

# ST. JOHN'S NEWSLETTER



**BUILT ON CHRIST OUR CORNERSTONE**

## ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Hearing/Handicapped Assistance Available

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## GROWING IN CHRIST'S FAMILY

**-In God's Grace**

**-In God's Service**

### **“Closed Communion: Part IV, Ensuring the Blessings”**

Over the past few months we have considered the practice of closed Communion. We have seen that this is not just some “Missouri Synod rule,” but is in fact the teaching of Scripture which requires agreement in doctrine in order to receive Holy Communion together.<sup>1</sup> We have also looked at the Church's historical practice, which has been closed Communion from the earliest days until pretty recently, thus indicating that open Communion is a much later understanding and a major change in practice.<sup>2</sup>

Despite all of this, some people still struggle with this issue, seeing closed Communion as little more than some “rule,” and an unloving and not very necessary one at that. To this I would say two things. First, while closed Communion may be a rule of sorts, as we have seen throughout this series of articles, it is God's rule as revealed in Scripture. Consider it from this perspective. Many people have a problem with the Ten Commandments. Yet, I think we would agree that they are God's rules and so must be obeyed, personal opinions notwithstanding. Similarly, since closed Communion is *God's* regulation of the Sacrament of *His Son's* body and blood, it should be obvious that this rule is to be obeyed as well, personal opinions notwithstanding. In a nutshell, God is God, we're not. He is the Creator, we are His creatures. As the Lord said through Isaiah, “You turn things upside down! Shall the potter be regarded as the clay.”<sup>3</sup> We have no right or authority to tell God that any of His rules are foolish, unnecessary, unloving, or whatever.

Now, what was just said is true, yet more can and must be stated. For to stop with this might leave the impression that while God gives rules, they might be totally arbitrary; a rule simply given for the sake of giving one. But let's consider the Ten Commandments once again. It is apparent that even just a general, external obedience is beneficial to people because such limits the evil that one can do to another. We must not harm, but on the contrary, we are to help and support others, which allows individuals and society to prosper in earthly life. Even more, when one begins to obey them from true faith so that the heart and the mind are involved along with the body, then the believer is being freed to flourish *as he or she was created to*, living in the Spirit as a child of God! So, the point is simple: God doesn't give arbitrary useless laws just because He can.<sup>4</sup> He gives laws, yes, but they have a purpose, and the purpose is always *to benefit us*.<sup>5</sup>

And so it is with closed Communion. When “the rule” is being obeyed in faith, there are blessings being given and received. A strong confession of faith is being professed. True, others may not like it. But it pleases our God as we continue our struggle to uphold His honor, His Word, His sacrifice, and His Sacrament even as it encourages us in that

<sup>1</sup> Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 10:17.

<sup>2</sup> We should also note that closed Communion remains the practice of many Christians worldwide to this very day.

<sup>3</sup> Isaiah 29:16a.

<sup>4</sup> Even the Old Testament Ceremonial Laws given to Israel, which can seem so tedious to us and which have been fulfilled in Christ and so are no longer binding upon believers, *still had theological purposes* for the people who lived before the Messiah came.

<sup>5</sup> The fact that the Law always condemns us is not a fault of the Law, but the fault lies within us since we are sinners. But for the Christian who is forgiven in Christ, the Law also takes on a new and wonderful purpose of guiding us in our new lives so that we might live in God's ways and so be under His blessings.

struggle by our having this expression of true fellowship in the faith (unity of doctrine) which God desires. So also, it allows us to practice Christian love by being as certain as possible that, 1) the person is rightly instructed in the true saving doctrine and believes it by their giving their confession of faith and unity with us and 2) based upon that, they may now receive the Sacrament to their blessing and not their judgment.<sup>6</sup>

Ultimately, by holding to God's will as revealed in the Bible, we can be certain that we are under His blessing. For example, marriage (as God designed it) has God's blessing, even amongst unbelievers as it is an institution for this world and life. However, living together without marriage, or living in a "marriage" outside of God's institution does not, truly, cannot bring God's blessing upon those within it, even when done by Christians. (Actually, it angers God more when Christians pervert His will as He expects His people to honor and uphold it!).

In the same vein, if we go against His will for the Lord's Supper, we cannot be confident in His blessings, but in fact, we must doubt them. For He will not bless those who go against His Word and will, but will in fact judge them. But when we faithfully follow Christ's institution for the Lord's Supper, which includes the practice of closed Communion, we can be sure that we are the recipients of the blessings of forgiveness, new life in the Holy Spirit, and eternal salvation which He gives through the Sacrament.

May we remember these truths and, trusting in God's wisdom, follow them in humble faith. And then, as those who have been rightly instructed, are able to correctly examine themselves (and do such), and are united in faith with our fellow communicants, let us joyfully come to the Holy Communion, confident of the blessings that we receive from our dear Lord there!

Yours in Christ, *Pastor Nerud*

### **A Look at the Lutheran Confessions:**

#### *The Nicene Creed, Theology of the First Article*

The first article of the Nicene Creed is very similar to that of the Apostles' Creed. This is primarily due to the fact that there were no direct theological attacks on the person of the Father to which the council needed to respond. As with the Apostles' Creed, the Father is declared the "maker of heaven and earth." This is expanded, though, to include "all things visible and invisible." This additional phrase is used to make an even more precise declaration that *all things*, other than God Himself, have been created by Him, whether they consist of matter, energy, spirit (e.g. angelic beings), or any combination thereof.

So also, the Nicene Creed confesses clearly that there is only "one God," that is the Triune God who is revealed in the Bible. Any and all other gods, whether a physical item, an idea in the head, or a longing of the heart (whatever we might fear, love, or trust more than God), are *idols*. And behind such idols are demons who seek to deceive us, for the god of this world (Satan) is working hard to keep unbelievers in spiritual blindness of the true God, and to bring those who have been enlightened by the Holy Spirit through the Word and faith in Christ back into spiritual darkness.<sup>7</sup>

*Next month we will consider the theology of the Second Article of the Creed, especially the critical phrases that were used to teach about the deity of Christ.*

*Pastor Nerud*

### **Apologetics: Salad-eating sharks<sup>8</sup>**

Sharks are widely regarded as carnivores (meat-eaters), and until recently the bonnethead shark, *Sphyrna tiburo*, was no exception. Living in shallow waters close to shore, it was known to hunt in the seagrass meadows for fish, crabs, and shrimp.

However, analysis of the stomach contents of these sharks revealed they were also eating copious amounts of seagrass—especially the juvenile sharks, with up to 62% of their total gut contents identified as plant material.

Unsure whether seagrass-eating was incidental or deliberate, and dubious as to whether the bonnethead sharks could extract any nutritional benefit from it given their too-short (for digesting plant fibrous material) "carnivorous ancestry" intestines, researchers investigated further.<sup>1</sup> For three weeks they fed captive bonnethead sharks a daily diet of 90% seagrass (containing a traceable <sup>13</sup>C label) and 10% squid. The sharks all gained weight, and more than half of the seagrass was being successfully digested. Furthermore, the researchers

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<sup>6</sup> 1 Corinthians 11:27-32.

<sup>7</sup> See 1 Corinthians 2:14; 10:19-20; 2 Corinthians 4:4.

<sup>8</sup> by David Catchpoole; <https://creation.com/salad-eating-sharks>.

observed a spike in the activity of a cellulose-degrading enzyme—possibly belonging to a helpful microbe living in the shark’s gut.

The researchers say these results provide explicit evidence that bonnethead sharks, “animals previously thought to be solely carnivorous”, derive substantial nutritional benefit from eating seagrass.<sup>a</sup>

Reporting the discovery, *Science* journal described the bonnethead shark as “the world’s first salad-eating shark”.<sup>b</sup> Some might dispute that given longstanding observations in the wild of nurse sharks grazing algae. And also due to the existence of ‘Florence’, a captive nurse shark that since an earlier fishhook injury now shuns meat in favour of broccoli, cabbage, and other greens.<sup>c,d</sup>

Actually, none of these should be considered the world’s first salad-eating sharks. That honor goes to the first sharks that ever lived, created about 6,000 years ago on Day 5 of Creation Week, and created 100% vegetarian. Today’s salad-eating sharks are a reminder that theirs was originally a *herbivorous* ancestry, not a carnivorous one, even though in today’s post-Fall world they and other ‘vegetarian carnivores’ might need to augment their diet with some meaty protein from time to time.

## References and notes

- a. Leigh, S., Papastamatiou, Y., and German, D., Omnivorous sharks? An analysis of bonnethead shark digestive physiology provides evidence for seagrass digestion and assimilation, sicb.org, Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology—Annual Meeting 2018, Abstract 109-1, 7 January 2018.
- b. Pennisi, E., Meet the world’s first salad-eating shark, sciencemag.org, 7 January 2018 | doi:10.1126/science.aas9301.
- c. Wrenn, E., Meet Florence, the world’s first vegetarian shark who prefers celery sticks and cucumber to fish, dailymail.co.uk, 18 May 2012.
- d. Catchpoole, D., Vegetarian shark—The nurse shark that uses her razor-sharp, serrated teeth to pulp broccoli and cabbage, celery and lettuce, *Creation* 36(2):15, 2014.

## BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

1. Sunday morning: a study on the “Book of Ecclesiastes”. (All adults 18 and older are encouraged to attend)
2. Men’s Bible study, first Thursday of the month @ 7 pm, “Christianity The First Three Centuries”, a video study supplemented by Pastor.
3. A new afternoon study of “Christianity, The First Three Centuries” began Thursday, September 26. This group is meeting the third Thursday of each month (next class is January 16th). Class time is 1:30 pm – 3 pm. This is open to all members and friends of St. John’s.



## SEASON OF LENT

Ash Wednesday service will be @ 7 pm, February 26 with the Imposition of Ashes. Mid-week services will continue throughout the weeks leading up to Easter.

Suppers will be served before each Wednesday evening service from 5:15 – 6:30 pm. There is a sign-up sheet on the table next to the coat room. We are asking for donations of desserts and helpers to clean up each night. Those signing up to bring a dessert are asked it serve 12-15 people. Free-will donations from these suppers will be given to Cristo Rey to help them financially due to the District cuts in support.

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Sherry Wechsler  
7 Brennan Lambin  
8 Robert Erdman  
14 Erik Boehmke  
16 Sean Helke



16 Caleb Nash  
19 Lisa Allison  
23 Kristin Mosher  
23 Carmen Sette  
25 Sarah Hock

25 Joel Jorgensen  
25 Joseph Schillinger  
26 Carolyn Werner

## FEBRUARY BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

6 Teresa Hock  
7 Kelly Helg  
7 Mary Jayne Nash  
8 Carson Mitchell  
13 Laura Anderson  
13 Sara Yerkey



18 Nicole Magerkurth  
25 Emily Marckese  
26 Kyra Nash  
00 Cathy Schillinger  
00 Sherry Wechsler  
23 Don Hickenbottom

23 Jerry Hickenbottom  
23 Robert Wechsler  
26 Zane Roberts  
27 Trey Blank  
27 Jonathan Barry  
28 Keagan Daniels

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

12 Brent/Laura Anderson (2011) - 8 yrs



15 Alex/Lindsey Gustafson (2014) - 6 yrs

### 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)
- 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.
- First Aid kits can be found in the kitchen next to the refrigerator and in the Preschool SS room (first room on right in Education Wing) on the counter.

### SPECIAL INGATHERING FOR CHRISTIAN CARE

The LWML is collecting needed items for the Christian Care center in Rock Island during February, March and April. Deposit your donations in the box under the greeting card table. Items especially needed are flip flops/shower shoes, fabric softener sheets, Men's sweatpants (L to 2XL), men's jeans (30 to 34), and bleach. Other needed items are: napkins, toilet paper, paper towels, lotion, shaving cream, foot powder, hand soap, 13 & 39 gallon trash bags, sandwich and gallon size Zip-Loc bags, cooking spray, seasoning salt, sugar, coffee, black tea, creamer, canned fruit, condiments, salad dressings, and bus passes for IA and IL. Cash may be place in the can on the table.

### LWML NEWS

St. John's LWML met Tuesday January 14, 2020 at 1:00 pm. We had 9members and Pastor Nerud present. Liz Neumann opened our meeting in the name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Our focus this year is 'In Praise to the LORD!'. Our praise verse for this month is: *Every day I will bless you and praise Your Name forever and ever. Psalm 145:2*

Terri Hock read a devotion called, "Truly in God's Hands". She then led our study from the Quarterly, "Beauty Marks".

Wanda passed around an old picture of ladies from our congregation. She's hoping for help to identify all of them.

Margo read a short description of the Sixth National Grant project, 'Mobile Medical Mercy Mission Bus for Guatemala – Lutheran Church of Guatemala and Child Beyond International' for \$100,000.

Minutes were approved as written. Correspondence received included a 'Thank you' card from Joyce Dodge, Clausing's January newsletter, letter and picture from our seminarian, Cristo Rey newsletter, and Zone/District information from our Zone President, Mary Donegan.

The treasurer's report is as follows and will be filed for review. November receipts – Mites \$475.41, Missions \$45, Operating \$20. November expense distributions – Mites \$475.41, Operating \$20. Balance: Missions \$350.84, Operating 97.67. December receipts – Mites \$450.25, Operating \$10, Missions \$35, Socks \$121.65. December expense distributions – Mites \$450.25, Operating \$20, Gift to Pastor \$25, Socks to Andrew Hill \$125. Balance: Missions \$385.84, Operating 59.32.

**OLD BUSINESS** – none

### NEW BUSINESS

- Currently we sent \$20/month to District to support cost of Quarterlies and District expenses. Printing cost of Quarterlies are rising. It was suggested to increase our monthly contributions by \$5. **Karna Hollatz moved that we send \$25 to District each month. Margo Schillinger seconded this month. Motion passed.**
- Rock Island Zone is in charge of the Mission Fair at the District Spring Convention. Our Zone will display 2 pictures from each group showing mission projects we have done. These pictures are to be sent to Mary Donegan by early February. There will also be a raffle of Gift Basket with proceeds going for Mites. Rock Island Zone will provide 3 smaller baskets instead of 1 large basket. We will be working with Concordia, Galesburg, and Faith putting together a pasta dinner basket. Concordia is in charge of this project. The other two baskets will be for Gardening and a child's birthday.



- A discussion was held on hosting mission projects here at St. John's. It was decided to host 3 throughout the year. February – April we will focus gather for Christian Care. June – August will be a child's kit (health or school) asking VBS to join with us. September – November will be for The Farm (battered women).
- The group was asked to think over the next month about starting visits to our homebound.
- Rev. Clausing and his family will be on furlough this spring. He will be our guest on Wednesday, June 3. The Zone groups will be invited to attend (this will be our spring zone event). We will provide a dessert bar for the afternoon with the afternoon beginning at 1 pm.
- Liz shared the many areas that our volunteer hands are needed. A sheet was passed out to everyone with areas of service listed. Please pray where God will lead you to volunteer, check those items and return your sheet to Liz.
- A suggestion was made to consider moving our meeting times so working women can attend. This will be discussed more at our next meeting.

Our meeting closed all reciting Mite Prayer 1 from our program book. Margo Schillinger served as hostess. Happy Birthday was sung to Terri Hock. Next month Wanda Rahn will have devotion and topic. Terri Hock will serve as hostess.  
Respectfully submitted by, Terri Hock, Secretary

### MITE BOX MISSION GRANTS 2019/2020

**Crossing the Gap Prison Ministry** . . . . . **\$2,000**

This project is a volunteer correspondence ministry to prisoners, sending approximately 125 letters monthly from the Grace Lutheran Friendship Guild in Paris, IL. This grant would be applied toward the postage expenses. The project's purpose is to encourage Bible Study and share God's love through greeting cards, personal letters, Bible passages, and Bible study materials.



### SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday school continues each week. Our offering project for the 2019/2020 school year is Lutheran Heritage Foundation, books for Ethiopia. Don't forget to bring your offering each week. These children desperately need the Word of God in their own language.

Lenten devotional materials are being looked at and will be passed out to the children very soon. We ask each family take time to use the materials together. They will be a great aid in teaching your children about this special time in the Church year. Daily devotions together will strengthen every one's faith and your family's relationships.



The VBS program is in hand. We ask your prayers as we review the materials and begin to make plans for the 2020 week. We need your support, encouragement and hands for a successful week.

### YOUTH NEWS

Join us each week for Bible class which begins at 8:45 am Sunday mornings. All confirmed youth and friends are invited.

The Youth helped with the preparation of food for the congregational 'Town Hall' meeting held January 19. Thanks so much for the great work everyone did.

February 2 will be a winter fun event after worship. All youth 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade is invited to attend. There will be a meal and then outdoor fun (weather permitting).



### ALTAR FLOWERS

Celebrate a special occasion with flowers. Sign the **NEW** 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.



**During the season of Lent there will be no flowers on the Altar. We want to observe this time of somber reflection.** If your special event falls during these weeks, why not consider giving on another Sunday.

### STEWARDSHIP

Of the three things a person is not to talk about in polite company – religion, politics, and money – the church is called, in one way or another, to talk about all three. Perhaps this is the reason why teaching about stewardship often seems to be an afterthought. It's something that happens only out of necessity when financial constraints are already nipping at the heels.

There is a more excellent way. Stewardship shouldn't be the kind of teaching that comes up only when there is a financial crunch. It should be part and parcel of the ongoing instruction of Christians as they live out

their faith in their vocations – members of their family, their society, and their church. This teaching touches upon every facet of our lives; it stakes a claim upon our time, our presence, our prayers, and our possessions.

Stewardship begins with the acknowledgment that we are stewards. A steward is a manager of someone else's possessions. In Christian stewardship, we recognize, according to the Apostles' Creed, that God is the owner of all things as the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. And in His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, He gives us what is His to manage here below.



The principal virtue for stewards is faithfulness. As St. Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth: “Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.” (1 Cor. 4:2)

Stewards must manage that which belongs to the owner according to the owner's wishes. That is what it means to be faithful in stewardship.

That raises a question: How are Christian stewards to be faithful in their managing of what God has entrusted to them to manage? In other words, what are the specific duties of a Christian steward?

This depends upon what God has revealed in His Word for each of our vocations in life as those in a family (fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, children), society (governors or citizens), and the church (pastors or laity). The Table of Duties from *Luther's Small Catechism* lays this out in helpful and orderly way.

Let's look just at what the laity (hearers as it is labeled in the catechism) owe their pastors:

“In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.” (1 Cor. 9:14)

“Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.” (Gal. 6:6–7)

“Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, ‘You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,’ and, ‘The laborer deserves his wages.’ ” (1 Tim. 5:17–18)

“We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.” (1 Thess. 5:12–13)

“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.” (Heb. 13:17)

We can see that the Lord commands hearers to support the work of the ministry with the gifts God endowed them – their time, their presence, their prayers, and their possessions. This is the means by which God blesses His people with His gifts: the ministry with the support of those whom they serve, and the hearers with the work of the ministry.

St. Paul expounds upon this further in his letters to the church at Corinth. He instructs them to give 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. 16:2) 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).

All of this teaching is set forth squarely within the context of stations to which God calls us. This is always appropriate for the church to speak because it instructs God's people in how they are to live out their faith as His stewards under those who are created, redeemed, and sanctified by Him.

#### MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Robert Daniels – Transferred to the Church Triumphant.

Scott Welch family - Transferred to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rock Island IL.

Rob Dagit – Aspen Rehab & Health Care, 1403 – 9<sup>th</sup> Ave., Silvis IL 61282

## EVANGELISM

Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. 1 Peter 3:15

Are you frazzled by family problems, stress at work, financial woes, or a thousand other hassles? You are not alone. Are you chronically troubled by fatigue, edginess, a churning stomach, shaking, dizziness or migraine headaches? There is help. Read the true stories of three people who recovered, finding hope and healing for the physical, emotional and spiritual problems caused by anxiety. Pick up *Finding Peace* in the Lutheran Hour tract rack in the narthex.

### 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 February, we ask you remember the Board of Elders: Brad Gehn, Larry Hock, and Mike Dahl. May God guide them in their work of spiritual care for each person who comes to this church.

**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**– 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/Homebound** - 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**

**Jim Rahn**

**Rob Dagit**

**Marilyn Woods**

**Arlyn Helke**

**Bob Esterlein**

**Barrett Hock**

**Derek Helke**

**Joyce Miller**

**Lillian Hock**

**Jim/Shirley Dahl**

**Lee/Lynne Johnson**

**Paula Mooney**

### OUR EXTENDED FAMILY/FRIENDS:

**Andrew, Sarah, John, Daniel Hill** (seminary student)

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

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

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

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

**Nick Fredrickson** (neighbor of Linda Aper)

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

**Casey Powers** (husband of Lisa (Bear) Powers)

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

**Paul Werner** (brother of Dan Werner)

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

**Kelly Wechsler** (cousin of Bob Wechsler)

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

**Kathleen VanDe Rostyne** (friend of Bob/Sherry Wechsler)

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

**Joseph Baamonde** (friend of Paula Mooney)

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

**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 & Tiffany Gardner** (nephew/wife of Bob & Lois Esterlein)

**THE LUTHERAN HOUR**

The Lutheran Hour can be heard each Sunday on the following Stations at the listed times.

WGEN	Kewanee, IL	1500 AM	5:30 am
WKEI	Kewanee, IL	1450 AM	5:00 am
KCLN	Clinton, IL	1390 AM	9:30 am
WMT	Cedar Rapids, IA	600 AM	6:30 am

You can receive Daily Devotions to your computer. Go to [lhmin@lhm.org](mailto:lhmin@lhm.org)

**HAMMOND-HENRY HOSPITAL HEALTH SERIES 2019-2020**

Hammond-Henry Hospital Foundation is planning two series of both Women’s Health and Men’s Health programs. Health professionals and other experts will offer information on a variety of topics affecting our health.

Women’s Health programs will be offered from 12 noon – 1 pm at the Cellar in Geneseo on the fourth Thursday of the month. The cost of the luncheon is \$9.

**Women’s topic: February 27, 2020. . . . . Arthritis & Joint Injections**

Reservations can be made by calling 309-944-9112 or email [hfhfound@hammondhenry.com](mailto:hfhfound@hammondhenry.com) by Tuesday prior to the program you wish to attend.

**THE CAMP CILCA LOWDOWN**

**February 28-29, 2020: Men’s Woodcutters Retreat** ~ Bring your chainsaw, ax, log-splitter, and Bible to cut down trees, split wood, and study God’s Word. This year’s study will focus on Sermon on the Mount, led by Pastor Theilen. Participants stay in the hotel-style rooms of the Christian Growth Center. Everyone will head home after supper Saturday evening to be home for church on Sunday. A \$30 donation will cover all



meals and lodging. Go to [cilca.org/mens-woodcutters-retreat.html](http://cilca.org/mens-woodcutters-retreat.html) or call 217-487-7497 to register.



**Summer Program Counselors:** Do you know a well-catechized, college-age Lutheran? Would they enjoy a fast-paced summer enjoying God’s creation and teaching campers about Jesus? Send them to [www.cilca.org](http://www.cilca.org) to apply to work as a summer counselor. Applications must be in by February 12.

**Part-Time Cook/Kitchen Assistant:** CILCA is still in need of a part-time cook to help with Outdoor Education and the Summer Camp program. 10-30 hours per week. \$12-\$14 per hour. Contact the camp office to apply.

Find out more online at [www.cilca.org](http://www.cilca.org)

Email [camp@cilca.org](mailto:camp@cilca.org) / Call 217-487-7497

*Camp CILCA exists to foster and strengthen faith in Jesus Christ and relationships with others in a unique outdoor setting.*

**BEHOLD 2020 SUMMER CAMPS!**

## SUMMER PROGRAMS 2020

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.

### GENERATIONS

Campers age 3 thru 4th grade are introduced to camp with a 1-night stay with a parent or other adult. \$120\*

Session : July 10-11  
\*per parent/child

### PATHFINDERS

1st- thru 4th-grade campers break out on their own with a 2-night stay. \$140/\*\$175

Session I: June 10-12  
Session II: June 28-July 1\*  
Session III: July 26-28

### BOLD SPIRITS

4th-thru 6th-grade campers experience 5 nights of Camp CILCA. \$310

Session I: June 21-26  
Session II: July 5-10

**\*Another Generations Camp will be held June 19-20.**

### DAUNTLESS SOULS

6th- thru 8th-grade campers gather for a screen-free week of life-changing outdoor adventure. \$310

Session I: June 14-19  
Session II: July 12-17

### M.A.D. WEEK

5th- thru 8th-grade campers choose one track-Music, Art, or Drama- for the week & are led by experienced instructors. \$340

Session: June 14-19

### AQUA WEEK

4th- thru 6th-grade water-loving campers will enjoy a full week of water-based activities. \$340

Session: June 21-26

### JOYFUL HEARTS

Campers age 13 and up with developmental disabilities experience the joys of the outdoors during a 4-night stay. \$300

Session: May 31-June 4

### ATHLETICS WEEK

5th- thru 8th-grade campers focus on a new sport every day: soccer, volleyball, track & more! \$340

Session: July 5-10

### NIGHT OWL

6th- thru 8th-graders experience camp while staying up all night and sleeping all day. Enough said! \$340

Session: July 12-17

### INTREPID HEARTS

High-School students enjoy the rejuvenation of God's creation in a laid-back week before school starts. \$310

Session: July 19-24

### WE NEED YOU!

**High-Schoolers & Older!** Stay at camp for free while serving as a Joyful Hearts volunteer or Junior Counselor (JC). Junior Counselors are confirmed members of an LCMS congregation and assist Senior Counselors with the care of campers.

### Register Today!

To find in-depth details on each camp & register\* visit:

[www.cilca.org](http://www.cilca.org)

\*\$75 due at time of registration

### L. E. R. T.

On behalf of the Lutheran Early Response Team, we would like to thank you for all your support. We would not be where we are today without volunteers like yourself. **Thank you!**

The Lutheran Early Response Team is now beginning to schedule basic LERT and CHAINSAW training sessions for 2020. If you are interested in scheduling one of these trainings for your congregation, please contact the CID office at (217)793-1802 ([cid@cidlcms.org](mailto:cid@cidlcms.org)) or Stephen Born (217)220-0162 ([bornstephen@yahoo.com](mailto:bornstephen@yahoo.com)).

If you are interested in attending a training, please watch <http://www.cidlcms.org/news.html> for the most up to date information. LERT has held 9 trainings in 2018-2019. These trainings resulted in: **158 LERT** volunteers, **27 chainsaw trained** volunteers. LERT also responded to **7** natural disasters!

**2018:** Watseka Flood, Hurricane Harvey and Michael, and Taylorville Tornado

**2019:** Watseka Tornado and Grafton Flood

Without your help, this response would not be possible. Become a member of the LERT Response Team today!! Thank you, LERT team



## FROM OUR SEMINARY STUDENT

Merry Christmas! What a joy it is to celebrate the same event every year. Each time Christmas comes around I think about it differently as I reflect on what the past year has seen. Human life truly is a fragile thing. It is so easy for us to focus on how weak our bodies are or how dangerous and difficult the world can be. Each year, Christmas celebrates the events of Jesus who was made man in the womb of the virgin Mary and born in Bethlehem. He took on all our frailty and weakness and died on the cross. His risen, crucified body is still human but seated with God and present in His Church in the Word and Sacraments. What an amazing thing, that God would so show His love to us.

Sarah and I were overjoyed to welcome Daniel Joseph on October 22, 2019. It is a sharp reminder of the absolute dependence all human life has on God when a newborn baby is in your arms again. We were reminded of this frailty of life as he became very sick late in November. We thank God that he is recovering and happily growing out of the newborn stage.

John loves being a big brother. Sometimes I will come into the room and find Daniel where we left him but piled with cars and trucks and balls (he was playing with John). John loves to play football. This includes lots of running in circles, both throwing and catching the ball and either tackling Dad or dramatically falling on the floor by himself. He loves going to church and although he is very guarded with which words he will say; he can say "Amen" at the proper times and mimics the pastor's gestures.

Sarah is busy chasing our almost two-year-old. She fulfills the vocation of mother beautifully. My little boys are in love with her and rightly so. She carefully clothes, feeds, and sings to them. Of course, it is difficult at times, but there is that human frailty again.

Without my family I would be lonely. I always look forwards to coming home and seeing the smiling faces of John and Sarah welcoming me home. My studies are going very well. This Winter Quarter is even more interesting than the previous. There is so much to study! Please keep me and my family in your prayers.

Hymns play an important role in the life of my family. They serve as an easy platform to teach theology to children. I am quickly learning not to take good, confessional, Lutheran hymnody for granted. Our Lutheran Christmas hymns confess the frailty of man and the love of God so beautifully. Every year I am silenced by the theology in the hymn "All My Heart This Night Rejoices" by Paul Gerhardt. It tells of the historical event of Jesus' human birth and then explains why we should care. You should read (or sing!) the entire hymn and see: TLH 77.

*7. Hark! A voice from yonder manger,  
Soft and sweet, Doth entreat:  
"Flee from woe and dander.  
Brethren from all ills that grieve you  
You are freed; All you need I will surely give you."*

*10. Hither come, ye heavy-hearted,  
Who for sin, Deep within,  
Long and sore have smarted;  
For the poisoned wounds you're feeling  
Help is near, One is here  
Mighty for their healing.*

*15. Dearest Lord, Thee will I cherish.  
Though my breath Fail in death  
Yet I shall not perish,  
But with Thee abide forever  
There on high, In that joy  
Which can vanish never.*

Merry Christmas!  
Andrew, Sarah, John, and Daniel Hill



# February

# 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>ELDER</b> Larry Hock	<b>ACOLYTE</b> Kaleb Rahn	<b>USHERS</b> Cali McKibbon Nicole Nerud Sarah Nerud Emma Yerkey			1
2 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am	3  <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	4 Stewardship 9 am	5 Confirmation 6:30pm	6 Prayer Circle 8 am Elders 6 pm Men's Bible Study 7pm	7	8
9 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10 am	10  <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	11 LWML 1 pm SM Supervision 4 pm Council 6:30 pm	12 Confirmation 6:30pm	13 Prayer Circle 8 am	14 	15
16 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship/Comm 10 am	17 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 	18	19 Confirmation 6:30pm	20 Prayer Circle 8 am Bible Study 1:30 pm	21	22
23 SS/Adult/Youth Bible Study 8:45am Worship 10 am	24  <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	25 SM Supervision 4 pm SS Teachers 6:30 pm	26 Lenten Supper 5:15 pm Worship/Comm. 7 pm 	27 Prayer Circle 8 am Confirmation 7 pm	28	29 



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

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

**WORSHIP SERVICES - 10 AM**

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays/Holy Communion**

**Ash Wednesday Service – Feb. 26 – 7 pm**

