the next 2 years. Claire shared how she was introduced to Navigators in college and what her work will be. She must raise her financial support for the next two years before she can leave the USA mainland.



Minutes from the May meeting were approved as printed. We received the Clausings' monthly newsletter. This is posted on the bulletin board between the mailboxes. There is a change in where the Clausings are currently living. They are in Tanzania.

The treasurer's report is as follows and will be filed for review. May receipts - Mites; \$657.72, Operating; \$47, Missions; \$55, Memorial Mite Gift; \$15. Expense Distributions - Mites; \$672.72, Operating; \$20. Balance: Missions; \$588.84, Operating; \$184.67, Totally; \$773.51.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Joyce shared some highlights from the 2019 LWML District convention minutes. Cristo Rey received their charter as a new LWML society. Their name is 'The Violets of Cristo Rey'. Katie Lutz spoke on her work in Peru. All District Mite projects received funding. So much was accomplished through the servant event even though only 240 attended this convention. Servant event totals are as follows: 134 Bibles marked for prisons, 293 quilts tied, 200 Christmas bags gathers for Veterans, 110 T-shirts cut for diapers, 215 boxes of items gathered for Orphan Grain Train plus \$215, \$1,000 for Disaster Relief, \$1,020 worth of quarter rolls for Veterans use for laundry purposes, thousands of stamps trimmed, \$100 for LWR along with the purse exchange income of \$336.55. The new Mite Project goal for 2019-2020 is \$104,800.00

**NEW BUSINESS** - A member from our congregation purchased 25 towels for Health kits. We already have some left-over items so all we really need are 50 bars of soap and 4 nail clippers. Everyone is asked to bring soap to our next meeting. Terri will send out a reminder about this just before our next meeting.

Our next meeting will be July 9th with devotions & topic by Joyce Dodge, and Liz Neumann as Hostess. We closed our meeting with a devotion by Joyce Dodge entitled, "Go For It" based on Jeremiah 1:17, 19. We closed our meeting reciting the LWML Pledge together. Margo served strawberry shortcake, cookies and fruit.

Respectfully submitted by, Terri Hock, Secretary

## MITE BOX MISSION GRANTS 2019/2020

**22 Dinners – Kare 9 Military Ministry in Auburn, IL..... \$3,600**

According to the Veteran's Administration, each day nearly 22 veterans commit suicide. To remember these victims and to help prevent others, Trinity Lutheran Church in Auburn, IL hosts a free meal on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of each month for active military members, veterans, and their families. It will be a safe, confidential and upbeat environment for sharing the gospel and fellowship as they bring awareness to Veterans' needs. The Kare 9 Military Ministry dog, Dinah, will be involved to offer comfort. These funds would be used to offset the cost of food for the dinners.

## YOUTH NEWS

Our youth sponsored a cookout on June 7 as a welcome for Sarah and Nicole Nerud. Families and church members were invited to an evening of food and fun. We are so glad to have Sarah and Nicole here.

Some youth helped with various jobs at VBS. We are so thankful for your willing service and energy. The younger kids love having your leadership.

Five youth attended Higher Things June 26 – 29. We look forward to hearing about their experiences at this event.

Don't forget about Sunday morning Bible class. What a great time to dig into God's Word and grow in your understanding of a life lived for Christ.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

VBS was a great week of learning, fellowship, eating, and having fun. Thank you everyone who helped make this week run so smoothly and be so much fun. We might have been small in numbers, but we are strong in the Lord.



### ST JOHN 150<sup>TH</sup> TRIVIA QUIZ

The committee for the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration has decided that it would be fund to include some information in each monthly newsletter about the history of our congregation. It is important that we appreciate the way our church was founded by those German immigrants and the lengths they went to in assurance their families would be faithful to the teachings of the Gospel.

1. **T or F** After Rev. Wille's resignation in September 1891, it was resolved to call Rev. A. C. Mennicke, assistant pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rock Island.
2. Rev. Mennicke was installed at St. John's May 10, 1892. He was delayed in answering the call because (a) he was ill, (b) he was teaching confirmation classes in Buffalo Prairie Township and Coal Valley, (c) he wanted to be paid more money.
3. **T or F** For many years he also had charge of the congregation in Coal Valley.
4. In 1895 it became necessary to enlarge the church building with an addition, (a) 16' x 24', (b) 32' x 24', (c) 12' c 20'
5. **T or F** Besides Rev. Mennicke's regular duties, he was also required to teach school and to lead the choir and band.

***Do you have old pictures of St. John's people or activities especially before 1900? Contact Bev Peterson.***

### STEWARDSHIP

Whenever the topic of stewardship and giving comes up, the conversation inevitably turns to the question: "How much should I give?" Answers will vary because the motive behind such questions also vary.

Sometimes the motive behind asking this question is for self-justification. Even though, as Lutherans, we know we are not saved by our works but by grace through faith because of Jesus' substitutionary atonement, the natural religion of fallen man is to earn God's favor by what we do.

Take, for example, the response of our Lord to the rich young ruler who asked, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus first tells him to keep the commandments. The rich young ruler responds by indicating that all this he has kept from his youth. But Jesus tells him that he lacks one thing: He must sell all he has and give it to the poor and then follow Him.



This rich young ruler went away sad because he was quite wealthy and could not part with his possessions. Here we see that those who seek to justify themselves by their giving will hear a response that intensifies the duty that God places upon them. Indeed, they will hear a response that makes it impossible to win God's favor by their works.

But to those who genuinely desire to know their duty as Christians in the arena of giving, we look to the Bible for our answer. We believe the Bible is the Word of God. And we know that the Word of God has been "breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

So, we begin to answer the question, "What should I give?" with the question, "What does the Bible say about how much we should give and to whom?"

The Old Testament is explicit. The expectation is that the people of God would give a tithe – 10 percent – of the first fruits of their labor to support the full-time ministry of the Levites. This is what the Lord gave Moses to teach the people:

"You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always.

"And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the Lord your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the Lord your God chooses, to set his name there, then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the Lord your God chooses and spend the money for whatever you desire – oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves.

"And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household. And you shall not neglect the Levite who is within your towns, for he has no portion or inheritance with you.

“At the end of every three years you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in the same year and lay it up within your towns. And the Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance with you, and the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are within your towns, shall come and eat and be filled, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do.” (Deut. 14:22–29)

This principle of tithing is carried over into the New Testament, though not explicitly by calling it a tithe. St. Paul teaches the Church at Corinth the following:

We are to give to the church regularly (1 Cor. 16:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first fruits (1 Cor. 16:1–2; Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23). And all of this is because the “Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living by the Gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14), just as the Levites did.

This is our New Testament standard. Since Christ became poor for us in order to make us rich in Him – blessing us with the riches of heaven – so we have also been so blessed to follow the example of our Lord and Savior and give of ourselves and the work of our hands to bless others with the same.

If we have been lax in this, let us, like our Lord, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross and scorned its shame, likewise begin to work toward this goal of regular giving of a generous proportion of the first fruits of God’s giving to us.

And let us do so not begrudgingly, but for the joy set before us – with a spirit of eagerness, cheerfulness, and love – to share the blessings of God with those placed into our care.

## EVANGELISM

Are you a parent, or have you known a parent who is experiencing a relationship standoff with a son or daughter? The booklet *Parents of Prodigals* considers the impasse that leads the child to take flight. This booklet will help you to deal with the questioning of what could have been done differently, the anxiety and frustration over the situation one feels powerless to do anything about, and will give you hope. Pick it up in the narthex tract rack.

Every day we work with, shop with, visit with, live next to, play on teams with, get our hair styled by and get our cars fixed by people who need to know about Jesus and His great love for them. Whom can we tell this week that God loves them and Christ died for their sins?

## STEPHEN MINISTRY

Larry Kane has recently completed training as a Stephen Leader. He will be commissioned June 2 during our worship service. We ask God’s blessings on Larry and this special area of ministry. May he be given the tools and heart needed to reach those who are struggling with the daily tasks before them.



## HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

Each week there is a small group of women who gather for prayer. They pray for the needs of their families, this congregation and its members, our community, nation and world. All are invited to join them whenever possible. There is no greater way to serve than through prayer.

***Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.***  
*Philippians 4:6-7*

We also have a ‘Prayer Chain’. All prayer requests can be made to the office and a special prayer will be sent to those prayer warriors. For more information on either group, contact the church secretary.

***‘What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!’***



There are bright orange prayer request cards in the pew rack. Use these to let us know how we can pray for you or your loved ones. Place these cards in the offering plate or in the church office.

***Pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.***  
*James 5:16b*

## COUNCIL/VOLUNTEERS

During the month of July, we ask you remember our Lay Delegate, Marty Himmelman. Marty keeps us abreast of the happenings both at District and Synod. He will bring to us a report of the Synodical convention being held this year. Pray for Marty and his willing heart of service to St. John’s.

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Throughout each month, please join the Council in praying for two families of St. John's congregation. The families for the month of July are: Rollin Miller and Linda Lundquist.

**Our Infrequent Attendees** – pray the Holy Spirit bring them to the understanding of their need to be in regular worship in church on Sunday and that we as their brothers and sisters in Christ would reach out to them.

**Our LWML Chapter and Ladies Aid** – 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.

**Women's Ministry** - we pray that a ministry would begin which would speak to the needs of all women.

**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/Shut-ins** - pray that this congregation would continually remember our Elderly and Shut-ins and minister to their special needs.

**Stephen/Care Ministry** – pray that God would guide us to the needs of others and supply willing people who will reach out to help provide for those needs.

## 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:

**Drew Schillinger**

**Steve/Paula Mooney**

**Bob Esterlein**

**Joyce Miller**

**Arlyn Helke**

**Jim/Shirley Dahl**

**Cleone Loenser**

**Bob Daniels**

**Derek Helke**

**John Wildermuth**

**Bob Peterson**

**Marilyn Woods**

**Larry Hock**

## OUR EXTENDED FAMILY/FRIENDS:

**Don Eggers** (son of a friend of Marilyn Woods)

**Alaina Dicky** (great niece of Sandy Kane)

**Diana Helke** (sister-in-law of Arlyn and Marcia Helke)

**Judy Umbarger** (wife of Pastor Umbarger, St. John EM)

**Mike Miller** (friend of Bob & Sherry Wechsler)

**Rosemary Sternbeck** (wife of Pastor David Sternbeck)

**Jodi Martins** (daughter of Gary & Darla Johns)

**Karen Wright** (wife of Pastor Gary Wright)

**John & Anita Causling** (missionaries in Kenya)

**Judy Wiegler** (daughter of Faye Piepho)

**Marilyn Potts** (wife of Cal, former LFC)

**Mike Rowlands** (friend of Arlyn/Marcia Helke)

**Pam Bennett** (friend of Dan/Roselyn Maeltzer)

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

## MILITARY, THOSE SERVING & THEIR FAMILIES:

**Mandy & Richard Davila** (daughter & son-in-law of Dale & Linda Aper)

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

**Ken Willeford** (husband of Alicia Hock)

**James Ballegeer** (son of Dave & Robin Ballegeer)

**Tyler Hynes** (nephew of Mark Ague)

**Karl Flynn** (son of Mr. & Mrs. Paul Flynn)

**Tyler Mahsem** (son of Phil & Teresa Mahsem)

**Zachary Gardner** (nephew of Bob & Lois Esterlein)

## 150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

*“The Lord is faithful through all generations, therefore we will tell of His mercy to our children.”*

The verse above is our theme throughout this year of 2019. St. John's Lutheran Church is celebrating a tremendous milestone of God's faithfulness and blessings. During the year, we will focus on the many gifts given to our ancestors and us throughout these many years. Not only will we look back, but we want to look forward as well. We have a great message to share. Our ancestors knew the importance staying true to the Word of God and they eagerly shared this message of God's grace through Jesus to their families, friends, surrounding communities and around the world. **We can do no less.** May our voices speak in strength and boldness about our loving Heavenly Father and the salvation given to all who would believe in Christ Jesus.

**Answers to quiz: 1- T, 2 - b, 3 - T, 4 - a, 5 - T**



*"Make Disciples of All Nations"*

Central Illinois District  
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Opening Thoughts:

**Father, Son, and Spirit**

The unassuming third person of the Holy Trinity is very important to the Church and to believers. "No one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit." "When the Helper comes... He will bear witness about Me." "He will guide you into all truth..." "He will bring to remembrance all that I have said to you." "He will glorify Me." In the Creed, He is noted as the "Lord and Giver of Life." There is no life in us apart from this work of the Spirit of Truth.

The Christian Church has as its center the works and words of Jesus. He satisfied divine justice for the world so that His Father could declare us righteous by sacred blood. The Spirit sees to it that through the recorded and empowered words of holy men, death is replaced by life everlasting.

Peter's sermon in Jerusalem fifty days after Jesus' graveyard victory was about Jesus. The gathered believers received the Spirit and they spoke the Gospel. They proclaimed the works of God through Jesus. They pointed to the cross and preached the resurrection, and that day the Spirit added 3000 souls to the number of those saved. Thus, that same Spirit continues His effective work and more souls will be saved.

—Rev. Mark A. Miller, CID President

**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 our CID mission work in area prisons. Rev. Charles Olander and Rev. Stephen Southward, along with many CID volunteers, eagerly tell the Good News of Jesus Christ to incarcerated people.

**LERT** (Lutheran Emergency Response Team) Volunteer Training Events, Saturday, July 20, 2019, Immanuel Lutheran Church, 902 Cleveland Ave. Charleston, Illinois 61920. 9:00am - 2:30pm (Sign-in begins at 8:30am) Registration form (<http://www.cidlcms.org/LERT.Charleston.7.20.19.pdf>)

**Summary of the May 2019 CID-Board of Directors**

- The Central Illinois District Board of Directors met on Tuesday, May 28. Rev. Tom Phillips presented on Deaf Ministry in the district. CID is the last district to support full time Word and Sacrament ministry to the deaf. Instead of having a single congregation, we have a district wide parish with multiple preaching stations.

- Marsha Shown, who has served in the district office for twenty years, was recognized for her service as she prepares to retire at the end of the May.

- Connect to Disciple workshops will be available through the district office. Thanks to facilitator training grants and a grant from LWML-CID, and Church Extension Fund congregations hosting workshops through 2020 can host for only the cost of the materials. Contact Rev. Dr. Ken Schurb to schedule your workshop today.

- University Lutheran Church in Champaign is in the process of calling a new campus pastor following the retirement of Rev. Rick Milas. We hope to have the new pastor installed by the start of the academic year.

- The Board of Directors will be reviewing policies concerning the financial health of the district, providing guidelines for adjustments to the budget in the future. The Board is considering the minimum emergency backup fund they wish to maintain for healthy operation.

- The Board established new guidelines for the Church Worker Scholarship Fund, making it possible for higher awards to be made if donations and grants provide additional monies available.

- Requested modifications to the congregational constitutions for Mt. Calvary –Galesburg, St. Paul –Woodworth, Faith –Monticello, and St. John's –Louisville were approved.

The next Board meeting will be Tuesday, September 24, at the district office.

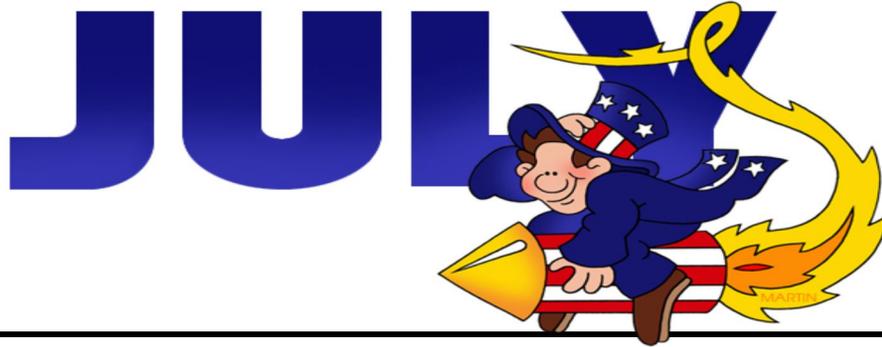
**Rev. Rick Milas' Retirement Celebration** "Join Us For a Retirement Celebration! University Lutheran Church at the University of Illinois has been blessed by the ministry of Pastor Rick Milas for the last 25years. We are honored to host his retirement service on Sunday, July 28 at 10:30 am. Following the service will be a cookout at University Lutheran Church. For those who cannot make it that Sunday, an additional Saturday (July 27) event will be held from 3-7 pm, also at University Lutheran. We invite you to attend either or both celebrations. Please RSVP to [rick.milas.unilu.retirement@gmail.com](mailto:rick.milas.unilu.retirement@gmail.com). We pray for God's blessing on Pastor and Martha as they enter into this new season of retirement together."

### **Pastoral Decalogue by Rev. Dr. Alvin L. Barry**

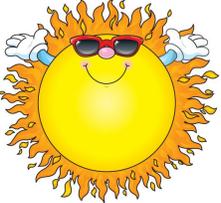
1. In working with people, begin where they really are, not where you think they should be.
2. Don't view your people as the enemy. If you view your people as the enemy, alligator, the combatants, they will only become more and more what you view them to be.
3. Show a genuine acceptance of your people. Let them know that you have accepted them, love them, and that they are important to both you and God.
4. Look for those places where you can praise and thank your people. Instead of concentrating on the negative, concentrate on the positive in dealing with your people.
5. Don't expect change overnight. Lasting change usually takes lots of time, patience and ministry.
6. Don't think every idea you come up with is divinely inspired. Recognize that the laity too have some pretty good ideas which may even be considerably better than yours.
7. When you have been wronged, forgive, forget and then get on with your work. Show in your words and actions that you are a man of forgiveness. Don't carry grudges.
8. Admit when you are wrong. If an apology is in place, then apologize. Learn genuinely to say - I was wrong. I am sorry.
9. Keep the lines of communication open between yourself and your people. Learn to listen - really listen. Where the lines of communication have been broken, you take the initiative to re-establish these.
10. Be a man in The Word, a man of prayer. Don't deprive yourself of the personal strength derived from the Word. Take time - ample time - prime time - daily to pray and be in the Word.

### **Laity Decalogue by Rev. Dr. Alvin L. Barry**

1. Remember the spiritual purpose for which your congregation really exists. Nothing is more discouraging for a pastor than parishioners who just cannot sense the spiritual dynamic and purpose of their church. Study and grow together with you pastor in the Word and ministry.
2. Recognize and treat your pastor as a gracious gift from God, even though he may not measure up to all of your personal expectations.
3. Be accepting of differing styles and approaches to ministry. We are not talking doctrine here. We are talking style and techniques in ministry. Just because you have always done it that way doesn't mean it can't be changed.
4. Don't expect your pastor to be perfect - that is a perfect "10". You will find that he is pretty much like his people in this respect. He will have both strengths and weaknesses. Don't continually keep comparing him to his predecessor.
5. Look for those areas where you can give your pastor praise, encouragement and cooperation. Ongoing complaints and criticism only tends to kill enthusiasm, while praise and encouragement does just the opposite.
6. Insist that he take time off and respect that time in his life and schedule. Your pastor will be the most effective in his ministry if he makes it a point regularly to take time off. Insist that he do this.
7. Be sure to respect your pastor and his family's rights to privacy. Be sensitive to the personal needs of your pastor and his family. Show concern for them as a family.
8. Provide adequately for your pastor's needs. Yes we are talking salary here. Give your pastor a salary worthy of his position of leadership among you.
9. Assume and fulfill those responsibilities given to you by the congregation. Take seriously those tasks where you have agreed to serve. When you take on a job or responsibility within the congregation, do it. Don't think - "if I don't the pastor or someone else will cover for me."
10. Remember your pastor in your daily prayers. When you are tempted to criticize your pastor, instead pray for him. Ongoing criticism only tends to cripple, while prayer empowers. Let your pastor know that he is really - is really - in your prayers.



# 2019

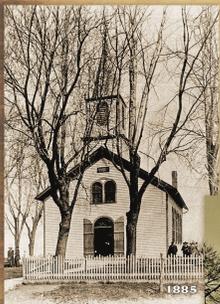
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 	5	6
7 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am	8	9 LWML/Men's Bible Study 1 pm SM Supervision 4 pm	10	11 Prayer Circle 8 am Ladies Aid 1:30 pm Elders 6:30 pm Men's Bible Study 7:30 pm	12	13
14 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10 am	15	16 Council meeting 7 pm	17	18 Prayer Circle 8 am	19	20 
21 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am	22	23 SM Supervision 4 pm	24 SS Teachers 6:30 pm	25 Prayer Circle 8 am	26	27
28 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10 am Voters' Assembly 11 am	29	30	31 	<u><b>ELDER</b></u> <b>Joel Werling</b>	<u><b>ACOLYTE</b></u> <b>Lexi Ague</b>	<u><b>USHERS</b></u>



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

**SUNDAY SCHOOL/ADULT & YOUTH BIBLE  
CLASS - 8:45 AM**

**WORSHIP SERVICES – 10 AM  
1st & 3rd Sundays/Holy Communion**



**150<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary  
Celebration**



***St. John's  
Lutheran Church***

Geneseo, Illinois



**1869-2019**

**The Lord is faithful through all generations.**