



The Informer

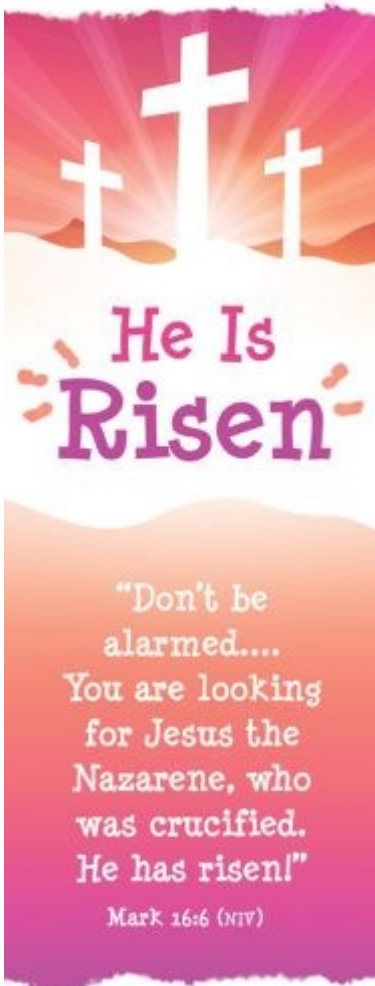
March 2024

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

Volume 65 Issue 7

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From Pastor's Pen:

"Therefore brothers, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly receive the word planted in you, which can save you. Do not merely listen to the word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." (James 1:21-22)

Dear Lenten Pilgrims,

A woman in a previous congregation once told me that she took great displeasure in the season of Lent. The songs, the lessons, the stark liturgy, and the constant references to Christ's passion were, in her opinion, depressing. It made her feel bad.

My question is this: Why shouldn't we feel bad, especially in light of our sin and Christ's loving sacrifice?

As a pastor I am often tormented by the incongruity of faith and life among those I have been called to shepherd under Christ. I don't understand how they can claim to love Christ yet despise preaching and His Word. I struggle with those who claim to be religious yet can't keep a tight rein on their tongue. I am burdened by those who claim their bodies to be the temple of the Holy Spirit yet use their bodies to engage in activities, sexual and otherwise, that destroy their fellowship with Him. Yes, I sorrow over my own sins too.

The way in which God's grace is abused by those who use the atoning sacrifice of Christ as a license for sinful living is offensive, and a barrier to the Gospel. The Bible is very clear: **"No one who continues to sin has either seen God or known him."** (1 Jn. 3:6) So why shouldn't we feel bad about our sin? What is wrong with a season that will bring us closer to Christ's passion and death and renew in us a need for God's forgiveness in Christ?

During this season of Lent we turn to God so that He will continue the work which He began in us through our baptism. In this season we are no longer content with a marginal faith, but seek for ourselves an end to the power of sin, death and the devil in us. We want to grow in the image of Christ.

Yes, Lent is a harsh season, beginning in ashes and the sign of the cross. It is a time for putting to death the old sinful man in us, and for ridding ourselves of all the moral filth and evil that has been so prevalent in our lives.

And yet Lent is also season that brings a deep calmness. It ends at the baptismal font, and the assurance of a new and eternal life. It is a time for humbly receiving the saving Word planted in us by the Holy Spirit.

Lent means no longer just listening to the Word, and deceiving ourselves, but doing what it says. It means living up to what our baptism declares us to be - Christ's holy people and children of God.

So come, let us begin our Lenten pilgrimage together, praying:

Drawn to the cross, which You have blessed

With healing gifts for souls distressed,

To find in you my life, my rest,

Christ crucified, I come. Amen,

In Christ's love,

Pastor Umbarger

Notes from the Balcony

As the observance of the Lenten season continues until the end of March, this month's hymn study will continue to focus on Christ's redemptive work for us as accomplished on the cross. See if you can match these three favorite hymns with the correct description.

LSB 539 *Christ is the World's Redeemer*

LSB 570 *Just As I Am*

LSB 851 *Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us*

1. The writer of this hymn, Eliza S. Alderson (1818-1898), was the granddaughter of a reverend, sister of a reverend, and married to a reverend. She was an English poet and hymn writer. None of her other hymns appear in our hymnal. The first stanza of this hymn addresses our Lord and recalls His redemptive work. It echoes the words of 1 Peter 1:18-19:

“knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.”

In response to God's generous gifts, the remaining three stanzas ask God to change hearts into generous ones that will have faith in God and charity toward others.

2. This hymn was printed in the *Invalid's Hymn Book* headed with the words of John 6:7, “Him the cometh to Me, I will in no wise cast out.” The writer, Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871), lived an invalid's life. Also from a family of English clergymen, young Charlotte lived an early life of ease excelling in painting and writing. Sadly, by the time she was thirty, illness caused her to be bedridden for the rest of her life. In her 32nd year, a Swiss evangelist visited her in her discouragement and advised her to come to Jesus just as she was. This she did. Melancholy over her physical weakness still persisted from time to time. One particularly difficult occasion was the fundraising bazaar for St. Mary's Hall, a school for daughters of the clergy. The whole community, including all of her family, was wrapped up in preparation for and in the event. Charlotte, unable to help or participate from her lonely bedroom, penned the words of this hymn of relationship with the Lamb of God who calls us as we are to cleansing and life with Him.

3. By far the oldest of the three, this hymn is attributed to St. Columba (521-597). He was an Irish abbot and missionary responsible for sharing Christianity with Scotland. Columba founded several monasteries and is one of the patron saints of Ireland. St. Columba's Day is June 9. The first stanza of this hymn attributes to Christ many aspects of His work of love and aid to His people. The second and third stanzas mirror the second article of the Apostle's Creed in several points including His death, descent into hell, resurrection, and ascension. The hymn then concludes with a doxological fourth stanza offering glory and honor to the Trinity. Ephesians 1:7 sums up a main message of Columba's hymn, “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.”

Wishing you a blessed Lent and joyous Easter,
Christine Engebrecht

Serving the Lord This Month:

Ushers

Mar 2: Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
Mar 3: Evan Antolik
Mar 9: Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
Mar 10: Dennis Boarts
Mar 16: Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
Mar 17: Evan Antolik
Mar 23: Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
Mar 24, Palm Sunday: Evan Antolik
Mar 30, 5:00pm: Easter Vigil: Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
Mar 31, 6:30am: Easter Sunrise: Evan Antolik
9:00am: Easter Festival: Evan Antolik

Communion Assistants

Mar 3: Brian Kern & Kevin McAnally
Mar 19: Ralph Grotelueschen & Glen McMillin
Mar 24: Jim Homann & Jonathan Schmidt
Mar 28, Maundy Thursday: Dennis Boarts
Mar 30, Easter Vigil: Ralph Grotelueschen
Mar 31, Sunrise: Jim Homann
Mar 31, Festival: Dennis Boarts & Brian Kern

Greeters

Mar 2:
Mar 3: Kathy McDowell
Mar 9: Sharon DeWulf & Joyce Hoffman
Mar 10:
Mar 16: Sharon DeWulf & Joyce Hoffman
Mar 17: Kathy McDowell
Mar 23:
Mar 24:
Mar 30:
Mar 31, Sunrise:
Festival:

Acolytes

Mar 3: Lydia Merritt
Mar 9: Bentley Orton
Mar 17: Brayden Medinger
Mar 24: Joel Duffy
Mar 31: Sunrise: Bennett Johnson
Festival: Johnny Kjera



Altar Guild

Dawn & Stevee Antolik

Eternal Candle

Mar 3: Gail Massey
Mar 10: Lucille Perley
Mar 17: In honor of Alyssa McAnally's baptismal birthday
Mar 24: In honor of Elizabeth Antolik's baptismal birthday
Mar 31: OPEN



Flower Chart

Since Ash Wednesday until Easter is a solemn time of contemplation and not a time of celebration, we will refrain from decorating the Chancel until Easter, at which time it will be decorated with Easter lilies.



Church News

Birthdays this Month:

2nd Gabrielle May	20th Ryan Blaser	30th George Fellows, Cassie Johnson, & Ruby Pancrazio
3rd Ruth Poole-Mayerhofer & Earl Schaefer	21st Carmae Kern & Jaxon McKay	31st Karly Borkgren
4th Torin Fauser	22nd Chris Caldwell & Savanna Kern	
6th Colin Scheer	23rd Susan Bowman & Janet Wachs	
7th Elizabeth Antolik, Diana Johnson & David Pratt	25th Hallie & Zoe Flaugh, Jackson Merritt, & Carla Umbarger	
9th Robert Coon & Chris Higgins	26th Jeff Belan & Jacob Ryan	
10th Nikki Chellew	28th Ronda Little & Nancy Williams	
12th Steve Sullivan	29th Mary Ann Eckert, Russell Kosche, & Megan Weathers	
15th Keri Pena		
16th Kevin Rossmiller		
17th Brian Kelly		
19th Stacey Roman		



Weekly Attendance

<u>Date:</u>	<u>This Year</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
1/28	134	131
2/4	153	158
2/11	127	133
2/18	122	152

Average monthly attendance: 26%

Membership Report

Deaths:

Pastor Jack Heino (02/12/24)

All Boards meet on
Thursday, March 7th at 6:30pm.
Parish Planning meets on March 14th at 6:30pm.
There is a Voter's meeting on March 17th after
worship service

Altar Guild

Spring cleaning will be March 15th and 16th. Come when you can and do what you can. Any and all help will be greatly appreciated!

Easter Lilies

We will be purchasing Lilies to adorn the altar at Easter soon. The cost is \$11.00. There will be a box and envelopes on the new counter in front of the bulletin board in the hallway. We need a total of 44 plants to fill our crosses.

Thank you!!



Church News

Ladies Luncheon

The Ladies of St. John's invite you to lunch on **Thursday, March 21st at 11:30am** at the Deerfield Restaurant. We hope you will join us!

LWML

Our next LWML meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 21st at 1:00 p.m.** in the Janssen Rooms. The program will be making Easter treat baskets. Ladies please join us. 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, hear speakers and meet other Lutheran ladies from our area.

WHAT ARE LWML MITES?

Based on the Biblical account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1-4), the Mite Box is intended for regular contributions of "mites" — offerings above and beyond the support given to congregations and the LCMS. Mite Box contributions amount to millions of dollars that fund district and national mission grants and implement the LWML program.

[Mite Boxes](#) are on the library counter and anyone who would like to contribute to missions may take one. There are also children's ones available too. When boxes are filled you can turn them into the office, bring them to a LWML meeting or give them to an LWML officer; who are Diana Lackey, President; Judy Dugan, Vice President and Margie Schaefer, Treasurer.



Next month in the Informer learn about your local LWML.

MARK your Calendars for
May 5th at 1:00 p.m.

Daughters of All Ages Tea

Watch the Informer and bulletins for more information.



COFFEE WITH CHRIST BIBLE STUDY

Sunday, March 3rd, we will be starting a new Christian movie study, based on the Kendricks Brothers' movie War Room. We invite you to join us in the Yellow Room for some "Coffee with Christ" and another great movie study.

"WAR ROOM, was released in theaters on August 28, 2015. WAR ROOM became the #1 movie in the United States during its second week of release. Filled with heart, wit & humor, WAR ROOM follows Tony and Elizabeth Jordan, a middle-class couple who seemingly have it all – great jobs, a beautiful daughter, their dream home. But appearances can be deceiving. In reality, the Jordan's marriage has become a war zone and their daughter is collateral damage. Their lives take an unexpected turn for the better when Elizabeth meets her newest client, Miss Clara, who encourages the couple to find happiness through prayer."

Church News

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

This year's Rite of Confirmation will take place on Sunday, March 24th.

There will be a cake reception to follow in the gym.

Congratulation to the Confirmands of 2024:

Bennett Michael Johnson

"Train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come." (1 Timothy 4:7b-8)

Brayden Theodore Medinger

"Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses." (1 Timothy 6:12)

Lydia Carolyn Merritt

"Guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called 'knowledge'." (1 Timothy 6:20)

Bentley Curtis Orton

"But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness." (1 Timothy 6:11)

Alice Rose Schmidt

"The grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." (1 Timothy 1:14-15)



Church News

WALKING CLUB starts March 4

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 9:30am

Let's get healthy...together! Come once, twice, or three times a week to walk inside or outside. Do you have a goal to walk a half mile, a mile, or two? We have an outside path on our church property that you can take to reach those goals. Do you have a goal of walking 30 minutes or an hour each time? Our inside and outside paths can help with those goals as well. See you at 9:30am starting Monday, March 4th. Come when you can, stay as long as you want.



2nd FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP

Friday, March 8, 6:30pm- Game Night/Euchre



Join us in the Activities Room for another fun evening of fellowship and games with your church friends. We will have tables for dominos, cards, board games, and euchre. We have a small collection of games already, but if you have a game you want to play, bring it along. This month we will not plan on having pizza, so eat before you come or save room for snacks! Bring something to share if you are able. Sign up in the concourse.

ACTIVITIES ROOM - DAYTIME ACTIVITIES

GAME TIME - Mondays and Wednesdays in the Activities Room is going strong with dominos, cards, and lots of laughter. We hope you can join us from 1:30-3:30pm.

CRAFT TIME - The craft for March will be diamond art. Similar to paint-by-numbers, diamond painting is a new creative hobby that has taken off in popularity because it is easy to learn. Even novices and people who struggle with other crafts find diamond painting relaxing and enjoyable. People of all ages and skill levels can create beautiful art. Each participant will receive a preprinted canvas that has symbols to let you know exactly which colored resin rhinestone to use in each spot.

We will purchase 5x7" cross kits for this month's craft time. The \$5 kits will be set up in the green room starting Monday, March 11th. Signup in the concourse so we know how many kits to purchase.



Church News

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship

Newsletter Article -March 2024

Cherish What God Has Given

In the Small Catechism, Luther follows a pattern when explaining the Ten Commandments. With each commandment, there is something prohibited, and something commanded. There is something wrong which must be avoided, and there is something right which must be done.

The one time this pattern is not followed is with the Sixth Commandment.

“You shall not commit adultery. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other” (SC I).

Here, the catechism focuses solely on the positive: we should live in a chaste and decent manner in both word and deed, and husbands and wives should cherish and honor one another.

Keeping this commandment, and all of the commandments, is a lot easier if you see your chastity and your spouse as a gift from God that is to be protected and cherished. In the same way, you will find keeping the Fourth Commandment easier if you see your parents and other authorities as a gift from God, given to you for your blessing.

This is the key stewardship insight that runs through all of the Christian life: Everything that we have has been given to us by God. We deserve none of it. All of it comes to us by God’s fatherly kindness and open-handed generosity. If I know that everything I have — every possession, every relationship, every ability — is a gift from God, then my perspective changes. All of these things are both gifts to be cherished, and things that I should direct towards God’s purposes. My possessions should be shared generously according to how God has called me in my family, church and community. My spouse should be cherished, loved and encouraged in faith. My children are on loan from my own Heavenly Father, and I have but a brief time to show them the path of righteousness. My neighbor is a gift from God so that I can imitate His kindness toward me.

No matter the gift, everything has been given to me by God so that I may participate in His own goodness and open-handed generosity.



Church News

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you have a couple hours a month to help out our food pantry? If so, we are still in need of a couple people to help picking up bakery items at the Silvis HyVee and boxes at the Silvis Walmart. The HyVee bakery pickup is Monday mornings at 7:15am. The Walmart box pickup is Thursdays at 1pm. If you have a truck or van then you can pick up boxes on your own. If you don't have a bigger vehicle, but want to help, you can ride along with another volunteer who does have a van but needs help carrying the boxes. Sign up in the concourse or see Greg Burke or Carrie Homann with questions. We will have you ride along with Greg to learn the ropes.

WOMEN'S CHOICE CENTER

Fill a baby bottle

By filling a bottle, you are helping celebrate the beauty of the lives that have been touched and saved through the ministry of the Women's Choice Center. Money raised in this campaign will support the life changing work of meeting the physical and spiritual needs of men and women who find themselves facing an untimely pregnancy.

Diaper Drive



St. John's is hosting a diaper drive for the Women's Choice Center. Drop off your diapers anytime from Feb. 25th-March 31st in the pack-in-play that is set up by the baby bottle drive table. Sizes most in need are 4,5, and 6.

You can scan the QR code and go directly to an Amazon wishlist also!



THE CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY KANTOREI will be visiting Holy Cross on Sunday, March 3rd. There will be only **one** service at 10:00am. Following the service, the Mutual Encouragement Committee is hosting a dinner. Everyone is invited.

The Kantorei is a men's choir of students studying for the pastoral ministry at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, directed by Kantor Kevin Hildebrand. For more details about the 2024 Spring Kantorei Tour, visit www.ctsfw.edu/events.



Lenten and Holy Week Schedule

Wednesday, February 28th *“God on Trial: Restraint” Pastor Astrowski*

5:30pm Lenten Supper– Served by the Merritt family and students
from Quad Cities Christian School

6:30pm– Worship

Wednesday, March 6th: *“God on Trial: Accusations” Pastor Corigan*

5:30pm Lenten Supper– Chili served by the Board of Trustees

6:30pm– Worship

Wednesday, March 13th: *“God on Trial: Truth” Pastor Eddy*

5:30pm Lenten Supper– Sloppy Joes served by LWML

6:30pm– Worship

Wednesday, March 20th: *“God on Trial: Truth” Pastor Hagan*

5:30pm Lenten Supper– Spaghetti served by the Boards of Human
Care and Outreach, and the Food Pantry

6:30pm– Worship

Holy Week Schedule:

Sunday, March 24th: 9am- Palm Sunday

**Thursday, March 28th: 12:00pm and
6:30pm-** Maundy Thursday worship with
Communion

Friday, March 29th: 6:30pm- Good Friday

Saturday, March 30th: 5:00pm- Easter Vigil

Sunday, March 31st: 6:30am- Easter Sunrise

7:30am– Breakfast served by the youth

9:00am– Easter Festival



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	1	2
9am - Worship w/ Communion 10:15am - 5th&6th Confirmation 10:15am - Bible Study / Sunday	9:30am - Walking Club 1:30pm - Activities Room 5:30pm - Staff Meeting 6pm - Chimes 6:30pm - 7th Grade Confirmation 6:30pm - Heavenly Ringers	10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam	9am - TOPS 9:30am - Walking Club 10am - Midweek Bible Study 1:30pm - Activities Room 5:30pm - Lenten Supper 6:30pm - Mid-week Lent Service -	All Boards Meet in Prep for Parish 6:30pm - Board Meetings	9:30am - Walking Club 6:30pm - Fellowship Friday	8am - Men's Bible Study 9:30am - Adult Choir 5pm - Worship w/ Communion
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9am - Worship 10:15am - 5th&6th Confirmation 10:15am - Bible Study / Sunday	9:30am - Walking Club 1:30pm - Activities Room 5:30pm - Staff Meeting 6pm - Chimes 6:30pm - 7th Grade Confirmation 6:30pm - Heavenly Ringers	10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam	9am - TOPS 9:30am - Walking Club 10am - Midweek Bible Study 1:30pm - Activities Room 4pm - Fellowship committee mtg 5:30pm - Lenten Supper 6:30pm - Mid-week Lent Service -	6:30pm - Parish Planning	9:30am - Walking Club	8am - Men's Bible Study 9:30am - Adult Choir 5pm - Worship w/ Communion
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9am - Worship 10:15am - 5th&6th Confirmation 10:15am - Bible Study / Sunday	9:30am - Walking Club 1:30pm - Activities Room 5:30pm - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Heavenly Ringers	10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam	9am - TOPS 9:30am - Walking Club 10am - Midweek Bible Study 1:30pm - Activities Room 4pm - Fellowship committee mtg 5:30pm - Lenten Supper 6:30pm - Mid-week Lent Service -	6:30pm - Parish Planning	9:30am - Walking Club	8am - Men's Bible Study 9:30am - Adult Choir 5pm - Worship w/ Communion
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9am - Worship w/ Communion 10:15am - 5th&6th Confirmation 10:15am - Voter's Meeting	Informant Deadline 9:30am - Walking Club 1:30pm - Activities Room 5:30pm - Staff Meeting 6pm - Chimes 6:30pm - 7th Grade Confirmation 6:30pm - Heavenly Ringers	10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam	9am - TOPS 9:30am - Walking Club 10am - Midweek Bible Study 1:30pm - Activities Room 5:30pm - Lenten Supper 6:30pm - Mid-week Lent Service -	11:30am - Ladies Luncheon @ 1pm - LWML	9:30am - Walking Club	8am - Men's Bible Study 9:30am - Adult Choir 5pm - Worship
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9am - Worship with Rite of 10:15am - 5th&6th Confirmation 10:15am - Bible Study / Sunday	9:30am - Walking Club 1:30pm - Activities Room 5:30pm - Staff Meeting 6pm - Chimes 6:30pm - Heavenly Ringers	10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam	9am - TOPS 9:30am - Walking Club 1:30pm - Activities Room	12pm - Maundy Thursday w. 6:30pm - Maundy Thursday w/	9:30am - Walking Club 12pm - Tre Ore @ Holy Cross - 6:30pm - Good Friday Worship	9:30am - Adult Choir 5pm - Easter Eve Worship w/
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
6:30am - Easter Sunrise w/ 7:30am - Easter Breakfast 9am - Easter Festival w/ Comm.						

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

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Office Hours

Mon-Wed 8:30am-2:00pm

Thursday 8:30am- noon



Worship Times

Saturday 5:00pm

Sunday 9:00am

Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:15am

Inside our Sanctuary:

