



# The Informer

September 2024

*St. John's Lutheran Church*

Volume 68 Issue 9

## From Pastor's Pen:

*"...be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness." (Eph. 4:22-23)*



Dear friends in Christ,

Recently, my wife shared pictures with me of her grandson getting ready to begin a new year at school. In preparation his parents had taken him out to get new clothes, a new, bright, red, pair of shoes, and a fresh haircut. He was smiling ear-to-ear as he sported all this newness. He was ready to take on the challenges of a fresh year with all confidence. At the end of the day, he reported that it was the best, first-day of school he had ever had.

I encourage you, like children preparing to start a new year of school, to put on the new self of which Paul speaks in his letter to the Ephesians. You, who have been baptized into Christ, have already put on Christ. You are covered in His righteousness and holiness through faith. You have also experienced the renewing of your minds by the Holy Spirit, to live righteous and holy lives – to walk in newness of life.

You are fully equipped to face the challenges of life with confidence, because not only are you enabled to put on the new self, but also take up the armor of God to protect you and bring you victory in Christ. The Apostle reminds us that *"our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."* (Eph. 6:12-17)

Your life can be like that little boy, blessed and wrapped in newness, who enjoyed his best first day, ever. Renewed by the Spirit, clothed by Christ in a new self, and wearing the full armor of God, I pray that you every day you will be found grinning ear-to-ear because of the gifts God has given you. I pray that, living under God's grace, forgiven and loved, you will be able to at at the end of each day, this was the best first day of my new life, ever.

In Christ,

*Pastor Umberger*

*See The Informer  
IN COLOR  
On Our Website*

## From the Deaconess' Desk

*"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" ~ Philippians 4:13*

This month, the Wednesday morning Women's Bible study will start up again and we will be diving into the book of Philippians. As I am preparing for study in this book, I am drawn to the verse above and how I have heard it used in many contexts apart from its true meaning. Only a couple weeks ago, I saw it pasted onto a video of someone lifting really heavy weights in the gym. While I am sure that it is indeed a God pleasing thing to be good stewards of our bodies, physically lifting heavy weight is not what St. Paul was referring to here.

This verse is one among many that are frequently and conveniently picked out of the Bible in an attempt to provide a quick and helpful solution to the troubles that others may be facing. While the intention behind this is genuine and good, let's face it, these platitudes are rarely all that helpful without understanding the true meaning of the larger context.

For example, here in Philippians, Paul is referring to his ability to be content in any circumstance. He is referencing the strength that Christ gives him to bear his burdens and accept joy in whatever place he finds himself in. Having been taught this, we can use this verse as a reminder to find joy and contentment in our lives, no matter what we are going through or what challenges we are facing. With this background, we can also avoid applying it to the wrong circumstances.

Ultimately, having small, memorable verses in our pocket to cling to and give us encouragement is for our benefit. I would encourage us all to take a deeper look however at the larger context behind our favorite verses. We just might find some background or insight into the Scriptures that we had overlooked previously. Personally, I have found that just about any time I study a verse again with fresh eyes, I gain something new from it and am encouraged to continue learning.

God's blessings to you all,  
Deaconess



## Serving the Lord this Month

### Ushers

**Sat. Aug 31:** Greg Burke, Chuck Brokaw, Larry Ripka, Todd Miller, Rex Newman  
**Sun, Sept 1:** Mattly Family  
**Sat, Sept 7:** Greg Burke, Chuck Brokaw, Larry Ripka, Todd Miller, Rex Newman  
**Sun, Sept 8: OUTDOOR SERVICE**  
**Sat. Sept 14:** Greg Burke, Chuck Brokaw, Larry Ripka, Todd Miller, Rex Newman  
**Sun, Sept 15:**  
**Sat, Sept 21:** Greg Burke, Chuck Brokaw, Larry Ripka, Todd Miller, Rex Newman  
**Sun, Sept 22:** Glen McMillin  
**Sat, Sept 28:** Greg Burke, Chuck Brokaw, Larry Ripka, Todd Miller, Rex Newman  
**Sun, Sept 29:** OPEN

### Greeters

**Sat. Aug 31:** Chuck Brokaw & JoAnn Sager  
**Sun, Sept 1:** Kathy McDowell  
**Sat, Sept 7:** Chuck Brokaw & JoAnn Sager  
**Sun, Sept 8: OUT DOOR SERVICE**  
**Sat. Sept 14:** Chuck Brokaw & JoAnn Sager  
**Sun, Sept 15:**  
**Sat, Sept 21:** Chuck Brokaw & JoAnn Sager  
**Sun, Sept 22:** Steve & Rose Sullivan  
**Sat, Sept 28:** Chuck Brokaw & JoAnn Sager  
**Sun, Sept 29:**

### Acolytes

September acolytes will be scheduled after registration and the 5th graders complete their training.



### Altar Guild

Wendy Rossmiller, Cory Rossmiller, and Brandi Erickson

### Communion Assistants

**Sept. 1:** Ralph Grotelueschen & Kevin McAnally  
**Sept. 15:** Brian Kern & Jim Homann  
**Sept. 29:** Dennis Boarts & Kevin McAnally



### Eternal Candle

**Sept 1:** OPEN  
**Sept 8:** Karen Schmidt  
**Sept 15:** OPEN  
**Sept 22:** Karen Schmidt, in honor of her 87th birthday  
**Sept 29:** OPEN



### Flowers

**Sept 1:** OPEN  
**Sept 8:** Karen Schmidt  
**Sept 15:** OPEN  
**Sept 22:** Karen Schmidt, in honor of her 87th birthday  
**Sept 29:** OPEN

## Church News

### Birthdays

**1st:** Jen Belzer, Nolan Johnson & Rhonda VanDamme  
**2nd:** Debby Weidenbach  
**3rd:** Adam Lack & Steve LaCroix  
**5th:** Larry Dodge  
**6th:** Matthew Dosch & Allison Overton  
**7th:** Dean Bull, Hillary Ekin, & Pam Fisher  
**8th:** Sheena Johnson, Kathy Petosky, Troy & Trace Shryack  
**9th:** Brenda Hanerhoff  
**10th:** Nancy Cartwright  
**11th:** Chris Heller, Cheryl MacDougall, & Keith Schnabel

**12th:** Lenora Busch & Thomas Weathers  
**13th:** Kaitlyn McMillin  
**14th:** Ann Churchill, Ann Engebrecht, Otto Hartweg, Owen Hawkins, Rick Newlon, & Demetrius Williams  
**15th:** Alan Ahrens & Martha Merritt  
**21st:** Karen Schmidt  
**23rd:** Parker Myers & Addison Rowe  
**25th:** Steven Lackey, Brian & Tom Hart  
**26th:** Noreen Hopkins  
**27th:** Tara Hawkins  
**29th:** Susan Busch  
**30th:** Lori Hopkins & Glen McMillin



### Weekly Attendance Offerings

<u>DATE</u>	<u>THIS YEAR</u>	<u>LAST YEAR</u>
7/28	123	159
8/4	158	145
8/11	149	122
8/19	140	209

Average monthly attendance of St. John's membership: 28%

### Membership Report

New Address:  
 Chris and Shannon Brand  
 7488 Albany Rd.  
 Erie, IL 61250

New Phone Number:  
 Dennis VanRycke  
 309-230-0034

**NOTICE  
OF  
BOARD  
MEETING**

**DON'T FORGET-**  
**ALL BOARDS MEET ON SEPTEMBER 5th at 6:30pm.**  
**There is a Parish Planning meeting on Thursday, September 12th, and**  
**a Voter's meeting on Sunday, September 15th during the Sunday**  
**school/ Bible study hour!!!**

## Church News



## You are Invited to a special outdoor worship service and Sunday School Rally Day!

Join us for a fun-filled day that will begin under a tent on the front lawn with an outdoor worship service. Following this guitar-led service we will enjoy the always yummy church lunch (fried chicken and beverages will be provided). Stay for the live music (with Steve Braddy's band, The Panic River Band) and outdoor games.

Come Rain or Shine!

Sign up in the concourse.  
If you are able, bring a dish to pass.

Pick up a postcard invite to give to friends, family, neighbors and co-workers!

**Date:** Sunday, September 8th  
**Time:** Worship at 10am (no 9am service )  
Picnic starts at 11:30am  
Games, music, and bounce house 12-2pm

## Church News

### NEW BIBLE STUDIES STARTING!

#### SUNDAY at 10:15am- Beginning September 15th

**"Everyone His Witness":** Are you afraid of sharing your faith with others? Do you need help in seeking to help others in their needs with the love of Christ? Please join us for this series as it helps to demystify conversations about faith in Christ with neighbors, colleagues, and family members. It provides encouragement to help us talk about Jesus with anyone, in any situation in an unforced, natural way.



#### WEDNESDAY at 10am, beginning September 11th

##### *Women's Bible Study*

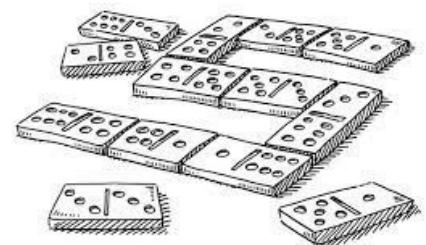
The book of Philippians is one of the most beloved and well known of Paul's Epistles. Join us as we walk through this text, learn about the history behind it, and explore how Paul encourages us towards joy and contentment in Christ.

#### SATURDAYS at 8:00AM, beginning September 14th

**Men's Bible Study- "Acts of the Apostles And Our Mission":** Before His ascension, Jesus made a solemn promise to His disciples that He would be with them always, to the very end of the age. He remains true to that promise, a promise that continues even to this very day! Yet He used weak and sinful human beings, just like us, to bring the Christian church to life. This overview study of Acts explores how the missionary experiences of the early disciples caused the church to grow not only geographically, but also theologically. We will discuss how those experiences relate to our world today — a world that is in various ways similar to the world of the Acts.

### ACTIVITIES ROOM

**GAME ON!** Beginning Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, we will return to our normal schedule of meeting for games in the Activities Room on Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:30-3:30pm. All are welcome to join us! See you then!



### SEPTEMBER CRAFTING MONDAYS

New to fiber arts? Want to get back into it? Want to find an opportunity to share your skills with others? Beginning Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm we will meet to crochet and/or knit. Bring your hooks and needles, and yarn, or whatever project you are working on! If you are brand new to the craft, let us know on the sign up and we can provide supplies to get you started. Sign up in

## Church News

### LWML

**Lutheran Women's Missionary League** is an auxiliary of The Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod.



#### DATES TO MARK

**Tuesday, September 17th- LWML Fall Rally 9:00am at St. Matthews in Milan.** Registration Fee: \$15.00 for lunch. To register contact Diana Lackey at 309-373-1862. LWML Rock Island Zone will be collecting donations of diapers for Hiney Heroes of the Quad Cities and monetary gifts for Hiney Heroes or Concordia Lutheran Academy in Geneseo as they expand their Lutheran School. Monetary gifts can be left in the office or the offering plate, marked for which organization.

**Thursday, September 19th- LWML meeting at 1:00pm in the Janssen rooms.** We will be putting together wellness kits. Please come and learn more about LWML!

#### LWML Vision Statement

The LWML is the leading group for LCMS women where each woman is welcomed and encouraged to use her unique God-given gifts as she supports global missions and serves the Lord with gladness.

#### LWML Mites

LWML has a National Convention every 2 years. At the convention, voting members select who will receive the mission grant monies collected. In June of 2023 they voted for 21 grant recipients which included both national and international organizations. We will be spotlighting some of these organizations each month in the Informer.

#### 2023-2025 Mission Grant 1: Orphan Grain Train Servant Center

Orphan Grain Train | \$100,000

Orphan Grain Train Servant Center in Norfolk, Nebraska, is the recipient of a \$100,000 LWML mission grant. Orphan Grain Train is a Christian volunteer network that ships donated food, clothing, medical supplies, and other needed items to the U.S. and 70 other countries. The Gospel is shared as gifts are distributed. The grant will help fund the update and expansion of the warehouse facility in Norfolk. To learn more, visit [www.ogt.org](http://www.ogt.org).

#### 2023-2025 Mission Grant 2: A Healing Space for At-Risk Children

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, North Dakota | \$100,000

A specialized chapel has been designed to provide hope and healing for at-risk children ages 10 to 18, in the care of the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Bismarck, North Dakota campus. Children at this facility have faced severe trauma in their lives, and need healing that only Jesus can give. This mission grant will help with building costs of the new chapel and provide spiritual care for these children, their families, and the Ranch staff. To learn more, visit [lwml.org/mission-grants](http://lwml.org/mission-grants).

## Church News

### FOOD PANTRY

Harvest season is on the horizon... There will soon be a crisp chill in the air...Do you have a favorite homemade soup recipe? Bring a copy of your recipe to the office for Annie to copy, and perhaps some cans of its key ingredients, and we will share your recipe with the families who come to us for assistance.

Please, if you are able, share your fall "harvest" with those less fortunate. Any cans of fruits and vegetables would be greatly appreciated. There will be a box in the concourse for your donations.

In July of 2023, the St. John's food pantry served 140 families, with 430 individuals and 167 children. Our Riverbend food order was \$1085.04 for 2961 lbs of food.

In July of 2024, the St. John's food pantry served 161 families, with 521 individuals and 209 children. Our Riverbend food order was \$2919.84 for 5330 lbs of food.

At the end of July 2023, we had served 748 families.

At the end of July 2024, we have served 989 families.

That is a 30% increase over last year!

Yes, this was a much more expensive order than last year, but as we all know, the effects of inflation on groceries has burdened many families beyond their means. We are trying to aid more families with higher prices and it is a challenge. If you had ventured back into the food pantry the week prior to our Riverbend delivery, you would have seen almost completely empty shelves! We are doing everything we can to be good stewards with our budget, and good neighbors to those in need.

Thank you everyone for your continued support of our mission!



## Notes from the Balcony

**YOU ARE INVITED**  
to add your voice to the choir  
The first  
Choir Rehearsal  
of the year is  
**Saturday, September 7**  
**9:30-10:30 AM**  
in the choir room  
No experience necessary  
**Everyone is welcome!!!**

## From the CID

If you like character development, high drama, trash talk, and Royal Rumbles, you can get it all from the WWE. Week in and week out, someone is saying, I'm going to destroy you. I will lie, cheat, use sorcery, steal from you, essentially do whatever it takes to do you dirty, defeat you and declare myself champion.

When you were baptized God put His signature move on Satan. Call it what you like, The Stomp, Claymore, RKO, 619, or Tombstone- the result is the same. God defeated Satan – “1-2-3”. God’s gift of your Baptism told Satan, “You no longer rule the ring of the life of my Baptized. This is my Child. They died with me. They rose with me. My cross marks their forehead and heart.”

So, we boldly sing:

Satan, hear this proclamation:  
I am baptized into Christ!  
Drop your ugly accusation,  
I am not so soon enticed.  
Now that to the font I've traveled,  
All you might has come unraveled,  
And, against your tyranny,  
God, my Lord, unites with me! ( LSB 594 st. 3).

Bruce Scarbeary, Pastor Trinity Lutheran Church Roanoke

### LERT 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.

## From the CID

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry – [lcms.org/stewardship](http://lcms.org/stewardship)

Newsletter Article – September 2024

### Stewards, Called to Forgiveness

Human beings were created and redeemed to be stewards. Bearing the image of God (Gen. 1:26–28), the steward was created to reflect the Creator within creation. In a way, stewards are simply mirrors. Mirrors cannot do anything to the image that is placed in front of them.

A mirror was the first item in creation that embodied the computer term GIGO. “Garbage in, Garbage out.” In a computer, if you enter good data, you get a good result. You enter bad data; you will get a garbage result.

In photography, you can run an image through a filter, which can remove imperfections. Myriad apps allow for the option to cut people out, add people in and change backgrounds all in an attempt to make the perfect image. Mirrors cannot do that. They do not provide anything new. Mirrors are created to reflect, not process, an image. They simply reflect the person standing in front of them.

Stewards are like this. Created to reflect, a steward will reflect the God in front of them. The steward will either reflect a godly stewardship that holds that God is the owner of all things (Ps. 24:1) and is the One to whom they are accountable, or they will reflect the god of self and see the created order as something to be possessed, used, and in far too many cases, abused. It is not a question of IF the steward reflects, it is really a question of WHO is being reflected.

For this reason, the Lutheran Service Book has included a necessary hymn worthy of meditation: “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” ( LSB 788). Its first verse reads:

Forgive us, Lord, for shallow thankfulness, For dull content with warmth and sheltered care, For songs of praise for food and harvest press, While of Your richer gifts we’re unaware.

This is a fitting call to repentance for every steward. Our thankfulness is so often shallow. We get comfortable with the overflowing blessings we have entrusted to us by the Lord. These trusts are so many that the steward often forgets the One who entrusts them. Worse, with so many physical trusts evident, the steward loses sight of the greatest trust: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The failed steward sees so much plenty that they lose sight of the treasure: Jesus!

So, we confess our shallow thankfulness. In absolution, the imperfections of the failed steward are wiped away and a new image is sent into the world. We release our hold on stuff. We rethink our relationship with the created order and recall that it is all to be used FOR JESUS! This keeps the richer gifts in view, for us and for those we know and love who need Jesus.

## From the CID

### CAMP CILCA

#### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

##### Camp CILCA's Chicken Dinner and Auction

Join us for Camp CILCA's 26th Annual Chicken Dinner on September 1, 2024. The meal is served 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Meals are \$10 for adults and \$8 for children 4-12. The menu includes grilled chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, roll, homemade desserts, and drinks. 10:30 a.m. - Worship service at the Outdoor Chapel. 11:30am - 2:30pm - Chicken Dinner served from the Dining Hall. Live Auction begins at 12:30 pm! Swimming & boating is open from 1-4 p.m. (weather permitting).

#### Saturday, September 21, 2024

##### Camp CILCA's Shooting Retreat

Men, bring your sons, grandsons, nephews, or friends along with your firearms and some ammo to take aim at Camp CILCA. A range officer will be on hand for safety. Lunch will be served between morning and afternoon sessions. Total cost is \$15 per person. Camp CILCA will have some safety glasses and ear protection, but feel free to bring your own. Contact the camp office for more information or to register. 217-487-7497 / [camp@cilca.org](mailto:camp@cilca.org)

#### Saturday, October 5, 2024

##### Camp CILCA's G.R.I.T. Run

The 5-kilometer course includes narrow trails, steep hills, creek bed crossings, scenic views, and stairs. Open Run participants will be able to take an alternative route for anyone nervous about navigating the creek bed. Open run participants ages 6-18 run for \$10, and participants 19+ run for \$30. Check out our website for details on this event.

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### LCMS MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BOWLING LEAGUE

Did you know the LCMS bowling league has served the Quad Cities since 1962? Mark your calendars and come join us for fun and fellowship. All skill levels are welcome!

Where: QC Family Entertainment -4401 44th Ave, Moline  
When: Fall Season: Begins September 9th  
Winter Season: Begins December 12th (tentative)

Questions? Contact Michael Wagner (309)453-7206 or  
Jim Pearson (563)293-6456

We look forward to seeing you there!



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

Sep 2024 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am - Worship w/ 10:15am - Bible Study /	2 10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam	3 9am - TOPS 1:30pm - Activities Room	4 All Boards Meet in Prep for 9am - TOPS 1:30pm - Activities Room	5 2pm - Wedding Rehearsal	6 9:30am - Choir Rehearsal 2pm - Miller/clark wedding 5pm - Worship	7
8 10am - Outdoor Worship 10:15am - Rally Day and	9 1pm - Staff Meeting 1:30pm - Activities Room &	10 9am - Pastors' Meeting 10am - Food Pantry	11 9am - TOPS 10am - Women's Bible Study 1:30pm - Activities Room 4pm - Fellowship committee	12 6:30pm - Parish Planning 6:30pm - 2nd Friday	13 6:30pm - 2nd Friday	14 8am - Men's Bible Study 9:30am - Choir Rehearsal 5pm - Worship
15 9am - Worship w/ 10:15am - Voters Meeting	16 Informer Deadline 1pm - Staff Meeting 1:30pm - Activities Room &	17 10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam	18 9am - TOPS 10am - Women's Bible Study 1:30pm - Activities Room	19 11:30am - Ladies Luncheon 1pm - LWML	20 8am - Men's Bible Study 9:30am - Choir Rehearsal 5pm - Worship	21
22 9am - Worship 10:15am - Bible Study /	23 1pm - Staff Meeting 1:30pm - Activities Room &	24 10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam	25 9am - TOPS 10am - Women's Bible Study 1:30pm - Activities Room	26 8am - Men's Bible Study 9:30am - Choir Rehearsal 5pm - Worship	27 8am - Men's Bible Study 9:30am - Choir Rehearsal 5pm - Worship	28 8am - Men's Bible Study 9:30am - Choir Rehearsal 5pm - Worship
29 9am - Worship 10:15am - Bible Study /	30 Pastor Vacation 1:30pm - Activities Room &	1 6pm - Cherub Chimers 6:30pm - Confirmation 6:30pm - Heavenly Ringers	2 3 4	5		

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!*

### Office Hours:

Monday – Wednesday 8:30am– 2:00pm  
Closed for lunch from 12-1pm  
Thursday– 8:30am-noon

Ephesians 4:22-23

that you put off,  
concerning your former  
conduct, the old man  
which grows corrupt  
according to deceitful  
lusts, and **be renewed in**  
**the spirit of your mind**



### Worship Schedule:

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