

**July 2023** 

St. John's Lutheran Church

Volume 65 Issue 9



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#### From Pastor's Pen:

...our great God and Savior Jesus Christ gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works." Titus 2:13b-14

My dear family in Christ,

I believe that the above words, given by God through St. Paul, are vitally important for us who have become infected with a watered down version of American Christianity. There are so many people who claim to be a Christian but have no interest in living like one. The incongruity of faith and life that so many of us display for the world to see actually causes the name of God to be defamed. Luther writes this in his explanation to the first petition of the Lord's Prayer: "God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as children of God, also lead holy lives according to it...but anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us...

Do not be deceived into thinking that because "God is love" that you can separate faith from a life of obedience and good works. St. James is very clear about this when he writes: "What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?...Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead... Show me your faith apart from vour works, and I will show you my faith by my works." (James 2:14,17-18)

God did not only save us from something [sin, death & the devil's power], He saved us for something [godliness, abundant fruit-bearing life & Spirit driven purpose]. God actually had a goal in mind when He sent His Son to redeem us as stated by Luther in his explanation to the second article of the Apostles' Creed: "[He redeemed me] that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness...'

We may be saved by faith alone, but true, saving faith is never alone. It always produces in us a zeal for good works that are pleasing to God. If you have been deceived into thinking that you can be a Christian and continue in a lifestyle that God condemns, you are dead wrong. If you think that it doesn't matter whether you attend worship or study God's Word, which is a clear violation of His expressed will for you, you are dead wrong. If you think that you can use all the things that God has given you only for yourself, and not for the Gospel or for caring for the needs of others, you are dead wrong. What I mean is, according to God's Word through James, you are "spiritually dead" wrong.

God has a plan and purpose for you. He has saved you so that you may do the good works that He had always wanted you to do. He has poured out the Holy Spirit upon you in baptism to empower you to live under Christ and serve Him in righteousness. I encourage you to repent of your abuse of His grace and the way you have wasted the gifts that He has given you. I direct you, in gratitude for the salvation and eternal life that Christ has purchased for you, to be zealous for good works. Through them God is glorified, His saving Word is made more attractive to those who need it and other people are served. Please, please, do not be a Christian in name only. Show your faith by what you do.

In closing I leave you these words from the hymn "Salvation unto Us Has Come" Faith clings to Jesus' cross alone and rests in Him unceasing And by its fruits true faith is known, with love and hope increasing For faith alone can justify:

Works serve our neighbor and supply the proof that faith is living.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Ymbarger

## Vicar's View

Dear saints of St. John,

It is hard to believe that I've come to the end of my vicarage. There are probably many things I should say, but first of all I want to say thank you. Thank you for being so warm and welcoming to me throughout my time here. It feels like everyone at St. John's has played a part in making me feel at home in the Quad Cities and in the congregation. Thank you also for welcoming Kayla and helping her to feel at home here each time she came to visit; it made what could have been a difficult year apart that much easier for both of us. Thank you also for indulging my interest in obscure theological topics (bonus points to those who made it through my five-session study on ritual purity, it takes some patience to let me ramble for that long about why leprosy is actually really interesting)! Thank you especially to Pastor Umbarger for being a great supervisor. Thank you for sharing your experience, it has been so valuable to see a pastor who really knows his congregation at work. Thank you also for trusting me and giving me opportunities to step out of my comfort zone and take the lead on things like strategic planning, teaching Bible study, and even running a pastors' conference for the district! It has been a great experience and opportunity for growth. I would also like to offer some parting words of encouragement. This is a time of change and uncertainty in a lot of ways. The world around us seems to be changing rapidly, and things are changing here at St. John's too. In a few years, Pastor Umbarger will be retiring, and for the first time in quite a while, you won't find an introduction to a new vicar in this Informer. Uncertainty about the future can be scary. We just finished studying Ecclesiastes in Adult Bible Class on Sunday, and that book reminds us repeatedly that no one can know or control what will come in the future. But Jesus himself reminds us that the hairs of our heads are all numbered, and that nothing happens outside the control of our heavenly Father (Matt. 10:29-30). Whatever the future looks like, Jesus would not have us look at it with worry or fear. God is faithful, and he will supply you with everything you need to stay planted firm in faith to the end. Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever (Heb.13:8).

I hope that I will have an opportunity to see you all again soon! But I've already pointed out the vanity of predicting the future, so even if that doesn't work out, I have faith in Jesus Christ that we will at the very least see one another at the resurrection when Christ makes all things new. What a day that will be!

In Christ,

Vicar Kyle Moellenhoff

## Farewell to Vicar Moellenhoff



Please join us to say farewell to the Vicar on July 9th. We will have a cookout at 11:30am after Bible class. There is a sign-up sheet on the Information table; please sign up to bring a side dish or dessert. Burgers, brats, water and lemonade will be provided. For your entertainment, The Panic River Band will be playing outside from 12-2. Bring lawn chairs if you wish!

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# Serving the Lord This Month:

#### **Ushers**

Sat. July 1: Greg Burke, Chuck Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, &

Larry Ripka

Sun. July 2: Jeff Belan

Sat, July 8: Greg Burke, Chuck

Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, &

Larry Ripka

Sun, July 9: Jeff Belan

Sat, July 15: Greg Burke, Chuck Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, &

Larry Ripka

Sun, July 16: Jeff Belan

Sat, July 22: Greg Burke, Chuck Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, &

Larry Ripka

Sun, July 23: Jeff Belan

Sat, July 29: Greg Burke, Chuck

Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, &

Larry Ripka

Sun, July 30: Jeff Belan

### **Greeters**

Sat. July 1:

Sun. July 2: Larry C. Dodge

Sat, July 8: Sun, July 9:

Sat, July 15: Sun, July 16:

Sat, July 22:

Sun, July 23: Sat, July 29:

Sun, July 30:



### **Acolytes**

Sun. July 2: Lydia Merritt Sun, July 9: Johnny Kjera Sun, July 16: Alice Schmidt Sun, July 23: Payton Braddy Sun, July 30: Bentley Orton



### Altar Guild

Marsha Boarts & Monica Scheer

## **Communion Assistants:**

Sun, July 2: Dennis Boarts

Sun. July 16: Kevin McAnally & Jim

Homann

Sun, July 30: Jonathan Schmidt &

Ralph Grotelueschen

## **Eternal Candle**

July 2: OPEN

July 9: Evan & Dawn Antolik, in honor of

Collin's birthday

July 16: Karen Schmidt

July 23: Val McDonald, in honor of

Tayler Rusk's birthday

July 30: Craig & Annie Churchill, in

honor of Sloane's birthday



### **Flowers**

July 2: Brian & Christine Engebrecht, in memory of our fathers

July 9: George & Marlene Fellows, in honor of their wedding anniversary

July 16: Karen Schmidt, for God's blessings

July 23: Dennis & Lois Kelly, in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary

Chuck & Bev Brokaw

July 30: Lucille Perley, with thanks

### Church News

### **Birthdays**

July 1: Peggy Murphy

July 2: James Sharp & Larry Sims

July 3: Alice Heller

July 4: Lois Kelly & Hank VanDamme July 5: Aliza Stone & Rose Sullivan

July 7: Laura Chaffee & Cori

Rossmiller

July 8: Matthew Lorfield

July 9: Collin Antolik, Nathan Duffy, &

Megan Hess

July 12: Nancy Gosa

**July 13:** Michael Dosch, Ron Erickson, Kevin McAnally, Brayden Medinger, Jackson Weathers & Mary Whipple

July 14: Sue Heller, Henry Schmidt, &

Ron Whipple

July 16: Amanda McMillin & Noah

Ryan

July 17: Jane Hipple July 19: Mike Murphy

July 20: Madison Dennis,

July 21: Lauren Belzer, Greg Burke, Ann Cobb, Darlene Dopson, Sharon

Durling, & Scott Mattly

July 22: Steve Braddy, Lee Copeland,

Amanda Flaugh

July 23: Nick Johanson & Keith

Verschoore

July 24: Perry Aukee, Larry Hipple, &

**Grace Schmidt** 

July 25: Ann Bowman, Cody Rossmiller, Gregory Smart, & David

VanSeveren

July 26: Troy McDonald July 27: Sloane Churchill

July28: Nancy Smart

July29: Greg Hart, Kaitlyn Israel &

Donna Moews

July 30: Janice Coon, Jim Moews &

Jacob Rowe

July 31: Wendy Verschoore



## Weekly Attendance & Offerings

DATE	THIS YEAR	<u>LAST YEAR</u>
5/21	117	142
5/28	92	159
6/4	152	149
6/11	142	143
6/18	132	102

Average monthly attendance of St. John's membership: 25%

## Membership Report

Death:

Vern Sletten (05/27/23)

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### Church News

### Quad City Creation Science Association Invites You!

The Historical Adam: Theological Conundrums
Free event open to the public:
Grace Evangelical Free Church
5520 Eastern Ave
Davenport, IA 52722

Thursday, August 3rd, 7:00pm

Dr. Robert Carter is one on the world's leading Christian researchers into the study of human genetics and how this relates to human biblical origins. The good news is that the Bible can really be trusted when it comes to such history and in particular its account of Creation as read in the book of Genesis. This presentation lasts about an hour using illustrated Power Point slides and is usually followed by an informal Q and A. Creation resources will be available before and after the meeting.



#### **LWML**

Reminder; There is NO meeting for the month of July.

#### Thank you

Carole Hodshire would like to thank everyone that brought meals and extended friendship after her ankle surgeries. Everything was wonderful. We are very blessed to be a part of such a caring congregation!



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## **Voters Meeting Minutes**

- 1. Meeting was begun at 10:12 a.m. with a prayer by Rod Hopkins
- 2. Board Reports:
  - A. Treasurers Report Norm Antolik

Handed out treasurer's report. Giving tends to be down during summer months.

B. Board of Outreach Ministry -Charlie Britton
Will be helping Boards of Elders in reaching out to members who haven't been to church in 6 months.

C. Board of Elders - Jim Homann

Since we did not receive a Vicar for the 2023-2024 year; the program will cease until we have a new Pastor and then the program will be revisited.

Along with the Executive Board, they will be compiling a job description for a position to help Pastor with non-

The Board of Elders are reaching out to members who do not have a recorded attendance in 6 months. Also Love in Action Binder is available in the office and members of the congregation are encouraged to check the list and reach out to members that have not attended.

D. Board of Family and Youth Ministry - Kris McAnally

VBS is going to be the last week in June from 9:00-11:30 a.m. and is still in need of volunteers and students. Vicar Farewell will be a cookout with band on July 9<sup>th</sup>.

- E. Trustees Evan Antolik

  - Tree trimming taking place
     Getting bids on roof, which will take priority over the parking lot.
     Church sealing completed.

Board of Human Care Ministry - Carrie Homann - See attached report.

The Food Pantry is low on funds with the increase cost of food, decline in government subsidy and more people in need. Ralph Grotelueschen made a motion to continue the Food Pantry with donations, fund raisers, and use the funds from the Vicar's budget to make up for the shortage. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>, Caleb Engebrecht. Motion was rejected. Motion made by Kevin McAnally to move \$1200 from Vicar's salary to the Food Pantry each month from August to December. Kay Iwen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

G. Executive Board - Rod Hopkins - See attached report Rod and Howard Williams are doing a financial review and hope to be done by the next Voter's Meeting. Committee is being formed to look into the needs of the congregation in the loss of a Vicar. Will be meeting with the various boards to see what needs are.

Member Adam Homann will be attending Concordia University in Mequon in pursuit of church workers degree and the board will be asking for donations to assist him.

LCMS Conference will be this summer in Milwaukee and they are asking for donations to fund teaching and translating the bible in other languages. The committee set a goal from our congregation of \$2500.

Still looking for a candidate to mentor with Norm for Treasurers position. Norm planning on retiring in 2025. The Strategic planning goals from earlier this year.

a. Enlist 5 volunteers to pair with young families for and "Adopt a Family Program by February 2024.

b. Schedule a Congregational social event each month beginning in Septémber 2023.

- c. Begin using St. John's app to send a weekly outreach message or devotional by May 1, 2023. Will check on
- d. Create survey to be distributed to congregation by August 1, 2023.
- e. Host an event open to community by September 30, 2023.
- f. Have a formal witness training study by the end of 2023.
- g. Start prayer chain and weekly prayer group by end of 2023.
- **New Business** 
  - A. Question brought up concerning the church purchasing a small section of land between the church and condo. Board of Trustee's did not think it was a good idea so declined to pursue.
- 4. Move to Adjourn

Motion made by Evan Antolik; seconded by Marsha Boarts. Motion Passed

5. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer at 11:40 a.m.

Very much appreciate all members who attended the Voter's Meeting.

Respectively submitted by Diana Lackey, Date: June 11, 2023

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### From the CID

What more could the disciples of Jesus have wanted or needed? For three revolutions around the sun, these men had witnessed the mighty miracles of the Christ. Jesus had spoken to them the powerful words of his "upper room" discourse in John 13–17. Each of them could give firsthand accounts of the resurrected Savior. Jesus breathed out the Holy Spirit upon them, giving them the power to forgive and retain sins (John 20:22–23). And Luke tells us that Jesus even opened their minds to understand the Scriptures! (Luke 24:45).

Surely, these men were ready to get going. Yet, even all of this was not enough. "Stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:49). When that day came, fulfilling Joel 2:28–29 and Isaiah 32:15, those disciples were made ready, by God's grace and power. The same Spirit has been given to you in Holy Baptism. Comfort and peace in the forgiveness of sins as won by Jesus on the cross is yours, as is the power to share that Gospel with family, friends, and neighbors. "Clothed with power from on high." That defines you forever through Baptism into Christ. There is nothing more you could want or need.

Pastor Jeff Caithamer

### Living As Christian Citizens in the Here and Now

God our Creator instituted government to be a means by which He preserves and orders life among fallen human beings. Government belongs to His kingdom of power. The governmental realm is to be distinguished from that of the church. Governments are instituted not to save souls, but to uphold order and provide justice. God's Word teaches that government is to reward the one who does good and to punish the evildoer (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17).

In the United States, Christians as citizens have many opportunities to do good in the governmental realm. Not only do individual Christian citizens pay taxes; we can also seek elected office and vote. We may participate in voluntary associations such as service clubs, civic improvement organizations, and political parties. We can let our views be known to our neighbors, government officials and others.

By applying moral principle to public and political issues, we make a crucial contribution to maintaining justice and freedom in our communities and in our country. This stands out as an important responsibility, one for Christian citizens to take soberly and prayerfully.

#### CID BOARD OF DIRECTORS REVIEW REPORT 05/23/23

Rev. Mark Eddy called the meeting to order. Rev. Mike Burdick finished our reading of 1 Peter. Minutes from the March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved with corrections. Rev. Schuermann, the campus pastor at UniLu, highlighted recent years of especially young men being catechized and joining UniLu. He also gave an update on UniLu's partnership with the local pregnancy resource center to be ready for the 2023-2024 school year.

President Mohr reported that CID received 3 candidates, 2 vicars, and 1 deaconess from our seminaries. He joyfully anticipates the upcoming district installations and ordinations this summer. He asked for prayers for the upcoming Synodical Convention, floor committees, and delegates. Mrs. Chris Andersen reported for CEF and their services to many in our district. CEF's 18-month 3% investment offer is still available. CEF awarded 4 Ministry Outreach Grants in April. CID CEF representatives were able to meet for the first time since Covid with the other independent CEFs and LCEF in St. Louis. Mr. Trip Rodgers gave his reports on Congregational Life and Education. The District Accreditation Commission names were approved for the accreditation of our district schools. Rev. Dr. Schurb happily stated that Concordia Historical Institute has published *Rediscovering The Issues*, a book on the 1974 walkout, to be available this year. Lutheran Legacy Foundation has committed to providing matching funds to our 4 endowment funds that support CID campus ministries for the next 10 years or until a total of \$500,000 has been raised. Dollars For Missions (DFM) continues to raise money for approved missions such as UniLu's 12-passenger van.

Financial Secretary, Mr. Jim Frazee voiced concern for the lack of congregational participation for DFM. Any congregation that is not participating or promoting DFM should speak with Rev. Schurb. CID has paid Synod for the upcoming LC-MS convention expenses. All should submit their congregational portion for this year's LC-MS convention. Cristo Rey was approved to improve their parking lot in need of repair. The work week for CID staff was approved and defined as 5 days with two days off each week. Redeemer, Peru has closed and is in process of faithfully selling their property and assets. It was approved that the monies for the dissolution of Redeemer's property and assets be received into CID General Fund. St. John, Buckley's and Bethlehem, Petersburg's updated constitutions were approved. The next CID Board of Directors meeting was set for September 26, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

#### **Stay Connected with Your District**

Looking for additional information, visit <a href="https://linktr.ee/cidlcms">https://linktr.ee/cidlcms</a> or connect with the following items:

CID's GatePost (newsletter) Subscribe to the E-GatePost/News You Can Use.

Stay connected with us on Facebook and Instagram -- Central Illinois District-LCMS

#### Camp CILCA Lowdown

The Central Illinois Lutheran Camp Association (CILCA) sits on 225 acres of woodland and open fields just north of Springfield, Ill., within an easy drive of the popular Lincoln sites in Springfield and historic New Salem. It offers a summer program of week-long camps and outdoor experiences for students of all ages and abilities; Outdoor Education programs for area students; and camping of many kinds for individuals, families and groups. Rustic and all-weather sleeping cabins, campsites for tents, trailers, RV's and pop-ups, swimming lake with beach, athletic fields, Challenge Course, and indoor and outdoor chapel spaces are among the camp's features.



Anytime: Register for Summer Camp!

o Preschool-4 grade: Generations

o 1st-4th Grades: Pathfinders

o 4th-6th Grades: Bold Spirits, Aqua Week

o 6 -8 Grades: Art, Drama & Athletics; Night Owl; Dauntless Souls

o High School: Intrepid Hearts, Junior Counselor, Joyful Hearts Volunteer

#### General Summer Camp Info

Camp CILCA is a great place to get away from the ordinary & experience God's grace in His creation. Campers can get involved in a variety of activities like: hiking, games, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, archery, creek walking, crafts, basketball, volleyball, softball, disc golf, fishing, & more. Campers also have opportunities to grow in their Christian faith through Bible studies, campfire singing & devotions.

#### Specialty Camps

Specialty camps are also offered such as Art & Drama, Night Owl, Aqua, and Athletics weeks. Guest presenters and coaches provide opportunities for campers to hone their skills through training sessions, scrimmages, drills, and rehearsals.

#### Bring Friends! Make Friends!

Our staff is trained to help first-timers make new friends quickly. Camp CILCA is open to everyone whether they go to church or not. Non-Christian friends will find that camp is a fun way to learn more about God and His love for everyone. If you and a friend wish to be in the same cabin you BOTH must put the other's name down as a cabin-mate request (for the same camp). Camp is a great place to make lots of new friends, so if you limit the number of your cabin-mate requests, you will have more opportunities to make some great new friends from around the state!

#### SAVE THE DATE:

**August 5: Homecoming!** All are invited to join CILCA alumni, supporters, volunteers, and friends to round out the summer!

There will be: food trucks, games, swimming, vendors, face painting, and more. This *free* event is a great way to close out the summer season.

The Informer Page 10

#### Dear Fellow Redeemed!

We would like to share an opportunity with you and your congregation(s)/school. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Iowa City is hosting the Semisaurus August 11-13, 2023. This museum may change your view of history, perhaps your life!

The Semisaurus is a 48-foot semi-trailer converted into a state-of-the-art museum that is packed with highend displays, animatronic dinosaurs, and evidence-based information regarding creation and evolution. With a self-guided audio tour, you will take a walk through history to find your origins and purpose on earth! The museum has four main display areas that provide historical context, fossils, artifacts, and interactive cutscreen technologies.

God's blessings, Marlene Thompson, Secretary Outreach Committee Our Redeemer Lutheran Church



Free and open to the public:

Friday, August 11, 2023 9:00 am-3:00 pm Saturday, August 12, 2023 9:00 am-3:00 pm Sunday, August 13, 2023 12:00-2:00 pm

Semisaurus is a semi trailer converted into a state of the art museum with self-guided audio tours of high-end displays, animatronic dinosaurs, and evidence-based information to teach the truth about creation and evolution

St. John's Lutheran Church East Moline, IL

Jul 2023 (Central Time - Chicago)

9am - Worship 10:15am - Bible Study /	9am - Worship 10:15am - Bible Study /	9am - Worship w/ 10:15am - Bible Study /	9am - Worship 10:15am - Bible Study / 11:30am - Vicar Farewell	9am - Worship w/ 10:15am - Bible Study /	9am - Worship 10:15am - Bible Study /	Sun
31	24	Informer Deadline  8am - Staff Meeting  9:30am - EMPD Junior Police Academy @ Grounds,  10am - Food Pantry  11am - Music Lesson:  6:30pm - Guitar Jam	10	9am - Morning Prayer @	9am - VBS	Mon
8am - Staff Meeting 10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam	8am - Staff Meeting 10am - Food Pantry 11am - Music Lessons 6:30pm - Guitar Jam	8am - Staff Meeting Academy @ Grounds, Gym, 10am - Food Pantry 11am - Music Lessons 6:30pm - Guitar Jam	8am - Staff Meeting 10am - Food Pantry 11am - Music Lessons 6:30pm - Guitar Jam	Office Closed  11am - Music Lessons 6:30pm - Guitar Jam	8am - Staff Meeting 9am - VBS 11am - Music Lessons 6:30pm - Guitar Jam	Tue
9am - TOPS	9am - TOPS	9am - TOPS Gym, Jansen Rooms	9am - TOPS	9am - TOPS	9am - TOPS 9am - VBS	Wed
6:30pm - Board Meetings	27	11:30am - Ladies	lω	6:30pm - Board Meetings	9am - VBS	Thu
4	28	21	14	7	9am - VBS	Fri
5pm - Worship w/	5pm - Worship W	5pm - Worship	5pm - Worship w/	5pm - Worship	5pm - Worship w/	Sat

## St. John's Lutheran Church



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We're On the Web!! www.stjohnsem.org

Walking in the Light of Christ!



# Worship Schedule:

Saturday worship– 5:00pm Sunday worship- 9:00am 10:15am– Sunday School & Bible Study

# Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 8:30 am- 12 noon



Inside our Sanctuary.