

**General Announcements**

Welcome to our guests. We are glad you have joined us in worshipping our Lord and Savior. We trust you will draw strength, peace, and hope as together we hear God's Word spoken here today. So that we may serve you better, we ask that you fill out a yellow attendance card located on the back of the pew, including your address and noting that you are a visitor.

**ETERNAL CANDLE** The eternal candle glows to the glory of God from Karen Schmidt.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** The flower bouquet that adorns the Altar is from Karen Schmidt. An additional arrangement is from Rhea and Ray, in honor of Judy Jennings’s birthday.

**DOLLARS FOR MISSIONS** The current DFM project is replacement of insulation in the chancel ceiling at Wittenberg Lutheran Center, Normal. 45-year-old insulation has fallen from its original place under the roof. It needs to be replaced, in what figures to be an expensive job calling for ingenious work involving a high ceiling. This DFM project is for \$10,000.

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS** *Matthew 7:17 – “So, every healthy tree bears good fruit.”* As fruit follows from a good tree, so our good works flow from the cleansing the Lord has given us in Holy Baptism. In Baptism we have a new identity — we are the “new man in Christ” as St. Paul says. Of course, on this side of glory we still have the world, the devil and the flesh to wrestle with. That means that our growth in sanctification is a struggle. So if it's sometimes a struggle for you to be generous — don't give up! Keep fighting the good fight of faith, trusting in your Lord and His provision.

**CAKE RECEPTION** The fellowship committee invites the congregation to welcome our vacancy pastor, Rev. Steven Anderson and his wife Sara, with a cake reception following worship on Sunday, August 10th.

**BUILDING HEALTHY FAMILIES:** Much of today’s media reflects values that we wouldn’t want our family to see or use as a model for life, but there are notable exceptions! Why not plan a weekly movie night with your family or friend group, intentionally choosing films that are both entertaining and faith-affirming? Here’s an idea to get you started: “Where Hope Grows” (streaming on many online platforms) tells the story of Calvin, a former baseball player who struggles with addiction and loss who befriends Produce, a young man with Down Syndrome who works at the grocery store. God uses their relationship to help Calvin rediscover hope and faith. Among the unwholesome story lines out there are some that shine light and challenge us to change our opinions in helpful ways...like remembering the value of people born with Down Syndrome! **Lutheran Family Service** [www.LutheranFamilyService.org](http://www.LutheranFamilyService.org)

**FOOD PANTRY ASSISTANCE NEEDED** Target has recently become a very generous and beneficial donor of food to us. If anyone would be able to assist Greg on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday mornings, it would really help him out. All you have to do is: meet at church at 8:45am, ride with him to Target, load up the donations, bring it back to church and unload and inventory it. If you could help any of the days it would be greatly appreciated. You will not be contractually bound to his service if you volunteer once! Please call Debbie Girard at 309-235-8822 if you have any questions or would like to do a ride- a- long. Also, we are getting low on plastic grocery bags if you would like to donate.

**LCMS BOWLING LEAGUE** – Info Meeting, Mon Aug 18, 6:30pm  
The LCMS Bowling League that has been in the Quad Cities for over 50 years is gearing up to start again this fall! We bowl Monday nights at QC Family Entertainment (4401 44th Avenue, Moline, IL 61265) at 6:30pm, with practice starting at 6:15pm. There are two 12-week seasons starting in the fall with a playoff at the end of the seasons. The first official night of bowling will be Sept. 8th, 2025. There is an annual fee of \$25. Each Monday night we pay \$10-12 (TBD) for the three games. Shoes are an additional \$4, however, you can buy bowling shoes from Amazon for \$40-50 and those will be paid for in one season; then no more shoe fee for life! Our league is small so we’ve been playing with teams of three (with at least 1 player a female). If you don’t have a full team or are playing as an individual, we can add players to your team. If you need to be absent, we can find a substitute for you. If you’d like to be added as a substitute, please let us know. We look forward to having you join us in the fall, or winter, or both! St. John’s has quite a few bowlers in the league, so if you have questions see: Dennis B, Carrie & Aaron H, Brian K, Kevin & Kris M, Aliza M. Please join us at the Informational Meeting at QC Family Entertainment Mon., Aug. 18th at 6:00pm.

**CHURCH DOORS** For security reasons, the church doors will be locked most of the time from now on. (They will be open if there are scheduled activities, Bible studies, etc...) Please call the office, or knock on the doors and Annie will let you in.

**HOSPITALIZATIONS** Please call the church office if you or a family member is hospitalized so we can add you to the prayers, or fill out a prayer request on a yellow attendance card. Pastor Hagen will also be visiting members in the hospital– but you have to let Annie know!

**NEW DIRECTORIES** Annie will be printing new member directories soon. Please let the office know of any changes to your household information. This includes your address, phone numbers, emails, kids that moved out, babies that were born, divorces, etc...

<i>Saturday, August 9th, 2025 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost Vespers</i>		
Prelude		
<b>“For the Fruits of ...”</b>	<b>894</b>	
Opening Versicles Psalm ( <i>See Cream Insert</i> )		229
<b>“Seek Ye First”</b>	<b>712</b>	
Readings ( <i>See Cream Insert</i> )		
Responsory		230
<b>“Eternal Father...”</b>	<b>717</b>	
Sermon - Pastor Nerud		
Canticle <b>“My Soul Rejoices”</b>	<b>933</b>	
<b>Prayer</b>		
Kyrie, Lord’s Prayer, Collects		233
Benedicamus and Benediction		234
<b>“Children of the...”</b>	<b>725</b>	
Postlude		

## *The Lord's Week*

### **Sunday, August 10th**

9:00am– Worship  
10:15am– Cake reception for Rev. Anderson  
10:30am– Sunday school

### **Monday, August 11th**

### **Tuesday, August 12th**

10:00am– Food Pantry  
6:30pm– Guitar Jam

### **Wednesday, August 13th**

9:00am– TOPS  
1:30pm– Activities Room  
3:30pm– Fellowship Committee meeting

### **Saturday, August 16th**

5:00pm– Worship w/ Communion  
(Pastor Mueller)

### **Sunday, August 17th**

9:00am– Worship w/Communion  
10:30am– Bible study/ Sunday school

## *Bible Study Opportunities*

### **Sunday Mornings:**

Beginning on Sunday, August 17th, Pastor Anderson will be teaching the Adult Bible Class on Sunday mornings. We will begin with a few weeks in the first chapters of Genesis, looking at creation and how the world in which we live came to be. Then we will move on to the Acts of the Apostles, looking at the beginnings of the Christian Church, and how the Church two millennia later still bears the imprint of that first Church.

### ***Holy Land Geography, Customs & History***

In this class Clark Stojan, who has engaged in extensive study and made many trips to the Holy Land, leads us to explore the world of the Bible along with select events recorded in Scripture.

### **Serving the Lord this Week:**

**Organist:** Christine Engebrecht

**Greeters:** *(Sat.)* Chuck Brokaw  
*(Sun.)* Lucille Perley

**Ushers:** *(Sat.)* Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon,  
& Larry Ripka

*(Sun)* Glen McMillin

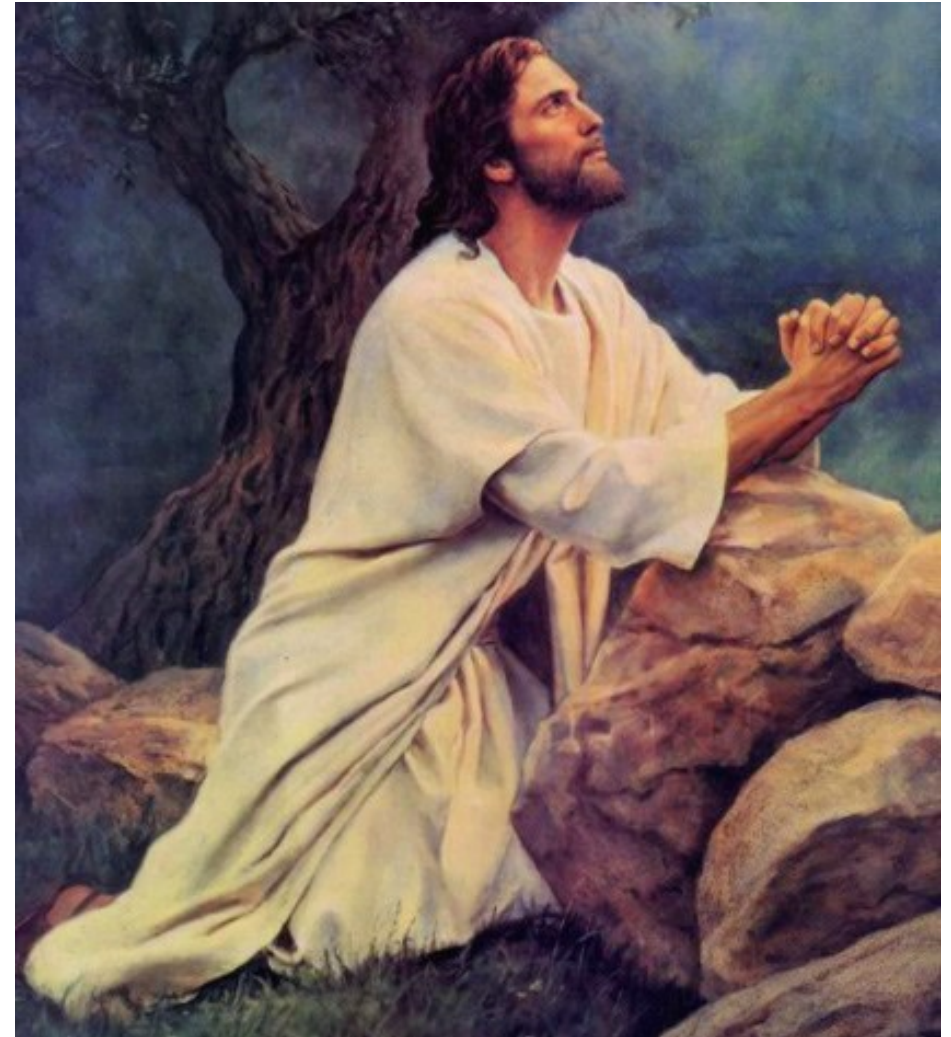
**Acolyte:** Sloane Churchill

The church confesses to Christ, “You have the words of eternal life” (John 6:68). The church is encouraged to “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly ...” (Col. 3:16). Psalm 1 teaches us to meditate on God’s Word day and night. It is our great opportunity and joy to read and study God’s Word. One beneficial practice is to memorize the Scriptures and, in so doing, to meditate on it. The LCMS invites everyone to memorize a verse together each week.

Memory Verse Challenge:

**1 Corinthians 15:57**

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.



Please join us for a cake reception  
to welcome  
Rev. Anderson and his wife Sara  
on Sunday, August 10th  
after worship!



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(309) 792-0755

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

### **Vacancy Pastor**

Rev. Steven Anderson

**Music Director** Christine Engebrecht

**Secretary** Annie Churchill

[rev@focusonthegospel.com](mailto:rev@focusonthegospel.com)

[bcengebrecht@att.net](mailto:bcengebrecht@att.net)

[office@stjohnsem.org](mailto:office@stjohnsem.org)

(309) 269-5276

(309) 738-2797

### Psalm

**P** Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,  
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!

**C** **The LORD looks down from heaven;  
he sees all the children of man;**

from where he sits enthroned he looks out  
on all the inhabitants of the earth,

**he who fashions the hearts of them all  
and observes all their deeds.**

The king is not saved by his great army;  
a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

**The war horse is a false hope for salvation,  
and by its great might it cannot rescue.**

Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him,  
on those who hope in his steadfast love,

**that he may deliver their soul from death  
and keep them alive in famine.**

Our soul waits for the LORD;  
he is our help and our shield.

**For our heart is glad in him,  
because we trust in his holy name.**

Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,  
even as we hope in you.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in  
the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### Readings

**P** The Old Testament reading is from Genesis, the fifteen chapter.

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.” And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.” And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness. (*Gen. 15:1-6*)

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us. **C** Thanks be to God.

**P** The Epistle reading is from Hebrews, the eleventh chapter.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death,

and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore. These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city. (*Heb. 11:1-16*)

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us. **C** Thanks be to God.

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

[Jesus] said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. “Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (*Lk. 12:22-34*)

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us. **C** Thanks be to God.

ST. JOHN’S PRAYER CARD  
August 9th and 10th, 2025  
Please remember the following in your prayers this week...

**Anniversaries**  
Rod & Noreen Hopkins (38)  
Dave & Esther Cashion (39)  
Ken & Ann Cobb (28)  
Willy & Shirley Scholtfeldt(56)

**Sister Congregation**  
Rev. Dale Fjordbotten  
Trinity Lutheran  
Cissna Park, IL

**Members**  
Cassie, Gavin, Bennett, &  
Nolan Johnson  
Dennis & Lois Kelly  
Brian Kelly  
Scott Kelly

**Missionaries Serving**  
Shara Osiro-Kenya

**Military Chaplains**  
LT Paul Rockrohr  
MAJ Scott Gustafson  
LCDR Jeremy Gorline

**Ill & Hospitalized**  
Joan Britton  
Cindy Hart  
Judy Kirklin  
Rick Mayerhofer  
RC Rogers

**Prolonged Illness & Special Needs:**  
Bev Brokaw  
Chuck Brokaw  
Kodie Esparza  
Nic Fellows  
Steve Fors  
Duane Gosa  
Nancy Gosa  
Kathy Herron  
Jerry Hill  
Jane Hipple  
Carole Hodshire  
Chris Hoehn (Janet Newlon’s  
nephew, aplastic anemia)  
Dale Johnson  
Merle Loete  
Reid McDonald  
Jean Morrical  
RaeJean Murphy  
Tom Nielsen  
Robin Passman  
Brenda Roggendorf  
Kathleen Schmidt  
Karen Schmidt  
David Sountris  
Alivia Voelkers  
Ken Weidenbach

**Homebound:**  
Nancy Bonow  
Ann Bowman  
Don, Wanda, and Jason Cass  
Darlene Dopson  
Mary Ann Eckert  
Rick & Sylvia Fauser  
Angie Fischer  
Ron & Peg Heitzman  
Christopher Higgins  
Barbara Honert  
Ingrid Hodshire  
Lori Hopkins  
Judy Kirklin  
Mary McGee  
Nancy Smart  
Terry Tipsword  
Barbara Veskauf  
Cora Whipple