



The Informer

February 2024

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

Volume 65 Issue 7

From Pastor's Pen:

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"And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him." (Mat 27:28-31)

Dearly beloved of Christ the crucified:

"What hat are you wearing today?" This is an old expression that means, "What job are you performing?" or "What role are you fulfilling?" All of us wear a variety of "hats" in any given day.

Jesus also wore a variety of hats or uniforms – a prayer shawl and a rabbi's cloak among them. In the end the hat Jesus wore was a crown of thorns. The robe, staff, and crown was actually some soldiers sick joke. "Every king needs a crown," they snickered as they pressed the thorns deep into the flesh of his sweaty forehead.

It was actually an appropriate uniform in light of his mission on the cross. It was a symbol of the piercing, the agony and the gory death that was the justly deserved punishment for sin. It was a punishment that he, in innocence, willingly endured for us all.

If the uniforms or hats we wear tell the world what we do for a living, then Jesus' most brutal and bizarre attire tells us what Jesus did with his dying. *"Surely, he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows...he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed...the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."* (Is. 53)

The hat Jesus wore, though on earth an ugly tool of torture, in heaven was seen as a crown of glory. It shined forth the boundless love of God for us more brightly than any polished gold or jeweled headpiece ever could. Through the forgiveness of sins purchased through our Savior's obedient life and innocent death we are given his halo to wear, his robe of righteousness to cover our sins, and the scepter of his kingdom rules all things on our behalf. During this season of Lent let us consider the crown of thorns our Savior wore, as he prepares our hearts to receive the crown of glory He offers us by his grace.

Do we pass that cross unheeding, breathing no repentant vow, though we see You wounded bleeding, see Your thorn encircled brow? Yet Your sinless death has bought us life eternal, peace, and rest; only what Your grace has taught us calms the sinner's deep distress. (LSB 423: Jesus, Refuge of the Wear, st.2)

In Christ's love,

Pastor Umberger



February 14th
Services at:
12:00pm and 6:30pm

Notes from the Balcony

Lent will be here before we know it. With an early Easter, March 31, an early Ash Wednesday, February 14, is part of the package. Lent offers the people of God the opportunity to focus on penitence and the work of our Savior. Hymns can play a valuable role in the observance of Lent. Below you will find descriptions of three hymns that emphasize the redeeming work of our Lord Jesus. Try to match these three favorite hymns about our Savior with their descriptions:

LSB 543	<i>What Wonderous Love Is This</i>
LSB 550	<i>Lamb of God</i>
LSB 554	<i>O Jesus, King, Most Wonderful</i>

1. Attributed to St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153), this hymn is by far the oldest of the three. Son of a knight and born in his father's castle, Bernard chose to become a monk. He co-founded the Knights Templar. In 1147, he roused the French and German people to join him on the second crusade which later proved unsuccessful.

One scripture reference associated with this hymn is Colossians 1:13:

"He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son," Bernard also is credited with the hymn *O Sacred Head Now Wounded* (LSB 450).

2. While the author of this hymn is unknown, this traditional Appalachian folk song was first published in Rev. Stith Mead's Methodist hymnal in 1811. The meter is uncommon in the world of hymns but is found in a ballad about a pirate in 1701 earning it the name the "Captain Kidd" meter. Here is a verse from this ballad:

My name was Robert Kidd, when I sailed, when I sailed...

My name was Robert Kidd, God's laws I did forbid,
And so wickedly I did when I sailed.

Unlike the ballad, this hymn praises God for His work recorded in Romans 5:8

"...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

3. This hymn was written by the contemporary musician, Twila Paris (b. 1958), and recorded first in 1985, the year she was married. She felt this song, like her other songs, was a "gift from God" and "a faithful reminder of my absolute dependence on the creator and source of all good things."

This hymn utilizes over a dozen scripture references, but particularly reflects the words of 1 Peter 1:18-19:

"You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish."

Have a blessed Lenten season,
Christine Engebrecht



Serving the Lord This Month:

Ushers

Feb 3: Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, and Larry Ripka
Feb 4:
Feb 10: Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, and Larry Ripka
Feb 11: Glen McMillin, Stratton Churchill, Briella Churchill
Feb 14, Ash Wednesday, noon: Dave & Esther Cashion
Feb 14, Ash Wednesday, 6:30pm:
Feb 17: Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, and Larry Ripka
Feb 18:
Feb 24: Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, and Larry Ripka
Feb 25: Rod Hopkins

Greeters

Feb 3:
Feb 4: Karen Schmidt
Feb 10:
Feb 11: Annie & Sloane Churchill
Feb 17:
Feb 18:
Feb 24:
Feb 25: Karen Schmidt

Acolytes

Feb 4: Joel Duffy
Feb 11: Alice Scmhidt
Feb 18: Johnny Kjera
Feb 25: Sloane Churchill



Communion Assistants

Feb 4: Ralph Grotelueschen & Kevin McAnally
Feb 14, 6:30pm: Jim Homann
Feb 18: Glen McMillin & Jim Homann

Altar Guild

Marsha Boarts
&
(Help!)

Eternal Candle

Feb 4: OPEN
Feb 11: OPEN
Feb 18: OPEN
Feb 25: OPEN



Altar Flowers

Feb 4: Karen Schmidt
Feb 11: OPEN
Feb 18: LENT
Feb 25: LENT



Church News

Happy Birthday to our February Born!

February 4: Chad Gosa, Aaron Homann, & Carole Krouth
February 5: Samantha Hansen, & Steven Van-Rycke
February 6: Taylor Murphy
February 7: Margo Blaser, Diana Caldwell, & Mark Hariss
February 8: Ralph Grotelueschen, Larry Ripka, & Tyler Rusk
February 9: Loretta Nielsen
February 10: Cora Whipple
February 12: Lucille Perley
February 14: Alyssa McAnally, Alyssa Nitz, & Rick Robinson

February 15: Alena Rossmiller
February 16: Ethan Sountris
February 17: Barbara Veskauf
February 20: Morgan Murphy
February 22: Zachery Chellew, Stephanie Gray, Mallory Hawkins, Brian Nielsen, Isaac Stone, & Carl Weathers
February 23: Dustin Fischer
February 24: Ryan Dosch & Alexander Lange
February 26: Caleb Engebrecht
February 27: Fred Krack & Rex Newman
February 28: Dennis Schaefer



Weekly Attendance & Offerings

Date	This year	Last Year
12/17/23	167	137
12/24/23 (regular)	120	203
12/24/23 (Candlelight)	189	106
12/25/23 (Christmas)	40	41
12/31/23 (5th Sunday)	114	—
01/07/24	150	63
01/14/24 (church canceled due to cold)		161
01/21/24	133	139

Average Weekly Attendance by St. John's members: 26.7%

Membership Report

New Address:

Darlene Dopson
2617 Maple Crest Rd (Apt unknown as of print time)
Bettendorf, IA 52722
309-278-2066

"Thank you for all of the cards and calls during my recovery from hip surgery. I thank you all for your kindness and thoughts and prayers" - Darlene

Church News

2nd Friday Fellowship- Euchre Night!

Join your St. John's friends Friday, February 9th at 6:30pm for supper, snacks, cards, and fellowship. Never played euchre? No problem. This "trick-taking" card game is easy to learn and we will teach you. We will gather for the evening at 6:30pm eat, and for those who need it take some time to learn the game. We will begin playing at 7pm. Bring \$5 to split the pizza bill and a snack to share. Sign up in the concourse so we know how much pizza to order and tables to set up.



Ladies Luncheon

All ladies of St. John's are welcome for a lunch date on Thursday, February 15th at the Deerfield Restaurant in East Moline.

We meet at 11:30am for lunch and laughs. Please join us!

Walking Club

Are you feeling the winter blahs and want to get your body moving? Join your friends and walk in our beautiful facility. In the winter and on rainy days we will use the gym and hallways; when the weather improves, we will utilize the vast space we have outside. We want to know when you'd like to walk and how often. Fill out the Bulletin insert and drop it in the "shoe" in the concourse!

LWML

Our **February LWML meeting** will be held on **Thursday, February 15th at 1:00 p.m.** in the Janssen Rooms. The program will be working on Easter cards for the shut ins. There will also be information regarding the 2024 Central Illinois District Convention being held at Immanuel Lutheran in Rock Island on April 26th and 27th. This is a great chance to participate in servant events and to hear speakers close to home. Ladies please join us and learn more about LWML.

WHAT IS LWML?

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is an official auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Since 1942, the LWML has focused on affirming each woman's relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries and to support missions.

Next month in the Informer learn about LWML mites.



Church News

Circa 21 – Church Basement Ladies – Friday, April 12th

In Church Basement Ladies we meet the pastor, three kitchen cooks and one daughter who run the kitchen and care for the congregation by preparing and serving the food. Like any great kitchen, problems are solved here as well. We see the four women handle a Lutefisk dinner, a funeral, an Easter fundraiser, and a wedding. They stave off potential disasters, have fun, share and debate recipes, instruct the young, and keep the pastor on due course. This musical comedy based on recipes, food, and change in the church is funny, heart-warming, and down to earth. It will bring back memories of many people you know from churches everywhere. Rated G

Cost of dinner, the show, and gratuity is \$56.60 per person (tax-free, group rate for 20 or more). Payment is due Sunday, March 24. Checks written to St. John's Lutheran Church. Please give your payment to the office or to Carrie Homann. Do not put your payment in the offering.



Doors open at 5:30pm, Dinner is at 5:45pm, PreShow is 7pm, and Curtain time is 7:30pm.

Sign up in the concourse. Friends are welcome to attend.

Board of Human Care- Help Needed!

The Board of Human Care is in need of a Chairperson to lead this year. The current members were unable to elect a chair at their January meeting. If you are interested in serving your church in this way, please attend the next board meeting on Thursday, February 1st at 6:30pm.

Food Pantry Coordinator Needed!

Greg Burke is retiring as coordinator of our Food Pantry in June of this year. We need someone to volunteer their time to take over this position. Greg currently devotes about 15 hours a week to picking up food donations and boxes, as well as making sure we stay compliant with Riverbend Food Bank for government commodities. This is a position that will require a little training and a lot of information. If you think you might be interested, it would smooth the transition to work along side Greg for a while to get into his groove- meeting his contacts and learning his routines.



Youth News

Circuit Youth Event

Higher Things in a Box Lock-In at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rock Island
Friday and Saturday, February 23-24

6:00pm- 8:00am

Activities will include worship services, games, videos, food and fun!
Please bring your friends, sleeping bags, pillows, etc.

Each church is responsible for providing a male and female chaperone. Please let Pastor know if you would like to help chaperone this lock-in for our youth!

We need to RSVP to Immanuel in advance, so if your youth is interested, please let the Office know ASAP!

Super Bowl Subs

The Board of Youth and Family is selling sub sandwiches to raise money for fun youth activities! The cost is \$6 per 6 inch sub. There are order forms on the Information Table. Please fill out 1 for each sandwich and put them in the box. Last day to order is Sunday, Feb. 4th. Pick-ups will be Saturday, Feb 10th after worship, and Sunday, Feb. 11th after worship in the Janssen rooms. Please plan to pay when you pick your sandwich(es) up. Thank You!!!



Bible Bowl 2024

Announcing 2024 Central Illinois District Youth Bible Bowl: "The Gospel according to St. John." In the best way you know how, study the Gospel according to St. John with your young people so they get to know better the only true God, and Jesus Christ. The CID Bible Bowl is being planned for a Sunday afternoon in April, at Camp CILCA. Circuit Bible Bowls may be held in March. The CID Youth Bible Bowl is an opportunity for young people in Senior and Junior High School (grades 6-12) to study a portion of God's word each year, and meet with other young people of their circuit and the District. If you would like more information you may contact Pastor Mark Eddy at Zion Lutheran Church, Taylor Ridge, Illinois (zionlcms@juno.com) or 309-795-1063.

CAMP CILCA

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 ARE ALSO OFFERED SUCH AS ART, DRAMA, NIGHT OWL, AQUA, ATHLETICS, AND SURVIVAL WEEKS. GUEST PRESENTERS AND COACHES PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CAMPERS TO HONE THEIR SKILLS THROUGH TRAINING SESSIONS, SCRIMMAGES, DRILLS, AND REHEARSALS.



See the Poster on the bulletin board in the Education Wing for details on specific camps and information on how to register!

Circuit News

LCMS Stewardship Ministry - lcms.org/stewardship

February 2024

Caring for My Neighbor

If any of the Ten Commandments might tempt us to think that keeping the Law is easy, it would be the Fifth Commandment. After all, how hard is it to get through life without murdering somebody? The vast majority of people can handle that!

But Jesus famously blows up this notion by pointing out that the command, “you shall not murder,” goes much deeper – down to the heart.

You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.” But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, “You fool!” will be liable to the hell of fire. (Matt. 5:21–22)

Hatred and disdain come from the same sort of crookedness of heart as murder. With both murder and hatred, you look down on another person and think them of little worth.

In the Small Catechism, Luther also points out that every “do not” in the commandments also includes a “do this:” “We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body but *help and support him in every physical need*” (SC, Fifth Commandment, emphasis added).

We are not called merely to avoid evil; we must also do positive good.

So when Jesus drew near to us and became our neighbor by taking up our humanity, He came not only to avoid harming us, but He came to positively help us, bless us and serve us.

We are now called to show the love to our neighbors that Christ showed to us. Your neighbor is yet another gift that God has given you that requires your stewardship. We are called to show mercy, to be kind, to love and serve our neighbor. One aspect of this stewardship is financial: our neighbors need us to support the church’s work so that they can hear the Gospel and come to faith. Our neighbors need the church’s alms and mercy work. Our neighbors need our faithful service in all we do in the name of Christ.

Marriage Enrichment Class

Immanuel Lutheran
3300 24th St.
Rock Island, IL

Many people think that doing what comes naturally is certainly the best way to go about being married. But since we are sinners by nature, having a good and strong marriage does not come naturally. We need to give our marriage good and constant attention and receive guidance for it from our Savior God.

Please plan to join us for classes on Saturday mornings from 10am-noon on the following dates:
February 17–February 24–March 2–March 9–March 16

Our discussion will be from the “You Can Do It” book series by LCMS Pastor Ron Garwood. This study will cover “5 Things You Can Do to Strengthen Your Marriage”.

- 1) Remember God’s will for you in His institution of marriage
- 2) Be in prayer
- 3) Communicate with each other
- 4) Love one another
- 5) Forgive one another

Please contact the church office at 309-786-3391 or via email ilchurch@mchsi.com to pre-register. Childcare will be provided.

Lent 2024

God is love. This simple statement affects everything. Whether you know it or not, whether you believe it or not, God is love.

Humans talk about God all the time. We think deeply about who God might be. We try to prove or disprove God's existence. People invent images to depict how they conceive of God. We pray to God. We curse using God's name. We ask God to bless each other. We ask God to bless our nation and our people. We assign God a place — heaven.

Humans talk about love all the time. Parents love children. Spouses love each other. Friends love one another in a special way. Siblings love. People love their pets, their sports teams and their favorite food. But love is more than just something we think or feel. Love is a mysterious emotion, which we do not often understand, that nevertheless affects the way we live.

God is love. This brief statement slams these two ideas together. Near the end of the Bible, there is a little book called First John. The fourth chapter of 1 John says "God is love" and provides some explanations for what this might mean for our lives.

Strikingly, 1 John says that if anyone does not love, he does not know God, since God is love. We see this played out in our world today. Hate and anger rule much of our society and our interactions. Many people live daily ignoring love. When people refuse to love, that shows a lack of knowing God, since God is love.

We were created in the image of God, in the image of love. Thus, we were made to love. But each and every one of us fails to love perfectly all the time. We fail to live perfectly loving lives. We love ourselves more than anyone else, and that is not really love at all. The Bible calls this failure to live according to God's love "sin." And we are all guilty of sin.

But 1 John says more: "In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (1 John 4:10). God is love. Though we have failed to love, He never fails to love. God's greatest act of love is His Son Jesus Christ. God so loved the world that He gave His only Son. And Jesus died because of our lack of love. Jesus willingly died in the place of sinners, sinners like me. And sinners like you. And Jesus rose from the dead on the third day.

God is love, and that love is effected and given through Jesus Christ. Trust in that love, believe in Jesus.

The churches of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) proclaim and teach this love of God for all. I invite you this Lent to come hear about God's love for you in Jesus Christ.

In Christ Jesus,
Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison
President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Lenten Schedule 2024:

Wednesday, February 14th— Ash Wednesday— 12:00 & 6:30pm
Wednesday, February 21st— 6:30pm
Wednesday, February 28th— 6:30pm
Wednesday, March 6th— 6:30pm
Wednesday, March 13th— 6:30pm
Wednesday, March 20th— 6:30pm

Holy Week

Sunday, March 24th— Palm Sunday and Rite of Confirmation
Thursday, March 28th— Maundy Thursday— 12:00 & 6:30pm
Friday, March 29th— Good Friday— 6:30pm
Saturday, March 30th— Easter Vigil— 5:00pm
Sunday, March 31st— Easter Sunrise— 6:30am
Easter Festival— 9:00am

Please consider hosting a Lenten supper!

Suppers are served at 5:30pm prior to the midweek service

There is a sign-up sheet on the Information Table.

Voters Meeting Minutes

December 17, 2023

1. Meeting was called to order at 10:25 a.m. by Rod Hopkins and opened with prayer.
2. Trustee, Evan Antolik updated information regarding the sale of the condo. The condo has been sold. Papers have been signed. Loan paid off. Also, Evan conveyed a second bid was obtained for replacement of the sanctuary and gym roof. The original bid was sufficiently lower and was accepted and down-payment made. Roof work will take place most likely in the spring/summer of 2024.
3. Vice-President, Brian Engebrecht presented the Slate of Officers and Boards for 2024. No additions or corrections were made. Dawn Antolik made a motion to accept the Slate of Officers and Boards for 2024 as printed. Motion was seconded by Ralph Grotelueschen. Motion passed. Brian thanked the current year board members for their service.
4. The Board of Elders representative Jonathan Schmidt reported that the Elders have been researching hiring an additional church worker. Using the results of the strategic planning study, it was determined that an additional called non-ordained staff person would be beneficial to St. John's for the purposes of supporting the boards of Outreach; Youth and Family; and to some extent Human Care. A job description was developed by the Parish Planning Council that would focus on increasing outreach efforts to the community and to support the building of family ministries among current members. The job description has been available for congregational review for the last few weeks. Treasurer, Norm Antolik reported if this were added to the budget there would be a deficit. Brian Kern made a motion to call a new staff person as described in the posted job description and establish a call committee which will be comprised of:
1 Board of Elders member
1 Executive Board member
1 Board of Youth and Family Ministry member
1 Board of Outreach member
2 Congregational members at-large
Motion was seconded by Ralph Grotelueschen. A paper ballot was taken. Motion did not pass. 19 no and 15 yes. No call will be issued.
5. Jonathan Schmidt also reported that the Elders had sent certified letters In September. Two were unclaimed. The Board of Elders recommends removal of those members as communicant member of St. John's. Larry Dodge made a motion to remove the two members whose letters were returned from our communicant membership. Motion seconded by Flo Moore. Motion passed
6. Treasurer, Norm Antolik handed out the proposed budget for 2024. Rod Hopkins made a motion to accept the 2024 budget as printed. Motion seconded by Evan Antolik. Motion passed. Norm reported that all the obligated missions on the budget have been met which includes Central Illinois District and Rev. James Sharp. No vote was taken on the rest of the budget money because the budget is in a deficit currently.
7. Larry Dodge made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded Glenn McMillin. Motion Passed
8. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer at 11:35 a.m.

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

Respectively submitted by Diana Lackey, Date: December 17, 2023

St. John's Lutheran Church East Moline, IL

Feb 2024 (Central Time - Chicago)

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

1450 30th Avenue
East Moline, IL 61244

Phone: (309)792-0755
Fax: (309)792-0776
Email: office@stjohnsem.org
Web: www.stjohnsem.org

*Walking in the
Light of Christ.*



Worship Times

Saturday 5:00pm

Sunday 9:00am

Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:15am

Ash Wednesday February 14th

12:oopm and 6:30pm



St. John's in Winter Snow

hello
FEBRUARY

Office Hours
Monday- Wednesday:
8:30am-2:00pm
Closed from 12-1:pm for lunch
Thursday: 8:30am-noon