



# The Informer

August 2023

*St. John's Lutheran Church*

**Volume 66 Issue 9**



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## From Pastor's Pen:

The other day I found it quite amusing and somewhat entertaining to listen to a couple of people go on and on about what a horrible gossip someone else was. In the midst of reciting a litany of the less than admirable qualities of the accused person, they asked me to affirm that the Bible condemns gossip. All I could do was nod my head and smile at the irony of it all.

Do not get me wrong, I am as guilty as the next person when it comes to the 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment and bearing false witness against my neighbor. Mea culpa, mea culpa, mea maxima culpa! God's Word through James makes it clear how evil and destructive an unbridled tongue can be:

"Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so." (James 3:4-10)

Think about the last time you cursed someone or something...did anything good come from it?

Think about the last time you "told someone off," "gave them a piece of your mind," or "put them in their place"...did it really benefit anyone?

Think about the last time you shared a juicy little bit of gossip...did it serve the people involved or edify the person you told?

Truly, our tongues are difficult to tame; a restless evil, filled with deadly poison. Thanks be to God our Lord Jesus Christ came to live and die to take away our sin, even the sin our tongue's misuse. In perfect obedience when He was mocked and reviled He returned only words of love and forgiveness. While being cursed by others, He offered only praise and prayers to His Father on behalf of those who sinned against Him. Even now, He is at the Father's right hand using His pure and glorified tongue to intercede for us.

Seeing what He has done, and continues to do for us, we are led to use our tongues differently – to glorify God and bless others. We have much better things to talk about than the flaws and failings of others. We have "Good News" to share about God's love and our Savior, Jesus Christ. We are blessed to be able to use our tongues to form words that encourage, strengthen & edify others. We get to use them to steer our lives and the lives of others in the way of forgiveness, mercy and love. So by the working of the Holy Spirit, let us strive to only allow blessing upon blessing to come out of our mouths.

In Christ's love,

*Pastor Umbarger*

See The Informer  
IN COLOR  
On Our Website

## Serving the Lord

### Ushers

**Sat, Aug 5:** Chuck Brokaw, Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka  
**Sun, Aug 6:** Bill & Donna Green, Dave & Paula Pratt, and Charlie Britton  
**Sat, Aug 12:** Chuck Brokaw, Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka  
**Sun, Aug 13:** Bill & Donna Green, Dave & Paula Pratt, and Charlie Britton  
**Sat, Aug 19:** Chuck Brokaw, Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka  
**Sun, Aug 20:** Bill & Donna Green, Dave & Paula Pratt, and Charlie Britton  
**Sat, Aug 26:** Chuck Brokaw, Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka  
**Sun, Aug 27:** Bill & Donna Green, Dave & Paula Pratt, and Charlie Britton

### Greeters

**Sat, Aug 5:**  
**Sun, Aug 6:** Donna Green & Lucille Perley  
**Sat, Aug 12:**  
**Sun, Aug 13:** Donna Green & Lucille Perley  
**Sat, Aug 19:**  
**Sun, Aug 20:** Donna Green & Karen Schmidt  
**Sat, Aug 26:**  
**Sun, Aug 27:** Donna Green & Karen Schmidt

### Acolytes

**Sun, Aug 6:** Alice Schmidt  
**Sun, Aug 13:** Payton Braddy  
**Sun, Aug 20:** Easton Antolik  
**Sun, Aug 27:** Lydia Merritt

### Altar Guild

Marsha Boarts  
 &  
 Kris McAnally

### Communion Assistants

**Sun, Aug 6:** Jonathan Schmidt & Ralph Grotelueschen  
**Sun, Aug 20:** Jim Homann & Kevin McAnally

# THANK YOU!

### Flowers

**Aug 6:** Lucille Perley, with thanks for God's blessings  
**Aug 13:** Rhea Oakes, in honor of Judy Jennings' birthday  
**Aug 20:** Flo Moore, in memory of Jacob  
**Aug 27:** Larry & Sharon Ripka, in memory of parents and Jeffie



### Eternal Candle

**Aug 6:** Lucille Perley, in memory  
**Aug 13:** Evan & Dawn Antolik, in honor of Allison's birthday  
**Aug 20:** Karen Schmidt, in honor of her sister's birthday  
**Aug 27:** Flo Moore, in memory of Jacob



## Church News

### Birthdays

**August 1** - Susan Parvin

**August 2** - Rebekah Weber

**August 4** - Sandy Dosch & Ron  
Heitzman

**August 5** - Allison Antolik & Linda  
Sharp

**August 6** - Betty Bell, Marlene  
Fellows, Debbie Girard, & Paul  
Sellers

**August 7** - Debbie VanRycke

**August 9** - Lori McMillin

**August 10** - Mary McGee, Jill  
Schofield & Jonathan Weakley

**August 11** - Duane Gosa & Jennifer  
Schmidt

**August 12** - Judy Jennings &  
Terry Tipsword

**August 13** - Todd Miller

**August 14** - Scott Kelly

**August 15** - Sarah Schofield

**August 16** - Kathy Verstraete

**August 17** - Lydia Merritt

**August 18** - Karen Hatfield &  
Mildred VanRycke

**August 19** - Gavin Johnson

**August 21** - Kinzlee Antolik & Jordan  
Johanson

**August 22** - David Rogers

**August 23** - Ken Cobb, Brian  
Engbrecht, Laura Frankowski,  
Carrie Johnson & Jacob Rossmiller

**August 27** - Joyce Hoffman, Easton  
Nitz & Theresa Roberson

**August 28** - Bill Girard, Robert Lilly,  
Bill Park, Paula Pratt & Margie  
Schaefer

**August 29** - Don Hakeman, Gail  
Massey & Michele Rogers

**August 30** - Norma Johnson & Anne  
Williams



### Weekly Attendance

<u>DATE</u>	<u>THIS YEAR</u>	<u>LAST YEAR</u>
6/25	134	138
7/2	119	110
7/9	141	144
7/16	129	151
7/23	136	129

Average monthly attendance of St. John's membership: 26 %

### Membership Report

Deaths:

Duane Herron (06/26/23)

Transfer In:

Drew, Paige, and Palmer Beale

Baptisms:

Palmer Rose Beale (07/30/23)

The Duane Herron family would like to thank the congregation for all their prayers and concern during Duane's long illness. We especially thank Pastor Umbarger and Vicar Kyle during his final days.

## Church News

### Food Pantry Report

The following is a summary of the information that was presented to the voters at the June 11<sup>th</sup> Voters' Meeting\* regarding the financial struggles that are facing our Food Pantry. \*Some lines have been updated to reflect a month's change.

	Total Yearly Expense	Average Monthly Expenses	Average Amount of Free Food Provided by the Government/Month
2020	\$8750.45	\$ 729	1659 pounds
2021	\$10,220.78	\$ 852	873 pounds
2022	\$13,359.04	\$ 1113	454 pounds
2023 (- May)	\$8,892.27	\$ 1778	276 pounds

2023	Monthly Giving	Monthly Expenses	# Families Served
January	\$610.00	\$1,343.40	68
February	\$675.00	\$1,813.99	73
March	\$610.00	\$1,756.54	106
April	\$1,055.00	\$2,330.88	111
May	\$1,076.00	\$1,647.46	154
June			

Summary: Expenses are going up, free food provided by the government is going down, numbers of families we serve each month is also going up, giving is not enough to pay for monthly expenses (The food pantry is only supported by offerings specifically designated to the Food Pantry. It has never been a line on the church's budget.)

After much discussion a motion was made at the June 11<sup>th</sup> Voters' Meeting to continue the food pantry by supporting it by means of reallocating funds from the vicar's salary \*\* to the food pantry from August to December, in the amount of \$1,200 per month which will be added to any Food Pantry Offerings that come in to match the projected \$1,500-\$1,800 monthly expenses. \*\*We no longer have the expenses of a vicar since we did not get a vicar for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year.

This \$1,200 will certainly be a blessing, but it still will not cover the expected monthly expenses. We encourage you to, after your church tithes are in, to prayerfully consider including the food pantry in your giving.

### Food Pantry FAQs

#### **How many volunteer hours does it take to run the food pantry each week?**

In addition to the 16 hours a week that the food pantry coordinator, Greg Burke gives, we are blessed by more volunteers that give 30-35 hours every week.

#### **I see expensive cars pull up to the food pantry, why are we giving them food?**

We never know everyone's stories. Legally, we cannot ask the income levels of our families. We do not discriminate based on any personal judgements or prejudices. We do know that some of our families need to borrow a car to pick up their food. And some other people who drive in are caretakers picking up for clients, or family members picking up for someone else.

#### **What goes into each box?**

That varies each week and each month based on what food is available for us to purchase from Riverbend Food Bank...and how much it costs. Bottom line is, we try to ensure each family receives fruits, vegetables, proteins, and yes, even treats. However, based on prices and availability, this might be harder to accomplish some weeks.

## Church News

### How often can people come to the food pantry?

Based on the rules set forth by Churches United and Riverbend Food Bank, a family can visit their designated food pantry (by geographic area) once a month.

### Do we ask for donations from the families who receive these boxes of food?

No. The Food Pantry is purely a charitable service to those in our community who need help getting food. We do not ask the families we serve for anything in return for the food they receive, nor do we solicit donations from them.

### Can you cut back on the amount of food you give to save money?

Orders are placed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month with the food being delivered by Riverbend Food Bank on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday.

Orders are placed using Riverbend's online ordering system. Food availability changes constantly and is shown in real time. The food pantry coordinator and the church secretary go through the shopping list first looking for the best deals. Example: a case of canned carrots is \$8.61, green beans are \$23.96; carrots are ordered. After they make out the order they are given a total cost; then they work backwards to cut back the order until it is within our budget.

## LWML

St. John's Lutheran Women's Missionary League will be meeting Thursday August 24 at 6:30 pm in the Janssen rooms.



How much do you know about LWML? Judy Dugan, Marlene Fellows and Diana Lackey attended the 2023 National Convention in Milwaukee June 22-25. Come see and hear what exciting things they have to share about where mission mites have gone and are going. LWML has funded mission projects in over 42 countries on 5 continents. LWML was founded in 1942 with a mission goal of \$15,000. This biennium goal is \$2,350,000 and will help fund 31 missions from India to North Dakota.

*And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the  
gospel to the whole creation (Mark 16:15).*

## Youth Lock-Up

Save the date! On Friday, August 11th we are having a Back to School Lock-up from 7-11pm. Bring a snack and a friend (or two) as we play games and have lots of fun!

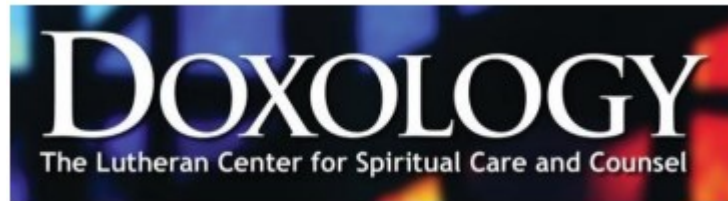


## Confirmation Instruction

It's hard to believe summer is coming to an end, but it's that time again. There will be a pre-confirmation information meeting on **Monday, August 7th at 6:30pm** to discuss the curriculum, expectations, the schedule, and supplies needed. Please plan to attend this meeting. Confirmation Instruction will begin on **Sunday, August 20th at 10:15am (during the Sunday school hour) for 5th & 6th grade, and on Monday, August 21st at 6:30pm for 7th grade.**



## Church News



### A DOXOLOGY SEMINAR

**Trinity Lutheran Church ☒ Davenport, Iowa**  
**Saturday, August 12, 2023 ☒ 8:15 AM – 3:15 PM**

## **Free to Die:** **The Martyrs as Our Christian Heroes**

### **DOXOLOGY EVENT:**

On August 12th, Trinity Lutheran Church, Davenport, will be hosting a Seminar entitled, "Free to Die – The Martyrs as Christian Heroes" by Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller.

Registration can be done online - at [doxology.us](https://doxology.us) Registration is \$20 for all attendees - except students (High School, College, and Seminary) they pay \$10. Registration cost covers conference materials, lunch, and refreshments. A guaranteed lunch on Saturday is possible by registering through July 31.

### **Presenters:**



Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller is pastor of St. Paul and Jesus Deaf Lutheran Churches in Austin, TX. He is the author of *Take They Our Life: Martin Luther's Theology of Martyrdom* (2019), *A Martyr's Faith for a Faithless World* (CPH, 2019), *Has American Christianity Failed?* (CPH, 2016) and *Final Victory: Contemplating the Death and Funeral of a Christian* (CPH, 2010). He is host of *What-Not, The Podcast*, posts videos on YouTube at [wolfmueller1](https://www.youtube.com/user/wolfmueller1), and has a number of other theological projects that all end up on his blog, [www.wolfmueller.co](http://www.wolfmueller.co). Bryan is a member of the Doxology Collegium. He and his wife Keri live with their four children in Round Rock, TX.



Rev. David Fleming Pastor Fleming is DOXOLOGY's Executive Director for Spiritual Care and a Collegium Fellow. He remains a part time pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids, MI where he served as Senior Pastor from 1993- 2019. He previously served in Warrenville, IL, a Chicago suburb, and is a 1986 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN. He serves on the Concordia University Wisconsin Board of Regents. Rev. Fleming co-wrote "God's Love at Christmas", the 2010 Advent-Christmas resource from Concordia Publishing House. David and his wife, Jo Marie, née Wunderlich, have three children and three granddaughters.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 9am - Worship w/ 10:15am - Bible Study /	31 8am - Staff Meeting 10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam	1 8am - Staff Meeting 10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam	2 9am - TOPS	3 6:30pm - Board Meetings	4 5pm - Worship w/	5
6 9am - Worship w/ 10:15am - Bible Study /	7 6:30pm - Confirmation	8 8am - Staff Meeting 10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam	9 9am - TOPS	10 7pm - Youth Lock Up	11 5pm - Worship	12
13 9am - Worship 10am - App Assistance 10:15am - Bible Study /	14 8am - Staff Meeting 10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam	15 9am - TOPS	16 11:30am - Ladies	17 5pm - Worship	18	19
20 9am - Worship w/ 10:15am - Bible Study / 10:15am - Confirmation	21 Informer Deadline 6:30pm - 7th Grade	22 8am - Staff Meeting 10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam	23 9am - TOPS 6:30pm - LWML	24 5pm - Worship	25	26
27 9am - Worship 10:15am - Bible Study / 10:15am - Confirmation 2pm - Private Party	28 6:30pm - 7th Grade	29 8am - Staff Meeting 10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam	30 9am - TOPS	31	1	2

# St. John's Lutheran Church



1450-30th Avenue  
East Moline, IL 61244

Tel: 309-792-0755  
Fax: 309-792-0776  
E-mail: [office@stjohnsem.org](mailto:office@stjohnsem.org)

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We're On the Web!!  
[www.stjohnsem.org](http://www.stjohnsem.org)

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*Walking in the Light of Christ!*



## Worship Schedule:

Saturday worship– 5:00pm

Sunday worship- 9:00am

Sunday School

& Bible Study-10:15am

## Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday 8:30am– 2:00pm

Closed for lunch from 12-1pm



*Inside our Sanctuary.*