



THE INFORMER



June 2021

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

Volume 63 Issue 10

Special points of interest:

Letters from the Pastor,
Music Director & Vicar.

June Birthdays.

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From Pastor's Pen:

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God." (Exodus 20:8-10a)

"I do not eat food anymore because my parents made me eat when I was little," said no one, ever. Yet, how many times have you heard people use this excuse for not going to worship nor attending Bible classes? Then again, there are those who will say that they do not go to worship because they worked hard all week and Sunday is their day to sleep in and do what they want to do. Excuse me?! When did the Lord sign over His day to anyone else? Whether it is working in the yard, golfing, traveling to ball games, or anything else, to neglect worship is a gross violation of God's command. It is a failure to remember the Sabbath by keeping it holy. It is openly despising preaching and God's word, rather than gladly hearing and learning it. It is doing our own work on the Lord's day rather than letting Him do His work upon us.

Some may argue, according to Colossians, that we are no longer expected to celebrate the Sabbath and other festivals, because it all had to do with the Old Testament. The point, however, that Paul is making is not that this commandment has been eliminated. Rather, it has found its fullness in Christ as Jesus, Himself, said, "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." (Matt. 5:17) As Luther explains in his Large Catechism there are ceremonial and civil aspects to the third commandment that no longer apply to us, but the part about setting aside a day to be holy as a Sabbath to the Lord our God still stands.

It pains me that the majority of our congregation - those who call themselves Christians - openly violate this commandment by defiantly refusing to worship and receive the wonderful gifts of grace that Christ offers them. Sadly, even among the more frequent "church-goers" the upcoming season seems to present a greater challenge. With much to do many will unwisely choose the way of Martha who was busy with many things instead of the way of Mary who wanted to be with Jesus and hear His words.

I encourage you to make the wise and God pleasing choice, not by compulsion of the commandment, but because Jesus tenderly invites you. He invites you to come to Him with all your heaviness and burdens and find rest, your Sabbath, in Him. Make the Lord's day holy to you as you set it apart as a time to receive the gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation in His holy supper. Make it a Sabbath to Him as you find rest for your souls in His Word. Make it that day of the week when you will set aside your own labors so that God may accomplish His work in you.

In a recent Bible class we discussed how the Jews used the day prior to the Sabbath as a day of preparation. It was a day when they got all their work done, so that they could observe the Sabbath without distraction. I encourage all of you to try this. Get your work done. Take time for yourself as needed, then prepare your hearts and minds to set aside the Lord's day to Him, and yourselves to His day in worship. I look forward to seeing you all in Church this week and every week.

See The Informer
IN COLOR
On Our Website

Pastor Umberger

Church News

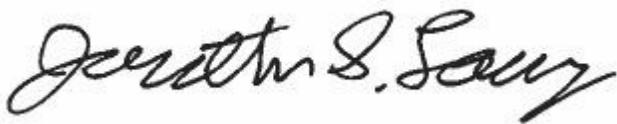
Introducing our Vicar for the 2020-2021 year- Jonathan Lackey

Dear People of St. John's,

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our father in Heaven and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is with great pleasure and joy that I accept the placement as vicar to St. John's Lutheran Church. My wife Molly and I are very excited to be a part of the St. John's community this coming July. I am very excited to grow under the guidance of Pastor Umbarger while serving you, the flock of St. John's. I am very excited to put all my seminary education into practice.

I have been told by a huge number of professors, students, and friends how richly God has blessed me in his assigning me to serve as your vicar. I intend to, with His help, carry out the tasks he has set before me in his service. I ask for your prayers for Molly and I as we move and make the transition from seminary life to the parish, and from St. Louis to East Moline. Sola Deo Gloria!

In the Trinity,



Jonathan Lackey

Ladies Aid

St. John's Ladies Aid met May 6, 2021 at 1 p.m. with 7 members present.

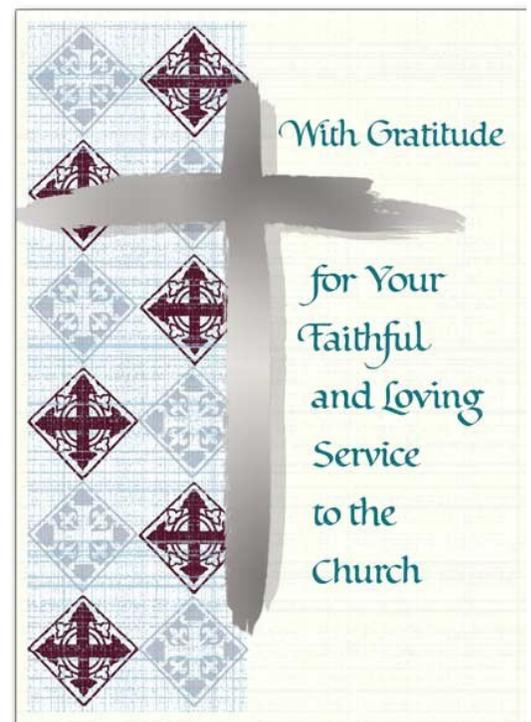
Leader Norma Grotelueschen read a devotion based on Psalm 17 telling the ladies that God is available 24/7 and you will never get a voicemail or be put on hold.

Diana Lackey read the minutes from the March 4th meeting. They included the fact that there is no one willing to take any of the Ladies Aid offices any more, and that a meeting would be held on May 6th to vote on dissolving the group and moving the money in the Ladies Aid treasury into a separate amount in the LWML treasury to be used for funeral dinners and Portals of Prayer given out by Chaplin Weber at the prison. LWML will be in charge of the funeral dinners.

Marsha Boarts made a motion to dissolve Ladies Aid and the treasury money to be kept separate for funeral dinners and Portals of Prayer for Chaplin Weber.

LouAnn DeRammelaere seconded the motion, and it was passed. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

We give thanks for the many years Ladies Aid served St. Johns. They were very instrumental with physical and monetary help in the beginning to get the congregation going.



Vicar's View

Ever since *The Exorcist* first hit box offices in 1973, the world of media has been obsessed with demons, devils, and the occult. This film, made with a paltry \$12 million budget ended up grossing over \$440 million in box offices around the world, a feat that many film makers have sought to replicate many times since but to no avail. Put up for 10 different Academy Awards, it won two and ended up staying atop the list of highest grossing horror films until the 2017 rerelease of *IT*. It seems to be true what they say...everybody loves a good scare.

But the prevalence of the occult in culture raises some interesting questions for Christians in this increasingly spiritual age. Is the airtime being given to demons, devils, and possession good for the souls of the world? In an age where everybody seems to cling to being spiritual rather than religious, should we be providing evil spirits such as these all this free air time?

This question came to mind as I was watching TV the other night and saw an ad for the newest Conjuring movie, 'The Devil Made Me Do It'. From what I could gather from the trailer it appears this movie looks at a young man who commits a murder because he was overcome or possessed in some way by demonic spirits. While I have watched many of these films as they came out over the past 10-15 years, I had to ask myself that night, is this really a good thing for us as a church?

As Christians, we have always acknowledged and believed in the possibility of demonic incursion into our world. But now, everywhere we look we see demons. They end up either looking like they are impossible to defeat, or like they aren't all that scary in the first place, giving you power and pleasure. When you join this with the increasing skepticism and mistrust of religion and the rise of a culture of "spirituality" in America, I think that we start to see some very concerning problems.

In 1 Timothy 4, Paul warned this young pastor that, "the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared." It seems that Paul was concerned about some of the same things then that we are seeing now. This idea that you can be spiritual without being religious is a scary thing, especially when you realize that these demons are spirits too. Do not allow yourself to be led astray by the deceit and teachings of other spirits. What is more, help your neighbor, let them know of the dangers that these spirits pose.

And of course, we should always continue to seek to stand firm, affixing the full armor of God and relying on the institution of the church for support. This is God's gift to us! He instituted the church and this Christian religion alike so that we can resist the assaults of the devil and his hoards.

While this truth may not sit well with our culture, we know it to be true. So whether or not you choose to head to the theater and see this film and the many others like it, I encourage you to be sure that you are aware of what message this sends. The evil one uses tools like this to entice, lure, and trick you away from the spirit by which we have been called; God's Holy Spirit.

In Christ,

Vicar WA

wilkem@csl.edu
832-257-8691
309-792-0755



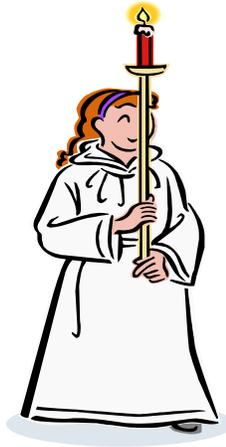
Serving the Lord This Month:

Ushers

Sunday 8am:

Sunday 10:30am: Chuck
Brokaw

Communion Assignments



Acolytes

June 6 (8am): Demetrius Williams
(10:30am): Aubree Medinger
June 13 (8am): Payton Braddy
(10:30am): Gavin Johnson
June 20 (8am): Easton Antolik
(10:30am): Brooke Medinger
June 27 (8am): Kinzlee Antolik
(10:30am) : Grace Schmidt

Altar Guild
Orene Antolik
Monica Scheer

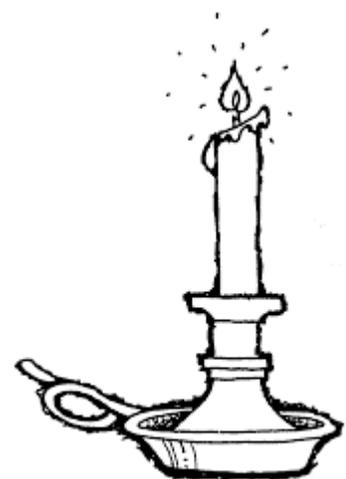


Eternal Candle

June 6: Happy Birthday Mom
(Rhea) from Chelsea and Dalton
June 13: Karen Schmidt
June 20: Evan & Dawn Antolik in
honor of Kristen and Easton's
Birthdays'
June 27: Barbara Honert in honor
of loved ones who have passed

Flowers

June 6: Rod Hopkins in Thanks for
Gods Gifts
June 13: Karen Schmidt
June 20: Jim & Carrie Homann
In honor of their 21st Anniversary
June 27: OPEN



Birthdays

June 1 - Judy Murphy

June 2 – Orene Antolik

June 4– Howard Williams

June 5 - Rod Hopkins

June 6– Carl McGee

June 7 – Alice Gingry & Valerie McDonald

June 8 – Rhea Oakes

June 9– Bali Guerrero, Jim Homann, Bentley Sellers & Jennifer Palar

June 11- Joel Duffy & Owen Mattly

June 13 – Duane Becker & Evelyn Weakley

June 14 – Kristen Antolik

June 16 – Adam McMillin

June 18 – Easton Antolik, Monica Scheer & Lora Vallee

June 19 – Sylvia Fauser & Samuel Nelson

June 21 – Carrie Homann, Jonathan Schmidt

June 23 – Tony Frankowski & Kevin Verschoore

June 24 - Ronald Wilson

June 25 – Peg Heitzman & Chase Sellers

June 27 – Derek Duffy

June 28 – Tim Chellew & Melinda Loete

June 29 – Chuck Brokaw, Murphy Hill, & Gunter Terronez



Membership Report

No News to Report

Weekly Attendance & Offerings

<u>DATE</u>	<u>THIS YEAR</u>	<u>LAST YEAR</u>	<u>SUN. SCHOOL</u>
4/25/21 -Easter	258	drive-in	NA
5/2/21	205	drive-in	NA
5/9/21	149	drive-in	NA
5/16/21	126	drive-in	NA
5/23/21	127	drive-in	NA

April Simply Giving \$4840.00

Reminder- All Boards Meet on Thursday, June 3rd.

Parish planning is Thursday, June 10th, and there is a Voter’s Meeting on Sunday, June 13th.

The Financial Secretary Report and the Treasurer’s Report will no longer be published in the Informer. We have decided to make these reports available in the office upon request.



Notes from the Balcony

Covid or no Covid, this is a beautiful time of year. Covid or no Covid the greens of the foliage and the explosion of colors from the flowers all cry out the praise of our glorious Creator. Covid or no Covid, it is certainly fitting that we human creatures should join in and sing to the Lord a new song of praise. One of our congregation's favorite hymns of praise is *Earth and All Stars* (LSB 817). It was also the favorite of one of our congregation's beloved members, Joanne Wilson, who began singing praises to our heavenly Father on a more intimate level on her birthday this spring. For these reasons, my focus this month will be on this hymn.

Since a little background on a hymn often makes a favorite hymn even more meaningful, let me do a little digging and we will all be a little more informed about this favorite. The text of *Earth and All Stars* was written by Herbert F. Brokering (1926-2009). Brokering had German Lutheran roots and was the son of a Lutheran pastor. Like his father, he also became a Lutheran pastor and was additionally a poet, hymn writer, and author. Studying at several institutions in the U. S. and Europe, his earliest higher educational endeavors took place in Iowa at Wartburg and the University of Iowa. Two hymns in the Lutheran Service Book are sung to the tune of *Earth and All Stars*, this hymn and *Alleluia! Jesus is Risen*. Brokering penned another favorite, *Thine the Amen*.

Earth and All Stars was written for the celebration of the ninetieth anniversary of St. Olaf College in 5³08. This may explain the classroom, lab, and knowledge references in a couple of the stanzas. In mentioning this hymn, Brokering comments, "I tried to gather into a hymn of praise the many facets of life which emerge in the life of community. So there are references to building, nature, learning, family, war, festivity. Seasons, emotions, death and resurrection, bread, wine, water, wind, sun, spirit...have made great impressions on my imagination." Like many good hymns, *Earth and All Stars* includes several scriptural references, perhaps the most notable being Psalm 98:1 which serves as the basis of the refrain and the middle and last lines of every verse.

O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. (Psalm 98:1)

Stanza 1 commands the cosmos and military to sing.

Earth and all stars!

Loud rushing planets!

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Oh, victory!

Loud shouting army!

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Refrain

He has done marvelous things. I too will praise Him with a new song!



In addition to the literal meaning, "All stars" brings to mind God's promise of the number of Abraham's descendants and the "loud shouting army" is reminiscent of King Jehoshaphat's singing army. In a very desperate situation, when faced with certain destruction from the Moabites and Ammonites, Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah turned to the Lord with fasting and prayer. The Lord answered them through the prophet Jahaziel who told them the enemy would be defeated without the need for them to do battle. The next morning they rose, sang praises to God, and found the enemy lying dead on the ground. It's one of my FAVORITE Bible stories about confidence in the Lord and the Lord's amazing help in a completely unexpected way. Check it out in 2 Chronicles 20.

It would be fun to go through all seven stanzas looking for their ties to Scripture, but I should probably leave off here. I'm not sure I am allotted the pages in the newsletter to continue. However, I will recommend the reading of Psalm 148 which looks to me like the *Earth and All Stars* of the Old Testament. I will also challenge you and myself to make up new stanzas with our own version of *Earth and All Stars*. It's not difficult to insert personal phrases of praise into the stanzas.

I would also like to mention that there are opportunities for you to sing or play some new songs for Sunday services this summer. Solos, small groups, or larger groups are all welcome. Just let me know and I will be happy to get you on the schedule and help make it happen.

In His service,

Christine Engebrecht



Evan and Dawn Antolik invite the congregation to an Open House on June 12, from 2-6pm to celebrate Allison's graduation.

It will be held at Flo's house:
3104 Archer Drive in East Moline.
Please join us!

Graduation
Party 

VBS

Spread the word, VBS is on this year!!! We will be outside as much as possible, and following the recommendations for distancing as set forth by state mandates. We have also planned new way for you to pick up your child(ren), to avoid the congestion in the sanctuary that we all love so much ☺. Registration forms are available on the Information Table. Please return them to the box on the Library Counter as soon as possible so we can plan our supplies.

We hope your child will join us as we

EXPLORE THE RAINFOREST!



Congratulations to our 2021 Graduates



Allison Antolik is graduating from UTHS. She will be attending Western Illinois University to study Civil Engineering and Music this fall.

Suzannah Weber is graduating from Concordia University in Mequon, WI.

Katie Aiello is graduating from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN. Her call is to Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne and she will be working in the admissions department. She will be working specifically with perspective deaconess students.

Grace Erickson is graduating from Geneseo High School and will be attending college at Kirkwood to be a Dental Hygienist.

Savannah Kern is graduating from UTHS and will be attending college at Black Hawk before moving on to a 4 year college.



June 2021 -- St. John's Lutheran Church

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00AM - 9:00AM Worship w/ Communion 9:15AM - 10:15AM Missionary Presentation/ Sunday School 10:30AM - 11:30AM Worship w/ Communion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30PM - 7:30PM Men's Reunion-outdoors/cry room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM - 12:00PM Food Pantry 3:00PM - 4:00PM ASL 6:30PM - 7:30PM Guitar Jam (gym) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00AM - 10:00AM Staff Meeting (Office) 9:00AM - 10:00AM TOPS (Key) 10:00AM - 11:00AM Bible Study 	All Boards Meet in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30PM - 7:30PM All Boards (Janssen) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30PM - 7:30PM Wedding Rehearsal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3:00PM - 4:00PM Wedding - Alyssa Shelton
24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00AM - 9:00AM Worship w/ Communion 9:15AM - 10:15AM Bible Study/ Sunday School 10:30AM - 11:30AM Worship w/Communion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30PM - 7:30PM Men's Reunion-outdoors/cry room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM - 12:00PM Food Pantry 6:30PM - 7:30PM Guitar Jam (gym) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00AM - 10:00AM Staff Meeting (Office) 9:00AM - 10:00AM TOPS (Key) 10:00AM - 11:00AM Bible Study(?) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30PM - 7:30PM Parish Planning Council 		
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00AM - 9:00AM Worship 9:15AM - 10:15AM Voters' Meeting 10:30AM - 11:30AM Worship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30PM - 7:30PM Men's Reunion-outdoors/cry room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM - 12:00PM Food Pantry 3:00PM - 4:00PM ASL 6:30PM - 7:30PM Guitar Jam (gym) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00AM - 10:00AM Staff Meeting (Office) 9:00AM - 10:00AM TOPS (Key) 10:00AM - 11:00AM Bible Study(?) 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:00PM - 12:00AM Lockin
26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:00AM - 9:00AM Lockin 8:00AM - 9:00AM Worship w/ Communion 9:15AM - 10:15AM Bible Study/ Sunday School 10:30AM - 11:30AM Worship/ Communion: Sanctuary 	Informer Deadline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00AM - 11:30AM VBS 6:30PM - 7:30PM Men's Reunion-outdoors/cry room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00AM - 11:30AM VBS 6:30PM - 7:30PM Guitar Jam (gym) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00AM - 10:00AM TOPS (Key) 9:00AM - 11:30AM VBS 10:00AM - 11:00AM Bible Study(?) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00AM - 11:30AM VBS 1:00PM - 3:00PM LWML (Jans/Rms) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00AM - 11:30AM VBS 	
27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00AM - 9:00AM Worship 9:15AM - 10:15AM Bible Study/ Sunday School 10:30AM - 11:30AM Worship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30PM - 7:30PM Men's Reunion-outdoors/cry room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM - 12:00PM Food Pantry 3:00PM - 4:00PM ASL 6:30PM - 7:30PM Guitar Jam (gym) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00AM - 10:00AM Staff Meeting (Office) 9:00AM - 10:00AM TOPS (Key) 10:00AM - 11:00AM Bible Study(?) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30PM - 7:30PM Elders Meeting (Janssen) 6:30PM - 7:30PM Trustee Meeting 		



St. John's
Lutheran Church
of East Moline,

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!



Office Hours

MONDAY-THURSDAY: 8:30AM-12NOON

Worship Times

Sunday 8:00am and 10:30am
Sunday School & Bible Studies 9:15am



St. John's - in Summer Sun.