



The Informer

February 2022

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

Volume 63, Issue 7

From Pastor's Pen:

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My beloved in Christ,

Since this is the month in which many will be celebrating the joys of romantic love [*eros*], I thought it might be helpful to reflect upon the drastic changes we have witnessed regarding love, sex and marriage.

I remember when young people would tease their friends who were afflicted with puppy love by chanting, "**Male and Female sitting in a tree, K-I-S-S-I-N-G. First comes love then comes marriage, then comes Female with a baby carriage.**" I also remember the Frank Sinatra song that went like this: "*Love and marriage, love and marriage, Go together like a horse and carriage. This I tell ya, brother, you can't have one without the other.*"

Those were the days when marriage was viewed as sacred, a gift from God. It was understood that the fullest expression of romantic love was tied to another kind of love [*agape*]. This was a sacrificial love that involved a total, lifelong commitment between a man and a woman. It understood marriage and the resulting family to be one of the pillars upon which society stood or fell.

Sadly, the taunt, the song and the understanding of how love, sex and marriage are bound together has been lost. Sexual urges may not involve love, and feelings of love are totally disassociated from marriage and family life. Homosexual marriages, gender confusion, sexual promiscuity, unwed pregnancies and shacking-up have become normative in our society.

Worse yet, professing Christians have adopted these norms as well. Something that is in clear violation of scriptures warnings: "**Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them**" (Rom. 1:32) We who have been called to be different and to be a light for others have surrendered everything to the prevailing culture. We have allowed ourselves to go along with the ways of the world and have failed to heed Paul's admonition: "**Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.**" (Rom. 12:2)

True *agape*-love calls us to stand against the world and to speak the truth in love to those who have fallen victim to the seduction of evil. We are to warn the unbeliever of the devastating consequences of such ways on those who practice them, on children and families, and on society as a whole. More so, we are to warn those who claim to be Christians of the faith destroying power of such willful disobedience, as the writer to the Hebrews says, "**For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,**" (Heb. 10:26) We need to help them to discern what the will of God is for them. Remind them that the sixth commandment is still in play: "**You shall not commit adultery.**" Impress upon them that God's warnings against sexual immorality should be taken seriously (Cf. Rom. 1:24-28; 1 Cor. 6:9, 13, 18). Encourage them to honor God's gift of marriage and sexuality (Cf. 1 Cor. 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4). When the world tries to deceive us into embracing its lies, let us all remember "**You adulterous people! [a] Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.**" (Jam. 4:4)

As you celebrate Valentine's day this month, I encourage you to remember the pure and selfless love of St. Valentine who suffered martyrdom for his steadfast faith and desire to fulfill God's good and perfect will. By the working of the Holy Spirit let your greater, *agape*, love be known to all as you honor God with your body.

In Christ's service,

Pastor Umberger



Vicar's View

Ask anyone what is the most important day in February and you will get one of two answers:

1. Vicar's birthday (Feb. 8th)
2. Valentine's day

For the sake of this newsletter (and so as not to inflate my ego), I will speak of Valentine's day. I know, you are probably thinking "What does Valentine's day have to do with *The Informer*? Isn't Valentine's Day a secular holiday?" *Valentine's day is actually, at its core, a Christian holiday!*

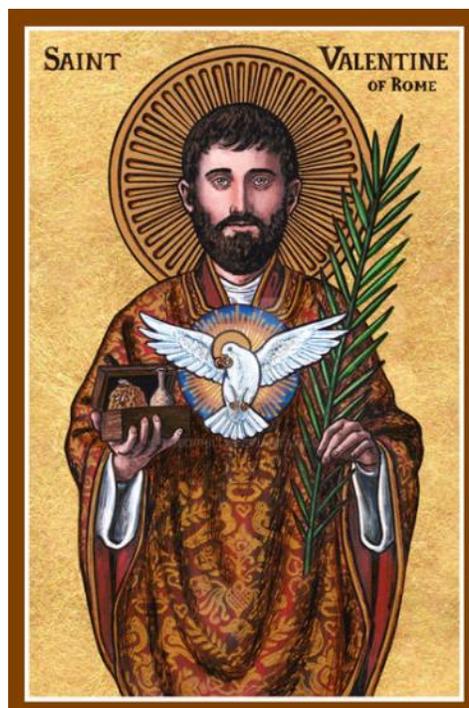
We know little about the life of St. Valentine, a Christian priest during the Roman Empire. We do know that he lived and that he was martyred for his faith, though exactly why is a little murky. There are a lot of legends, though, and a lot of them are quite interesting. Here are a couple:

1. The first, and most reputable, is that he was arrested for being a Christian, interrogated by the emperor Claudius II himself, and was given the opportunity to convert to paganism and go free. Instead, Valentine tried to convert the emperor! He was then thrown in jail, where legend has it God healed the jailer's daughter of her blindness, and as a result, the jailer and his family converted to Christianity! Unfortunately, he was still to be executed, and wrote a note to the jailer's daughter the night before, signing it "Your Valentine," thus writing the very first Valentine's Card.
2. Another legend states that he was conducting Christian weddings for Roman soldiers who were Christians. Allegedly, he wore a bishop's ring with an amethyst on his finger. Soldiers would see this and they knew that they could ask St. Valentine to marry them and their beloved. Interestingly, this is how the amethyst came to be the birthstone of February.

Whatever the truth about St. Valentine, a verse that he probably carried with him in his heart was this: Ephesians 5:25:

"Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her"

I pray that this verse is on your hearts and minds this month, especially as you celebrate St. Valentine's day.



Serving the Lord This Month:

Ushers

- Feb 5:** Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, and Larry Ripka
- Feb 6:** Dave & Esther Cashion, Tim Stone, & Kevin Verschoore
- Feb 12:** Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, and Larry Ripka
- Feb 13:** Esther Cashion & Kevin Verschoore
- Feb 19:** Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, and Larry Ripka
- Feb 20:** Dave & Esther Cashion, Tim Stone, & Kevin Verschoore
- Feb 26:** Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, and Larry Ripka
- Feb 27:** Esther Cashion & Kevin Verschoore

Greeters

- Feb 5:** Becky Johnson & Helen Carter
- Feb 6:** Lee Copeland & Diana Lackey
- Feb 8:** Vicar Lackey
- Feb 12:** LouAnn DeRammelaere & Ruby Pancrazio
- Feb 13:** Carrie & Aaron Homann
- Feb 19:** Becky Johnson & Helen Carter
- Feb 20:** Bali Guerrero & Diana Lackey
- Feb 26:** LouAnn DeRammelaere & Ruby Pancrazio
- Feb 27:** Bali Guerrero & Diana Lackey

Acolytes

- Feb 6:** Aubree Medinger
- Feb 13:** Jackson Merritt
- Feb 20:** Payton Braddy
- Feb 27:** Bentley Orton



Communion Assistants

- Feb 6:** Ed Wachs
- Feb 20:** Glen McMillin



Altar Guild

- Marsha Boarts
- Jennifer Schmidt

Eternal Candle

- Feb 6:** OPEN
- Feb 13:** OPEN
- Feb 20:** OPEN
- Feb 27:** OPEN



Flower Chart

- Feb 6:** Flo & Danny Moore
in honor of their 40th Anniversary
- Feb 13:** OPEN
- Feb. 20:** OPEN
- Feb 27:** Ed & Janet Wachs



Church News

Birthdays

February 1: Leah Weber

February 4: Chad Gosa, Aaron Homann, Devon Hurley, & Carole Krouth

February 5: Lois Deal, Samantha Hansen, & Steven VanRycke

February 6: Shari Hess, Taylor Murphy, & Sydney Wulgaert

February 7: Margo Blaser, Diana Caldwell, Cynthia Christopher, & Mark Hariss

February 8: Ralph Grotelueschen, Larry Ripka, & Tyler Rusk

February 9: Loretta Nielsen

February 10: Cora Whipple

February 11: Henry Bowman

February 12: Lucille Perley

February 14: Alyssa McAnally, Stephanie McKay, Alyssa Nitz, & Rick Robinson

February 15: Alena Rossmiller & Nile Pena

February 16: Ethan Sountris

February 17: Barbara Veskauf

February 20: Morgan Murphy

February 22: Zachery Chellew, Stephanie Gray, Mallory Hawkins, Brian Nielsen, Isaac Stone, & Carl Weathers

February 23: Dustin Fischer

February 24: Ryan Dosch & Alexander Lange

February 25: Taryn Kosche

February 26: Caleb Engebrecht

February 27: Fred Krack & Rex Newman

February 28: Madisyn Brashears & Dennis Schaefer



Weekly Attendance & Offerings

Date	This year	Last Year
12/24/21	167	176
12/25/21	46	42
12/26/21	89	80
12/31/21	31	23
01/09/22	48	117
01/16/22	114	113
01/23/22	146	117

Simply Giving December 2021: \$4,280.00 Average monthly attendance for St. John's: 15%

Membership Report

New Address:

Brian & Carme Kern
1711 55th St. Place
Moline, IL 61265

Baptisms:

Jacob Rowe (1/30/22)
Eli Chellew (2/6/22)



Church News

Year-end Statements

2021 year-end statements will soon be available to pick up in the Concourse. Please take yours, along with your 2022 offering envelopes.

Please throw away your 2021 envelopes. Your envelope numbers can change yearly, so if you use old ones, you may not get credit for your offering.



Blood Drive

Impact for Life has reached out to us asking if we would like to host a blood drive. We need someone to volunteer to coordinate this. The duties would include:

- Announcing the details of the drive
- Setting up a table for donor appointment sign-ups
- Putting up flyers or posters in gathering areas to advertise
- Reaching out to friends, family, and the community to attract non-members as well

If you think you might want to help with this, please contact Amy Stahle at: astahle@impactlife.org or 563-468-8639

Servant Event Scholarship



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. The Board is providing financial 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 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 on the information table in the concourse. Questions: See Carrie Homann.

*The recent tornados would be a good opportunity to serve this winter.

Church News



Congregational Service Project Weekend Friday, April 22 – Sunday, April 24 Camp Cilca north of Springfield, IL (2 ½ hours from St. John's)

Last summer, 22 members and friends of St. Johns blessed Camp Cilca with their time and talents cleaning, painting, organizing, and doing light construction jobs to help the camp get ready to welcome a summer full of young people ready to hear God's word and have many great adventures.

We are in the early stages of planning a congregational weekend service project to Camp Cilca. Like the previous trips, this will be open to servants of all ages. Why Camp Cilca?

- Close Proximity – Camp Cilca is just 2 ½ hours away which allows each servant to come and go as desired. You have the option of a whole weekend or just one day of service.
- Housing is varied and inexpensive - The variety of housing options (hotel-style rooms, cabins, tent and camper spots) allows each member or family group to stay in their own unit. Housing ranges from \$10-\$65 per night. More information to come.
- Variety of projects for a variety of skill levels – While we don't yet have a list of all the projects, we will coordinate with Camp CILCA staff to ensure projects are available for all ages. The projects could include: basic cleaning and painting, landscaping, and light construction work as well (both inside and outside).
- Fun Activities – There is canoeing, kayaking, swimming, disc golf, hiking, basketball, and of course evening campfires!
- Fantastic Camp Chef – Last summer we were blessed by 3 fabulous meals each day we were there! We never had to worry about what to cook and who was going to cook it. All our meals were provided right there at camp. And, I am not kidding about the "fabulous" meals!!
- And last but not least...**Outdoor worship services are the BEST!!**

If you are interested in joining us for this service weekend in April please let us know by signing up on the library counter.

Questions see: Carrie Homann 309-523-3330, carrie.homann@gmail.com

Notes From the Balcony

This year the entire month of February is still in the church season of Epiphany. Generally, Lent begins sometime in February but this year Ash Wednesday is on March 2. Merriam-Webster has two definitions for Epiphany. The first is, “a Christian festival held on January 6 in honor of the coming of the three kings to the infant Jesus Christ.” In the Lutheran church, this holiday is the first day of a season lasting until Ash Wednesday. The second definition of Epiphany from Merriam-Webster reads, “A moment in which you suddenly see or understand something in a new or very clear way.” Epiphany is the season of light. During the Epiphany season we understand more clearly that this baby born as a human is also God and Savior of all nations. The final Sunday in Epiphany, this year February 27, is Transfiguration Sunday where we, with the three disciples, witness God’s glory united with Jesus’ human body.

One Epiphany hymn made it on St. John’s Favorite Hymn List this year and is one of my favorites too. That hymn is *Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning*, LSB 400. It was written by Reginald Heber (1783-1826). He was an Anglican clergyman and gifted poet in England and later became the Bishop of Calcutta, India. Heber endeavored to write hymns for each Sunday and festival of the church year. *Holy, Holy, Holy* is his as well as *From Greenland’s Icy Mountain* which may be remembered from TLH.

Stanza one of *Brightest and Best* draws our attention to the star which brings light and guides us through the darkness to our Redeemer.

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

I love the imagery of verse two and feel I am right in the stable with our infant king.

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining;
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall.
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.

In stanza three, we join the wise men wishing to offer costly gifts to the newborn.

Shall we not yield Him, in costly devotion,
Fragrance of Edom and offerings divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?

We realize our best gifts fail to give proper honor or secure favor. Adoration and humble prayers are what God desires.

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would his favor secure.
Richer by far is the heart’s adoration;
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Stanza five is a duplicate of stanza one and once again directs our attention to our morning star.

May God bless your worship this Epiphany season with the splendor recognizing our Savior in a “new or very clear way.”

His servant,
Christine Engebrecht

December 2021 Voter's Meeting Minutes

1. Devotion: Vicar Lackey
2. Acceptance of new voting members- None.
3. Approval of last Voter's meeting minutes as printed in the informer – Motion made by Norma Grotelueschen; 2nd by Larry Dodge. Motion passed.
4. Old Business- No old business to report.
5. Board Reports

Executive- No report

Treasurer's report- Norm Anotlik. 2022 Budget proposed/accepted as proposed. Motion to approve made by Brian Engebrecht; 2nd by Karen Schmidt. Motion passed.

Acceptance of Board nominees- Motion to accept the nominees (list attached) made by Ralph Grotelueschen; 2nd by Dawn Antolik. Motion passed.

Board of Elders- Jim Homann- Upcoming survey will be groundwork for backfilling Pastor position, where we as a congregation/district are at now and where we want to be in the future. Participation encouraged. Revivalty Program to look at our future, survey will be available online and by print.

Board of Youth and Family Ministry- No Report.

Board of Outreach Ministry- No Report.

Board of Human Care Ministry- No Report.

Board of Trustees- Evan Antolik gave a quick update of the condition of the Vicar's condo.

Evan made an announcement that due to the increase in gas/utility costs predicted this winter, the heat will be lowered in scarcely used areas and at night to compensate.

6. Pastor's Report- No Report.
7. New Business- Thrivent Choice screen has changed and not easy to navigate. Give Norm Antolik a call if problems with it.
8. Move to Adjourn- Motion made by Rod Hopkins; 2nd Jim Homann. Motion passed.
9. End with Lord's Prayer

Very much appreciated to all members who attended the Voter's meeting!

Respectively submitted by Val McDonald 04 January 2022.

Church Calendar

February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:00a Food Pantry 6:30p Guitar Jam	2 9:00a TOPS 10:00a Bible Study 6:00p Cherub Chimers 6:30p Confirmation Class	3 6:30p Board Meetings 6:30p Elders Meeting 6:30p Trustee Meeting	4	5 8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Choir Practice 5:00p Worship w/ Communion
6 9:00a Worship w/ Communion 10:15a Bible Study / Sunday School 2:00p Circuit Forum @ St. Mathew	7 9:00a Morning Prayer 1:00p Staff Mtg. 6:30p Heavenly Ringers 6:30p Men's Reunion	8 Vicar Lackey Birthday 10:00a Food Pantry 2:00p ASL 6:30p Guitar Jam	9 9:00a TOPS 10:00a Bible Study 6:00p Cherub Chimers 6:30p Confirmation Class	10	11	12 8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Choir Practice 5:00p Worship
13 9:00a Worship 10:15a Bible Study / Sunday School	14 9:00a Morning Prayer 1:00p Staff Mtg. 6:30p Heavenly Ringers 6:30p Men's Reunion	15 10:00a Food Pantry 6:30p Guitar Jam	16 9:00a TOPS 10:00a Bible Study 6:00p Cherub Chimers 6:30p Confirmation Class	17 11:30a Ladies Luncheon	18	19 8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Choir Practice 5:00p Worship/ Communion
20 9:00a Worship w/ Communion 10:15a Bible Study / Sunday School	21 9:00a Informer Deadline Morning Prayer 1:00p Staff Mtg. 6:30p Heavenly Ringers 6:30p Men's Reunion	22 10:00a Food Pantry 2:00p ASL 6:30p Guitar Jam	23 9:00a TOPS 10:00a Bible Study 6:00p Cherub Chimers 6:30p Confirmation Class	24 6:30p LWML	25	26 8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Choir Practice 5:00p Worship
27 9:00a Worship 10:15a Bible Study / Sunday School	28 9:00a Morning Prayer 1:00p Staff Mtg. 6:30p Heavenly Ringers 6:30p Men's Reunion					

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

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Walking in the



Light of Christ!

Worship Times

Saturday 5:00pm

Sunday 9:00am

Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:15am



St. John's in Winter Snow

Office Hours

Monday- Thursday:

8:30am-12 noon