



The Informer

May 2022

St. John's Lutheran Church

Volume 63 Issue 9

From Pastor's Pen:

And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. (Matt. 24:10-13)

Enduring Saints of God:

For many of us the post-Easter lull can be difficult as the crowds who flocked to worship on that single weekend disappear more quickly than did Christ from His tomb. Add to this the increasing decline in attendance and membership that we have experienced in recent years, and the many who never returned after the pandemic and it can be quite discouraging. None of this should, however, come as a surprise when we consider the words of our Lord regarding what we would experience in the last days.

In an online article Casey Chalk wrote: "Last year, a Gallup poll attracted considerable attention for discovering that for the first time in 80 years of surveys, Americans' membership in houses of worship had dropped below 50 percent." As far as the effects of the pandemic on decreased worship attendance, Chalk reports: "According to 2020 data collected by Barna Group, one in three practicing Christians dropped out of church completely during Covid-19, much of this having to do with various state-imposed restrictions on attendance levels in houses of worship (although these were often not imposed on other places where lots of people congregate, like casinos). Even when Covid-related restrictions lapsed, these people have not returned to church. In other words, once many people stopped going to church for a year or two, they decided to live without it."

When it comes to the ever increasing decline with each generation Chalk writes: "... younger generations are less religious than their forebears. According to Gallup, about 31 percent of millennials have no religious affiliation, which is up from 22 percent a decade ago. The numbers are similar for Generation Z: about 33 percent of them reach adulthood with no religious preference." With fewer and fewer children now coming to worship and Sunday School, or being exposed to congregational life in general, things can only get worse. More of our member children are going to reach adulthood having no religious preference, and feeling no attachment to the body of Christ.

Chalk suggests one of the reasons why church attendance has been dropping among young Americans, writing, "Because of socio-economic trends like globalization and social media, we are an increasingly atomized and isolated people. Americans are less inclined to view religious membership or church attendance as part of a fulfilling moral life, for reasons similar to those that explain why they are abandoning all local public or civic organizations. To their detriment, Americans are trying to replicate real community and real spiritual transcendence with Twitter, TikTok, Yoga, and Peloton."

(continued on page 2)



Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

John 15:13

In this Issue:

Pastor's Letter	1-2
Serving the Lord	3
Vicar's Letter	4
Birthdays	5
Church News	6-10
Calendar	11

See The Informer
IN COLOR
On Our Website

Pastor's Letter continued

Another reason he offers is the watered-down message of the plethora of market-driven churches. He writes: "Moreover, when seeker-friendly churches seek to cater to the latest fads and trends, rather than preaching a coherent, transcendent message, people realize there isn't much that differentiates church from the self-help industry." In his letters to Timothy, St. Paul had much to say about this.

For example:

Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons. (1Ti 4:1)

For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

(2Ti 4:3-5)

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power.

Avoid such people. (2Ti 3:1-5)

O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called "knowledge," for by professing it some have swerved from the faith. (1Ti 6:20-21a)

But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, and their talk will spread like gangrene. (2Ti 2:16-17a)

Since Americans are reportedly more depressed than ever, especially among those who claim to have no religious affiliation, it is obvious how foolish it is to abandon religion. Trying to find independence, autonomy and self-realization only leads to dead ends and emptiness. The answer that we have to offer is not autonomy and self-sufficiency in the face of brokenness, but to seek out the Great Physician of body and soul who can bind up and heal. We are able to offer a peace that surpasses all understanding and a community of faith, hope and love in the body of Christ.

While our Lord's warnings of what will occur in these last days are unfolding before our eyes, we must not despair nor surrender. Instead, let us endure to the end. Let us be the light of the world that continues to offer the faithful message that has been entrusted to us. Again as Paul writes to Timothy:

O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called "knowledge," for by professing it some have swerved from the faith. Grace be with you. (1Ti 6:20-21)

But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me. Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

(2Ti 1:12b-14)

My brothers and sisters in Christ, I pray that by the Spirit's working you will continue to be faithful in worship, Bible study and in the life of the congregation. I pray that you will be bold and courageous in sharing the faith with others. Most of all I pray that you will endure to the end and be saved.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Umbarger

Chalk, Casey. *Why Americans Are Really Leaving Church*. The Federalist, Mar. 2022,

<https://thefederalist.com/2022/03/21/why-americans-are-really-leaving-church/>.

Serving the Lord This Month:

Ushers

Sun, May 1: Dennis Boarts, George Aukee, Steve Sullivan, Kevin McAnally, & Rod Hopkins
Sat, May 7: Chuck Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
Sun, May 8: Dennis Boarts, George Aukee, Steve Sullivan, Kevin McAnally, & Rod Hopkins
Sat, May 14: Chuck Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
Sun, May 15: Dennis Boarts, George Aukee, Steve Sullivan, Kevin McAnally, & Rod Hopkins
Sat, May 21: Chuck Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
Sun, May 22: Dennis Boarts, George Aukee, Steve Sullivan, Kevin McAnally, & Rod Hopkins
Sat, May 28: Chuck Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
Sun, May 29: Dennis Boarts, George Aukee, Steve Sullivan, Kevin McAnally, & Rod Hopkins

Greeters

Sun, May 1:
Sat, May 7: Norm & Orene Antolik
Sun, May 8:
Sat, May 14: LouAnn DeRammeleare & Ruby Pancrazio
Sun, May 15:
Sat, May 21: Kathy Ahrens & Rebecca Hinman
Sun, May 22:
Sat, May 28: LouAnn DeRammeleare & Ruby Pancrazio
Sun, May 29:

Acolytes

Sun, May 1: Aubree Medinger
Sun, May 8: Bentley Orton
Sun, May 15: Jackson Merritt
Sun, May 22: Stratton Churchill
Sun, May 29: Lydia Merritt



Altar Guild
 Orene Antolik
 &
 Marsha Boarts

Eternal Candle

May 1: John & Rhea Oakes, in honor of their Wedding Anniversary
May 8: OPEN
May 15: Karen Schmidt in honor of Jim's birthday
May 22: In honor of Karen Newlon's wedding
May 29: In honor of Zachary Antolik's Baptismal Birthday



Flowers

May 1: Bill & Donna Green in honor of their Wedding Anniversary
May 8: Rhea Oakes in honor of Oakley and Crew's 2nd birthday
May 15: Karen Schmidt in honor of Jim's birthday
May 22: OPEN
May 29: Susan Bowman and John & Nancy Davis, in memory of Don Davis

Vicar's View

Reading the Ascension like a Lutheran

Ask anyone you know where Jesus is now. Your responses will probably be some variation of "He's in Heaven." If you ask them to prove this, they will probably cite The Acts of the Apostles, chapter 1:

[9] And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. [10] And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, [11] and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." (ESV)

And they are not totally wrong after all. The Bible says what it means and means what it says.

I am willing to wager that you most likely will not get this answer: that Jesus is in Heaven, and also present with us on a Sunday morning during the Divine Service. While this may seem contradictory (It is usually impossible for someone to be in 2 places at once!), I will give you this Scripture:

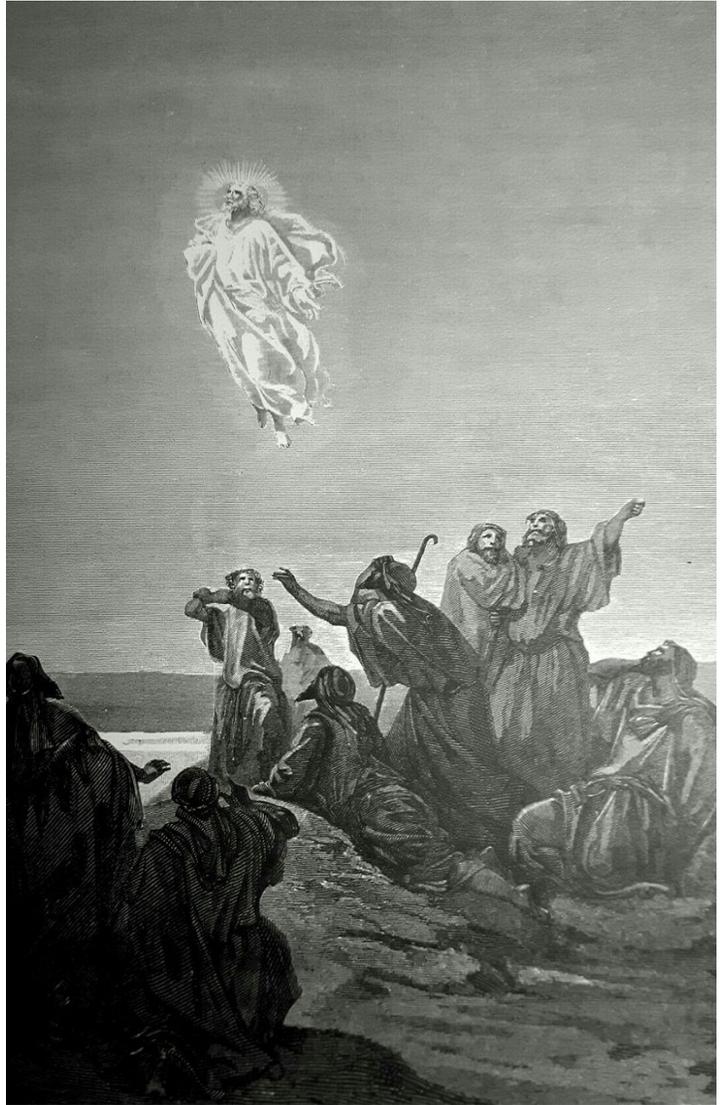
Matthew 19:26

[26] But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." (ESV)

It can be difficult to read the Ascension, because one might get sad that "Jesus isn't around anymore." But Ascension is actually gospel: Jesus has been freed from the constraints of space and time. He is no longer confined to first century Judea, but now is able to come to us, in East Moline, St. Louis, Green Bay, and at all the other altars all around the world. It is through this that He is able to be truly present as we celebrate the Sacrament.

I pray that your Easter season has been a blessing, and I look forward to seeing you in church on Ascension Sunday!

In the Trinity,
Vicar Lackey



Church News

May 1 – Jameson Nitz, Sharron Ripka ,
Shawn Swanson, & Owen
Weakley

May 2 - Hans VanRycke

May 3 - NikkiAna Johnson & Rachel
Lang

May 4 – Nancy Bonow

May 6– Brandon Busch, Brett Busch,
Dean Pittelko, & Alex
Verschoore

May 7– John Davis & Jamie Whipple

May 8– Nico Stone

May 9 – Sharon Kays

May 11– Nicholas Kjera

May 12 – Pastor Umbarger

May 13 – Rachel Duffy

May 14 – Mark Grotelueschen

May 16 - Wanda Dobrinske & Bob
Scheer

May 17– Craig Mueller

May 18 – Katherine Kirby & Kristian
Umbarger

May 19 – Kathy Herron &
Barbara Honert

May 21 – Karen Hendricks &
Lindsey Rowe

May 23– Grant McManus

May 25 – Kris McAnally & Patsy Mills

May 26– Brandon Descamps

May 28 – Steven Bailey, David Busch,
Keith Foehrkolb, & Kimberly
Medina

May 30 – Katie Aeillo &
Bill Johnson Jr.

May 31– Adam Hess



Weekly Attendance & Offerings

DATE	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
3/27/22	144	148
4/03/22	155	Easter– 258
4/10/22	165	119
4/17/22	Easter– 265	150

Simply Giving April 2022: Average monthly attendance of St. John’s membership: 29%

Membership Report

Released:

The following members were released at the Voter’s Meeting on March 13th, after 10 years of non attendance

Caden Bowman
Becca Cady
Steven Carter II
Autumn Chaffee
Caije Chaffee
Hailey Chaffee
Rebecca Davis
Rachael Evans
Kevin Fauser
Blake Foehrkolb

Phillip Graham
Sharon Kirklin
Timothy Krack
Naomi Lincoln
Lisa Nelson
Metta Orr
Melissa Terronez
Jenna Walker
Melody Williams
Sydney Wulgaert



Address Updates:

Cynthia Christopher
4229 39th St
East Moline, IL 61244

Tanner, Lindsey, Addison, and Jacob Rowe
2113 7th St.
East Moline, IL 61244

Church News

Bible Study

SUNDAY, MAY 1ST AND MAY 8TH, 10:15am(ish) in the Janssen Rooms

Journey through history as Dr. Engebrecht reviews Bill Nye's statements at the Ken Ham– Bill Nye debate at the Creation Museum and learn the facts about the age of the Earth and where to find the evidence in nature. We will look at the origin of life, evidence of a worldwide flood, fossil findings and mountain growth to show many of Bill Nye's claims to be false.



Flood Buckets Available

Spring is here and with spring sometimes comes floods. The Board of Human Care has put together flood buckets for anyone to use who has experienced a flood in their home; natural or accidentally man-made. These buckets contain all the basic household supplies needed to clean up a flood after the water has receded. We pray none of our St. John's family members experiences a flood this spring, but if you do (or you know someone that has) please let us know and we can provide the tools (and maybe even the people) to help clean it up.

LWML

LWML will be meeting **May 27th at 6:30 PM** in the Janssen rooms. NOTE THE TIME CHANGE. We will be helping prepare for VBS. Many hands make light work. See you then.

LWML Donations - Travel Deodorant

A big **THANK YOU** to all who have donated items to prepare personal hygiene kits for the shelters this fall. May's collection will be travel sized deodorants

Ladies Luncheon

The next Ladies Luncheon will be on Thursday, May 19th at 11:30am at the Deerfield Restaurant. All ladies are welcome to attend.

Concordia Lutheran Shoe Drive

BRING US YOUR SHOES! Concordia Lutheran Church in Geneseo is raising funds for a Classical Lutheran school and is participating in fundraiser where there is nothing to buy or sell. All that is needed is your support and your old shoes. We are asking that members in churches in the Rock Island Circuit help support the school by collecting gently worn, used, and new shoes and bringing them to the shoe collection box placed at your church. Start in your family's closets and gather pairs of shoes that are out grown, out of style, or out of season— any size or type of shoe: work boots, high heels, children's shoes, athletic shoes, even flip flops. You can help even more by challenging yourself to collect 25 pairs of shoes, and then challenging your friends and family to do the same. At the end of the collection period, the shoes will be picked up and sent to developing countries to create job opportunities. Shoe drive fundraisers provide inventory to 4,000 micro-entrepreneurs who sell the shoes to support their families. Thank you for your help.



Thank you to everyone that purchased an Easter Lily!

Member:

Flo Moore
 Lucille Perley
 Nancy Davis
 James and Brenda Hanerhoff
 Nancy Williams
 Jim and Donna Moews
 Rod and Noreen Hopkins
 Norm and Orene Antolik
 Dennis and Lois Kelly
 Chuck and Bev Brokaw
 Larry and Sharon Ripka
 Karen Schmidt
 Susan Bowman
 John and Ruby Pancrazio
 The Belan Family
 Duane and Kathy Herron
 James and Carole Vrbn
 Stacey Reed
 Ron and Denise Rogers
 Lynne Suess and Family
 Andrea Brummard-Bemis
 Barbara Honert
 Judy Dugan
 Bob and Monica Scheer
 Steve and Rose Sullivan
 LouAnn DeRammeleare
 Brenda Roggendorf
 Sandy Young
 Troy and Val McDonald
 Dennis and Marsha Boarts
 Joyce Hoffman
 Sharon DeWulf
 Dennis and Margie Schaefer
 Patsy Mills
 Brian and Christine Engebrecht
 Susan Trulson Runyan

In Memory of:

Loved Ones
 Loved Ones
 Don Davis
 Eugene McDaniels

 Loved Ones
 Parents: Maxine Hopkins, Vince & Kay Kuchen
 Loved Ones

 Mike
 Parents and Jeffie
 Marlin and Jim, parents Les and Dorothy Lemon
 Loved Ones
 James (Jay)
 Ed Belan
 Loved Ones
 Loved Ones
 Loved Ones

 Roy Suess and Chase Weeks
 Mom and Dad
 Family Blessings
 Terry Dugan, Jack Passman, and Tayler Rusk
 Bob's mom Sherry Scheer
 Ted and Judy Knudsen

 Loved Ones
 Bob Young and Loved Ones
 Loved Ones
 Loved Ones
 Loved Ones
 Dick DeWulf
 Loved Ones
 Bill and Betty White

 Dennis Runyan, Frederick and Dorothy Trulson,
 Frederick Trulson, Jr., and Alva and Norma Runyon



"God is Our Redeemer"

When the world falls down around you, a prayer will see you through.
 Say a prayer for someone, who may need it more than you. For who
 knows what hearts are breaking, in the silence of the night? Just
 that prayer you say, may help someone see the light. Every time you
 help someone, with a prayer or two, you are building many blessings,
 that will come back to you.

Amen and Amen
 Lillian Apel



Church News

Vacation Bible School

VBS is scheduled for June , from 9-11:30am.

It's time to plan for VBS 2022! We need several volunteers to make this a successful week. Please call or text Cris Braddy at (309)235-7984 if you are able to donate some of your time this summer. We need people to be group leaders, make & serve snacks, run games, check-in kids, and more! Anyone aged 6th grade and older is eligible to help. The more the merrier!



Calling all graduates!

If your child is graduating from high school or college this spring, please let Annie know so we can recognize them! We need names, school graduating from, and the date of the ceremony. Feel free to include additional information such as: the college your grad plans to attend in the fall, majors/ minors, sports playing, awards/ honors, etc.!

Trivia Night

Save the Date for a Trivia Night to benefit the Youth at Immanuel Lutheran.

Sunday, May 14th

7pm (Doors open at 6pm)

This will be a night of fun with Trivia and a Silent Auction

Tables are \$80 each (8 seats per table)

More details to come!

For questions contact Helen Vogel at 309-781-9627



*She opens her mouth with wisdom,
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
She looks well to the ways of her household
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
Her children rise up and call her blessed,
her husband also, and he praises her:
"Many women have done excellently,
but you surpass them all."*



Notes from the Balcony

Victory, a word that carries many joyous images. The first image that pops into my mind is that of troops throughout history rejoicing after a long-fought and difficult war and the parades and official celebrations held in honor of the heroes. My second image is that of a smiling athletic team holding a trophy with confetti raining down and of hugs and congratulations following a long season of well-played games.

In the church, during this time after Easter, we celebrate the victory Christ has won after a long and difficult war against sin, death, and the devil. Now is the time to bask in Christ's victory. Every single sin was paid for on the cross. Death is no longer the end but a passage. The power of the devil has been crushed.

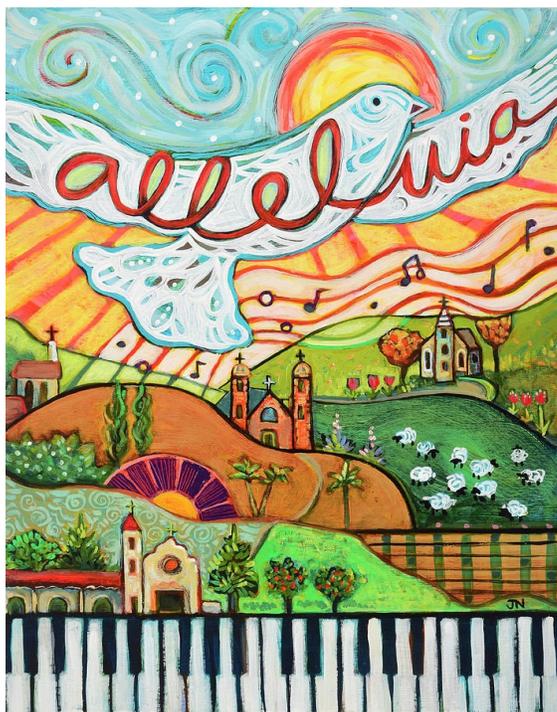
Victory is the tune name we use to sing the hymn *The Strife is O're, the Battle Done*, LSB 464. There isn't much known about the background to this hymn except that it can be found in a German Jesuit hymn book in 1965. The text brings to mind these verses in I Corinthians 15:55-57:

"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death is your sting?

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God!

He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." NIV

Victory proclamations of "Alleluia!" begin and end this hymn. The stanzas proclaim the strife and battle are over, the victory has been won and now is the time for singing.



Stanza 2:

The pow'rs of death have done their worst,
But Christ their legions hath dispersed.
Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!

Stanza 4:

He broke the age-bound chains of hell;
The bars from heav'n's high portals fell.
Let hymns of praise His triumph tell. Alleluia!

Victorious life is summed up in stanza 5:
Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee,
From Death's dread sting Thy servants free
That we may live and sing to Thee. Alleluia!

A happy and victorious Easter season to all.
His servant,
Christine Engebrecht

Augustana College Presents

"Messiah"

By George Frideric Handel

You are invited to join the 200-member Handel Oratoria Society and professional Handel Oratoria Society Chamber Orchestra to experience of the birth, passion and resurrection story

May 1st at 3:00pm in Centennial Hall

For more information and tickets, visit

augustana.edu/tickets or call 309-794-7306



*You are cordially invited to a
St. John's
Hymn Festival:*

"Faith Sings! The Active Witness of the Church's Song"

Join us as we proclaim how active Christ is in the Church!

When: Sunday, May 29th at 3pm

Where: St. John's Sanctuary

With special guest, cantor Phillip Magness!



Phillip Magness serves the Lord through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in French-speaking countries in West and Central Africa (Togo, Guinea, Congo—Brazzaville, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Burkina Faso, Congo—Kinshasa and Burundi). As a sacred music educator, Phillip teaches hymns, psalms and spiritual songs — and develops the musicianship of song leaders so that they are better able to teach, share and nurture music for worship.

Phillip received a Bachelor of Music degree and a Master of Music degree from the University of North Texas, Denton. He then received his Director of Parish Music colloquy from Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Ill. He serves a dual call as a missionary and as cantor at Village Lutheran Church in Ladue, Mo. Before serving in these roles, he was cantor at LCMS congregations in Oklahoma, Illinois and Texas.

Church Calendar

May 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 9:00a Worship w/ Communion 10:15a Bible Study / Sunday School</p>	<p>2 9:00a Morning Prayer 1:00p Staff Mtg. 6:30p Heavenly Ringers Men's Reunion</p>	<p>3 10:00a Food Pantry 6:30p Guitar Jam</p>	<p>4 9:00a TOPS 10:00a Bible Study 6:00p Cherub Chimers 6:30p Bible Study 6:30p Confirmation Class</p>	<p>5 6:30p Board Meetings</p>		<p>7 8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Choir Practice 5:00p Worship</p>
<p>8 9:00a Worship 10:15a Bible Study / Sunday School</p>	<p>9 9:00a Morning Prayer 1:00p Staff Mtg. 6:30p Heavenly Ringers Men's Reunion</p>	<p>10 10:00a Food Pantry 6:30p Guitar Jam</p>	<p>11 9:00a TOPS 10:00a Bible Study 6:00p Cherub Chimers 6:30p Bible Study</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Choir Practice 5:00p Worship w/ Communion</p>
<p>15 9:00a Worship w/ Communion 10:15a Bible Study / Sunday School</p>	<p>16 9:00a Informer Deadline 1:00p Morning Prayer Staff Mtg. 6:30p Heavenly Ringers Men's Reunion</p>	<p>17 10:00a Food Pantry 6:30p Guitar Jam</p>	<p>18 9:00a TOPS 10:00a Bible Study 6:00p Cherub Chimers 6:30p Bible Study</p>	<p>19 11:30a Ladies Luncheon</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 8:00a Hymn Festival rehearsal 8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Choir Practice 2:00p Carrie- Graduation 5:00p Worship</p>
<p>22 9:00a Worship 10:15a Bible Study / Sunday School</p>	<p>23 9:00a Morning Prayer 1:00p Staff Mtg. 6:30p Heavenly Ringers Men's Reunion</p>	<p>24 10:00a Food Pantry 6:30p Guitar Jam</p>	<p>25 9:00a TOPS 10:00a Bible Study 6:00p Cherub Chimers 6:30p Bible Study</p>	<p>26 6:30p LWML</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 9:30a Choir Practice 5:00p Worship w/ Communion</p>
<p>29 9:00a Worship w/ Communion 10:15a Bible Study / Sunday School 3:00p Hymn Festival</p>	<p>30 9:00a Morning Prayer 1:00p Staff Mtg. 6:30p Heavenly Ringers Men's Reunion</p>	<p>31 10:00a Food Pantry 6:30p Guitar Jam</p>				

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

1450-30th Avenue
East Moline, IL 61244

Tel: 309-792-0755
Fax: 309-792-0776
E-mail: office@stjohnsem.org

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 8:30 am– 2:00pm



Inside our Sanctuary.