



# The Informer

May 2023

St. John's Lutheran Church

Volume 64 Issue 9

## From Pastor's Pen:

May 2023

*"Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart." (Luke 2:19)*

This being the month in which we celebrate mother's day, let us think about the mother of our Lord Jesus, Mary. Truly she was the most blessed among all women; favored by God to carry, bear, and nurture the very Son of God.

The Bible tells us that Mary took in all that was said about her child and all the life events through which He fulfilled His Heavenly Father's purpose. She treasured up the message of the angel, the words of her relative regarding the child she carried and what the Shepherds reported to her at His birth. She marveled at the words of Simeon, the beautifully holy life of her son and the divine wisdom, compassion and power she witnessed from him. She also pondered all these things in her heart as she considered that all of it was leading Him to the cross and to the piercing through of her own soul.

In some ways this is the joy and sorrow shared by all mothers. They are highly favored to be entrusted the care of God's children to carry, bear and nurture. They are blessed to treasure all the good things that are said of their child, along with the many moments and memories. They are given the high vocation of guiding their children in the way they should go; leading them to fulfill God's purpose. All along they ponder these things in their heart with prayer. Sadly, mothers also feel the piercing of their hearts when their children suffer. Unlike Mary, their hearts are often pierced when they see their children avoid the cross, fall away from the faith and wallow in sin.

It is easy to understand, in these last days, why it would be said, **"Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!"** Motherhood, while filled with many blessings, is also filled with many heartaches. I encourage you to consider this as you reach out to your own mother. Let her know how much you appreciate her love and sacrifice for you. Confess the heartaches that you may have caused her and seek her forgiveness for Jesus' sake. Tell her that you have treasured up all the memories, pondered them in your heart, and that you consider yourself blessed and favored by God to have her as your mother. And, of course, offer thanksgiving to God for so blessing you. Lift your mother, and all mothers, up in prayer for the difficult task they have been given. Pray also for those who have not been able to know either the joys or sorrows of motherhood, that they may find contentment in the state in which God has blessed them.

To all mothers I say, blessed and favored are you by God. Continue the faithful work that the Lord has given you in caring for the children He has entrusted to your keeping. Raise them up in the fear and admonition of the Lord. Teach them about God's loving purpose for them. Treasure every moment and ponder it all in your hearts as God's precious gift to you.

Happy Mother's Day!

*Pastor Umbarger*



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See The Informer  
IN COLOR  
On Our Website

## Vicar's View

### Pentecost and God's New Covenant

I think Pentecost deserves more attention. We know how important Easter is to our faith of course, and we would never forget about Christmas. But I think we forget sometimes how important Acts chapter 2 is to God's plan of salvation and why we celebrate Pentecost as a major holiday in the church. This chapter of Acts draws together so many pieces of the Old Testament story and shows how they lead to this moment when God's Spirit fills his Church like a new Temple: the Tower of Babel from Genesis 11, the 70 elders prophesying in Numbers 11, the prophecy of Joel 2 that Peter quotes, and so many more. I hope to bring some of them out in my Pentecost sermon!

But among the many interesting Old Testament connections of Pentecost is the connection between the covenant that God gave on Mt. Sinai and the new covenant that God promised to make with his people.

When God descended on Mt. Sinai in Exodus 19, there was thunder, lightning, loud trumpet blasts, and fire. That was when he gave Moses the Law and made his covenant with the people of Israel. But unfortunately, the Israelites immediately broke the covenant by worshipping the golden calf, and according to Exodus 32:28 this led to 3,000 people being put to death. That's a pretty tragic beginning for the old covenant.

But God promised through the prophet Jeremiah that he would one day make a "new covenant" with his people, in which he would forgive their sins and put his Holy Spirit within them so they could obey his Law from the heart. (Jer. 31:31-34)

So in 30 AD, Jesus' disciples and his mother were gathered for the Jewish Feast of Weeks, also known as Pentecost, which in Jesus' day was also a celebration of the giving of the covenant on Mount Sinai. And God's presence once again descended to earth accompanied with a loud noise and fire. This time, though, it took up residence in the assembled believers, not the top of a mountain. Those disciples started preaching about Jesus, and what was the result? "So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about **three thousand** souls." (Acts 2:41 ESV, emphasis added). The new covenant had been given, and it gave life to 3,000 people, where the old covenant had brought death to 3,000 people.

Because you have been baptized into that same Spirit, you are also a part of that new covenant people of God. Because of Pentecost, God's presence rests on you like it did on Mount Sinai so long ago. And you don't have to tremble with fear at the terrifying power of God like the Israelites, because God's covenant does not mean death for you, it means life forever. A Blessed Pentecost to all!



## Serving the Lord This Month:

### Ushers

Sat, May 6: Greg Burke, Chuck  
Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, &  
Larry Ripka  
Sun, May 7:  
Sat, May 13: Greg Burke, Chuck  
Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, &  
Larry Ripka  
Sun, May 14:  
Sat, May 20: Greg Burke, Chuck  
Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, &  
Larry Ripka  
Sun, May 21:  
Sat, May 27: Greg Burke, Chuck  
Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, &  
Larry Ripka  
Sun, May 28:

### Greeters

Sat, May 6:  
Sun, May 7: Susan Bowman and  
Nancy Davis  
Sat, May 13: Chuck & Bev Brokaw  
Sun, May 14:  
Sat, May 20:  
Sun, May 21: The Schmidt Family  
Sat, May 27: Chuck & Bev Brokaw  
Sun, May 28:

### Acolytes

Sun, May 7: Payton Braddy  
Sun, May 14: Aubree Medinger  
Sun, May 21: Easton Antolik  
Sun, May 28: Stratton Churchill



### Communion Assistants

**May 7:** Kevin McAnally  
**May 21:** Ralph Grotelueschen



### Altar Guild

Flo Moore  
&  
Margie Schaefer

### Eternal Candle

**May 7:** Karen Schmidt  
**May 14:** OPEN  
**May 21:** Karen Schmidt  
**May 28:** OPEN



### Flowers

**May 7:** John & Rhea Oakes, in honor of their anniversary  
**May 14:** Karen Schmidt in honor of Jim's birthday  
**May 21:** Dennis & Marsha  
Boarts, in memory of Chuck &  
Robyn Hanna  
**May 28:** OPEN





## Church News

### Birthdays

**May 1** – Jameson Nitz & Sharron Ripka

**May 2** – Hans VanRycke

**May 4** – Nancy Bonow

**May 6** – Alex Verschoore

**May 7** – John Davis

**May 8** – Nico Stone

**May 11** – Nicholas Kjera

**May 12** – Pastor Umbarger

**May 13** – Rachel Duffy

**May 14** – Mark Grotelueschen

**May 16** – Bob Scheer

**May 18** – Katherine Kirby & Kristian  
Umbarger

**May 19** – Kathy Herron &

Barbara Honert

**May 21** – Karen Hendricks &

Lindsey Rowe

**May 23** – Grant McManus

**May 25** – Kris McAnally & Patsy Mills

**May 26** – Brandon Descamps

**May 28** – Steven Bailey, David Busch,  
Keith Foehrkolb, & Kimberly  
Medina

**May 30** – Katie Aeillo & Bill Johnson Jr.

**May 31** – Adam Hess



### Weekly Attendance & Offerings

DATE	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
3/26/23	125	144
4/02/23	197	155
4/09/23	229– Easter	165
4/16/23	102	Easter– 265

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

### Membership Report

Deaths:

Lois Deal (04/19)

New Address:

Chuck & Bev Brokaw

2400 1st. St. A Drive

Moline, IL 61265

Transfer Out:

Sue Burmahl (Immanuel Lutheran, Davenport)

Beth Burmahl (Immanuel Lutheran, Davenport)



May 14th

## Church News

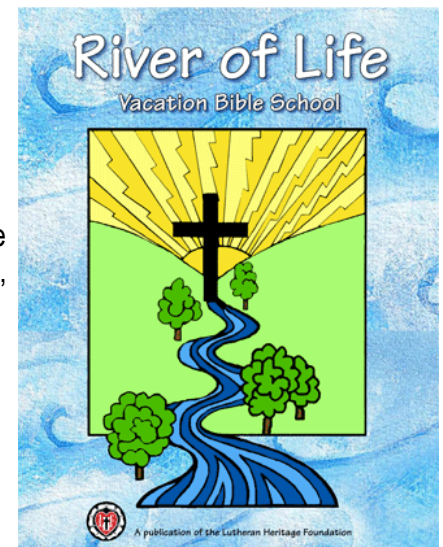
### LWML

Lutheran Women's Missionary League will be meeting Thursday, May 25 at 6:30 p.m. in the Janssen rooms. NOTE THE TIME CHANGE. Please join us as we help prepare crafts for VBS. We look forward to seeing YOU there.

### Vacation Bible School

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

It's time to plan for VBS 2023! We need several volunteers to make this a successful week. 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!



### Calling all graduates!

If your child is graduating from high school or college this spring, please let Annie know so we can recognize them! We need names, school graduating from, and the date of the ceremony. Feel free to include additional information such as: the college your grad plans to attend in the fall, majors/ minors, sports playing, awards/ honors, etc.!

### Flood Buckets Available

Spring is here and with spring sometimes comes floods. The Board of Human Care has put together flood buckets for anyone to use who has experienced a flood in their home; natural or accidentally man-made. These buckets contain all the basic household supplies needed to clean up a flood after the water has receded. We pray none of our St. John's family members experiences a flood this spring, but if you do (or you know someone that has) please let us know and we can provide the tools (and maybe even the people) to help clean it up.



## Thank you to everyone that purchased an Easter Lily!

### Member:

Flo Moore  
Lucille Perley  
Nancy Davis & Susan Bowman  
Rod and Noreen Hopkins  
Norm and Orene Antolik  
Dennis and Lois Kelly  
Chuck and Bev Brokaw  
Larry and Sharon Ripka  
Karen Schmidt  
John and Ruby Pancrazio  
The Belan Family  
James and Carole Vrbn  
Ron and Denise Rogers  
Lynne Suess  
Judy Dugan  
Steve and Rose Sullivan  
LouAnn DeRammeleare  
Troy and Val McDonald  
Dennis and Marsha Boarts  
Mary Whipple  
Steven & Diana Lackey  
Ken & Janet Hill  
Schmidt Family  
Howard & Anne Williams  
Barb Buck  
Mike Murphy  
William Schlotfeldt  
Glen & Lori McMillin  
Charlie & Joan Britton  
David & Paula Pratt  
Carole Krouth

### In Memory of:

Loved Ones  
Roger and Alan  
Don Davis & Family  
For God's Blessings  
Loved Ones  
Loved Ones  
Michael  
Parents and Jeffie  
Marlin and Jim  
Jim Pancrazio  
Ed Belan  
Loved Ones who have gone before  
Jeff & Jan  
Roy Suess and grandson Chase Weeks  
Loved Ones  
Our Parents  
Loved Ones  
Loved Ones  
Frank & Martha Boarts, Jim, Fern, Mark, Chuck, & Robyn  
David Whipple  
Loved Ones  
Our Parents  
  
Audrey Wehner  
Parents  
Bill & Doris Murphy, Cleon & Nancy Feemster  
Russell, Ardelle, & Ronnie  
Grateful for God's blessings  
  
Loved Ones



# Plant Sale Fundraiser

**May 15th - 21st, 2023**

**Silvis HyVee Outdoor  
Garden Center**



***THIS FLYER REQUIRED WITH PURCHASE***

10% of your purchase benefits  
St. John's Food Pantry

Includes ALL outdoor garden center merchandise  
(plants, mulch, lawn ornaments, etc.)

-----Cut here & return lower portion to St. John's -----  
St. John's Lutheran Church Food Pantry  
1450 30th Avenue, East Moline, IL 61244

Plant Sale Fundraiser  
May 15 - 21, 2023

Total Sale \$\_\_\_\_\_

## Notes from the Balcony

May is the month of graduations. From cute preschool graduations to high school to college to seminary and beyond, there is a lot of celebrating to be done in May. The graduation I remember most is my high school graduation. It took place in the gym of a small-town high school in northern Wisconsin. My dad got to say the prayer since I was the valedictorian. I had no idea what I wanted to study in college because I had so many interests, but I do remember saying when asked about future studies, "Anything but teaching." That is pretty humorous since I realized in college that elementary teaching is a job that makes use of many interests and I have been teaching in some form ever since.

While graduations are full of excitement and happy expectations, they also carry the element of the unexpected. What will this next chapter of life be like? It will certainly be a lot different than this past chapter has been. Graduations and other life changes are a great time to remember that there is Someone who has and will continue to walk beside us no matter what the road ahead is like.

The hymn *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*, LSB 770, is a favorite hymn of a couple of our St. John's members and many other Christians. It is a good reminder of the One who always loves us and is with us, especially in the most difficult times. Written by Joseph M. Scriven (1819-1886), the text of this hymn conveys the emotions of someone who has suffered on his road in life. He was born in Ireland and suffered illnesses as a child. His first fiancée drowned the night before his wedding in 1843 and his second fiancée died of pneumonia in 1860. At the age of 25, he emigrated to Canada to preach for the Plymouth Brethren. It was his habit to be generous in both his actions and deeds.

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus* was a poem written in 1855 to comfort his mother who was ill back in Ireland. It has been a comfort to countless Christians through the known and unknown territories of life since.

- 1 What a Friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what a needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer!
- 2 Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged,  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness,  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
- 3 Are we weak and heavy-laden,  
Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge-  
Take it to the Lord in prayer;  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee:  
Take it to the Lord in prayer;  
In His arms, He'll take and shield thee,  
Thou wilt find a solace there.

In His care,

Christine Engebrecht





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
		10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam	9am - TOPS 10am - Midweek Bible 6pm - Chimes	5pm - BHC Choir 6:30pm - Board Meetings		8am - Mens Bible Study 8:30am - BHC Choir 8:30am - Blood Drive 9:30am - Adult Choir 5pm - Worship w/
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9am - Worship w/ 10:15am - Bible Study /	9am - Morning Prayer @ 1pm - Staff Mtg. 6:30pm - Heavenly	10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam	9am - TOPS 1:30pm - Food Pantry	11:15am - Kennys Pest 5pm - BHC Choir Event	7pm - Youth Lock Up	8am - Mens Bible Study 9:30am - Adult Choir 5pm - Worship
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9am - Worship 10:15am - Bible Study /	Informers Deadline 9am - Morning Prayer @ 1pm - Staff Mtg. 6:30pm - Heavenly	10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam	9am - TOPS	11:30am - Ladies		8am - Mens Bible Study 5pm - Worship w/
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9am - Worship w/ 10:15am - Bible Study / 11:30am - Endowment	9am - Morning Prayer @ 1pm - Staff Mtg. 6:30pm - Heavenly	10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam	9am - TOPS	6:30pm - LVMML		8am - Mens Bible Study 12pm - Private Event 5pm - Worship
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
9am - Worship 10:15am - Bible Study /	9am - Morning Prayer @ 1pm - Staff Mtg. 6:30pm - Heavenly	10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam	9am - TOPS			



## St. John's Lutheran Church

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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

10:15am– Sunday School  
& Bible Study

## Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday 8:30 am– 12 noon



*Inside our Sanctuary.*