



# The Informer

August 2024

St. John's Lutheran Church

Volume 67 Issue 9

## REMINDER!

There are Board Meetings on Thursday, August 1st at 6:30pm!

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## From Pastor's Pen:

*"For [Christ] himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility...that he might create in himself one new man in place of two, so making peace." (Eph. 2:14, 15b)*

My beloved in Christ,

It is tragic that in the week following the celebration of our shared heritage of liberty an assassination attempt would be made upon one of our former presidents. Lives were lost and families traumatized because an unstable young man was taken captive by the vile hatred that has taken ahold of our nation.

Party differences in matters of social mores and governing philosophy have turned from civil, respectful dialogue into mean-spirited accusations and slanderous speech. The flames of hatred are being fanned by politicians and the media so that even those of us who claim to be Christian, who say we believe that we should love others as Christ has loved us, are being taken captive by the father of lies who was a murderer from the beginning. [Cf. Jn. 8:44]

I have heard professing Christians say that they "hate" people who belong to an opposing political party. I have seen some openly lament that the shooter missed his target. This breaks my heart and it should yours, also.

Christ has redeemed us to live in godliness and righteousness. He has called us to love and forgive one another. He has commanded us to build each other up, not tear one another down. I think it is high time that we think more about God's will for us than the platforms of our preferred party. I think it is time that we stop thinking about being Red or Blue and start thinking about living as children of the light. I think that it is time that we focus on our unity in Christ and our shared citizenship in His kingdom instead of seeking to divide and obtain political victories.

In the verse above from St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians he was speaking primarily about the dividing wall between Jew and Gentile that Christ broke down by offering His flesh on the cross to reconcile both to God. Yet, I believe that it is still applicable to us and any dividing walls that this world is attempting to erect between us. Christ has come to be our peace, to break down those walls that divide us, and to create something new, unified, and beautiful out of us.

Therefore, I urge you to not let the ancient murderer lead you to commit murder in your heart. Do not let the father of lies tempt you to bear false witness against your neighbor. Remember that love covers a multitude of sins. Remember the admonition "as far as it depends on you live at peace with one another." Remember to always attempt to explain things in the kindest possible way. And remember to always let your speech be seasoned with grace.

My prayer for us all is that we will live in ways that are worthy of our calling and do the good works for which we have been created in Christ Jesus. My beloved, make peace!

In Christ's love,

*Pastor Umbarger*

See The Informer  
IN COLOR  
On Our Website

## From the Deaconess' Desk

I recently had the opportunity to visit the Pregnancy Resources that just opened in East Moline. As many of you may already be aware, this center is the third of its kind in the area with the other two locations in Moline and Davenport. This was a wonderful opportunity to see one of the many resources that our community offers to support people at a vulnerable time in their life.

Many resource centers such as this one make it their mission to inform their patients about all the options that they have in front of them. It is their goal to do this with compassion and understanding as the patients may be undergoing stress, hardship, or isolation due to their current circumstances.

Too often, people feel forced into decisions that they later regret because the weight of the situation clouded their vision and made the path in front of them look short, dark, and terrifying. While the path may still be scary, sometimes all it takes to lift the clouds and shine some light into the situation is hope.

This hope can come in the form of a friend walking side by side with them through appointments and paperwork. It can come in the form of information about options that they may have never considered before. It can come through provision of material resources. Most importantly, hope comes through the sharing of God's good promises for His children

Our Father promises to never leave or forsake us. He promises to forgive our sins for the sake of His Son Jesus Christ. Where we face uncertainty, we can rely on the truth that God is in the midst of our lives, walking with us and guiding us. And where we face regret or guilt, we rely on the blood of Christ which has cleansed us and given us new life.

I will leave you with a recent *Life Thought* from Lutherans for Life:

"Choice does matter when it comes to surprise pregnancies and terminal diagnoses. But it is the Heavenly Father's choice that makes the difference (Ephesians 1:4-5). He summoned every life even before our circumstances, and He sustains each one even when we don't find the circumstances ideal."



## Serving the Lord

### Ushers

**Sat, Aug 3:** Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka  
**Sun, Aug 4:** Esther Cashion and my Christian church going family  
**Sat, Aug 10:** Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka  
**Sun, Aug 11:** Esther Cashion and my Christian church going family  
**Sat, Aug 17:** Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka  
**Sun, Aug 18:** Esther Cashion and my Christian church going family  
**Sat, Aug 24:** Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka  
**Sun, Aug 25:** Esther Cashion and my Christian church going family

### Greeters

**Sat, Aug 3:** JoAnn Sager  
**Sun, Aug 4:**  
**Sat, Aug 10:** JoAnne Sager  
**Sun, Aug 11:**  
**Sat, Aug 17:** JoAnn Sager  
**Sun, Aug 18:** Kathy McDowell  
**Sat, Aug 24:**  
**Sun, Aug 25:** Kathy McDowell

### Altar Guild

Diana Lackey and Rebecca Hinman

### Acolytes

**Sun, Aug 4:** Brayden Medinger  
**Sun, Aug 11:** Joel Duffy  
**Sun, Aug 18:** Bennett Johnson  
**Sun, Aug 25:** Sloane Churchill



### Communion Assistants

**Aug 4:** Dennis Boarts & Ralph Grotelueschen  
**Aug 18:** Kevin McAnally & Jonathan Schmidt

# THANK YOU!

### Flowers

**Aug 4:** Pastor Umbarger, in memory of Judi  
**Aug 11:** In honor of Judy Jennings' birthday  
**Aug 28:** Rod and Noreen Hopkins  
**Aug 25:** Flo Moore, in memory of Jacob



### Eternal Candle

**Aug 4:** Evan and Dawn Antolik, in honor of Allison's birthday  
**Aug 11:** Lucille Perley  
**Aug 18:** OPEN  
**Aug 25:** Brenda Roggendorf, in honor of Carrie's birthday



## Church News

### Birthdays

**August 1** - Susan Parvin

**August 2** - Rebekah Weber

**August 4** - Sandy Dosch & Ron  
Heitzman

**August 5** - Allison Antolik & Linda  
Sharp

**August 6** - Betty Bell, Marlene  
Fellows, Debbie Girard, Heather  
Hartvigsen, & Paul Sellers

**August 7** - Debbie VanRycke

**August 9** - Lori McMillin

**August 10** - Mary McGee, Jill  
Schofield & Jonathan Weakley

**August 11** - Duane Gosa & Jennifer  
Schmidt

**August 12** - Grant Engelkes, Judy  
Jennings & Terry Tipsword

**August 13** - Todd Miller

**August 14** - Scott Kelly

**August 15** - Sarah Schofield

**August 16** - Kathy Verstraete

**August 17** - Lydia Merritt

**August 18** - Karen Hatfield &  
Mildred VanRycke

**August 19** - Gavin Johnson

**August 21** - Kinzlee Antolik & Jordan  
Johanson

**August 22** - David Rogers

**August 23** - Ken Cobb, Brian  
Engbrecht, Laura Frankowski,  
Carrie Johnson & Jacob  
Rossmiller

**August 27** - Joyce Hoffman, Easton  
Nitz & Theresa Roberson

**August 28** - Bill Girard, Robert Lilly,  
Bill Park, Paula Pratt & Margie  
Schaefer

**August 29** - Don Hakeman, Gail  
Massey & Michele Rogers

**August 30** - Norma Johnson & Anne  
Williams



### Weekly Attendance

<u>DATE</u>	<u>THIS YEAR</u>	<u>LAST YEAR</u>
6/30	134	134
7/7	150	119
7/14	120	141
7/21	123	151

Average monthly attendance of St. John's membership: 26 %

### Membership Report

#### Address Updates:

Carl & Alyssa Hartweg  
2400 29th Ave Ct.  
Moline, IL 61265

Drew & Paige Beale  
1004 6th Ave Ct  
Port Byron, IL 61275

Cassie Johnson  
11521 103rd Ave Ct  
Coal Valley, IL 61240

Rick & Janet Newlon  
6225 Deere Creek Ln  
Davenport, IA 52807

#### Death:

Craig Clough (07/17/24)

## Notes from the Balcony

Here we are in August. This month always seems to come before I am ready for it. August means the wrapping up of summer, ushers in the new school year, and signals the end of that little bit of extra time to do summer projects. In my earlier days, August meant gathering (not buying) school supplies for a new year and carrying them in a pencil box down the lane through the cemetery to the two-room Lutheran school I attended. It always smelled and looked so fresh and new that first week. The parents of the students had given the school a once over. My favorite sight was the newly refinished wood floor which looked so beautiful on the first day of school.

What does the Bible have to say about education? Here are just a few verses on the subject:

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge:

Fools despise wisdom and instruction.” Proverbs 1:7

“Make me to know your ways, O Lord;

teach me your paths.” Psalm 25:4

“Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:29-30

How about the hymnal? Are there any hymns that champion learning? Yes! Members chose two of these hymns as one of their favorite hymns. One emphasizes the sure knowledge of Christ’s resurrection and its connection with baptism. *We Know That Christ Is Raised* (LSB 603) was written by British Old Testament scholar, hymn writer, and minister John B. Geyer (1932-2020). He was a scholarly type and worked in several institutions of higher learning and wrote a commentary titled, *The Wisdom of Solomon*. This hymn was written while Geyer was a tutor at Cheshunt College, Cambridge, U.K., where work was proceeding on in vitro fertilization. *We Know that Christ is Raised* was written to correlate the doctrine of baptism to that research. The original words of this hymn used language related to this experimentation such as “the Spirit’s fission shakes the church of God” and “as Christ’s new body takes on flesh and blood.” Our present version focuses more on Christ’s resurrection and baptism.

The second favorite hymn that focuses on education can be found in the *Christian Home and Education* section of the hymnal. It is *Oh, Blest the House* (LSB 862). Christoph Carl Ludwig von Pfeil (1712-1784), who studied law and became a German civil servant, has had 950 of his hymns published. Originally written for the Gospel reading of the First Sunday after Epiphany, it recounts the boy Jesus’ visit to the temple when He was twelve. The hymn reminds parents that the house is blest where Christ is the center and encourages nothing to be spared in care or cost to bring up children to know the Lord. That house will be filled with faith, hope, and love as well as peace and joy in service to the Lord.

May we always look forward to and never tire of learning of Jesus. Happy August!

In His Service,  
Christine Engebrecht



## Church News

## YOU ARE INVITED!!!



The family of Ron Heitzman invite you to help celebrate his 90th birthday with an open house party! This time with dad will be very casual and laid back; lemonade and beer will be provided along with snacks! Gifts are not necessary. Please join us!



Friendship Manor- Activities Room  
1209 21st Ave  
Rock Island, IL

## LWML

The August Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) meeting will be held Thursday, August 15th at 1:00 p.m. in the Janssen Rooms. The meeting will be "Getting to know Deaconess Kimberly Bower". An excellent opportunity for the ladies of St. Johns to learn more about LWML and our new Deaconess. Hope to see you there.



## Confirmation Instruction

It's hard to believe summer is coming to an end, but it's that time again. There will be a pre-confirmation information meeting on **Monday, August 29th at 6:30pm** to discuss the curriculum, expectations, the schedule, and supplies needed. Please plan to attend this meeting. Confirmation Instruction will begin on **Monday, September 9th at 6:30pm**.

## Outdoor Worship and Family Fun Day

The Fellowship Committee is planning an outdoor worship service to be followed with food, fellowship and fun in the sun! **Save the Date for Sunday, September 8th!** More details to come; watch the Bulletin and the September Informer for more information.

## Church News

### August Craft in the Activities Room

Join us August 12th and 19th from 1:30-3:30 in the green activities room. The August craft will be led by Margie and we will be making windchimes out of clay pots (there is a sample in the concourse). If you want to paint your windchime you will need both Mondays to finish the craft. If not, you will only need one day. Cost is \$10 for the supplies. Please sign up in the concourse by Sunday August 11.

### 2nd Friday Fellowship

Join us in the Yellow Activities room on Friday, August 9th at 6:30pm until whenever you are done having fun! We will be playing cards and games– choices are up to the group to decide. Bring a snack to share and come have some fun with your church family!



### Theatre Outing

The Fellowship Committee invites you as the Richmond Hill Players in Geneseo present “*The Money in Uncle George’s Suitcase*”. Join us for this comedy about the reading of Uncle George’s will, that leads the family into a hilarious treasure hunt. Tickets are \$12 each. You may pay in cash or checks to St. John’s Lutheran Church. Do not put the money in the offering plate. The theater is handicap accessible. The seating at Richmond Hill is normally general admission, but we will have a block of seats. Show starts at 7:30pm. Doors open at 6:30pm. Sign up in the concourse. See Carrie with questions.

### Current DFM Project

**Amount to be funded:** \$25,000

**Project:** Replace furnaces at Immanuel Lutheran Student Center, Macomb

Church services are held at 11:00 a.m. every Sunday in the student center’s Chapel of St. Timothy the Learner. Students attend, as well as members of Immanuel Lutheran Church, CID’s partner in campus ministry in Macomb. On Wednesday evenings, students are invited to meals prepared by church member families in the student center kitchen, prior to a weekly Bible study session also in the student center. The pastor’s office and church office for Immanuel, Macomb are located in the center, highly accessible to students.

The student center celebrated its 50th anniversary some five years ago. Now furnaces need to be replaced. The current Dollar for Missions project is to provide \$25,000 for furnace replacement to keep the student center both operational and operating for years into the future.

## From the CID

### Mercy and Grace Lead to Generosity

Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift" (2 Cor. 9:15)! This is St. Paul's exclamation upon hearing the Corinthian church's response to the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and his request for support for the church in Jerusalem. The Christians in Corinth heard and received God's mercy in Christ, and they responded to St. Paul's call to support Christians in Jerusalem with a collection. The Corinthians' joy filled Jerusalem's need.

This is the reality of stewardship. Because of God's generosity in the giving of His Son to die on the cross for us, we are to be generous with all that we receive from Him. What do we receive? Everything. All that we are and all that we have is the Lord's. He is the creator and the giver. We are His creatures and those who receive what He gives.

It sounds easy. And it is. But then again it isn't. Stewardship is easy because it is God's work. Through what God gives, we give to others. Through what God gives, we support the work of the church for the life of the world. He gives; we receive. And like our generous Father in Heaven, we, as His children, use what He gives to us to love and serve others.

But stewardship is also difficult. That is because it goes against our natural inclination to think that what I have is mine to do what I want with. This is our sinful nature. It is our selfishness and our greed. How can we who have been given everything — life, food, clothing, house, home, forgiveness, divine sonship, an eternal inheritance — be so stingy with what we give to the church, the place where we hear about and receive all that God gives us and does for us? We are all guilty of this kind of thinking. And the only godly response is to repent and trust in the Gospel.

For if God has given you His own Son, will He not give you all things? Yes. He will. This is His sure and certain promise. God provides for His people. He provides everything we need for this body and life and for the life that is to come.

The church is a mercy place. It's a place where God's mercy in the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, is given and received. For us who believe it means forgiveness, life and salvation in the face of sin, death and the power of the devil. Here in the church, we inhale God's mercy in Word and Sacrament, and exhale this same mercy in love and service to our neighbor. And that is an enduring, joyful thing to do. Our joy fills our neighbor's need because His joy filled ours (Heb. 12:2). Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship) Newsletter Article – August 2024



## From the CID

Dear St. John's,

[Jesus said] *"If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell."* Matthew 5:29

Jesus isn't teaching us how to maim ourselves into heaven with these words. But neither is he just trying to reveal our inability or unwillingness to truly repent. What he IS doing is teaching us about prudence, discipline, and self-control for the sake of our eternal salvation. A wise Christian recognizes that there are particular people, places, and things that are prone to lead him into sin, AND he knows that if he would curb their influence, he ought to avoid them. So, for example, someone who is given to Drink, should avoid bars or people that make him want to drink. Someone who is a glutton should avoid going to buffet restaurants. It's a matter of "cutting out" of your life anything that you know leads to sin — regardless of how otherwise neutral or even good it is, such as an eye or a hand. This is the wisdom of God's law applied, particularly in its curbing use. With these words from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is giving us practical advice — not to save ourselves, but to keep us safe from spiritual harm, and like all gifts from him, we ought to receive it in good faith and with thanksgiving.

– Rev. Aaron Uphoff from Calvary Lutheran Church, Watseka

### LERT TRAINING CONFERENCE

The 2024 LCMS National Disaster Response and Training Conference will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 18, through Friday, Sept. 20, at The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's International Center in St. Louis.

Schedule:

**SEPT. 18 — ONLY for LCMS District Disaster Response Coordinators (DDRCs) and Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) trainers.**

- **Wednesday, Sept. 18** — 9 a.m. registration to 5 p.m. (dinner on your own) The first day of the conference includes training, particularly on the establishment and operation of volunteer activities.

**SEPT. 19-20 — For DDRCs, LERT trainers, and all others with an interest in disaster response.**

- **Thursday, Sept. 19** — 8 a.m. registration to catered banquet starting at 5:30 p.m.
- **Friday, Sept. 20** — 8 a.m. to Itinerarium starting at 11:45 a.m. The sessions, which will cover a variety of topics, will include table-top exercises, case studies and practical breakouts.

Register online at the LCMS website. Questions?

Contact LCMS Disaster Response and Training at [disaster@lcms.org](mailto:disaster@lcms.org) with any questions.

## From the CID

### Apply for Dollar for Mission funds in 2025

All CID congregations are invited to submit proposals for projects to be funded with 2025 Dollar for Mission funds. Well-conceived projects will be considered in the following order of priority: first, brand-new church plants; second, mission-focused augmentations to existing ministries (e.g., adding a new ethnic ministry to a present congregation); third, established CID missions (e.g., Ministry in Spanish, Campus Ministry, Deaf Ministry, Prison Ministry). The application deadline is Sept. 1, 2024. For more information, see <https://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-dfm-apply.html>

### CID's District Coordinators for the 2025

We want to introduce you to the LCMS Youth Gathering! DCE Jonathan Guse, Bethel Morton, and DCE Christy Malinowski, Trinity Bloomington, will serve this year, and both have many years of experience with the Gathering! You can contact them at [cidcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:cidcoordinator@gmail.com) with any questions about the Gathering planning or for information and tips on leading a group! Also, email us your primary youth leader's name and contact information.

### All Illinois Youth Workers Gathering September 26th- 28th, 2024 - Camp Cilca

All Illinois Youth Workers are encouraged to put September 26-28, 2024 on their calendars for the gathering at Camp CILCA in the Central Illinois District.

David Reuter will lead the retreat, focusing on the topic "Growing Young." He will discuss the six core commitments that research through the Fuller Youth Institute has found in common across congregations demographically growing younger. The overarching goal for our time together is to begin developing a plan to aid the LCMS congregations in the Illinois Districts to grow young together through the leadership of, and assistance to, the Districts' DCEs.

- If you come on Thursday night, we will provide dinner at 6:00 pm with time to relax with other youth workers. The formal program will start on Friday morning.
- Friday's discussion will be geared toward professional church workers (DCEs, Pastors, and Deaconesses). Attending the Saturday discussion will also be helpful for those who attend Friday's discussion.
- Saturday's discussions will be geared towards lay youth workers.

[Register now online](https://www.nidlcms.org/illinois-parish-professional-retreat/) for the gathering @ <https://www.nidlcms.org/illinois-parish-professional-retreat/> Registration deadline is September 13, 2024.

#### Registration cost for events:

\$80.00 for 3 days, Thursday-Saturday, September 26-28, 2024

\$50.00 for 2 days, Friday-Saturday, September 27-28, 2024

\$20.00 for either Friday or Saturday

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 9am - Worship w/ 10:15am - Bible Study /	29 8:30am - Staff Meeting 10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam	30 9am - TOPS 1:30pm - Activities Room 6:30pm - Adult Instruction	31 6:30pm - Board Meetings	1 5pm - Worship w/	2 6:30pm - Fellowship Friday	3 5pm - Worship w/
4 9am - Worship w/ 10:15am - Bible Study /	5 8:30am - Staff Meeting 10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam	6 9am - TOPS 1:30pm - Activities Room 6:30pm - Adult Instruction	7 6:30pm - Board Meetings	8 5pm - Worship w/	9 6:30pm - Fellowship Friday	10 5pm - Worship w/
11 9am - Worship 10:15am - Bible Study /	12 8:30am - Staff Meeting 10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam	13 9am - TOPS 1:30pm - Activities Room 4pm - Fellowship committee 6:30pm - Adult Instruction	14 11:30am - Ladies Luncheon 1pm - LWML	15 5pm - Worship w/	16 5pm - Worship w/	17 5pm - Worship w/
18 9am - Worship w/ 10:15am - Bible Study /	19 8:30am - Staff Meeting 10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam	20 9am - TOPS 1:30pm - Activities Room 6:30pm - Adult Instruction	21 6:30pm - Board Meetings	22 5pm - Worship w/	23 6:30pm - Fellowship Friday	24 5pm - Worship w/
25 9am - Worship 10:15am - Bible Study /	26 6:30pm - Pre-Confirmation	27 8:30am - Staff Meeting 10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam	28 9am - TOPS 1:30pm - Activities Room	29 5pm - Worship w/	30 6:30pm - Fellowship Friday	31 5pm - Worship w/

# St. John's Lutheran Church



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Fax: 309-792-0776  
E-mail: [office@stjohnsem.org](mailto:office@stjohnsem.org)

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We're On the Web!!  
[www.stjohnsem.org](http://www.stjohnsem.org)

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*Walking in the Light of Christ!*



## Worship Schedule:

Saturday worship– 5:00pm

Sunday worship- 9:00am

Sunday School

& Bible Study-10:15am

## Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday 8:30am– 2:00pm

Closed for lunch from 12-1pm



*Inside our Sanctuary.*