



# The Informer

January 2026

*St. John's Lutheran Church of East Moline, IL*

*Volume 66 Issue 5*



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**\*ATTENTION\***  
**There will be**  
**NO**  
**worship on**  
**New Years Eve**

## Lutherans and Saints

Do you remember any Christians who are no longer with us? I mostly remember my mother Nancy and my grandfather Clifford Anderson. My father just celebrated his 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday, and when he's gone, I will remember him. I have known a lot of Christians, but I will remember those three because of the positive influence they had on me, and because they were exemplary Christians.

Churches do that sometimes. Most churches make provision to receive memorial donations when any of their members die. Those monies usually go into a memorial fund, and the congregation uses that money for useful and good things. Sometimes, the memorialized person's name is put on an object like a communion chalice or stone, and you can look at that and remember the person.

The Church has long recognized that not all Christians are the same. You can see some of the more exemplary Christians – and maybe a notable event in their lives – listed on page xi in LSB. In January, we will be observing The Confession of St. Peter on January 18 and The Conversion of St. Paul on January 25. Other notable, but not as notable Christians are noted on pp. xii – xiii.

The Bible uses the word “saint” or “holy person” of Christians. All Christians are holy people not of our own doing, but we have been pronounced holy because of the blood of Jesus, shed on the cross to take away our sins. We capitalize the word for most of those exemplary people on the Feasts and Festivals page of LSB. Those on the Commemorations page are not capitalized.

We commemorate Monica, Mother of Augustine, who prayed for her pagan son, and her prayers were answered; Augustine is generally thought to be the greatest of all extra-biblical Christian theologians. Many mothers pray for their wayward sons and daughters today. Emperor Constantine, Christian Ruler, who brought about the Christian concept of Freedom of Religion.

When congregations these days put up posters of Charlie Kirk or when the Lutherans place a bust of Martin Luther in a prominent place, they are doing nothing new. In a world that often seems to take for granted, underappreciate, or even condemn those who have gone before us, we look to those who have gone before us – sinners like us, but at the same times saints – and model them.

In Christian Service,

Pastor Anderson

## Notes from the Balcony

2026. How long will it take to get used to this new number? I have no idea what the key is, but some years seem easier to become accustomed to than others. One thing similar about all New Years is the fact we have no crystal clear idea of how they will unfold. One November morning as I drove to church, the weather conditions were just right to cause the Rock River to turn the air above it into a thick fog. The sky was clear before and after the bridge, but not above it. Visibility of the path in front and to the sides of the car was all hidden behind white. A bit of light from the sun cut through the mist but it was unable to illuminate the usual objects I see on this piece of road. It made me think of how entering this fog was similar to entering a New Year. We are on a path and moving forward, but we have no clear picture of what is in front of us. Only the light from the One above is able to cut through the fog offering at least one familiar companion on the road.

A favorite hymn of mine to sing at the outset of a New Year is found in the "Trust" section of our hymnal. Written by the English minister, hymn writer, and scientist Isaac Watts (1674-1748), *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*, LSB 733, is a favorite for addressing the upcoming uncertainties accompanying graduations and New Year's Eve services. Watts is credited with around 750 hymns including the favorites, *Joy to the World* and *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*. How comforting to have *The Light* as our companion and more than our companion, our God, as we peer into the unclear prospect of a New Year. Echoing the words of Psalm 90:1-2, "Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God," this hymn offers the assurances of help, security, and protection from our Heavenly Father as the days and years of life roll by.

1 O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home;

2 Under the shadow of thy throne  
Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is thine arm alone,  
And our defence is sure.

3 Before the hills in order stood,  
Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting thou art God,  
To endless years the same.

4 A thousand ages in thy sight  
Are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
Bears all its sons away;  
They fly forgotten, as a dream  
Dies at the opening day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be thou our guard while troubles last,  
And our eternal home.

A blessed New Year to all.

In His Service,

Christine Engebrecht

## Serving the Lord this Month

### Ushers

Sat, Jan 3: Greg Burke, Larry Ripka,  
and Todd Miller

Sun, Jan 4: Glen McMillin

Sat, Jan 10: Greg Burke, , Larry  
Ripka, and Todd Miller

Sun, Jan 11: Glen McMillin

Sat, Jan 17: Greg Burke, Larry  
Ripka, and Todd Miller

Sun, Jan 18: Glen McMillin

Sat, Jan 24: Greg Burke, Larry  
Ripka, and Todd Miller

Sun, Jan 25: Rod Hopkins

### Greeters

Sat, Jan 3:

Sun, Jan 4:

Sat, Jan 10:

Sun, Jan 11:

Sat, Jan 17:

Sun, Jan 18:

Sat, Jan 24:

Sun, Jan 25:

### Acolytes

Sun, Jan 4: Briella Churchill

Sun, Jan 11: Nathan Duffy

Sun, Jan 18: Nolan Johnson

Sun, Jan 25: Henry Schmidt



### Communion Assistants

Sun, Jan 4: Kevin McAnally &  
Brian Kern

Sun, Jan 18: Jim Homann &  
Brian Kern

Altar Guild  
Diana Lackey



### Eternal Candle

Jan 4: OPEN

Jan 11: OPEN

Jan 18: OPEN

Jan 25: OPEN



### Flower Chart

Jan 4: Flo & Danny Moore, in  
memory of Jacob's  
birthday

Jan 11: OPEN

Jan 18: OPEN

Jan 25: OPEN



## Church News

### BIRTHDAYS

Jan. 3 - Judy Dugan

Jan. 4 - Donna Green & Leona Flaugh

Jan. 6 - James Hinman & John Iwen

Jan. 7 - Stratton Churchill

Jan. 11 - Bonnie McManus, Brantley McKay, & Jerry Hill

Jan. 12 - Jason Cass, Shane Parvin, & Aubree Medinger,

Jan. 14 - Duane Little, Clark Stojan, & Lynne Suess

Jan. 15 - Chloe Hewitt

Jan. 16 - Brent Antolik and Evelyn Conduff

Jan. 18 - David Cashion

Jan. 20 - Lori Borkgren & Melissa Nickens

Jan. 21 - Alex Hansen, Marissa Keogh & Matthew Ryan

Jan. 22 - Rebecca Hinman

Jan. 23 - Lee Weathers

Jan. 24 - Tyler Belan, Amber Mattly & Willy Schlotfeldt,

Jan. 25 - Lilith Hinman & Jennifer Johnson



Jan. 26 - Liz Cockerill & Adam Homann

Jan. 27 - Pam Sims

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

#### Tranferred Out:

Rick and Janet Newlon- Trinity Lutheran in Davenport  
Karen Anderson- Trinity Lutheran in Coal Valley

#### Deaths:

Barbara Honert (12/19/25)  
Carole Hodshire (12/22/25)

### WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

<u>Date</u>	<u>This Year</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
11/26/25	27	54 (Thanksgiving Eve)
11/30/25	34(no Saturday night due to weather) (5th Sunday)	
12/03/25	34	57 (Advent)
12/07/25	112	122
12/10/25	44	47 (Advent)
12/14/25	77	133
12/17/25	47	53 (Advent)
12/21/25	137	121

Percentage of St. John's in Attendance: 19%

## Church News

### OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2026 offering envelopes are available in the concourse. Please pick up your envelopes, but DO NOT use them until January 1, 2026. On January 1, discard any 2025 envelopes that you have left over and start to use the new 2026 envelopes.

Note that your envelope number may not be the same next year as it was this year. Therefore, it is important to use the proper envelopes in order to get credit for your offering. Those who did not pick up their envelopes for 2025 will not be assigned envelopes for 2026 unless you request them. A sheet will be on the table for you to request envelopes if you do not find yours in the boxes.



We encourage youth and teens to tithe also and will gladly give them envelopes upon request.

\*Note to all Snowbirds—if you would like your year-end offering statements mailed to you at your winter residence, please contact the Financial Secretary or church office with the address you want the statement sent.

### 2025 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The 2025 financial statements will soon be available to pick up in the concourse. You may need this for filing your taxes. If you need yours mailed to you, please let Kay or Annie know.

### SIMPLY GIVING

If you would be interested in giving your offering electronically, we can do that! It is called Simply Giving, and it is so very simple to do. There is a form in the office to fill out, which would allow you to select a checking or savings account, the amount, and the schedule for which you would like to debit the account ( weekly, monthly, yearly). You can set it up however works best for you. You can also edit the information at any time as needed. See the office or Kay Iwen if you need any help or have any questions.

### LWML -Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Please join us **Thursday, January 15 at 1:00 p.m.** as we make plans for the New Year and cards for the shut ins. Visitors are always welcomed.

## Church News

### PUZZLE TOURNAMENT

Sign-up to compete in the first ever puzzle tournament at St. Johns!

When: Sunday, January 18th at 1pm

Prizes will be awarded for: first to finish the frame, farthest along at the halfway time, and first to finish the whole puzzle.

Bring a snack to share and join the fun!



### LCMS FOUNDATION

Rick boasted to Allen, “I just watched a YouTube video and was able to fix my twenty-year-old clothes dryer. I am feeling so confident now, that I bet I could use one of those online tools and write my own will too. I can probably get this all done for less than \$100.”

Allen, who had just worked with his attorney said, “That’s impressive that you fixed your dryer. But let me ask a few questions. Do you own property in more than one state? How are you going to choose who serves as your personal representative? Which choices for end-of-life medical concerns are you going to choose? Would inheritance to family be best in a lump sum or stretched over time? What is the most tax savvy way to minimize taxes when making a charitable gift? I don’t think you are going to get all these answers through YouTube.”

The reality is, there are many self-serve opportunities in life, from ATM’s, to self-checkout at the grocery store to ordering a ride at the airport using Waymo, the autonomous cabs. But you don’t get to self-diagnose illness or write your own prescriptions. You need a doctor to do that. You can’t fill your own air conditioning unit with refrigerant. A licensed technician must do that. So also, in the complex world of estates, you need the assistance of those who specialize in doing this work, to make sure that mistakes don’t happen. Your attorney or financial advisor bring much to the table. But sometimes they specialize in wealth creation or wealth protection. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor specializes in charitable gifts and the smartest way to use the right asset, in the right way for the right gift. It takes a team.

To get your team all pulling for you, helping you in your faithful stewardship of God’s gifts, your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can assist. Contact Scott Radden @ 618-977-4049 or [scott.radden@lfnd.org](mailto:scott.radden@lfnd.org).

### LCMS Life Ministry

*“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).*

Christians may think of the *birth* of Christ as His incarnation — His moment of “taking on flesh.” But rather than on Christmas Day, His birthday, Christ’s incarnation took place at the moment of His conception. That which the angel Garbiel announced to the Virgin Mary — “and behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus” (Luke 1:31) — is a pronouncement of Christ’s first coming. The One who is the eternal Word (John 1:1) clothed Himself with flesh and inhabited life in the womb for the first nine months of His life. This month, we celebrate Christ’s birth and the redemption that He won for all flesh, even those who are yet unborn (Psalm 22:23).



## Church News

**Thank you to everyone that purchased a poinsettia this year!  
The sanctuary looked beautiful!**

Bill and Donna Green	In memory of parents	2
Lynne Suess	In memory of Roy	1
Norm and Orene Antolik	In memory of Loved Ones	1
Brian and Christine Engebrecht	In memory of our dads	2
Margie Schaefer		1
Rhea Oakes	In memory of Devin and Martin	1
Judy Jennings	In memory of Lori Jennings (sister)	1
LouAnn DeRammelaere		1
Ken and Janet Hill	In memory of our parents	1
Judy Dugan	In memory of loved ones	1
Ruby Pancrazio	In memory of John and	2
Flo Moore	In memory of Loved Ones	2
Dennis and Marsha Boarts	In memory of Jim & Fern Hanna Frank & Martha Boarts	2
Chuck & Bev Brokaw	In memory of Michael & sisters	2
Karen Schmidt	In memory of Marlin & Jim	2
Dennis & Lois Kelly	In memory of our parents	1
Janet Wachs	In memory of Ed & Tommy	1
Steve & Diana Lackey	In memory of Loved Ones	1
Sandy Young	In memory of Bob and Loved Ones	2
Nancy Davis & Susan Bowman	In memory of Don Davis And Henry Bowman	2
Rod & Noreen Hopkins	In memory of Loved Ones	1
Belan Family	In memory of Ed Belan	1
Ralph & Norma Grotelueschen	In memory of our parents	1
Troy & Val McDonald	In memory of All Loved Ones	1
John & Kay Iwen	In memory of Loved Ones	1
Schmidt Family		3
Anonymous		2
Todd & Jeri Miller	In memory of Bill & Doris Byles Ray Zentz Dennis Miller	3
Carol Vrbanc	In memory of Departed Loved Ones	1
Peg Heitzman	In memory of Ron and Loved Ones	1



## Voter's Assembly 12/14/2025

1. The Voter's meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by president, Brian Engebrecht. Pastor Anderson opened with prayer.
2. President Engebrecht asked if there was anyone that wanted to be a voting member. There was not.
3. President Engebrecht asked if there was a motion to accept the minutes with date correction. Rod Hopkins made a motion to accept the minutes with the corrected date. Marsha Boarts seconded. Motion passed.
4. Budget  
Norm Antolik, treasurer, handed out a printed budget. Motion was made by Glen McMillan to accept the budget. Motion seconded by Margie Schaefer. Motion passed
5. Slate of Officers for 2026  
President Engebrecht handed out the slate of officers for 2026. Rod Hopkins added the name of Eric Schofield to the Board of Human Care. Evan Antolik made a motion to accept the slate of officers for 2026. Motion seconded by Jeff Belan. Motion passed.
6. LCMS Officer Nominations  
President Engebrecht had discussed with Pastor Anderson and they suggested the following nominations (we may have 2 names for each office):  
President: Matthew Harrison  
Peter Lange  
First Vice President: Peter Lange  
Ben Ball  
Regional Vice President: John Wohlrabe  
President Engebrecht asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none. Dawn Antolik made a motion to accept the list. Motion seconded by Larry Hipple. Motion passed
7. St. John's Mission Money  
Norm Antolik reported that we have \$6,000 in mission money. \$4,000 is committed to missionaries James and Angela Sharp. We have \$2,000 available to distribute. Marsha Boarts made a motion to send equal amounts to the four missions that we did last year; the missions were Armed Forces Ministry, Ablelight, Lutheran Bible Translators for The Beckendorf Family and Global Lutheran Outreach for the Pittman family. Dawn Antolik seconded. Motion passed.
8. Norm Antolik, Treasurer  
Mentioned that Thrivent has been giving you \$25.00 worth of Choice dollars in your birthday month. If you do not direct it that month it goes away. Also check the Icash (Illinois unclaimed money) website to see if you have any unclaimed money.
9. Jim Homan started the Call portion of the meeting at 2:00 p.m. Jim asked if anyone want to review the Standing Rules of Order. No one did. Pastor Nerud gave a reading from Matthew.
10. The four Pastors that the committee had selected for the congregations consideration from the original list were Rev. Peter Kufahl, Rev. Nathan Ragazinskas, Rev. Daniel Redhage, and Rev. Dr. Gregory Truwe. Discussion followed. Jim asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none. 37 voting members were present voting results were:



## Voter's Assembly 12/14/2025

### *First round:*

Rev. Peter Kufahl – 9 votes (24%)  
Rev. Nathan Ragazinskas – 17 votes (45%)  
Rev. Daniel Redhage – 3 votes (8%)  
Rev. Dr. Gregory Truwe – 8 votes (21%)

### *Second round:*

Rev. Peter Kufahl – 10 votes (27%)  
Rev. Nathan Ragazinskas – 17 votes (45%)  
Rev. Dr. Gregory Truwe – 10 votes (27%)

After discussion, a motion was made by Ralph Grotelueschen to issue an unanimous call to Rev. Ragazinskas. Motion seconded by Glen McMillan. Motion passed. Rev. Nerud phoned Rev. Ragazinskas to confirm he was able to accept a call. Rev. Ragazinskas said he was able to consider a call.

**11.** Jim Homann presented what would be Rev. Ragazinskas' compensation package: salary (which includes insurance and retirement) \$119,415. Marsha Boarts made a motion to accept the compensation package and seconded by Tammy Stone. Motion passed.

**12.** Jim Homann said as discussed in the last call meeting that we would pay moving expenses up to \$10,000 and a forgivable loan available for one year for \$32,000 for the purchase of a home. Margie Schaefer made a motion to approve paying up to \$10,000 in moving expenses and to offer a forgivable loan available for one year for \$32,000 for Rev. Ragazinskas. Motion seconded by Larry Hipple. Motion passed.

**13.** Norm Antolik said the up to \$10,000 in moving expenses was not in the budget. Brian Engebrecht made a motion to add it to the budget. Larry Hipple seconded. Motion passed.

**14.** Jim Homann made a motion to adjourn. Dennis Boarts seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer at 2:40 p.m.

We very much appreciate all members who attended the Voter's meeting.

Respectively submitted by Diana Lackey, Date: December 14, 2025

## St John's Lutheran 2026 Proposed Budget

**Youth & Family (continued):**

## Outreach Ministry

Outreach	300
Ev. Festival & New Mbr.	804
Ev. Brochure & Tracts	396

## Elders

## Trustees

Janitorial Services	9,995
Janitorial Supplies	1,200
Ins-Multi Peril/Liab	18,000
Ins-Workman's Comp	900
Maintenance/Repair	1,200
Maintenance/Trash Removal	1,500
Mainc/Lawn Care/Snow Plow	6,000
Maintenance/Pest Control	520
Maintenance/Upkeep	3,000
Boiler Chemicals Contract	2,292
Boiler Maintenance Contract	3,272
Maintenance/Sanitary Items	1,500
Maintenance/Fire System	1,500
Maintenance/Window Cleaning	1,800
Organ/Piano Maintenance	4,500
Utilities-Gas & Lights	24,744
Utilities-Phone/Internet	3,240
Utilities-Water & Sewer	3,636
New Equipment	1,200
	<u>90,000</u>

### Education Expenses:

Other Expenses	204
Total Elders	<u>233,784</u>

**Human Care Ministry**

<b>W/Called Pastor</b>	<b>5,448</b>
<b>W/Vacancy Pastor</b>	<b>82,212</b>

**Youth Expenses:**

LYE/CYE	696
Counselor Support	408
Counselor Development	300
Other Youth	504
<b>Sub-Total Youth</b>	<b>1,908</b>
<b>Fellowship/Family Expenses:</b>	
Fellowship Events	2,004

**Fellowship/Family Expenses:**

**Fellowship Events** 2,004

## Voter's Assembly 12/14/2025

### 2026 Elected Officers

#### Executive Board

**President:** Brian Engebrecht  
**Vice President:** Jeff Belan  
**Secretary:** Diana Lackey  
**Treasurer:** Stevee Antolik  
**Assistant Treasurer:** Norm Antolik  
**Financial Secretary:** Kay Iwen  
**Assistant Financial Sec.:** Margie Schaefer

#### Board of Human Care

Susan Bowman  
 Jill Schofield  
 Eric Schofield  
 Rod Hopkins

#### Board of Elders

Dennis Boarts  
 Ralph Grotelueschen  
 Jim Homann  
 Brian Kern  
 Kevin McAnally  
 Glen McMillin  
 Jonathan Schmidt

#### Board of Youth and Family

Kris McAnally  
 Cris Braddy  
 Rebecca Hinman  
 Holly Belan

#### Board of Outreach

Charlie Britton  
 Joan Britton  
 Larry Dodge  
 Rose Sullivan  
 Steve Sullivan

#### Board of Trustees

Brent Antolik  
 Evan Antolik  
 Zack Antolik  
 Charles Brokaw  
 Bill Girard  
 Ken Hill  
 Larry Hipple  
 Todd Miller  
 Flo Moore  
 Brian Nielsen  
 Tim Stone

**ALL BOARDS WILL MEET ON JANUARY 8th AT 6:30PM.** This is your first meeting with your 2026 slates, so please plan to attend!

## From the CID

### A Joy-Filled Christmas

**"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." Luke 2:10**

The song "We Wish You A Merry Christmas" expresses the merry sentiment we all want at Christmas time. Though we may not always feel merry with COVID continuing to impact our lives with losses, social distancing, and restrictions on gatherings. Yet, even if our Christmas isn't merry, it can be joy-filled.

Consider the stress and difficulties Mary and Joseph endured. Her pregnancy undoubtedly evoked rumors and accusations from many people. They had to travel over 70 miles to Bethlehem where they had no place to stay except a stable. Yet, they had the joy of knowing God was with them and would take care of them and the baby.

God never promised us continual happiness and glee. But he does promise to give us joy in all circumstances. **"Rejoice in the Lord always...the Lord is at hand."** Phil.4:4 I once knew a nursing home resident who defined joy in the Lord as being glad that God is close by. When we feel sad, we should not force ourselves to look happy for the sake of others. Instead, be honest about our feelings, and remind each other that God is near us during our sad times too.

Focus on the reason for the season: Jesus. It is not about food, gifts, candies and cookies. We celebrate that Immanuel has come to us and remains with us always. Verse three of the song "Silent Night" describes our Savior as **LOVE'S PURE LIGHT**. John 1:9 tells us **The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world**. The light of our Savior's loving presence chases away darkness and fills us with joy in the Lord. We don't have to stress about making Christmas merry. Instead, we can have a joy-filled Christmas as Jesus shines his love in us and through us!

Chaplain Jeffrey Harter

### Pray For Our Central Illinois District Missions, supported by your church's Mission Dollars to the District.

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

### Current Dollar For Mission Project

**Project:** Replace original kitchen equipment in the sexton's apartment at Immanuel Lutheran Student Center, Macomb

Immanuel Lutheran Student Center in Macomb was dedicated in 1969, but some kitchen equipment in the apartment for the live-in student who takes care of the student center (the sexton) has not been replaced since then. DFM funds would be used to replace the original kitchen equipment.

**Amount to be funded: \$11,000.00**

## From the CID

### Call the Central Illinois Church Extension Fund for their latest Investment Rate

#### Items of Interest to Share

**The Small Church Summit** for Winter, 2026, will feature a presentation by SID President Heath Curtis titled "The Small Town Lutheran Church." Sectionals will be on "Shepherding our Strays," technology in small churches, and safety standards. Saturdays in two locations:

- Hope Lutheran Church, Highland – on Jan. 10 or (if weather is bad then) Jan. 31
- St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lexington – on Feb.21 or (if weather is bad then) Feb. 28

Sign-in will be at 9:30 a.m., opening devotion will commence at 10:00, and closing prayer will be at 2:30 p.m. Register by January 3, 2026 at <https://forms.gle/eujwE5hmRC48wF7MA>

If you think your church is small, YOU are invited. And everyone is welcome!

#### CID BOARD OF DIRECTORS REVIEW REPORT 11/25/25

Mr. Scott Breitenfeld (University Lutheran – Champaign) was appointed as lay member to the Board of Directors. Other appointments of lay members were made to fill district commissions. The Evangelism Commission is in need of members for their commission. If interested in serving on the Evangelism Commission, please contact Pastor Ken Schurb. The Formula of Concord study continued on Article I: Original Sin. The 2026 CID Budget was adopted. CID Staff Housing Allowances were approved for 2026.

The 2026 Dollars for Missions projects were approved. They are: Travel expense for Hispanic Ministry at Beardstown and Signage for Wittenberg Campus Ministry in Normal.

Pastor Chuck Olander was thanked for his years of service as Gift Planning Officer for CID.

#### 2026 Youth Bible Bowl

**Date:** Will be in the spring of 2026. We are still working on the date.

**Topic:** "The Gospel According to St. Matthew"

The Gospel according to St. Matthew summarizes what we need to know to receive salvation from sin, the devil, and death. St. Matthew's Gospel records the most important teachings of Jesus and the key events in Jesus' life. Plan to study "the Gospel according to St. Matthew" with youth (junior and senior high [grades 6-12]) as thoroughly as you can, to prepare them to answer questions in your Circuit and at the District Bible Bowl in the spring, and (most importantly) so that by God's grace and the power of the Holy Spirit they grow in their faith that Jesus truly is the Son of God and our Savior. Contact Rev Mark Eddy ([zionlcms@juno.com](mailto:zionlcms@juno.com)) for additional information.

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## From the CID

### LCMS Stewardship Ministry

*"And he who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new. Also, He said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true" (Revelation 21:5).*

In January there is a great deal of "new" talk. Parties are held to ring in the "new" year. "New" year's resolutions are made to set a "new" course of life in the "new" year. There is date forgetfulness as checks and other forms are filled out without using the "new" year on the dateline.

We use all this "new" talk because there is very often so much wrong with the old in us. We think back to the "new" resolutions from the previous year that only lasted a few weeks. That "new" person did not shed any pounds and instead, picked up a few. The "new" habits of going to the gym were soon replaced by even more time on the couch binging on Netflix. The "new" person who does not lose their temper, use sarcasm as a lethal weapon and spend more money than necessary, but who worships, prays and serves the Lord and the neighbor, never seemed to stick around. We need "new" talk because the Old Adam is alive and well within every one of us.

But this promise of "new" is a matter of stewardship. It is the Lord Himself who makes the promise of all things being new. These words recorded by St. John are not pious wishes or hopeless promises. They do what they say. YOU, that one baptized into Jesus' death and resurrection, are NEW! These words are indeed trustworthy and true. This "new" comes to you in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It comes free of charge, even without our prayer.

This stewardship of "new" is not a vague, someday kind of stewardship either. You are NEW now! Forgiven. Reborn from above. The old is gone, nailed to Calvary's cross and buried and rotting in a tomb that was only borrowed by Jesus for His resurrection rest. The Gospel is what makes us NEW every morning. Remembering your baptism, you are new. Confessing your sins and receiving absolution makes you new. Hearing the Gospel filling your ears makes you new. Feasting on Christ's body and blood in the Holy Supper makes you new.

These mercies, totally undeserved as they are, are entrusted to us to steward TODAY even as we long for the Last Day. But we know how often we fail in this stewardship. We hoard God's creation as if it belongs to us. We belittle and devalue our neighbor because they look or sound or act in a way that we do not like. We seek to make the Holy Word of God softer and more palatable for those, or even ourselves, who refuse to confess sin as sin and repent. We value our comfort over truth, our reputation over faithfulness and our treasure over making sure that people get to hear of the Jesus who has done so much for the world and us.

We, as stewards of the Gospel, need to be made new every day. This is exactly what the Lord does. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel last year, so He gives us a new year. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel yesterday, and He gives us a new day. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel in the last few minutes, and yet in mercy our newness comes with each tick of the clock! Because that is how the Lord works.

As we see this working of all new things in us, it then calls us to be stewards of this newness to the world. This starts right in our own homes. It radiates out to our neighbors. It beams out from our congregations. This newness is teamed at the circuit, district and Synod levels all to shine the newness of the Gospel to those who need it.

Your new talk starts in the newness of the Gospel. Steward this treasure in this new year and this new day. It starts with a new you in Jesus. This is indeed trustworthy and true.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>28</div> <div>9am - Worship 10:15am - Bible Study / 1:30pm - Ahrens</div>	<div>29</div> <div>5pm - Visitation for Carole 6:30pm - Heavenly</div>	<div>30</div> <div>10am - Food Pantry 10:30am - Carole 6:30pm - Guitar Jam</div>	<div>31</div>	<div>1</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div> <div>8am - Men's Bible study 9:30am - Choir rehearsal 5pm - Worship w/</div>
<div>4</div> <div>9am - Worship w/ 10:15am - Bible Study /</div>	<div>5</div> <div>1:30pm - Activities Room 6pm - Cherub Chimers 6:30pm - Heavenly</div>	<div>6</div> <div>10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam</div>	<div>7</div> <div>9am - TOPS 10am - Women's Bible 1:30pm - Activities Room</div>	<div>8</div> <div>6:30pm - Board Meetings</div>	<div>9</div> <div>6:30pm - 2nd Friday</div>	<div>10</div> <div>8am - Men's Bible study 9:30am - Choir rehearsal 5pm - Worship</div>
<div>11</div> <div>9am - Worship 10:15am - Bible Study / 10:30am - Confirmation</div>	<div>12</div> <div>1:30pm - Activities Room 6pm - Cherub Chimers 6:30pm - Heavenly</div>	<div>13</div> <div>10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam</div>	<div>14</div> <div>9am - TOPS 10am - Women's Bible 1:30pm - Activities Room 3:30pm - Fellowship</div>	<div>15</div> <div>11:30am - Ladies 1pm - LWWL</div>	<div>16</div>	<div>17</div> <div>8am - Men's Bible study 9:30am - Choir rehearsal 5pm - Worship w/</div>
<div>18</div> <div>9am - Worship w/ 10:15am - Bible Study / 10:30am - Confirmation 1pm - Puzzle Tournament</div>	<div>19</div> <div>Informer Deadline 1:30pm - Activities Room 6pm - Cherub Chimers 6:30pm - Heavenly</div>	<div>20</div> <div>10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam</div>	<div>21</div> <div>9am - TOPS 10am - Women's Bible 1:30pm - Activities Room</div>	<div>22</div>	<div>23</div>	<div>24</div> <div>8am - Men's Bible study 9:30am - Choir rehearsal 5pm - Worship</div>
<div>25</div> <div>9am - Worship 10:15am - Bible Study / 10:30am - Confirmation</div>	<div>26</div> <div>1:30pm - Activities Room 6pm - Cherub Chimers 6:30pm - Heavenly</div>	<div>27</div> <div>10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam</div>	<div>28</div> <div>9am - TOPS 10am - Women's Bible 1:30pm - Activities Room</div>	<div>29</div>	<div>30</div>	<div>31</div> <div>8am - Men's Bible study 9:30am - Choir rehearsal 11am - Rossmiller Baby 5pm - Worship</div>

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See The Informer  
IN COLOR  
On Our Website



*St. John's in Winter Snow*

## Office Hours

Monday- Wednesday:  
8:30am-2:00pm  
Closed 12-1pm for lunch  
Thursdays: 8:30am-noon

*\*Please note, from Dec. 22nd-Jan  
5th, the office will only be open  
from 8:30am-12pm*

## Worship Times

Saturday 5:00pm

Sunday 9:00am

Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:15am