



January 2025

The Informer

St. John's Lutheran Church of East Moline, IL

Volume 67 Issue 5



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When the Lord your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied, be careful that you do not forget the Lord..." (Deuteronomy 6:10-12a)

Dear Friends in Christ,

Recently, I was on a call with someone who wanted to get the congregation signed up for a member or donor engagement program. When he asked about our average worship attendance and membership he was shocked and I was embarrassed. Our average worship attendance is around 150 and our rostered membership is about 500. This sad statistic led me to think about the spiritual lives of our members and the future of our congregation. As we enter into this new year, I am calling upon all of you as God's people to make a change. I want you to consider all of the good gifts that God has showered upon you and so recenter your lives and realign your priorities.

In his explanation to the First Article of the Creed Luther writes: *I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.*

First of all, this should remind us to always be aware that all we have is a gift from our Heavenly Father; one that is offered purely out of His love for us. Secondly, we should take to heart those words: "For all this it is my **duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.**" Now, I ask you, how well are you doing at that?

Unfortunately, throughout the ages God's people have not had a very good track record with this. In Deuteronomy 6, Moses reminded the people of the good gifts they were receiving from God and warned them not to forget the Lord. We all know how that went, right? It did not take long for them to take their blessings for granted, to imagine they had secured all these things on their own, and to forget the Lord. This pattern continued when after settling in the land they built for themselves beautiful houses and went about their business while God continued to live in a tent. It happened again when after returning from exile they took more interest in their own affairs and resettling themselves than they did in rebuilding God's house and returning to worship.

Unfortunately, this pattern continues among God's people today. We are richly blessed in so many ways, yet while looking fondly into our horns of plenty we forget the Lord. We forget that all we have is a gracious gift from His Fatherly goodness and mercy. We forget that it is our duty to thank and praise Him all the time. We forget that our lives and everything He has given us is for the purpose of serving and obeying Him. Shame on us!

What do you think we deserve for being such spoiled and ungrateful children? Should He take it all away and give it to those who will appreciate it? Should He disown us and cut us off from our inheritance? Yes, and even worse. Yet, that is not what He does. He does not give us what we deserve but gives us a greater, even His best, gift. He gives us

Walking in the
Light of Christ!

His Son, born of Mary, to be our Savior. His Son is the One who continuously gave thanks and praise to His Father in heaven. He sacrificed everything to perfectly serve and obey the Father for us. Then He took the punishment that we, the spoiled and ungrateful children, deserved. After rising from the dead, He poured out the Holy Spirit to offer us the gift of saving faith.

So, what is going to be our response to this? Well, first of all, let us acknowledge all the gifts that He gives us. Then, instead of being spoiled and ungrateful children, let us thank and praise, serve and obey Him. And let us do it not out of duty, but in faith do it out of love for the One who first loved us. This year and for the rest of our lives let us remember the Lord, return to receive His gifts and offer Him thanks and praise, and commit our lives to serving and obeying Him.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Ymbarger



Deaconess' Desk

A few months ago, the Central Illinois District newsletter, The GatePost, published a well written article about deaconesses. This article gave a general overview of what a deaconess is, the history of deaconess training and service in our Synod, and how she may function within the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. I thought I would take this opportunity to share more information on this role, especially from the perspective of an aspiring deaconess for the LCMS.

I have read the history and am familiar with the journey that the deaconess program has taken in the past (a great book for this is *In the Footsteps of Phoebe* by Cheryl Naumann), but I would specifically like to share my personal reflections and experiences undergoing education and formation through classes at Concordia Theological Seminary - Ft. Wayne and in my internship here at St. John's.

Spanning three years, the deaconess program through CTSFW focuses heavily on the cultivation of virtues within their students. Patience, hospitality, compassion, wisdom, and humility are at the center of the formation of deaconess students and are an essential part of the foundation for learning and interacting with others.

In the first two years of study, the program strikes a balance between intellectual rigor and practical application. The classes span many different topics, Exegetical Theology (studying the Scriptures), Systematics (studying the Lutheran Confessions), Church History, and practical classes that handle counseling, grief and loss, sickness and death, ethics, and teaching the faith. Along with the classes, there is fieldwork education and mentoring that take place to begin the hands-on aspect of the program.

Following the completion of classwork, all students are assigned an internship based on their specific strengths. All internships are designed to be the final step in formal education, giving the students opportunities to apply what they have learned to the "real world". Here at St. John's, I have been given the opportunity to work closely with the boards of human care and youth and family, I regularly visit our shut-ins, and I teach two classes - 5th grade confirmation and Wednesday Ladies' Bible study. All of these opportunities highlight the versatility of the role and ultimately focus on member care and human care at large.

Though there are countless ways a deaconess can be used, the virtues listed above make a deaconess specifically suited for positions of service and support. If you would like more information about the role of a deaconess or the deaconess program, I would be happy to provide more resources or answer any questions.

Blessing to you all and Happy New Year!

Deaconess Bower

Serving the Lord this Month

Ushers

Sat, Jan 4: Greg Burke, Rick Newlon, Larry Ripka, and Todd Miller
Sun, Jan 5: Glen McMillin
Sat, Jan 11: Greg Burke, Rick Newlon, Larry Ripka, and Todd Miller
Sun, Jan 12:
Sat, Jan 18: Greg Burke, Rick Newlon, Larry Ripka, and Todd Miller
Sun, Jan 19: Glen McMillin
Sat, Jan 25: Greg Burke, Rick Newlon, Larry Ripka, and Todd Miller
Sun, Jan 26: Rod Hopkins

Greeters

Sat, Jan 4: Chuck Brokaw
Sun, Jan 5: Kathy McDowell
Sat, Jan 11: Chuck Brokaw
Sun, Jan 12: Kathy McDowell
Sat, Jan 18: Chuck Brokaw
Sun, Jan 19: Kathy McDowell
Sat, Jan 25: Chuck Brokaw
Sun, Jan 26: Kathy McDowell

Acolytes

(Sundays only)
Sun, Jan 5: Sloane Churchill
Sun, Jan 12: Joel Duffy
Sun, Jan 19: John Kjera
Sun, Jan 26: Nathan Duffy



Communion Assistants

Sun, Jan 5: Jim Homann and Jonathan Schmidt
Sun, Jan 19: Dennis Boarts and Kevin McAnally



Altar Guild

Eternal Candle

Jan 5: Flo & Danny Moore, in memory of Jacob's birthday
Jan 12:
Jan 19:
Jan 26:



Flower Chart

Jan 5: Flo & Danny Moore, in memory of Jacob's birthday
Jan 12: Ruby Pancrazio
Jan 19:
Jan 26:



BIRTHDAYS

Jan. 3 - Judy Dugan
Jan. 4 - Donna Green & Leona Flaugh
Jan. 6 - James Hinman & John Iwen
Jan. 7 - Stratton Churchill
Jan. 11 - Bonnie McManus, Brantley McKay, & Jerry Hill
Jan. 12 - Jason Cass, Shane Parvin, & Aubree Medinger,
Jan. 14 - Duane Little, Clark Stojan, & Lynne Suess
Jan. 15 - Chloe Hewitt
Jan. 16 - Brent Antolik and Evelyn Conduff
Jan. 18 - David Cashion & Angie VanRycke
Jan. 20 - Lori Borkgren & Melissa Nickens

Jan. 21 - Alex Hansen, Marissa Keogh & Matthew Ryan
Jan. 22 - Rebecca Hinman
Jan. 23 - Lee Weathers
Jan. 24 - Tyler Belan, Carl Blaser, Amber Mattly & Willy Schlotfeldt,
Jan. 25 - Lilith Hinman & Jennifer Johnson
Jan. 26 - Liz Cockerill & Adam Homann
Jan. 27 - Pam Sims
Jan. 28 - Deaconess Bower



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Marriages:

Markus Murphy and Aliza Stone (12/28)

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

Date	This Year	Last Year
11/28/24	117	119 (Thanksgiving Eve)
12/01/24	122	139
12/08/24	133	131
12/15/24	121	167
12/22/24	168	120
12/24/24	203	189
12/25/24	55	40

Percentage of St. John's in Attendance: 28%

Church News

LWML - Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Is an auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

DATES to MARK

Thursday, January 16 - LWML Meeting at 1:00 pm in the Janssen rooms. We will be making simple Valentine Cards for the shut-ins. Please join us and learn more about LWML and what will be happening in 2025.

This month we are spotlighting two of the organizations that have received national LWML grants.



2023-2025 Mission Grant No. 7

MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING AND OUTREACH

LCMS Life Ministry | \$96,500

There is a need and opportunity for Lutheran outreach to people struggling with mental illnesses and disorders. However, it is challenging for pastors, church workers and lay leaders because they do not have enough training to provide effective and appropriate care. LCMS Life Ministry received an LWML Mission Grant of \$96,500 to help meet the cost of developing materials for training church workers as they minister to those suffering from mental illnesses.

To learn more, visit www.lwml.org/2023-2025-mission-grant-7.

2023-2025 Mission Grant No. 8

EXPANDING GOSPEL PROCLAMATION WORLDWIDE

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri | \$100,000

Concordia Seminary is committed to addressing the concern of educating international students from countries that are unable to handle the significant financial obligation. This education will help to ensure that those living in every region of their nations will hear and learn the message of salvation through Christ. An LWML Mission Grant will provide scholarship aid for international students. To learn more, look up this mission grant at www.lwml.org/2023-2025-mission-grant-8.

Church News

OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2025 offering envelopes are available in the concourse. Please pick up your envelopes, but DO NOT use them until January 1, 2025. On January 1, discard any 2024 envelopes that you have left over and start to use the new 2025 envelopes.

Note that your envelope number may not be the same next year as it was this year. Therefore, it is important to use the proper envelopes in order to get credit for your offering. Those who did not pick up their envelopes for 2024 will not be assigned envelopes for 2025 unless you request them. A sheet will be on the table for you to request envelopes if you do not find yours in the boxes.

We encourage youth and teens to tithe also and will gladly give them envelopes upon request.



*Note to all Snowbirds—if you would like your year-end offering statements mailed to you at your winter residence, please contact the Financial Secretary or church office with the address you want the statement sent.

2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The 2024 financial statements will soon be available to pick up in the concourse. You will need this for filing your taxes. If you need yours mailed to you, please let Kay or Annie know.

SIMPLY GIVING

If you would be interested in giving your offering electronically, we can do that! It is called Simply Giving, and it is so very simple to do. There is a form in the office to fill out, which would allow you to select a checking or savings account, the amount, and the schedule for which you would like to debit the account (weekly, monthly, yearly). You can set it up however works best for you. You can also edit the information at any time as needed. See the office or Kay Iwen if you need any help or have any questions.

Church News

FELLOWSHIP FRIDAYS

The 2nd Friday of every month is Fellowship Friday!

Join us on Friday, January 10th in the Activities room for pizza and playing games. Please bring a snack to share.



FOOD PANTRY

The food pantry has had a very busy couple of months.

For the month of November, they provided boxes of groceries to 210 households, comprised of 645 individuals with 216 children! The week of Thanksgiving, they served 75 families! We also gave out special Thanksgiving baskets to 6 families that were nominated by a church member.

For the month of December (to date) , our food pantry has served 165 families, with 520 individuals, including 205 children! We also gave out 7 baskets to nominated families for Christmas.

With one more week to go in the year, we have already served 200 more families than we did last year, and have more than doubled families served since 2023!

2023: Families Served: 1468
2024 (to date) Families Served: 1853

The food pantry is not just open to the community- if you are a member and could use a little help, please know that we would like to assist you. All you have to do is call the church office on Monday between 8:30am-noon, tell Marsha you would like to be put on the pick up list, and come on Tuesday between 10:00am-noon. You don't even have to get out of your car! Just drive around to the ramp door on the east side of the building and the volunteers will bring it out to you.

Thank you to all of our dedicated volunteers and donors! Without you, none of this would be possible.



Church News

**Thank you to everyone that purchased a poinsettia this year!
The sanctuary looked beautiful!**

Bill and Donna Green	Blessings	2
Lynne Suess	In memory of Roy and grandson Chase	2
Kathy McDowell	In memory of Dan and Patricia Morgan	2
Carole Krouth		1
Norm and Orene Antolik	In memory of Loued Ones	1
Brian and Christine Engebretsch	In memory of our dads	2
Dennis and Margie Schaefer		1
Tim and Tamee Stone	In memory of Loued Ones	3
Rhea Oakes	In memory of Devin and Martin	2
LouAnn DeRammelaere	In memory of Helen Carter	1
Mary Whipple	In memory of David Whipple, husband and father	1
Ken and Janet Hill	In memory of our parents	1
Judy Dugan	In memory of Terry Dugan Jack Passman Tayler Rusk And loued ones	2
Ruby Pancrazio	In memory of John and Jim Pancrazio	1
Flo Moore	In memory of Loued Ones	1
Dennis and Marsha Boarts	In memory of Loued Ones	2
Kathy Herron	In memory of Loued Ones	1
Sharon DeWulf	In memory of Dick DeWulf	1
JoAnn Sager	In memory of Gary Sager	1
Joyce Hoffman	In memory of Paul Hoffman	1
Chuck & Beu Brokaw	In memory of Michael	1
Karen Schmidt	In memory of Marlin & Jim	2
Dennis & Lois Kelly		1
Janet Wachs	In memory of Ed & Tommy	1
Barb Buck	In memory of parents, sister: Ken & Betty Erickson, Ruth & Merlyn Buck, and Linda Gabhart	1
Steve & Diana Lackey	In memory of Loued Ones	1
Sandy Young	In memory of Loued Ones	1
Nancy Davis & Susan Bowman	In memory of Don Davis And family	2
Rod & Noreen Hopkins	In memory of Loued Ones	1
Belan Family	In memory of Ed Belan	1
Ralph & Norma Grotelueschen	In memory of our parents	1
Steve & Rose Sullivan	In memory of our parents	1
Troy & Val McDonald	In memory of All Loued Ones	1



Voter's Assembly 12/15/2024

BOARD OF ELDERS RESOLUTION 2024-01

WHEREAS, Reverend Kent Umbarger has faithfully served St. John's Lutheran Church, East Moline, Illinois since December 1995; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Umbarger intends to retire as the shepherd of this congregation in July 2025; and

WHEREAS, in Section VI Par. F.4.c.vi of the Bylaws of the Constitution of St John's Lutheran Church, East Moline, Illinois states that it is the responsibility of Board of Elders to initiate steps whereby the congregation gathers call lists and calls a full-time worker when a vacancy occurs; and

WHEREAS, during the December 5, 2024, Board of Elders Meeting, the Elders approved initiating steps to create a call committee to call a new pastor to shepherd the congregation at St John's Lutheran Church, East Moline, Illinois,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Voter's Assembly of St. John's Lutheran Church, East Moline, Illinois hereby approve the creation of a call committee to begin the call process, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the call committee shall consist of the Chairman of Board of Elders, the Chairman of the Congregation and up 5 members-at-large from the congregations, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of Board of Elders and Chairman of the Congregation will select the remaining call committee members with the approval by the Executive Board given at a regular board meeting.

Approved: (Date)

Rod Hopkins
Congregational President
St. John's Lutheran Church

James Homann
Chairman, Board of Elders
St. John's Lutheran Church

Voter's Assembly

12/15/2024

2025 Elected Officers

Executive Board

President: Brian Engebrecht
Vice President: Jeff Belan
Secretary: Diana Lackey
Treasurer: Norm Antolik
Assistant Treasurer: Stevee Antolik
Financial Secretary: Kay Iwen
Assistant Financial Sec.: Margie Schaefer

Board of Human Care

Susan Bowman
Jill Schofield
Rod Hopkins
Steve VanRycke
Dennis VanRycke

Board of Elders

Dennis Boarts
Ralph Grotelueschen
Jim Homann
Brian Kern
Kevin McAnally
Glen McMillin
Jonathan Schmidt

Board of Youth and Family*

Kris McAnally
Cris Braddy
Rebecca Hinman
Holly Belan
Kami Seller
Rachel Kjera

Board of Outreach

Charlie Britton
Joan Britton
Larry Dodge
Rose Sullivan
Steve Sullivan

Board of Trustees

Brent Antolik
Evan Antolik
Zack Antolik
Charles Brokaw
Bill Girard
Ken Hill
Larry Hipple
Todd Miller
Flo Moore
Brian Nielsen
Tim Stone

ALL BOARDS WILL MEET ON JANUARY 2nd AT 6:30PM. This is your first meeting with your 2025 slates, so please plan to attend!

Voter's Assembly 12/15/2024

St. John's Lutheran Church
Voters Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2024

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:25 a.m. by president, Rod Hopkins.
2. President Hopkins presented the slate of officers and board members for 2025. Kevin McAnally made a motion to accept the slate as printed. Kris McAnally seconded. Motion passed.
3. President Hopkins said we need to elect a lay delegate and alternate to the CID Convention in July. President Hopkins reported Jim Homann would be willing to go as delegate and he could serve as alternate. Since there were no other nominations from the floor, Dennis Boarts made a motion to send Jim Homann as the lay delegate and Rod Hopkins as alternate. Motion was seconded by Kevin McAnally. Motion passed.
4. Kevin McAnally presented Resolution 2024-01 from the Board of Elders. This would start the call process for a new pastor and for creating a Call Committee which would include Jim Homann, Chairman of Board of Elders and Brian Engebrecht, Chairman of the Congregation. The Chairmen will select the 5 members-at-large to be approved by the Executive Board to serve on the call committee. Dennis Boarts made a motion to accept the Resolution. Kris McAnally seconded. Motion passed. Kevin mentioned that the President of CID would be here on Sunday February 16th to discuss the call process. There will be no service on Saturday night. All members are encouraged to attend the service and meeting after.
5. Norm Antolik, treasurer, presented the budget for 2025. Brian Engebrecht made a motion to accept the budget as printed. Steve Sullivan seconded. Motion passed.
Norm reported we have \$2300 dollars to be sent to missions. In the past we have split evenly between Armed Forces Ministry, Bethesda (now AbleLight) and Bible Translators. Evan Antolik made a motion to give the same this year. Discussion followed. Evan amended motion to include the Pittman Ministry. Rod Hopkins seconded. Motion passed.
6. Pastor Umbarger said we need to send in a nomination for CID President. Since there were no nominations from the floor, Pastor Umbarger made a motion to nominate current president Rev. Michael W. Mohr. Dennis Boarts Seconded. Motion Passed.
7. No other business. Rod closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.
Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

We very much appreciate all members who attended the Voter's meeting.

Respectively submitted by Diana Lackey, Date: December 15, 2024

From the CID

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship Newsletter Article – January 2025

Repenting of “Feasts that Know No Fast”

Fresh off the Christmas season and the retail frenzy that accompanies it, January brings a shot of frigid air into the lives of the people we know and love. This is not a meteorological statement either. While it is true that January is one of the colder months for those in North America, the cold front blast that hits us is the full force of credit card spending that fueled the retail frenzy. The bills for the gifts, the parties, the food and the travel have now come due. The credit card makes things convenient, but it also requires more discipline than many can muster. When the bills come in January for December’s celebration, it really puts a damper on things.

Congregations often make the same mistake in stewardship. We often charge forward in doing what we always do or starting new endeavors without counting the cost. But at the end of the month, or the end of year, when the bill comes due, the red ink on the congregational balance sheet smacks the people in the face like a stiff north wind in January. We hunker down. We circle the wagons. We start to panic. The work of the Gospel suffers.

The fifth verse of “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788) addresses this January situation. The words penned by William Watkins Reid are very needful for us to hear as we start a new year, while dealing with the bills of past efforts and expense.

“Forgive us, Lord for feast that knows not fast ...” This hits us hard, doesn’t it? We love when the money is flowing, the parties are going, and things are getting bigger and better. But there is a time in life, and most especially in our spiritual disciplines, that we need to fast. The purpose of a fast is to step back, lay something aside for a time, and replace it with meditation on Scripture and prayer. This is designed to keep us from turning something that may well be good into an idol that separates us from the God who loves us in Christ.

“For joy in things that meanwhile starve the soul ...” In “The Parable of the Sower,” we hear Jesus talk about how the worries and cares of life choke out the growth of the seed of the Word that was planted. We know how this happens in our lives. Professional and youth sports do this. Materialism does this. Travel and leisure and do this. There is a list of things that we enjoy that starve the soul.

But it also happens in our congregations. When corporate stewardship is not managed in a responsible way, it can and does destroy individual stewardship. Is it good individual stewardship to support a ministry that doesn’t take its corporate responsibility seriously?

“For walls and wars that hide your mercies vast and blur our vision of the Kingdom goal.” This is the ultimate end of the idolatry of failed stewardship. We build walls between believers within the church and hamper those who are outside from coming to the Light of Life that is Jesus. The wars we fight over money and its impact on ministry do the same. It eventually blurs our vision of what we are here to do: share the Good News of Jesus. When the wintry blast of January hits us in this fashion, we are called to repent.

When the Holy Spirit uses the cold front of the call to repentance, we meet the God who forgives and restores. That is what He does for individual and corporate stewards. When the bills hit, they call us back to Jesus. He is the One who indeed forgives us our shallow thankfulness and leads us into the bounty of His mercy yet again.

CID BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Review Report - 11/26/24

Rev. Mark Eddy called the meeting to order. The opening devotion led by Rev. Burdick on Psalm 67 gave thanksgiving to God that we are not self-reliant but completely dependent on God blessing us through Jesus Christ.

Our Mission Presentation recounted the history of CID Deaf Ministry, giving thanks to Pastor Tom Phillips who served as our District pastor for Deaf Ministry until he was called to Michigan. In Nov. Rev. John Reinke from St. Louis led his first Deaf Ministry Service in CID at Good Shepherd, Sherman, a midway point between two points of District-wide deaf parish. During this transition phase, there is a potential of a growing number of people to serve in CID Deaf Ministry.

President Mohr reviewed current pastoral vacancies and CID's historic practice of sharing pastors between congregations. Reports were given updating CEF, Gift Planning, Congregational Life, Education, Evangelism, Stewardship, and Mission.

The 2025 Dollars for Mission Projects were approved for:

1. \$25,000 Masonry/tuckpointing at University Lutheran Church, Champaign
2. \$2,600 parking lot closure devices and camera installation, Immanuel Lutheran Student Center, Macomb
3. \$1,000 water heater for Cristo Rey, East Moline (if not done in 2024)
4. \$6,000 refurbish seating in library and game room and technology in game room, Immanuel Lutheran Student Center, Macomb

Total: \$34,600

It was resolved to adopt the 2025 CID budget, with an income of \$1,957,130.12 and \$2,249,765.76 in expenses, yielding a difference of -\$292,635.64.

After reviewing the ten-year upgrade and repair schedule for District mission sites as well as needed upgrade at district properties, it was resolved to form a sub-committee to choose a fundraising company to oversee a feasibility study starting no later than February 1, so that, if at all possible, the funding campaign would hold a kick off District wide funding campaign at the July 2025 CID Convention for the purpose of caring for the ten-year projected needs of upgrades and repairs of all District properties and using money raised beyond this to be divided and placed into the endowments of each one of the missions under CID's oversight.

The next CID Board of Directors meeting was set for Jan. 28th, 2025, 9am.

Stir Up

[S]tir up your might and come to save us! Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved! (Psalm 80:2b–3)

Our God is a God of action. He heard the cries of His people, and He sent a Savior.

A friend of mine at the Seminary would refer to this time of year as "Aunt Jemima" time. (This was before the recent rebranding of the popular ready-made pancake mix.) Three of the four collects for the Advent Season begin with the phrase, "Stir up, O Lord, ..." As our sight is turned forward in anticipation of our Lord's return, as we remember the coming of our Lord in the flesh, rejoice that it is our Lord who has accomplished this work of salvation for you. *Not your reason, not your strength, but God's power and might, moved by His love. God has stirred, and you are saved.*

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (Collect for Advent 4)

St John's Lutheran 2025 Approved Budget**Income:****Offerings**

Investment Inc/Interest

Rent

St. John's Lutheran Church East Moline, IL

Jan 2025 (Central Time - Chicago)

St. John's Lutheran Church
1450 30th Ave.
East Moline, IL 61244



Phone: (309)792-0755
Email: office@stjohnsem.org
Web: www.stjohnsem.org

See The Informer
IN COLOR
On Our Website



Worship Times

Saturday 5:00pm
Sunday 9:00am
Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:15am

Office Hours

Monday- Wednesday:
8:30am-2:00pm
Closed 12-1pm for lunch
Thursdays: 8:30am-noon



St. John's in Winter Snow