



# The Informer

April 2025

St. John's Lutheran Church

Volume 66 Issue 8

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## Holy Week Schedule

4/13: Palm Sunday and the Rite of Confirmation  
9:00am

4/17: Maundy Thursday  
Noon and 6:30pm

4/18: Tres Ore  
Noon-3pm

4/18: Good Friday  
6:30pm

4/19: Easter Vigil  
6:30pm

4/20: Easter Sunrise  
6:30am

4/20: Easter Festival  
9:00am

## From Pastor's Pen:

*Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet... Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her.*  
(John 20:11-12, 16-18)

### Dear Saints of God:

As we celebrate our Lord's resurrection, let us turn our attention to that committed, and beloved disciple, Mary of Magdala. In the verses above, John tells us that she was weeping in sadness outside the garden tomb because the body of her Lord was missing. All that changed, however, when she heard the voice of Jesus calling her by name, talking to her in garden, and then sending her off to share the Good News of His resurrection with the others. It is a touching scene, and one that captures the Easter joy that overcomes all sadness.

In 1912, Charles Austin Miles, wrote a very popular hymn, *In the Garden*, to recount Mary's unique experience of literally speaking face-to-face with her risen Savior in the garden that first Easter morning. Taken in that context, it is a wonderful hymn upon which to meditate when considering Mary's experience.

We would, however, be misguided in using this hymn out of context to apply it to our perceived spiritual experiences. God has not chosen for us to experience Him, or receive our resurrection joy, alone in a garden or on a golf course where we wait for a voice to speak to our minds or in our hearts from the ether.

Instead of an ethereal, subjective encounter with what we perceive to be Christ's presence we are called to assemble with our fellow believers in the Lord's house where He promises to be present when "two or three are gathered in His name." Our Easter experience takes us, first, to our baptism where Christ called us by name to belong to Him, washed away the sins that had separated us from Him, and gave us the Holy Spirit. Through the water and the Word we experienced Christ's resurrection in a powerful and miraculous way, because that is when we were united with His resurrection. That is when we were made alive in Christ to live new and everlasting lives with and for Him. In our weekly Divine Services, we continue to experience mini-Easters as Jesus comes to us walking and talking with us through His Word and Sacrament. Through these He turns our weeping into a joy that can never be taken away. Then, like Mary, He sends us to share with others all that He has said to us, so that they may share in our resurrection joy.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, please join your fellow saints this Easter in worship. Come, hear the voice of Jesus! Come, listen what He has to say to you! Come, experience the resurrection joy He offers you! And then go and share with others the Good News that turns sorrow into everlasting joy: "Christ is risen! He is risen, Indeed! Alleluia!"

Pastor Umberger

*He is not here;  
he has Risen!*  
John 20:16

## Deaconess' Desk

### Volunteer Appreciation Month

Every April, we have the opportunity to take a moment and bring attention to the volunteers around the world and in our own communities. It is especially important for us here at St. John's to take a moment to recognize all of the volunteers in our own pews.

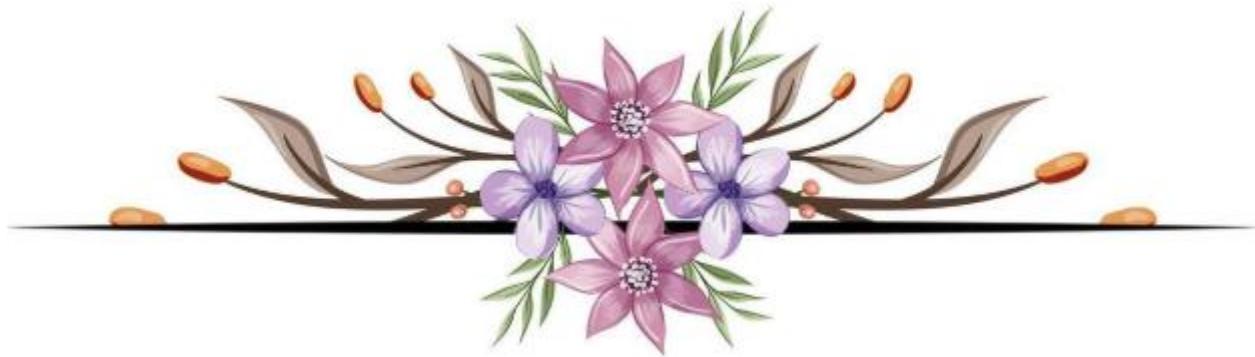
There are very few duties carried out in the day to day life of the congregation that are not the product of volunteer efforts. Every board and committee is filled with those of you who donate your time and effort to keep things running smoothly and for the benefit of the church members, visitors, and community at large.

So when you find yourself feeling thankful for the fellowship opportunities, the coffee set up for you on Sunday mornings, the neatly mowed grass, the functioning library, the special music, the delicious potlucks, and so much more, take a moment to appreciate the people who make all this possible and thank God for the talents He has given to His people to serve His church. On the other hand, if you find yourself taking all of these things for granted, remember that these are things you are privileged to take part in and enjoy and they come at the cost of time, effort, and donations from the congregation.

Thank you to all our volunteers! The examples given above don't cover the wide array of efforts that take place regularly here at St. John's, but we appreciate all of you nonetheless.

If you are interested in finding out more about ways you can give your time and talents, let us know and we can get you involved!

Blessings to you all in Christ  
Deaconess



### Free Gift from Lutheran Hour Ministries!

Reading God's Word is a critical part of every Christian's journey. Many people challenge themselves to read the Bible in a year, and it's simpler than you might expect with our Bible in a Year reading plan. Tuck it into your Bible or purse, and discover God's story from beginning to end. It's our FREE gift to you!

Visit <https://www.lhm.org/bibleyear/>

to submit your request. Only 1 per address, US residents only.

## SERVING THE LORD THIS MONTH

### Ushers:

**April 5th:** Greg Burke, Rick Newlon, Larry Ripka, and Todd Miller  
**April 6th:** Evan Antolik & Family  
**April 12th:** Greg Burke, Rick Newlon, Larry Ripka, and Todd Miller  
**April 13th:** Evan Antolik & Family  
**April 17th-Maundy Thursday, noon:** Esther Cashion  
**April 19th:** Greg Burke, Rick Newlon, Larry Ripka, and Todd Miller  
**April 20th- Sunrise:** Esther Cashion  
**April 20th- Festival:** Evan Antolik & Family  
**April 26th:** Greg Burke, Rick Newlon, Larry Ripka, and Todd Miller  
**April 27th:** Rod Hopkins

### Greeters:

**April 5:** JoAnn Sager  
**April 6:**  
**April 12:** JoAnn Sager  
**April 13:** Marsha Boarts  
**April 19:**  
**April 20- Easter:**  
**April 26:** Steve & Rose Sullivan  
**April 27:**

### Acolytes:

**April 6th:** Sloane  
**April 13th:** Joel  
**April 20th:** John  
**April 27th:** Nathan



### Communion Assistants:

**April 6th:** Brian Kern & Dennis Boarts  
**April 17th:** Jonathan Schmidt  
**April 20th-Festival:** Jim Homann and Kevin McAnally

### Eternal Candle

**April 6th:** In honor of Ron and Peg Heitzman's Anniversary  
**April 13th:** In honor of Dustin Myers' birthday  
**April 20th:** In honor of Zachary Antolik's birthday  
**April 27th:** OPEN



### Flowers

**April 6:** LENT  
**April 13:** Rite of Confirmation  
**April 20th:** Easter Lilies  
**April 27th:** Nancy Williams



## CHURCH NEWS

### Birthdays

Apr. 1 – Dennis Hurley,  
 Mike Murphy, & Bill Vallee  
Apr. 2 – Stevee Antolik  
Apr. 3 – Patty Ekin  
Apr. 4 – Dawn Antolik,  
 Janet Newlon, & Robert Mills  
Apr. 5 - Kathleen Ahrens  
Apr. 6 – Fred Bonow  
April 7 – Kassy Caldwell &  
 Ben Martinez  
Apr. 8 – LouAnn DeRammelaere,  
 Brandi Erickson, & Adam  
 Schnabel  
Apr. 9 – Judy Belan,  
 Ben Frankowski,  
 Lyndsie McCoy &  
 Elijah Medina

Apr. 10 – Joan Britton  
April 11 – Emmelynn Wilson  
Apr. 12 – Norm Antolik &  
 Tim Stone  
Apr. 14 – Craig Churchill &  
 Christine Engebrecht  
Apr. 15 – Kami Sellers  
Apr. 16 – Daniel Roberson  
Apr. 17 – Tamee Stone  
Apr. 18 – Bennett Johnson &  
 Tanner Rusk

Apr. 19 – Zachary Antolik,  
 Alexandria Parker & Lisa Perley  
Apr. 20 – Mason Chellew &  
 Benjamin Dosch  
Apr. 21 – Evan Antolik, Carol  
 Terronez, & Sandy Young  
Apr. 22 – Becky Johnson &  
 Clinton Merritt  
Apr. 24 – Briella Churchill, Jacob  
 Frankowski, & Nathanael  
 Weber  
Apr. 26 – Elijah Stone  
April 27: Mialada Fauser  
Apr. 29 – Bryce Palar & Brian  
 Rossmiller  
Apr. 30 – Ben Engebrecht &  
 Brooke Medinger



### Weekly Attendance

DATE	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
02/23/25	128	125
03/02/25	148	143
03/09/25	118	138
03/16/25	146	159
03/23/25	122	180 (Palm Sunday)

Average monthly attendance: 27%

### Membership Report

Deaths:  
 Mary Heino (03/02/25)  
 Frank Hodshire (03/25/25)

New Members:  
 Ruth Willfong  
 transferred from Immanuel-Rock Island



### Board Meetings

Reminder: Board meeting are Thursday, April 3rd at 6:30pm. Please attend if you can!

## CHURCH NEWS

### ***Remember our Shut-Ins by sending a SPRINGTIME PICK-ME-UP***

<i>Nancy Bonow 1020 38<sup>th</sup> St. Moline, 61265</i>	<i>Noreen Hopkins 39 Lilac Ct Geneseo, IL 61254</i>	<i>Rick &amp; Sylvia Fauser 412 9th Ave Silvis, IL 61282</i>	<i>Darlene Dopson 2617 Maple Crest Rd #305 Bettendorf, IA 52722</i>
<i>MaryAnn Eckert 1455 Hospital Rd #6 Silvis, IL 61282</i>	<i>Ingrid Hodshire 4343 Kennedy Dr. 4102 Bed 2 East Moline, IL 61244</i>	<i>The Cass Family 4502 Elmore Ave # 111 Davenport, IA 52807</i>	<i>Carl &amp; Mary McGee PO Box 133 Rapids City, IL 61278</i>
<i>Angela Fischer 24690 E. 1680<sup>th</sup> St. Geneseo, IL 61254</i>	<i>Bill Park 1900 10th St. #193 Silvis, IL 61282</i>	<i>Barbara Honert 1900 10th St. #340 Silvis, IL 61282</i>	<i>Bill Park 1900 10th St. #193 Silvis, IL 61282</i>
<i>Ron &amp; Peg Heitzman 1209 21st Ave. B320 Rock Island, IL 61201</i>	<i>Nancy Smart 4046 9 1/2 St. E. Moline, IL 61244</i>	<i>Terry Tipsword 424 13th Ave. A Silvis, IL 61282</i>	
<i>Lori Hopkins 325 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Apt. 705 Silvis, IL 61282</i>	<i>Chris Higgins 4055 25th Ave Rock Island, IL 61201</i>	<i>Barbara Veskauf 4610 9th St. E. Moline, IL 61244</i>	



### Altar Guild

Spring cleaning is scheduled for April 4th and 5th. Please put this on your calendars – many hands make for light work!

### Ladies Luncheon

The ladies of St. John's are all invited to a Ladies Luncheon on Thursday, April 17th, at 11:30am at the Deerfield Family Restaurant.

**Activities Room** We are still going strong in the Activities room on Mondays and Wednesdays – we have had as many as 12 people come play dominoes! Invite a friend and come join the fun!

### Food Pantry

We are now serving over 60 families almost every week! This takes a lot of resources to help those in our community who are in need of assistance with food. A big help is the food donated to us from restaurants. If you could spare an hour once a week to help us, we would really appreciate it! Food donations come from Hy-Vee, Starbucks, Olive Garden, and Little Caesars. Please let Debbie Girard know (309) 235-8822 if you could help. Thank you.

## CHURCH NEWS

## CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2025!



## Confirmation

Sloane Churchill

Joel Duffy

and

John Kjera

## Notes from the Balcony

Happy April! Happy Spring! Albeit a quick look at the Oxford dictionary's entry for April considers April the second month of spring, most years, at least in this part of the Midwest, the earth still spends most of March shaking off its last bits of winter and doesn't get around to spring until April. The phrase this dictionary used to help explain the entry "April" is: "the prison was to close in April." *How very odd to use this as an example*, I thought when I read it. But in the church, where Easter is usually celebrated in April, it has an uncanny relevance. The prison called "death" we were all destined for because of our sins closed on Easter. Jesus, our prison destroyer, allowed Himself, who earned no death sentence due to sin, to take on our penalty, enduring the cross, death, and grave in our place. He then closed the prison when He rose on Easter morning and gifted this new and much-improved life sentence to us as the best Easter present ever! Move over chocolate eggs and jelly-beans.

One of our member's favorite hymns is *Christ is Arisen*, LSB 459. This medieval Easter vigil hymn clarifies how apt the Oxford dictionary's phrase fits for a definition of April.

"Christ is arisen  
From the grave's dark prison.  
So let our joy rise full and free;  
Christ our comfort true will be.  
Alleluia!  
Were Christ not arisen,  
Then death were still our prison.  
Now, with Him to life restored,  
We praise the Father of our Lord.  
Alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Now let our joy rise full and free;  
Christ our comfort true will be.  
Alleluia!"



Happy Easter to all!  
Love in Christ,  
Christine Engebrecht

## LWML NEWS



**LWML - Lutheran Women's Missionary League** is an auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. All ladies are welcome!

**There will NOT be an April LWML meeting. You are encouraged to attend the District Convention in Lincoln, Illinois on April 26 at Zion Lutheran Church and School.**

The LWML CID Convention will be Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:45 a.m. with doors opening at 7:45 a.m. for registration and refreshments. This years theme is “Planting Seeds of Faith” based on 1 Corinthians 3:6-7. The keynote speaker will be Gary Thies from LCMS Mission Central in Iowa. Breakout sessions will include

- *Eden Keefe, LWML President*
- *Pastor Joshua Theilen, Camp Cilca Director*
- *Peter Gnan, Orphan Grain Train*
- *Rev. Thomas Fischer, Lutheran Heritage Foundation*
- *Effingham Braille Printing*
- *Rev. Dr. Ken Schurb, LCMS CID Evangelism & Mission, Stewardship, Human Care*
- *Chaplain Craig Muehler, Director of LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces*



Pre-convention servant events will begin at 1:00 p.m. Servant events will include knotting quilts, marking bibles, assembling zipper pull packets, and making cards for Phil's Friends. A freewill supper will be available Friday evening at 5:00 p.m. followed by a worship service with communion at 6:15 p.m.

Registration is due by April 10th. Please see the bulletin board and signup table to pickup information and forms or contact Diana Lackey 309-373-1862.

We will collecting the following items for the Orphan Grain Train until April 24th.

- Quilts
- Clothing: infant and children new or gently used
- Footwear: new or gently used
- Medical supplies; Bandages, first aid kits
- Layette Items: diapers, baby wipes (travel size), new pacifiers, new bottles, new or gently used sleepers, onesie, blankets
- Socks: new or gently used
- Underwear: new in original packaging

## From the CID

Lent starts late this year. We have been able to enjoy two full months of Epiphany, the revelation of the glorious power and grace of our God and Savior Jesus Christ. Remembering this lightens Lent's dark themes of sin and its horrible consequences. Perhaps also the presence of sunlight as we exit our mid-seek Lenten services will help us to remember the blessed end of all this: God's glorious grace shining on us out of an opened heaven.

While the presence of physical light can improve our moods, Jesus Christ, "the light of the world" (John 8:12), improves everything for God's believing people. God's word is a lamp for our feet and a light for our paths (Psalm 119:105). In Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and every week of the Church year, God's word shows us His gracious love for us, because He did not leave us in the darkness, but "brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel" (2 Tim. 1:10). "Because the God who said, 'Light shall shine out of darkness,' is He who shined in our hearts for the enlightenment of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2 Cor. 4:6). "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures ... But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruit of those who have fallen asleep ... Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 15:3,20,57). Enjoy a lighter Lent!

Pastor Mark Eddy, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President - CID Board of Directors

**Pray For Our Central Illinois District Missions supported by your church's Mission Dollars to the District. "Finally, brothers, pray that the Word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored."** Please remember in your prayers Pastor Pablo Dominguez and Cristo Rey (Christ the King) Lutheran Church in East Moline, where the ministry is conducted almost entirely in Spanish, as well as St. John's Lutheran Church in Beardstown, where Pastor Dominguez travels twice a month to preach and teach in Spanish.

### Ministry Outreach Grants – 2025 Round 1

Just a reminder to submit your requests for the first round of Ministry Outreach grants from the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund (CID-CEF)! **Submissions should be received by April 1.** These grants are provided to assist our congregations, agencies, and individuals in carrying out the mission and ministry of the LCMS, with special consideration given to new and innovative opportunities addressing the issues and concerns confronting our District and its congregations.

The application for the grant can be found on our website at [www.cid-cef.org](http://www.cid-cef.org), then look under "Grants" and "Ministry Outreach Grants." You can also email us at [cef@cidlcms.org](mailto:cef@cidlcms.org) or call our office at 217-793-1802 to obtain a copy of the application. The deadline is April 1, 2025.

### LWML CID District Convention: April 25-26, 2025, at Zion, Lincoln, IL.

Friday, the 25th, we will have servant events, an evening meal followed by worship service and fellowship hour at Zion Church.

Saturday, the 26th, is convention day at Zion School. We are thrilled to have Old Missionary Gary Thies of Mission Central as a keynote speaker. Also, we are equally happy that LWML President Eden Keefe will be with us. Delegates will tend to the district's business and select mission grants for funding. Six Breakout sessions will be held. **Registration and hotel information will be available from your church's LWML group or at <https://lwmlcid.org> beginning March 10th.**

## Voters Meeting Minutes

### March 16th, 2025

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:28 a.m. by president, Brian Engebrecht. Pastor Umbarger opened with prayer.
2. President Engebrecht asked if there was anyone that wanted to be a voting member. Aaron Homann asked to become a voting member and was approved.
3. Treasurer, Norm Antolik handed out corrections to this year's budget. A motion was made to accept the corrected report by Larry Dodge, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Homann. Motion passed. Norm also handed out a February Financial Statement and a Thrivent Choice Report. Norm encouraged anyone who had not applied for their Thrivent Choice dollars to do so by March 31<sup>st</sup>.
4. Youth and Family Board – Rebecca Hinman  
Rebecca Hinman reported that the Board of Youth and Family are having a youth event this afternoon. There will not be a Prom Closet this year, not a need.
5. Human Care – Susan Bowman  
Reported they delivered 27 Valentine care packages to shut ins. They will be serving Lenten Supper with Board of Outreach this week. They are also working with the Outreach Board on looking into how we can help Moms through a Christian organization called MomCo. Susan mentioned April is Volunteer Appreciation Month and encourage all the boards to recognize their volunteers. The board is planning on having a blood drive in October.
6. Outreach Ministry – Charlie Britton  
They have been working on “Everybody is a Witness Program” and will be putting up different posters to help us be better witnesses. Charlie also said we have had several visitors lately. He encouraged us to welcome visitors and introduce ourselves.
7. Board of Elders – Jim Homan  
Jim reported the Call Committee has the following members, Jim Homann is chair, Brian Engebrecht, Jonathan Schmidt, Dawn Antolik, Steve Braddy, Steve Sullivan, and Ann Churchill. The members have been approved by the Executive Board. Jim handed out a Prioritization of Pastoral Expectations for each member to fill out and return by March 30<sup>th</sup>. This will be compiled and sent to the Central Illinois District Office.

Jim also mentioned he was elected as our Lay Delegate to the Central Illinois District Convention in July. When Rev. Mohr spoke here he emphasized the shortage of funds in CID. Jim said he needs to report at the convention what our congregation would like to see happen. “Bring Giving Home...but it doesn't stay at home!” is the District Funding Campaign. The campaign aims to raise \$7M. Does our congregation not only want to approve the campaign but be able to generously support it? If the funding is not approved which building(s) should CID cease to own and operate and in which order? This will be discussed further and voted on at the June Voter's Meeting.

## Voters Meeting Minutes

### 8. Trustees - Evan Antolik

Evan said they are in the process of getting bids on resealing the parking lot. The door in the north concourse going into the courtyard has been replaced with double doors. The trustees will be clearing out the courtyard in the next few weeks. They have not heard if It's A Childs World will be using our facility this summer. Some painting has been done in the Education wing and they will be painting the window trim. Volunteers are welcomed.

### 9. Pastor Umbarger reported that we have received a 25% rebate from our loan with CEF and that goes to pay down the principal. Pastor also handed out a letter regarding Illinois House Bill #2827 which could cause problems for home schoolers and our Lutheran schools. He encouraged everyone to contact their representatives.

9. Glen McMillin made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded Dawn Antolik. Motion Passed

### 8. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

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

Respectively submitted by Diana Lackey, Date: March 16, 2025

1. <u>Evan Antolik</u>	23. <u>Corey Burko</u>
2. <u>Dawn Antolik</u>	24. <u>Kathleen Ahern</u>
3. <u>Chuck Bracker</u>	25. <u>Rebecca Hullman</u>
4. <u>Lee Dickey</u>	26. <u>Kimberly Bower</u>
5. <u>Roxie Wiesfong</u>	27. <u>Annie Churchill</u>
6. <u>Larry Dodge</u>	28. <u>Rod Hopkins</u>
7. <u>Rose Sullivan</u>	29. <u>Susan Bowman</u>
8. <u>Steve Sullivan</u>	30. <u>Marlene Fellows</u>
9. <u>Marsha Bracts</u>	31. <u>George Fellows</u>
10. <u>Dennis Bognet</u>	32. <u>Charlie Britta</u> <u>Joan Britta</u>
11. <u>Andy Elsh</u>	33. <u>Charlie Britta</u> <u>Joan Britta</u>
12. <u>Dave Soutris</u>	34. <u>Mrs McNally</u>
13. <u>Carolyn Soutris</u>	35. <u>Brian Koen</u>
14. <u>Tina Stone</u>	36. <u>Kevin McNally</u>
15. <u>Nancy Davis</u>	37. <u>Jonon Romann</u>
16. <u>Kay Sluym</u>	38. <u>Tom Haas</u>
17. <u>John Laren</u>	39. <u>Carol Honann</u>
18. <u>Veruska Bergeron</u>	40. <u>Jeff Pela</u>
19. <u>Beverina Haeuer</u>	41. <u>Diana Lackey</u>
20. <u>Margie Slaughter</u>	42. <u>Brian Engelbush</u>
21. <u>Emi Niemi</u>	43. _____
22. <u>Glen McMillin</u>	44. _____

**BE STRONG**  
**.... AND COURAGEOUS ....**  
**DO NOT BE AFRAID**  
**DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED**  
**FOR THE LORD**  
**YOUR GOD**  
**WILL BE WITH**  
**YOU**  
**WHEREVER YOU GO**  
**JOSHUA 1:9**

St. John's Lutheran Church East Moline, IL

API 2023 (Central Line - Chicago)

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

1450-30th Avenue  
East Moline, IL 61244

Phone (309)792-0755  
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Email: [office@stjohnsem.org](mailto:office@stjohnsem.org)

*Walking in the*



*Light of Christ.*

## Office Hours

Monday-Wednesday- 8:30am-2:00pm  
Thursday- 8:30am-12:00pm

## Worship Times

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



New courtyard resident this spring!