



The Informer

May 2024

St. John's Lutheran Church

Volume 65 Issue 9

From Pastor's Pen:



"Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt..."
(Colossians 4:6a)

Dear Family in Christ,

Every year I am thrilled to awaken in the morning to sound of the songbirds who have returned from their southern retreat. What a beautiful message they offer as they announce that spring has come at last. God has given these little creatures a voice to warm the soul. They are privileged to trumpet the arrival of new life.

We also have been called to be songbirds of God's grace. We are the royal priesthood of believers who are privileged *"to declare the praises of Him who called [us] out of darkness into His wonderful light (1 Pet. 2:9)."* We are commissioned to trumpet the marvelous message of the springtime of God's favor and of new life in Christ. We have been given voices to warm the souls of others as our conversations are filled with grace. This is a great spiritual blessing!

How tragic it is when such gifts of God are abused and turned toward evil. James laments, *"with the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be." (James 3:9-10)*

Over the years, while visiting members who no longer have the desire to take an active part in the Lord's kingdom work or even attend worship with their fellow saints, I have discovered a somewhat common denominator. Someone in the congregation had said something that hurt or offended them. One who claimed to be their brother or sister in Christ had cut them to the heart with cruel, perverse, or thoughtless words. The gift of God that was created for praise and the Gospel call had been used to curse and drive away from the Lord.

I realize that I am as guilty of this abuse of God's gift as anyone, but as your pastor I must impress upon you the importance of keeping a tight reign on your tongue. I have spoken to many members of your Christian family who are not experiencing the love of Christ from you who are reading this article. The voices they hear do not give praise to God, witness to Christ, nor offer encouragement to the saints. Instead, they are hearing curses, criticisms, and cutting remarks that hurt, destroy, and tear down. In the words of St. James, *"Brothers, this should not be!"*

If you have offended one of your brothers or sisters in Christ by unkind or thoughtless words, I encourage you to go to them and seek their forgiveness. Pride can never get in the way of our goal to grow together in Christ. Therefore, humble yourselves before God and one another. Offer and receive the blessings purchased for you by the blood of your risen Savior. Commit yourselves, this day, to obeying the admonitions of St. Paul, *"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit them who listen." (Ephesians 4:29)*

Living in Christ's forgiveness, the Holy Spirit will sanctify your lips and season your speech with grace and love. God, Himself, will enable you to use your voice to His holy purpose. Thanks be to our God who through His Son has given us the sweet song of the message of reconciliation.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Umbarger

In this issue:

Pastor's Letter	1
Notes from the Balcony	2
Serving the Lord this Month	3
Birthdays	4
Church News	5-10
Calendar	11

See The Informer
IN COLOR
On Our Website

Notes from the Balcony

For those of us who love to celebrate holidays, here is one to add to your calendar: Ascension Day, Thursday, May 9. This is the day we remember Christ's ascension from the earth and return to heaven. Internet suggestions for celebrating this holiday include making cloud-like meringue cookies, taking time to lay on the grass looking into the sky while remembering Christ's ascension and return, or having a picnic on a hilltop. Some eat a type of bird for dinner on Ascension Day which brings to mind Jesus "flying up" to Heaven and in one German tradition, pastries in the shape of birds are eaten. The best way to celebrate a church holiday is at church, of course, and at St. John's we will celebrate this day on Sunday, May 12. There may be some churches in the area who hold services on Thursday, May 9. In the Oshkosh, WI, area the LCMS circuit holds a joint service with a mass choir.

In preparation for this feast day, here are a few Ascension Day trivia questions. See how you do:

1. What is the liturgical color for Ascension Day?
2. Where can the account of Christ's ascension be found?
3. How many days after Jesus' resurrection was His ascension?
4. What hid Jesus from the eyes of the disciples as He ascended?
5. Who asked the disciples why they looked in the sky and reminded them that Jesus would return in the same way?
6. How many hymns are in the Ascension section of our hymnal?

(answers on page 4 of the Informer)



One Ascension hymn, *On Christ's Ascension I Now Build*, LSB 492, is a favorite of one of our members. The writer, Ernst Sonnemann (1630-1670), was a Lutheran pastor and songwriter in Germany and based his hymn on the first two lines of one written by Josua Wegelin (1604-1640). The hope and assurance of the believer's reunion with Christ that is built on Christ's ascension is the focus of this hymn. This assurance brings comfort in this life, a motivation to thankfully serve faithfully, and a prayer for a joyous and peaceful departure at life's end. Christ's words in John 14:3 express this hope, "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also."

As an addition to your celebration, you may enjoy listening to the cantata J. S. Bach based on this hymn. Christ's ascension is worth celebrating. I look forward to celebrating with you in church on May 12. Do you have any ideas for celebrating Ascension Day? I'd love to hear them!

Happy Ascension Day!

In Christ,

Christine Engebrecht

Serving the Lord This Month:

Ushers

Sat, May 4: Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
Sun, May 5:
Sat, May 11: Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
Sun, May 12: Glen McMillin
Sat, May 18: Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
Sun, May 19: The Mattly family
Sat, May 25: Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
Sun, May 26: The Mattly family

Greeters

Sat, May 4:
Sun, May 5: Kathy McDowell
Sat, May 11:
Sun, May 12:
Sat, May 18: Sharon DeWulf and Joyce Hoffman
Sun, May 19:
Sat, May 25:
Sun, May 26:

Acolytes

Sun, May 5: Brayden Medinger
Sun, May 12: Joel Duffy
Sun, May 19: Bennett Johnson
Sun, May 26: Sloane Churchill



Communion Assistants

May 5: Glen & Jonathan
May 12 Ascension: Kevin and Jim
May 19 Pentecost: Kevin and Ralph
May 26 Trinity: Glen and Dennis

Altar Guild

Kathy Ahrens
 and
 Rebecca Hinman

Eternal Candle

May 5: John & Nancy Davis, and Susan Bowman, in memory of Don (dad)
May 12: in honor of Zachary Antolik's baptismal birthday
May 19: Larry & Sharon Ripka, in memory of parents and Jeffie
May 26: OPEN



Flowers

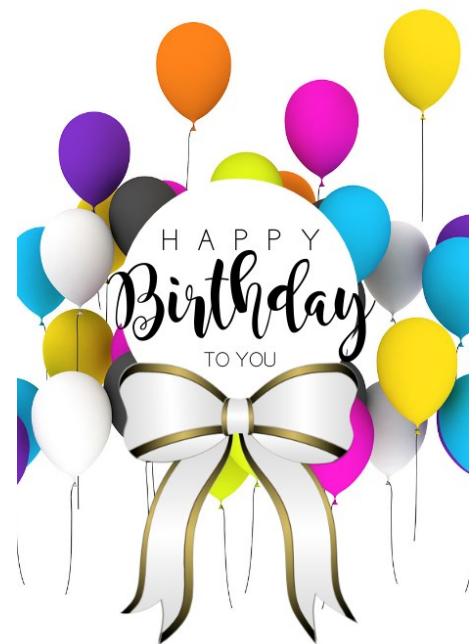
May 5: Bill and Donna Green, in honor of their anniversary
May 12: Karen Schmidt
May 19: Larry & Sharon Ripka
May 26: OPEN



Church News

Birthdays

<u>May 1</u> – Jameson Nitz & Sharron Ripka	<u>May 19</u> – Hailee Fischer, Kathy Herron & Barbara Honert
<u>May 2</u> - Hans VanRycke	<u>May 21</u> – Lindsey Rowe
<u>May 4</u> – Nancy Bonow	<u>May 23</u> – Grant McManus
<u>May 6</u> – Alex Verschoore	<u>May 25</u> – Kris McAnally & Patsy Mills
<u>May 7</u> – John Davis	<u>May 26</u> – Brandon Descamps
<u>May 8</u> – Nico Stone	<u>May 28</u> – Steven Bailey, David Busch, Keith Foehrkolb, & Kimberly Medina
<u>May 11</u> – Nicholas Kjera	<u>May 30</u> – Bill Johnson Jr.
<u>May 12</u> – Pastor Umbarger	<u>May 31</u> – Adam Hess
<u>May 13</u> – Palmer Beale & Rachel Duffy	
<u>May 14</u> – Mark Grotelueschen	
<u>May 16</u> - Bob Scheer	
<u>May 18</u> – Katherine Kirby & Kristian Umbarger	



Weekly Attendance & Offerings

<u>DATE</u>	<u>THIS YEAR</u>	<u>LAST YEAR</u>
3/31/24– Easter	235	229
4/07/24	126	197
4/14/24	146	229– Easter
4/21/24	157	102

Average monthly attendance of St. John's membership: 33%

Membership Report

Address Updates:

Mary Heino
Autumn Cove Assisted Living
4425 Greenbriar Dear Rd. #6
Anniston, AL 36207

Baptisms:

Lenora Busch (03/30/24)
Evelynn Conduff (04/14/2024)



Answers to Notes from the Balcony

1. White, the color of all major feasts of Christ
2. Acts 1 has the most detailed account
3. 40 days
4. A cloud
5. Two men dressed in white (angels)
6. 5

Thank you to everyone that purchased an Easter Lily!

Dennis and Marsha Boarts	In Memory of Loved Ones 2
Flo Moore	In Memory of Loved Ones 1
Janet Wachs	In Memory of Ed 1
Todd Miller	In Memory of George & Ruth Miller 1
Lynne Suess	In Memory of Roy and Grandson Chase 2
Carole Vrban	In Memory of Jerry Hill & Jane Hill 1
Norm and Orene Antolik	In Memory of Loved Ones 1
Belan Family	In memory of Ed Belan 2
Ron & Peg Heitzman	In memory of Our Parents 1
Dennis & Margie Schaefer	In memory of Loved ones 1
Judy Dugan	In memory of Husband, Son, and Granddaughter
Rose & Steve Sullivan	In memory of Loved ones
Ruby Pancrazio	In memory of Parents 1
John & Kay Iwen	In Memory of Family 1
Dennis & Lois Kelly	In Memory of Loved ones 1
Kathy Herrom	In Memory of Loved Ones 1
Nancy Williams	1
LouAnn DeRammelaere	In Memory of family members who have passed away 1
Steven & Diana Lackey	In Memory of Loved ones 2
Grotelueschen's	In Memory of our parents, brother & sister 1
Troy & Val McDonald	In Memory of all loved ones 1
Nancy Davis	In Memory of Don Davis 1
Carole Krouth	1
Susan Bowman	In Memory of loved ones 1
Rod & Noreen Hopkins	In Memory of Loved ones 3
Ken & Janet Hill	In Memory of Our Parents 1
Karen Schmidt	In Memory of Loved Ones 1
Brian & Christine Engebrecht	2
Joyce Hoffman	In Memory of Loved ones 1
Sharon DeWulf	In Memory of Dick DeWulf 1
Jim Moews	1
Pastor Umbarger	In Memory of Judi Umbarger 1
Chuck & Bev Brokaw	In Memory of Mickle 1



Church News

Calling all graduates!

If your child is graduating from high school or college this spring, please let Annie know so we can recognize them! We need names, pictures, school graduating from, and the date of the ceremony. Feel free to include additional information such as: the college your grad plans to attend in the fall, majors/ minors, sports played, awards/ honors, etc.!



Baccalaureate
WORSHIP SERVICE

Activities Room

The craft activity for May is birdhouse painting. They are handmade of oak donated by one of our members. If you would like to paint one, please sign up on the Information table. Painting will begin on Monday, May 6th in the green classroom.

2nd Friday Fellowship

Join us on Friday, May 10th for fun and games in the yellow activities room.

BLOOD DRIVE

BLOODCENTER.ORG

St. John's Lutheran Church
Saturday, May 11 8:00am-11:30am
Church Gym

To book your appointment, contact Tamee Stone at tameestone@gmail.com or scan the QR code.

Appointments preferred. Walk ins welcome.

Give & get choice of gift card, a donation to Best Friends Animal Society or bonus points to the rewards store!

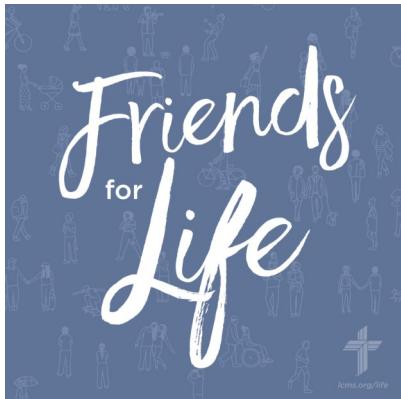
ImpactLife
50 Years of Saving Lives

Church News

The official broadcast voice of **The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.**
Christ for you. Anytime. Anywhere.

| [On your podcast app](#) | [Livestream kfuo.org 24/7](#) | AM 850

We believe that God is the author and sustainer of all life. We also know it can be hard to speak about the intrinsic value of life, health and the family when it feels like the world is trying to drown us out.



We're right here beside you. In this podcast of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's Life, Health and Family Ministry, we're coming alongside one another as a community of Christ's redeemed people. Together we'll explore life, health and family issues in a way that honors our heavenly Father's value of human life, serves our neighbor, shares the faith and connects us to others who are doing the same. Join us, so that together we can be friends for life.

Camp CILCA

The Camp CILCA Hog Roast is Sunday, May 26th and we are looking for willing hands to assist with set up, clean up, and serving. There will be a Matins service at 10:30am followed by dinner from 11:30am-2:30pm. If you would like to assist with set up, serving or clean up, please follow this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4EAEAC2FA5FFC43-camp> We are also looking for about 300 servings of dessert. If you would like to contribute, please sign up on the link here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4EAEAC2FA5FFC43-49079918-dessert>

Camp CILCA's Hog Roast

Sunday May 26, 2024



Sunday worship @ 10:30am
Outdoor Chapel



Beach open 1-4pm on
Saturday and Sunday



camp@cilca.org



Adults: \$ 10 Children: \$8
Food 11:30 am- 2:30pm



Tent/RV sites
available all weekend



4124 Camp CILCA Road
Cantrall, IL 62625

Church News

Daughters of All Ages Tea Party

REMINDER

*Sunday
May 5, 2024
1:00- 3:00 p.m.
Door Prizes*



Signup sheet will be up until April 28th.

Whoops. Did you forget to signup? Contact Diana Lackey 309-373-1862.

*Serving
Finger Sandwiches and Dessert
Tea, Coffee, and Punch*

Sponsored by LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) at St. John's.



Church News



The May LWML meeting will be held on Thursday, May 16 at 1:00 p.m. in the Janssen rooms. The program will be helping with VBS materials.

Information about CID (Central Illinois District) LWML Mites!

The local LWML mites go to the Central Illinois District LWML where 75% of the money goes toward District Mission Grants and 25% goes to National LWML.

LWML CID is happy to announce they have met their mission goal of \$105,000 with \$78,750 (75%) for district grants and the balance going to national grants (25%)

PRAISE THE LORD FOR HIS BLESSINGS TO US!

Grants were:

1. Student Aid for Church Workers \$30,000
2. Lutheran High Transportation-Springfield \$25,000
3. Resourcing LERT \$10,000
4. Hope for the Hopeless \$10,000
5. Well House Bible Study Support, Quincy \$ 500
6. Our Savior Lutheran School-Uganda \$ 3,250

LWML CID will be having their annual convention April 27th at Rock Island Immanuel Lutheran Church where they will be setting their goals for 2024-2025. Watch the Informer to see what the Mission goals will be.



Plant Sale Fundraiser

May 13th-19th, 2024

**Silvis HyVee Outdoor
Garden Center**



THIS FLYER REQUIRED WITH PURCHASE

10% of your purchase benefits
St. John's Food Pantry

Includes ALL outdoor garden center merchandise
(plants, mulch, lawn ornaments, etc.)

-----*Cut here & return lower portion to St. John's*-----
St. John's Lutheran Church Food Pantry
1450 30th Avenue, East Moline, IL 61244

Plant Sale Fundraiser
May 13-19, 2024

Total Sale \$ _____

St. John's Lutheran Church East Moline, IL

May 2024 (Central Time - Chicago)

28				
29				
30				
1				
2				
3				
4				
9am - TOPS				8am - Men's Bible Study
9:30am - Walking Club				9:30am - Adult Choir
10am - Midweek Bible Study				5pm - Worship w/ Communion
1:30pm - Activities Room				
6:30pm - Board Meetings				9:30am - Walking Club
9:30am - Walking Club				
9am - TOPS				
9:30am - Walking Club				
6:30pm - Fellowship Friday				
7am - Blood Drive				
8am - Men's Bible Study				
9:30am - Adult Choir				
5pm - Worship				
9am - Worship w/ Communion				
10:15am - Bible Study / Sunday				
1pm - Mother's Day Tea				
1:30pm - Activities Room				
6:30pm - Heavenly Ringers				
9:30am - Walking Club				
10am - Food Pantry				
9:30am - Walking Club				
6:30pm - Guitar Jam				
10am - Midweek Bible Study				
1:30pm - Activities Room				
4pm - Fellowship committee mtg				
9am - Worship				
10:15am - Bible Study / Sunday				
1pm - Staff Meeting				
1:30pm - Activities Room				
6:30pm - Heavenly Ringers				
9:30am - Walking Club				
10am - Food Pantry				
9:30am - TOPS				
9:30am - Walking Club				
6:30pm - Guitar Jam				
11:30am - Ladies Luncheon @				
9:30am - Walking Club				
1pm - LWML				
1:30pm - Activities Room				
9am - TOPS				
9:30am - Walking Club				
6:30pm - Guitar Jam				
10am - Midweek Bible Study				
1:30pm - Activities Room				
9am - TOPS				
9:30am - Walking Club				
6:30pm - Adult Choir				
8am - Men's Bible Study				
9:30am - Adult Choir				
5pm - Worship w/ Communion				
9am - Worship				
10am - Walking Club				
9:30am - TOPS				
9:30am - Walking Club				
6:30pm - Guitar Jam				
10am - Midweek Bible Study				
1:30pm - Activities Room				
9:30am - Walking Club				
10am - Food Pantry				
9:30am - Walking Club				
6:30pm - Adult Choir				
8am - Men's Bible Study				
9:30am - Adult Choir				
5pm - Worship				
9am - Worship				
10:15am - Bible Study / Sunday				
1pm - Staff Meeting				
1:30pm - Activities Room				
9:30am - Walking Club				
10am - Food Pantry				
9:30am - Walking Club				
6:30pm - Guitar Jam				
10am - Midweek Bible Study				
1:30pm - Activities Room				
9:30am - Walking Club				
10am - Food Pantry				
9:30am - TOPS				
9:30am - Walking Club				
6:30pm - Adult Choir				
8am - Men's Bible Study				
9:30am - Adult Choir				
5pm - Worship				
9am - Worship				
10:15am - Bible Study / Sunday				
1pm - Staff Meeting				
1:30pm - Activities Room				



St. John's Lutheran Church

1450-30th Avenue
East Moline, IL 61244

Tel: 309-792-0755
Fax: 309-792-0776
E-mail: office@stjohnsem.org

We're On the Web!!
www.stjohnsem.org

Walking in the Light of Christ!



Worship Schedule:
Saturday worship— 5:00pm
Sunday worship- 9:00am
10:15am— Sunday School
& Bible Study

Office Hours:

Monday – Wednesday 8:30am-2:00pm
Thursday 8:30 am– noon



Inside our Sanctuary.