



The Informer

June 2023

St. John's Lutheran Church

Volume 65 Issue 9



In this issue:

Pastor's Letter	1
Vicar's View	2
Serving the Lord this Month	3
Birthdays	4
Church News	5-7
Calendar	9

From Pastor's Pen:

"Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love." (1 Cor. 16:13-14)

Dear friends in Christ,

Oh, how the above words, given through the apostle Paul, need to be repeated to us today. So often we are weak kneed and spineless when it comes to standing up for what we believe and know to be true. A true spirit of love for our neighbor who is being led astray or even perishing in unbelief should compel us to be bold and courageous in our defense of the faith. Think of the martyrs through the millennia who have stood firm, made their strong confession and even sacrificed their lives for their faith, and for us.

This month I would like for you to consider the heroic actions of a number of princes and other civic leaders who laid their lives on the line for their faith at the Diet of Augsburg on June 25, 1530. With the whole world aligned against them, and under threat of death, these faithful laymen presented "The Augsburg Confession" to Emperor Charles V. This document, consisting of 28 short articles of Christian doctrine, was written by layman theologian, Philipp Melanchthon. While labelled "Lutheran" it is something much more. It presents the true statement of the Apostolic Christian faith over against the papists on the one hand, and radical protestants on the other.

In this age of "you have your truth and I have my truth" it is more important than ever that we thoroughly know and steadfastly confess "the truth" that God has revealed to us. I encourage you to take time this month to read "The Augsburg Confession," and join those brave men in presenting it to the world as your own.

Finally, do not give into a spirit of fear or timidity! You have received the Spirit of sonship and of power, so stop cowering to the threats and actions that come against you from the servants of Satan. "Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love." Do this in certainty that the one who endures to the end will be saved and will receive the crown of eternal life.

In Christ's love and under the strength of the Holy Spirit,

Pastor Umbarger

See The Informer
IN COLOR
On Our Website

Vicar's View

The Image of God

I'd like to talk about an important biblical phrase and idea that I'm sure you've probably heard before, but probably isn't understood very well by most people: that is, what it means to be made "in the image of God." In Genesis 1:26-27, when God is creating human beings, he says, "let us make man in our image, after our likeness" followed by a poem that says, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." The image of God is clearly an important idea, but unfortunately Genesis never tells us exactly what that means! So what is the image of God?

I believe the best way to understand this is that God gave the first humans both **qualities** that resemble God and the **task** of representing God to the rest of his creation. God equipped humans with qualities like freedom, reason, and life that reflect God's own characteristics (in a limited and finite way of course) so that they could fulfill the mission of ruling the earth on God's behalf, bringing order to it and filling it with life. That is why after God creates humans in his image, he tells them to fill the earth, subdue it, and have dominion over the other creatures.

The Hebrew word for "image" is actually the same word that gets used elsewhere in the Bible to describe idol statues of false gods. In the Ten Commandments, God tells Israel, "You shall not make for yourself a carved **image**, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them." (Exodus 20:4-5a) People in the ancient world used images as representatives of their gods so that they could interact with the spiritual being behind it. Human kings also put "images" of themselves throughout their realm as symbols of their power and authority. In a way, God's original intention is for humans to fill this same role: to be the symbol of God's authority and to be a representative of God toward creation. That is why God forbid his people from using idol statues in worship; humans bowing down to other created objects as representatives of God (or "gods") is completely backwards! It is humans that should be the image of God, representing him to other creatures.

Unfortunately, when humans sinned, those image-of-God qualities were damaged and twisted. Our freedom was bound to evil and our reason and wisdom were perverted, and therefore we became totally unable to fulfill our task of representing God in the way he wants. But there is good news. Colossians 1:15 tells us that Jesus himself is the image of the invisible God. That is, he is the perfect human who restores the image of God in us. He accomplishes the task of ruling creation on God's behalf as a human, and he restores those godly qualities and attributes to us. Paul even writes in Romans 8:29 that Christians are being conformed to the image of Jesus. In other words, in Jesus we are going to be the image of God the way God always intended. Even now, you have the noble task of representing God to the world and showing other people what God is like, especially in his love and mercy. When Jesus returns, we will rule with him over God's creation as God's chosen representatives. I believe it gives us a whole new perspective when we see what a noble and beautiful role God has envisioned for us and for our fellow humans.

Vicar Moellenhoff



Serving the Lord This Month:

Ushers

Sat, June 3: Greg Burke, Chuck Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
Sun, June 4: Esther Cashion & Scott Mattly
Sat, June 10: Greg Burke, Chuck Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
Sun, June 11: Esther Cashion & Scott Mattly
Sat, June 17: Greg Burke, Chuck Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
Sun, June 18: Esther Cashion & Scott Mattly
Sat, June 24: Greg Burke, Chuck Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
Sun, June 25: Esther Cashion & Scott Mattly

Greeters

Sat, June 3: Chuck & Bev Brokaw
Sun, June 4: George Aukee & Penny Schreck
Sat, June 10:
Sun, June 11: Lucille Perley
Sat, June 17:
Sun, June 18: Lucille Perley
Sat, June 24:
Sun, June 25:

Acolytes

Sun, June 4: Bentley Orton
Sun, June 11: Sloane Churchill
Sun, June 18: Joel Duffy
Sun, June 25: Brayden Medinger



Eternal Candle

June 4: Gail Massey
June 11: Dawn & Evan Antolik, in honor of Kristen's birthday
June 18: Dawn & Evan Antolik, in honor of Easton's birthday
June 25: Greg Burke, in memory of Gloria's passing



Flowers

June 4: Karen Schmidt, with glory to God
June 11: Rhea Oakes' birthday
June 18: OPEN
June 25: Tim & Tamee Stone, in celebration of their grandsons: Eli, Nico, & Rolan



Altar Guild

Kathy Ahrens
 &
 Rebecca Hinman

Church News

Birthdays

June 1 - Judy Murphy

June 2 - Orene Antolik

June 4 - Howard Williams

June 5 - Rod Hopkins

June 6 - Carl McGee

June 7 - Chris Brand, Alice Gingry & Valerie McDonald

June 8 - Rhea Oakes

June 9 - Bali Guerrero, Jim Homann, Bentley Orton & Jennifer Palar

June 11 - Joel Duffy & Owen Mattly

June 13 - Evelyn Weakley & Nicole Wilson

June 14 - Kristen Antolik

June 16 - Rachel Kjera & Adam McMillin

June 18 - Easton Antolik, Molly Balentine, Monica Scheer & Lora Vallee

June 19 - Samuel Bowman, Sylvia Fauser & Samuel Nelson

June 20 - Hailey Ekin

June 21 - Carrie Homann, Jonathan Schmidt

June 23 - Tony Frankowski & Kevin Verschoore

June 24 - Ronald Wilson

June 25 - Matt Hawkins, Peg

Heitzman & Chase Sellers

June 27 - Derek Duffy

June 28 - Tim Chellew & Melinda Loete

June 29 - Grant Belzer, Chuck Brokaw, Murphy Hill, & Gunter Terronez



Weekly Attendance & Offerings

DATE	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
3/26/23	125	144
4/02/23	197	155
4/09/23	265- Easter	165
4/16/22	133	318- Easter

Average monthly attendance of St. John's membership: 35%

Membership Report

New Address:

Judy Dugan

3007 16th St. Ct.

East Moline, IL 61244

Chuck and Bev Brokaw

2400 1st St. A Drive

Moline, IL 61265



Church News

- ALL BOARDS MEET ON THURSDAY, JUNE 1ST at 6:30pm
- PARISH PLANNING MEETING IS THURSDAY, JUNE 8TH at 6:30pm
- THE NEXT VOTER'S MEETING IS SUNDAY, JUNE 11TH at 10:15am



LWML

LWML will not be meeting in June or July. We will resume in August. Watch the bulletin and Informer for more information.

Vacation Bible School

VBS is scheduled **for June 26-30, from 9-11:30am.**

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

It's time for VBS 2023! Please call or text Cris Braddy at (309)235-7984 if you are able to donate some of your time this summer. We need people to be group leaders, make & serve snacks, run games, check-in kids, and more! Anyone aged 6th grade and older is eligible to help. The more the merrier!

Registration forms are on the library counter. Take some for your family, friends, or neighbors! One form per child please.

Calling all graduates!

Our Baccalaureate Service will be on Sunday, June 4th. Please contact the church office ASAP if you would like to recognize your graduate.

Congratulations to the class of 2022:
Owen Mattly– Moline High School
Jonah Wilson– UTHS



*Baccalaureate
Service*



I LOVE DAD

Happy
Father's
Day

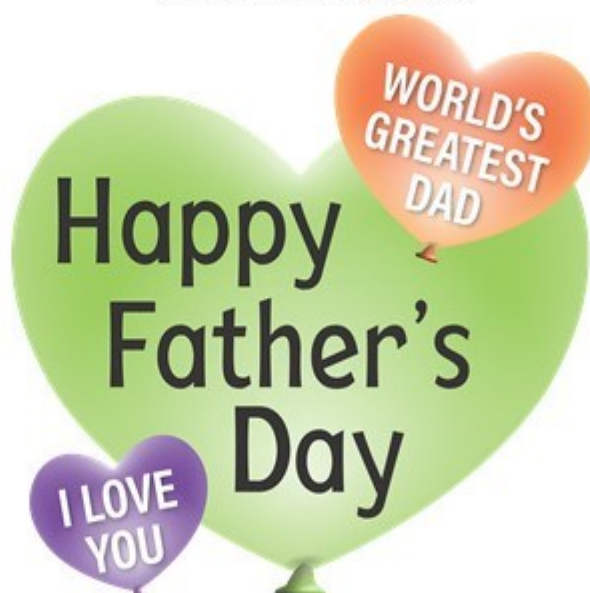
FATHER'S DAY

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

BEST
BRAVE
BREAKFAST
CARD
CARING
CELEBRATE
CHILDREN
DADDY
FAMILY
FATHER
FRIEND
FUN
GIFT
GRANDPA
HAPPY
HERO
HOLIDAY
HONOR
JOKES
LOVE
NURTURE
PAPA
PARENT
PRESENT
PROUD
RESPECT
SPECIAL
STRONG
VALUES

T	Y	N	F	R	E	T	A	R	B	E	L	E	C	V
V	D	T	O	E	R	U	T	R	U	N	Y	H	O	P
G	N	I	R	A	C	L	O	P	U	O	I	Q	A	S
T	T	I	O	L	S	N	O	L	J	L	V	P	C	T
T	F	Y	I	R	O	V	B	V	D	O	A	L	L	R
G	C	I	L	H	E	H	R	R	E	F	K	K	Y	O
E	E	E	G	I	O	H	E	V	A	L	U	E	S	N
V	G	B	P	L	M	N	A	V	S	W	P	N	S	G
A	S	I	I	S	I	A	K	F	B	R	G	B	Y	L
R	T	D	H	C	E	H	F	R	L	E	R	C	G	A
B	A	N	A	P	A	R	A	I	E	H	A	O	S	I
Y	R	R	E	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	N	L	L	C
T	D	T	P	R	V	O	T	N	D	A	D	D	Y	E
D	L	Y	B	U	A	K	U	D	H	F	P	B	O	P
E	B	B	E	S	T	P	E	D	G	R	A	P	C	S

The words appear UP, DOWN, BACKWARDS, and DIAGONALLY.
Find and circle each word.



From the CID

"My dad is stronger than your dad!" 12 year old Thomas said to his friends. An argument ensued regarding whose dad was strongest, richest, smartest, etc. Then the children began bragging about the important people their fathers knew. "My dad knows the mayor," one boy bragged. Another chimed in, "My dad knows a U.S. senator!" A third boy said, "My dad knows the governor!" Thomas didn't think his dad knew any important people. He didn't know what to say. Then he remembered that his dad would bring his mom and his two sisters to church every Sunday. His dad would often help with the worship service and sometimes remained afterwards to speak with the pastor. Thomas blurted out proudly, "My dad knows God!" The other boys were silent. Many people claim to know about God. But not nearly as many truly know God. To know about God means little. James 2:19 tells us that the devil knows that much! To know God is to know him as our Father and creator, and to rejoice that he knows us. To know God is to praise and honor him with our words and our actions. It is to believe what he says in the Bible, to frequently speak to Him in prayer, and to trust that through Jesus we are saved from sin and death.

Those who know God tell others about him. We do not brag about knowing God. Rather, we boast about all the wonderful things he has done and continues to do for us. This Father's Day, may we boast in the Lord and celebrate that we have a Father who loves us always and forever.

Rev. Jeff Harter

Trinity Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, June 4, 2023.

The Athanasian Creed, which was written by an anonymous author in the 5th century, is the Church's confession of the Holy Trinity. On Trinity Sunday, the Church proclaims the Christian faith through the words of the Athanasian Creed. "The Athanasian Creed declares that its teachings concerning the Holy Trinity and our Lord's incarnation are "the catholic faith." In other words, this is what the true Church of all times and all places has confessed. More than fifteen centuries later, the Church continues to confess this truth, confident that the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, has given Himself for our salvation."

If you are homebound, traveling, or otherwise unable to attend a service in person, KFUO Radio airs worship services throughout the church year. [Visit KFUO.org](http://KFUO.org) to view the schedule and listen to services.



June

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

4

Read
2 Kings 19:15-19.
Brainstorm ways to share God's Word across the globe.

5

Read
2 Kings 20:3.
What are some things that are good in God's sight?

6

Read
1 Chronicles 4:10.
Pray for God to protect all His children.

7

Read
Jonah 2:1-9.
Draw a picture of the story of Jonah.

8

Read
Psalm 42:3.
Memorize this verse.

9

Read
Psalm 42:5.
Choose a song to praise God with.

10

Read
Psalm 51:1-2.
Watch a video of the "Iodine Sin Illustration."

11

Read
Psalm 51:15.
Read through the liturgy of Morning Prayer.

12

Read
Psalm 77:1-3.
Set a timer and pray for 15 minutes.

13

Read
Psalm 77:16-20.
Draw what you hear in these verses.

14

Read
Psalm 86:11-13.
What does it mean to "fear God's name?"

15

Read
Matthew 6:9-13.
Read the section of Luther's Small Catechism on the Lord's Prayer.

16

Read
John 17:1-3.
Pray for someone who doesn't know the one true God.

17

Read
Luke 18:11-14.
Say: God, be merciful to me, a sinner!

18

Read
Luke 22:32.
Pray to God, asking that a specific friend would grow in his or her faith.

19

Read
Matthew 19:13.
Sing, "Jesus loves the little children!"

20

Read
Mark 14:32.
Go outside and find a place to pray alone.

21

Read
John 17:17.
Discuss what sanctify means.

22

Read
Ephesians 1:15-17.
Pray for wisdom from God for a decision you are making.

23

Read
Ephesians 1:18-23.
Pray for your church leaders.

24

Read
3 John 1.
Write a letter to someone receiving medical treatment.

25

Read
2 Corinthians 13:9.
Look up the definition of restoration.

26

Read
2 Thessalonians 3:5.
Pray for the person on your left.

27

Read
Philemon 1:4-7.
Pray for the faith of someone older than you.

28

Read
Romans 16:25-27.
Sing the Doxology.

29

Read
Galatians 1:3.
Memorize this prayer.

30

Read
Ephesians 3:14-19.
Pray that God would strengthen your spiritual life.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>28</div> <div>9am - Worship w/ 10:15am - Bible Study /</div>	<div>29</div> <div>Pastor Vacation</div>	<div>30</div> <div>8am - Staff Meeting 10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam</div>	<div>31</div> <div>9am - TOPS</div>	<div>1</div> <div>All Boards Meet in Prep 6:30pm - Board Meetings</div>	<div>2</div> <div>5pm - Worship w/</div>	<div>3</div>
<div>4</div> <div>9am - Worship w/ 10:15am - Bible Study /</div>	<div>5</div> <div>Pastor Vacation</div>	<div>6</div> <div>8am - Staff Meeting 10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam</div>	<div>7</div> <div>9am - TOPS</div>	<div>8</div> <div>6:30pm - Parish Planning</div>	<div>9</div> <div>5pm - Worship</div>	<div>10</div>
<div>11</div> <div>Pastor Vacation 9am - Worship 10:30am - Voters'</div>	<div>12</div> <div>Pastor Vacation 9am - Morning Prayer @</div>	<div>13</div> <div>8am - Staff Meeting 10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam</div>	<div>14</div> <div>9am - TOPS</div>	<div>15</div> <div>11:30am - Ladies</div>	<div>16</div> <div>5pm - Worship w/</div>	<div>17</div>
<div>18</div> <div>9am - Worship w/ 10:15am - Bible Study / 1pm - Dodge Reunion</div>	<div>19</div> <div>Informers Deadline 9am - Morning Prayer @</div>	<div>20</div> <div>8am - Staff Meeting 10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam</div>	<div>21</div> <div>9am - TOPS</div>	<div>22</div>	<div>23</div> <div>5pm - Worship</div>	<div>24</div>
<div>25</div> <div>9am - Worship 10:15am - Bible Study /</div>	<div>26</div> <div>9am - VBS</div>	<div>27</div> <div>8am - Staff Meeting 9am - VBS 6:30pm - Guitar Jam</div>	<div>28</div> <div>9am - TOPS 9am - VBS</div>	<div>29</div> <div>9am - VBS</div>	<div>30</div>	<div>1</div>



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

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

Walking in the Light of Christ!

Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday 8:30 am– 12 noon



Worship Schedule:

Saturday worship– 5:00pm

Sunday worship- 9:00am

10:15am– Sunday School
& Bible Study



St. John's in the summer sun