



THE INFORMER



July 2021

St. John's Lutheran Church of East Moline IL Volume 63 Issue 11

From Pastor's Pen:

In this issue:

Pastor's Letter	1
Vicar's View	2
Serving the Lord This Month	3
Church News	4-6
Youth News	7-8
Calendar	17

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

As the season for weddings is upon us I thought that I would like to use my space this month to discuss the often neglected gift of marriage. I have told many of you that at the beginning of my ministry couples living together before marriage was rare among those who came seeking a Christian wedding. Now, however, it is the opposite. Perhaps this is why I perform so few ceremonies these days, because I do not give people a pass on this one. It would be wrong for me to endorse what has been normalized and reward those who claim to be Christians for conforming to the ways of this world.

Luther wrote: "...nowadays you may hear many who studiously gather all the inconveniences incident to marriage and, misled thereby, are deterred from turning their mind to this estate...if you have the gift of abstinence and can live without sin, well good. Then abstain from sex life. But if you cannot without sin abstain from uniting with a woman, then make use of the remedy which God points out to you. And if you do not seek to become a father, seek at least a remedy against sin that you may avoid fornication and adultery, pollutions, and irregular satisfaction of evil desires." (SL 2, 361)

Living in a self-centered, pleasure-oriented society, it is becoming increasingly more difficult for young Christian couples to uphold the true, biblical standards of righteousness and morality. The frequency of premarital sex and of couples living together without marriage is alarming. What is more frightening is their flippant attitude, comparing it to taking a car on a test drive before buying it. They often ask, "Well, what's wrong with living together before marriage, anyway?"

Well, let me offer God's answer to this question:

1. It involves the sin of fornication; that is sexual intercourse between unmarried persons. There are many Bible passages in which God clearly condemns it and announces His judgment upon those who impenitently continue in it. (Nt. 1 Corinthians 6:9; Ephesians 5:3; Hebrews 13:4)
2. The proper place for sex according to God's design is not for recreational pleasure or as a warm-up for marriage. It is intended for the consummation of the marriage bond. It serves as a means of conceiving children and of enjoying marital intimacy. Any deviation from this is a violation of God's law which brings serious consequences for those who do not repent, seek forgiveness in Christ, and turn away from their sin.
3. If we claim to be Christian then our life is not ours; it belongs to God. We call Christ our Lord to whom we are willing to submit and to sacrifice all things. We are not free to do only what is pleasing to us. [Nt. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20]
4. Sex without the binding commitment of marriage cheapens both the sanctity of sex and the sacredness of marriage. It also cheapens oneself and the other person involved. Love without the commitment of marriage is not really sacrificial love at all, but rather selfish and sinful lust.
5. All violations of God's standards of morality carry consequences. Some of the many results of the sin of fornication are misplaced trust, unplanned pregnancy, disease, difficulty adjusting to marriage, and a greater risk of eventual divorce. In addition professing Christian's living together outside of marriage offers a negative witness to others.

God's standard is clear, and it is still best for us. "Let marriage be honored by all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled; for God will judge the immoral and the adulterous." (Heb. 13:4)

If you have fallen into the trap of sexual intimacy before marriage or the very public sin of cohabitation, do not despair. There is forgiveness and purification through Jesus Christ. Confess your sin. Receive forgiveness. Turn away from your wrongful choice and know that he has again made you holy, pure and blameless in His sight. [Nt. Eph. 5:25-27]

Let us all, together, honor marriage and seek the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit to purify marriage beds.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Umbarger

Special points of interest:

Letters from the Pastor,
Vicar & Upcoming Events

July Birthdays.



Vicar's View

Howdy Johnnies,

It is with a heavy heart that I write the words of this month's The Vicar's Voice article as it will be my last. So, rather than focusing on some off the wall theological topic or providing some less than helpful movie review, I will take this opportunity to say thank you. I have felt so immeasurably blessed to be able to serve with and alongside y'all over the past 12 months. It has been the highlight of my ministerial formation and I greatly rejoice in the plans that God has for you in the coming years.

For fear of leaving out some of those who have had the greatest impact in my time here, I refer you to the directory that the office produced this last spring. If the name is in there, you can bet that you, and they, have had a great impact on me, whether you realized it or not.

To the members of the numerous boards, committees, and to the office staff, I say an extra thank you as your wisdom and guidance have been indispensable to me in this year of growth and development.

To my confirmation students, congratulations, none of you need to stick around for summer school, so you'll be ready to start up again in the fall with the next Vicar who, you guessed it, will be called Vicar just like I was.

And now, in the spirit of half-Christmas, I have a few parting gifts to give out before I go:

To Jim Homann, you have been appointed to serve a lifelong appointment as head of the board of Elders. Congratulations, retirement was never in your future anyways! To Evan, I give a sign-up sheet for this wonderful tent. Everybody make sure to request it for their very own special events.

To Annie, I leave a copy of Excel for Dummies, unfortunately it is a digital version so good luck finding it in the computer.

To Greg, I leave you the gift of substandard coffee, I will no longer be bankrolling your addiction, sorry.

To Flo, I leave you a gift that doesn't keep on giving – a lack of dog hair floating through the office. Gunner and I appreciated your patience this year, and the numerous pet hair erasers that you undoubtedly had to purchase.

And last but not least, to Pastor, I leave a recording of myself disagreeing with you on a variety of your favorite topics that will help lull you to sleep, and if that doesn't work, I hear Cody Road makes a great single barrel.

And now, as I take my leave, it is time to saddle up and ride off into the sunset while some sad ole country song plays and I voice over my fondest of farewells...God's richest blessings to you as you continue to do his work here in East Moline.

Vicar.



Serving the Lord This Month:

Ushers

July 4, 8:00am: Jeff Belan
 10:30am:
 July 11, 8:00am: Jeff Belan
 10:30am:
 July 18, 8:00am: Jeff Belan
 10:30am
 July 25, 8:00am: Jeff Belan
 10:30am:

Greeters

July 4, 8:00am:
 10:30am:
 July 11, 8:00am:
 10:30am:
 July 18, 8:00am:
 10:30am:
 July 25, 8:00am:
 10:30am:

Acolytes

Sunday July 4:
 Sunday, July 11:
 Sunday, July 18:
 Sunday, July 25:



Communion Assignments:

July 4, 8am: Ralph Grotelueschen
 10:30am: Jonathan Schmidt
 July 18, 8am: Dennis Boarts
 10:30am: Ed Wachs



Altar Guild

Kathy Ahrens
 Rebecca Hinman

Eternal Candle

July 4: Karen Schmidt
 July 11: Evan & Dawn Antolik
 In honor of Collin's Birthday
 July 18: Chuck & Bev Brokaw
 In honor of Michael
 July 25: In memory of Taylor Rusk



Flowers

July 4: Karen Schmidt
 July 11: In honor of Ross Hopkins' wedding
 July 18: Farewell Wilke
 July 25: Chuck & Bev Brokaw
 In honor of their anniversary

Thank you for your service!!



Church News

Birthdays

July 2 - James Sharp

July 3 - Alice Heller

July 4 - Lois Kelly, Ava Morrow & Hank Van Damme

July 5 - Aliza Stone

July 7 - Laura Chaffee & Cori Rossmiller

July 8 - Matthew Lorfeld

July 9 - Collin Antolik & Nathan Duffy

July 11 - Helen Carter

July 12 - Nancy Gosa

July 13 - LaVera Bull, Michael Dosch, Ronald Erickson, Kevin McAnally, Mary Whipple, Brayden Medinger

July 14 - Ron Whipple & Henry Schmidt

July 16 - Amanda McMillin

July 17 - Jane Hipple

July 21 - Greg Burke, Ann Cobb & Scott Mattly

July 22 - Steven Braddy, Lee Copeland & Judy Knudsen

July 23 - Keith Verschoore

July 24 - Larry Hipple & Grace Schmidt

July 25 - Cody Rossmiller, Gregory Smart & Dylan Whipple

July 26 - Troy McDonald

July 27 - Judi Becker & Sloane Churchill

July 28 - Nancy Smart

July 29 - Greg Hart, Kaitlyn Isreal & Donna Moews

July 30 - Janice Coon

July 31 - Jim Moews & Wendy Verschoore



Membership Report

Deaths:

Judy Versluis (06-17-21)

New Members:

Steve & Rose Sullivan

Sharon DeWulf

Weekly Attendance & Offerings

<u>DATE</u>	<u>THIS YEAR</u>	<u>LAST YEAR</u>	<u>SUN. SCHOOL</u>	<u>RECEIVED</u>
5/30/21	120	Drive- In		
6/6/21	121	Drive- In		
6/13/21	147	37		
6/20/21	152	31		

Average monthly attendance: 21%

May Simply Giving: \$4705

Church News

LWML

LWML will not be meeting in July.

NEW Care Ministry Team

The Board of Human Care is beginning a new volunteer program that will match a volunteer to a member in need. As our members in need request help with various tasks: ride to a doctor appointment, pick up groceries, occasional cleaning or special seasonal household tasks, etc., we will call on our volunteers to bless them with an hour or 2 of their time.

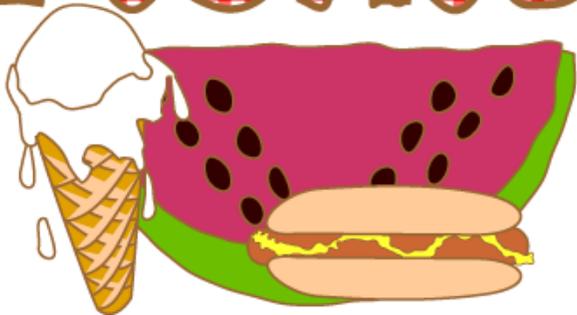
Please let us know how you can serve our members by picking up a Care Ministry Team form in the Concourse. Completed forms can be placed in the large envelope on the same table.

Questions: Carrie Homann 309-737-5511



Farewell to Vicar Wilke

PICNIC



IT'S SO HARD TO SAY GOODBYE, but maybe a picnic will make it easier!!! Plan on our church picnic after the 10:30 service on **JULY 11th** to say farewell to Vicar Wilke. We will be outside under our new giant tent and have sack lunches provided by church. Sack lunches will have a ham or turkey sandwich, a bag of chips and a piece of fruit (apple or banana - not sure which yet - maybe a choice?) and then after lunch we will have ice cream sandwiches and popsicles! There will be a pick-up softball game and BINGO. Please sign up on the library counter or by calling 792-0755 or emailing the office at office@stjohnsem.org.

Welcome Vicar Lackey

We will greet our new vicar during the Sunday School/Bible Class hour at 9:15 on **SUNDAY JULY 18th**. Come say hello in the gym or under the big tent outside (location pending). He will give a brief hello and then there will be fellowship with very light refreshments.



Church News

A DOXOLOGY SEMINAR

SPEAKING UP: Christian Confession in an Age of Sexual Confusion

WHERE: Trinity Lutheran Church in Davenport, IA

DATE: Saturday, August 28, 2021

TIME: 8:15am-3:15pm

The new federal administration has re-imposed government policies at odds with historic Judeo-Christian positions regarding abortion, marriage, sex and gender. More pressing than political matters is the wide spread confusion in American culture regarding sex, marriage and gender which greatly complicates Christian life and witness. This Seminar prepares Christians to advocate confidently, purposefully and positively for the biblical vision of human sexuality within their families and in the public square not merely on religious freedom grounds, but as a matter of common sense, compassion and human flourishing.

Presentations:

Making the Case for Man-Woman Marriage

Biology Isn't Bigotry: Responding to the Transgender Moment

Beyond Religious Liberty: Being Hear Today

Speak Up! Promoting Sexual Virtue and Biblical Identity from Generation to Generation

Presenters:

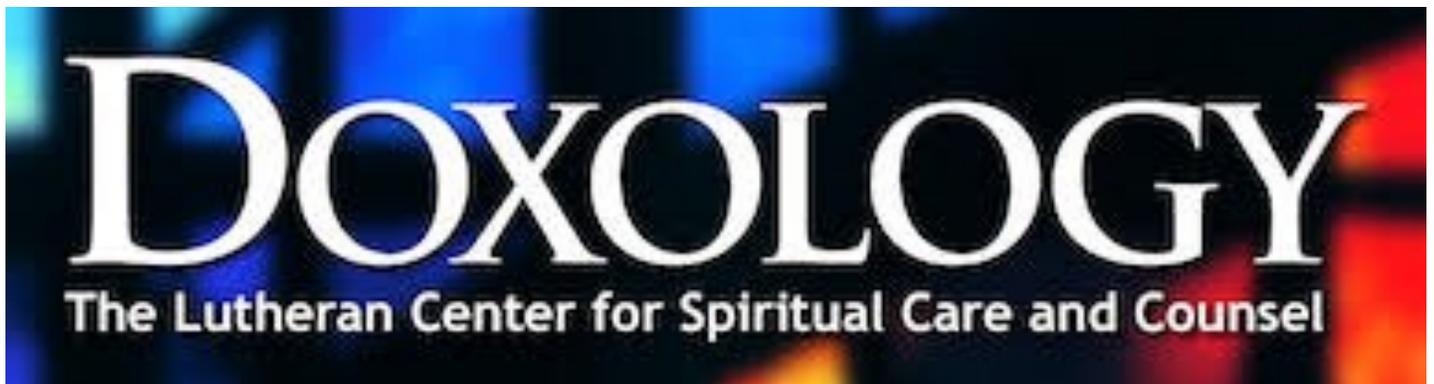
Dr. Ryan T. Anderson & the Rev. Dr. Lucas V. Woodford

REGISTRATION:

Registration is available at www.doxology.us

Cost is \$15; includes registration, conference materials, lunch and refreshments

First come, first served. Register now!



Youth News

SCHOOL SUPPLY GIVE-AWAY
Sunday, July 18, 2-4pm

DONATE SUPPLIES - Over the next few weeks we will be collecting items to go into the backpacks. Items we will be collecting:

(The dollar amount shown is the approximate cost of purchasing 1 item of each in the category.)

- **Writing Instruments (\$15.06):** Ticonderoga Pencils, Colored Pencils, Erasers, Markers, Crayons
- **Paper Supplies (\$7.78):** Wide-ruled Notebooks, College-ruled Notebooks, College-ruled Loose-Leaf Paper
- **Organizing Supplies (\$5.69):** Index Cards, 3-ring Binders and Tabbed Dividers
- **Miscellaneous Supplies (\$4.16):** 12" Rulers, Glue Sticks, and Wipes

If you like shopping please bring the items back by, Sunday, July 11, and fill up the paper bags in the Concourse.

If you don't like shopping, leave it to us by putting your donation (cash or check to St. John's Service Projects) in the box near the display.

NOMINATE A STUDENT - If you know of a student/family who is in need of school supplies you may nominate them by filling out a card on the table. Nominate students by July 11.

The card will let us know:

- 1) their age: elementary or secondary (middle – high school)
- 2) if they are a boy or a girl (the backpacks are different colors)
- 3) who will be picking up the backpacks.

You may also call the office to nominate a student or contact Carrie Homann, 309-737-5511.



Youth News

SERVANT EVENT SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

The Board of Human Care wishes to encourage and support our members to serve those in need as their time and talents are called upon. We have begun a program of providing financial assistance to those who find a service project they wish to give their time and talents to.

The Board is providing assistance to up to three members of St. John's Lutheran Church at \$300 each. If the member is traveling alone he/she must be at least 18 years old. The servant(s) applying can also be from the same family; more than one adult, or adult(s) and child(ren) (currently in, or has completed the 5th grade).

All of the details of the scholarship are available on the application form, including resources to find available projects. Applications are available now (pick one up in the Board of Human Care mail slot in the office or from Carrie Homann).

VBS

This year's VBS was a success! We had 30 campers take a trip through the rainforest. Along the way, they discovered many treasures, including the 10 Commandments, Noah's Ark, Jesus' calling the disciples, the 10 lepers, and Jesus appearing to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. Offerings throughout the week were collected to benefit mission efforts in Papua New Guinea to purchase educational supplies for young Lutheran minds.

A big thank you to all our volunteers for all of your hard work this week:

Pastor Umbarger
 Vicar Wilke
 Ann Churchill
 Carrie Homann
 Aaron Homann
 Christine Engebrecht
 Riley Sherwood
 Brooke Medinger
 Amber Mattly
 Owen Mattly
 Cris Braddy
 Owen Braddy
 Martha Merritt
 Jackson Merritt
 Stacey Reed
 Rex Newman
 Kay Iwen
 Karen Schmidt
 Ann Engebrecht
 Addison Tompkins
 Jillian Tompkins
 Collin Antolik
 Kinzlee Antolik
 Kristen Antolik
 Grace Bergland
 Lori McMillin



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	Jul 1	2	3

- 8am Worship
- 6:30pm Men's Reun
- 10am Food Pantry
- 9am Staff Meeting
- 6:30pm Trustee Me

4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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- 8am Worship w/ Co
- 6:30pm Men's Reun
- 10am Food Pantry
- 9am Staff Meeting

11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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- 8am Worship
- 6:30pm Men's Reun
- 10am Food Pantry
- 9am Staff Meeting
- 9:15am Bible Study
- 6:30pm Guitar Jam
- 9am TOPS
- 11:30am Ladies @ I
- 10:30am Worship
- 6:30pm Guitar Jam
- 9am TOPS
- 10am Bible Study
- 11:45am Wilke's Far

18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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- 8am Worship w/ Co
- 6:30pm Men's Reun
- 9am Junior Police A
- 9am Junior Police A
- 9:15am Vicar Welco
- 6:30pm Men's Reun
- 10am Food Pantry
- 9am Staff Meeting
- 10:30am Worship/D
- 6:30pm Guitar Jam
- 9am TOPS
- 10am Bible Study
- 2pm School Supply

25	26	27	28	29	30	31
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- 8am Worship
- 6:30pm Men's Reun
- 10am Food Pantry
- 9am Staff Meeting
- 9:15am Bible Study
- 6:30pm Guitar Jam
- 9am TOPS
- 10:30am Bible Study



St. John's Lutheran Church of East Moline

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East Moline, IL 61244

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

Walking in the Light of Christ!

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



Office Hours

Monday– Thursday

8:30-12 noon



Worship Times

Worship Services: Sunday: 8:00am & 10:30am

Bible Study and Sunday School: 9:15am



St. John's in Summer Sun