

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Welcome to our guests.** We are glad you have joined us in worshipping our Lord and Savior. We trust you will draw strength, peace, and hope as together we hear God's Word spoken here today. So that we may serve you better, we ask that you fill out a yellow attendance card located on the back of the pew, including your address and noting that you are a visitor.

**ETERNAL CANDLE** This warm, steady glow, encourages us to offer our thanks to our faithful Lord and God especially for all who serve in special ways such as acolytes and ushers, and those who meet and greet us at church and thus make our worship more meaningful.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** The flower bouquet that adorns the Altar is from the Altar Guild.

**ALTAR FLOWERS AND ETERNAL CANDLES** The charts to sign up for flowers and candles are hanging in the Narthex. There are MANY open dates available for you to sign up for special occasions or memorials. There are envelopes located on the counter right below the charts. Flowers are \$25, candles are \$6; please make checks payable to Altar Guild.

**STEWARSHIP THOUGHTS** *Matthew 5:17 – “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”* We cannot keep the Law of God perfectly. We are sinners. For us to be saved, Jesus had to fulfill the Law in our place so that the threat of the Law is abolished and the Law itself is upheld. Now, in Christ, we do desire to fulfill the Law, to live out a godly Christian life, precisely because we are so full of thanksgiving toward God for His salvation in Christ.

**SUPER CEREAL BOWL CHALLENGE** Bring in a box of cereal and place it on the table (in the concourse) of the team you think will win this year's Super Bowl. All donations will benefit the food pantry. Good luck!

**PRAYER CHAIN** We have had a member express interest in getting the prayer chain going again. If anyone would be interested in reviving this group, please let the office know. If there is sufficient interest, we can work on re-establishing this.

**SIGN LANGUAGE CLASS** Sign language classes are here again! Word of God Lutheran Church at St. Matthew Lutheran Church will offer free beginning sign language classes on Tuesday evenings, 7:30-8:30 pm, at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 115 W. 12th Ave., Milan, Illinois. The emphasis will be on conversational sign language. Classes will run ten weeks, from Jan. 20 – March 24, and are open to the entire community. Pre-registration is not required. For more information, please call Rev. Tim Eckert, 563-359-7105, or e-mail him at [iowaeastdeaf@yahoo.com](mailto:iowaeastdeaf@yahoo.com).

**SECURE SHRED** The confidential shred bins are located at the vestibule by the office doors. Bring your documents up anytime during office hours to safely dispose of your sensitive information.

**UPCOMING PAINT WORK** Beginning the week of Feb. 2nd, we will be having all of our interior doors painted. Please be aware of the wet paint as this project is in progress!

**BRIDAL SHOWER** Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 14th! The honor of your presence is requested at a Bridal Shower for Kimberly Bower, who is marrying Caleb Engebrecht this spring, in Colorado. All are welcome from 2-4pm in the gym/ Janssen rooms as we celebrate this special union of two of our own! Please sign-up at the Sign-Up Station so we can plan accordingly.

**CALL NOMINATIONS DEADLINE** Remember, any nominations you would like to make towards our next pastoral call candidates list need to be submitted to the Office by Sunday, February 15th. There are green slips and a manilla envelope on the table in the office.

## Pray For Our Central Illinois District Missions, supported by your church's Mission Dollars to the District.

Dear Father, we pray Thee, give us Thy Word, that the Gospel may be sincerely preached throughout the world and that it may be received by faith and may work and live in us. So we pray that Thy kingdom may prevail among us through the Word and the power of the Holy Spirit, that the devil's kingdom may be overthrown and he may have no right or power over us, until finally the devil's kingdom shall be utterly destroyed and sin, death, and hell exterminated, and that we may live forever in perfect righteousness and blessedness (from Luther's Large Catechism).

**Saturday, February 7th, 2026**  
**Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**  
**Vespers**

Prelude	
<b>“Thy Strong Word...”</b>	<b>578</b>
Opening Versicles	229
Psalms (see <i>Cream Insert</i> )	
<b>“Jesus Sat with...”</b>	<b>932</b>
Readings (See <i>Cream Insert</i> )	
Responsory	230
<b>“O Morning Star...”</b>	<b>395</b>
Sermon	
Pastor Astrowski	
Canticle	
<b>“We Praise You...”</b>	<b>941</b>
Prayer	
Kyrie, Lord's Prayer, Collects	233
Benedicamus and Benediction	234
<b>“Praise and Thanksgiving”</b>	<b>789</b>
Postlude	

## The Lord's Week

### Sunday, February 8th

9:00am– Worship  
10:30am– Bible Study/Sunday school  
10:30am– Confirmation Instruction

### Monday, February 9th

1:30pm– Activities Room– dominoes  
6:00pm– Cherub Chimers rehearsal  
6:30pm– Heavenly Ringers rehearsal

### Tuesday, February 10th

10:00am- Food Pantry  
6:00pm– Altar Guild meeting  
6:30pm– Guitar Jam

### Wednesday, February 11th

9:00am– TOPS  
10:00am– Women's Bible study  
1:30pm– Activities room-dominoes  
3:30pm– Fellowship Committee meeting

### Friday, February 13th

6:30pm– 2nd Friday Fellowship

### Saturday, February 14th

8:00am– Men's Bible study  
9:30am– Choir rehearsals  
2:00pm– Bridal Shower for Kimberly Bower  
5:00pm– Worship w/Communion  
(Pastor Nerud)

### Sunday, February 15th

9:00am– Worship w/Communion  
10:30am– Bible Study/Sunday school  
10:30am– Confirmation Instruction

### Wednesday, February 18th

ASH WEDNESDAY  
5:30pm– Lenten Supper  
6:30pm– Worship

## Bible Study Opportunities

### Sundays, 10:15am

Join Pastor Anderson in the Janssen rooms following worship- we are studying the Acts of the Apostles, looking at the beginnings of the Christian Church, and how the Church two millennia later still bears the imprint of that first Church.

### Holy Land Geography, Customs & History

Join Clark Stojan in the Keyl room, as he leads us to explore the world of the Bible along with select events recorded in Scripture.

**Coffee with Christ– Myth or Faith?** There are plenty of misconceptions about Christianity in today's society. From false rumors to biblical teachings that are heavily distorted from their subject matter, there's no lack of myths to find. Do you know how to respond to them? More importantly, do you know the **truth** backed up by God's Word and teachings?

### Wednesdays, 10am

Beginning Wednesday, February 18th, we will begin using the *"Lenten Bible Studies for God's Stewards"* by Ronald J. and Phyllis J. Chewning. These Bible studies are based on the readings in Psalms as printed in the lectionaries for Lent.

### Saturdays, 8am

#### *Men's Bible study*

We are doing a chronological study of the Gospel.

### Weekly Memory Verse

#### *James 4:17*

*So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.*

### Serving the Lord this Week:

**Organist:** Christine Engebrecht

**Greeters:** (Sat.)  
(Sun.)

**Ushers:** (Sat.) Greg Burke, Todd Miller, & Larry Ripka  
(Sun.) Evan Antolik and family

**Acolyte:** Nathan Duffy



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### Vacancy Pastor

Rev. Steven Anderson  
**Music Director** Christine Engebrecht  
**Secretary** Annie Churchill

rev@focusonthegospel.com  
bengebrecht@att.net  
office@stjohnsem.org

(309) 269-5276  
(309) 738-2797

## Psalm (*read responsively*)

**P** Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in his commandments!

**C** His offspring will be mighty in the land;  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.

**Light dawns in the darkness for the upright;**  
**he is gracious, merciful, and righteous.**

It is well with the man who deals generously and lends;  
who conducts his affairs with justice.

**For the righteous will never be moved; he will be remembered forever.**

He is not afraid of bad news; his heart is firm, trusting in the Lord.

**His heart is steady; he will not be afraid,**  
**until he looks in triumph on his adversaries.**

He has distributed freely; he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever; his horn is exalted in honor.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## Readings

**P** The Old Testament reading is from Isaiah, the fifty-eighth chapter.

“Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?’ Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers. Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the Lord? “Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’” (*Isaiah 58:3-9a*)

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**P** The Epistle reading is from 1 Corinthians, the second chapter.

And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”—these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. (*1 Cor. 2:1-12*)

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

[Jesus said:] “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” (*Matt. 5:13-20*)

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## ST. JOHN'S PRAYER CARD

February 7th and 8th, 2026

*Please remember the following in your prayers this week...*

### Anniversaries

Bryce & Jennifer Palar(18)  
Ron & Cora Whipple (60)  
Ron & Denise Rogers (11)

### Sister Congregation

Rev. Barry Long  
Mt. Calvary Ev. Lutheran  
Church  
Peoria, IL

### Members

Bill & Lora Vallee  
Dennis & Amanda VanRycke  
Deborah VanRycke  
Hans VanRycke  
Steven & Mildred VanRycke

### Missionaries Serving

Rev. Dr. Ross & Kris Shaver-  
Dominican Republic

### Military Chaplains

CAPT Larry Beane  
MAJ Paul Sauer

### III & Hospitalized

Marsha Boarts  
Hoa Cooper (Lucille's daughter  
- cancer)  
Larry Dodge- upcoming  
doctor's appointments

### Prolonged Illness & Special Needs:

Joan Britton  
Bev Brokaw  
Chuck Brokaw  
Steve Fors  
Duane Gosa  
Nancy Gosa  
Kevin Green- cancer diagnosis  
Kathy Herron

Jerry Hill  
Kay Iwen (broken neck)  
Dale Johnson  
Merle Loete  
Reid McDonald  
Jean Morrical  
RaeJean Murphy  
Tom Nielsen  
Robin Passman  
Brenda Roggendorf  
Earl Schaefer  
Karen Schmidt  
Kathleen Schmidt  
David Sountris  
Ken Weidenbach  
Cora Whipple

### Homebound:

Nancy Bonow  
Ann Bowman  
Don, Wanda, and Jason Cass  
Darlene Dopson  
Mary Ann Eckert  
Rick & Sylvia Fauser  
Angie Fischer  
Peg Heitzman  
Christopher Higgins  
Ingrid Hodshire