

**General Announcements:**

**WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS.** We are glad you have joined us in worshipping our Lord and Savior. We trust you will draw strength, peace, and hope as together we hear God's Word spoken here today. So that we may serve you better, we ask that you fill out an attendance card located on the back of the pew, including your address and noting that you are a visitor.

**BAPTISM** Received into God's Kingdom of grace through Holy Baptism this morning is Beau Beale, infant son of Drew and Paige. May he grow in the nurture of God.

**ETERNAL CANDLE** The eternal candle glows to the glory of God from Rod Hopkins- Happy Mother's Day!

**ALTAR FLOWERS** The flower bouquet that adorns the Altar is from Bill and Donna Green in honor of their anniversary.

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS** *John 14:15 - "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."* Jesus is clear: our obedience to His Word comes from our love for Him. But where does that love come from? Jesus tells us that as well: "Her sins, which are many, are forgiven — for she loved much" (Luke 7:47). Christ shows us His love and gives us the forgiveness of our sins, which causes love to well up in us and thereby keep the commandments of Jesus. For after all, the summary of the Law is "love."

**CAMP CILCA** Annual HOG ROAST & AUCTION Sunday, May 24, 11:30am-1:30pm at Camp CILCA's Dining Hall. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children, 3 and under free. Come support the work that the Lord is doing in the great outdoors!

**LWML** Spring Salad Luncheon! All ladies are welcome to attend our luncheon on Thursday, May 21st at noon. This is a relaxed social event so bring a salad (and a friend) and enjoy the day with your sisters in Christ! Please sign up by May 17th so we can plan.

**FOOD PANTRY** The Silvis Hy-Vee will once again be supporting our food pantry with their annual garden center fundraiser. Bring your flyer (bulletin insert +extras on the information table) to the Silvis Hy-Vee Garden Center and they will donate 10% of your sale to our food pantry! This offer is only good Monday, May 11th-Sunday May 17th.

**BUILDING HEALTHY FAMILIES:** How do you put a mother's love into words? It's steady and selfless, quiet yet powerful—woven into everyday moments and lifelong sacrifices. Scripture paints this kind of love in many places, and while 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 isn't always labeled as a "mother's passage," it beautifully reflects what so many mothers live out each day: *Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.* Happy Mother's Day to all women who so lovingly care for their children and others. (P.S. No texting or snapchatting today: call or visit your mother!) [www.LutheranFamilyService.org](http://www.LutheranFamilyService.org)  
**Lutheran Family Service**

**BLACKSMITHING OPPORTUNITY** On Sunday, May 17th, and Saturday, May 23rd at noon, Clinton Merritt will be leading a blacksmithing activity here at St. John's. He will be working on making leaves for the Tree of Life arbor for the courtyard. If you would like to participate in this project, please sign up and show up!

**LCMS FOUNDATION** A good gift plan within an estate includes inheritance for family and gifts to ministry. Some might consider this a difficult task. How does an LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor help? Working on your estate can be complicated as you balance legal, tax and financial issues, along with your desires to care for family and support ministry. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor has tools to organize all these things. Contact Scott Radden @ 618-977-4049 or [scott.radden@lfn.org](mailto:scott.radden@lfn.org).

**PASTORAL CALL UPDATE** Rev. Peter Deberny has acknowledged the receipt of our Call, and has stated he is honored to be considered. He has prayerfully begun the process of deliberation, and hopes to arrive at a decision by May 17th. He asks that we keep him in our prayers as he considers this Call, and he will keep St. John's in his as well.

*Saturday, May 9th, 2026  
Sixth Season of Easter  
The Order of Vespers*

Prelude	
<b>"O Day of Rest..."</b>	<b>906</b>
Opening Versicles Psalm ( <i>See Cream Insert</i> )	229
<b>"I Know that My..."</b>	<b>461</b>
Readings ( <i>See Cream Insert</i> )	
Responsory	230
<b>"Dear Christians..."</b>	<b>556</b>
Sermon— Pastor Astrowski	
Canticle <b>"Glory to God..."</b>	<b>946</b>
<b>Prayer</b>	
Kyrie, Lord's Prayer, Collects	233
Benedicamus and Benediction	234
<b>"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast..."</b>	<b>655</b>
Postlude	

## *The Lord's Week*

### **Sunday, May 10th**

9:00am– Worship  
10:15am– Bible study/Sunday school  
10:15am– Confirmation instruction

### **Monday, May 11th**

1:30pm– Activities Room– dominoes  
6:30pm– Heavenly Ringers rehearsal

### **Tuesday, May 12th**

10:00am– Food Pantry  
6:30pm– Guitar Jam

### **Wednesday, May 13th**

10:00am– Women's Bible study  
1:30pm– Activities room-dominoes

### **Saturday, May 16th**

8:00am– Men's Bible study  
5:00pm– Worship w/Communion  
(Pastor Astrowski)

### **Sunday, May 17th**

9:00am– Worship w/Communion  
10:15am– Bible study/Sunday school  
12:00pm– Blacksmithing arbor leaves

#### **Serving the Lord this Week:**

**Organist:** Christine Engebrecht

**Greeters:** *(Sat.)* Chuck Brokaw  
*(Sun.)*

**Ushers:** *(Sat.)* Greg Burke, Bill Johnson, Todd Miller  
& Larry Ripka

*(Sun.)* Glen McMillin

**Acolyte:** Nathan Duffy

## *Bible Study Opportunities*

### **Sundays, 10:15am**

Join Pastor Anderson in the Janssen rooms following worship- we are studying the Acts of the Apostles, looking at the beginnings of the Christian Church, and how the Church two millennia later still bears the imprint of that first Church.

### ***Holy Land Geography, Customs & History***

Join Clark Stojan in the Keyl room, as he leads us to explore the world of the Bible along with select events recorded in Scripture.

***Coffee with Christ– Myth or Faith?*** There are plenty of misconceptions about Christianity in today's society. From false rumors to biblical teachings that are heavily distorted from their subject matter, there's no lack of myths to find. Do you know how to respond to them? More importantly, do you know the **truth** backed up by God's Word and teachings?

### **Wednesdays, 10am- Women's Bible study**

***Great Women of the Bible*** In this Bible study series, we will look at the lives of only the most familiar women in God's Word. From Eve, the first woman, to those women who helped Jesus' apostles, participants will see God's grace in action as He calls and leads these women in their daily lives. Through their God-given faith and their faith-filled deeds, you will be inspired by these great women of the Bible.

**Saturdays, 8am- Men's Bible study** We are doing a chronological study of the Gospel.

#### **Weekly Memory Verse:**

#### **Philippians 1:6**

*I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*



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#### **Vacancy Pastor**

Rev. Steven Anderson

**Music Director** Christine Engebrecht

**Secretary** Annie Churchill

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(309) 269-5276

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## Psalm

**☞** Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard,  
**☞ who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.**

For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.  
**You brought us into the net; you laid a crushing burden on our backs;**  
you let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through  
water; yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.

**I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will perform my  
vows to you,**  
that which my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in  
trouble.

**I will offer to you burnt offerings of fattened animals, with the smoke of  
the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats.**

Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has  
done for my soul.

**I cried to him with my mouth, and high praise was on my tongue.**

If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have  
listened.

**But truly God has listened; he has attended to the voice of my prayer.**

Blessèd be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed  
his steadfast love from me!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in  
the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## Readings

**☞** The first reading is from Acts, the seventeenth chapter.

While Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked  
within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the syn-  
agogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every  
day with those who happened to be there. Some of the Epicurean and Stoic  
philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this bab-  
bler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divini-  
ties”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. And they took  
hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what  
this new teaching is that you are presenting? For you bring some strange  
things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” Now  
all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in  
nothing except telling or hearing something new. So Paul, standing in the  
midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way  
you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your  
worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’  
What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who  
made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not  
live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he  
needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and  
everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all  
the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of

their dwelling place, that they should seek God, in the hope that they might  
feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each  
one of us, for “‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some  
of your own poets have said, “‘For we are indeed his offspring.’ Being then  
God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or  
silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. The  
times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people every-  
where to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the  
world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has  
given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.” (*Acts 17:16-31*)

**☞** O Lord, have mercy on us.      **☞** Thanks be to God.

**☞** The Epistle reading is from 1 Peter, the third chapter.

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is  
good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be  
blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts regard  
Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to any-  
one who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with  
gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are  
slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to  
shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s  
will, than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the right-  
eous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death  
in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed  
to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God’s  
patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in  
which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through wa-  
ter. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal  
of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience,  
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is  
at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been  
subjected to him. (*1 Peter 3:13-22*)

**☞** O Lord, have mercy on us.      **☞** Thanks be to God.

**☞** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

[Jesus said:] “If you love me, you will keep my command-  
ments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to  
be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot re-  
ceive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he  
dwells with you and will be in you. “I will not leave you as orphans; I will  
come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you  
will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know  
that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my  
commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves  
me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to  
him.” (*John 14:15-21*)

**☞** O Lord, have mercy on us.      **☞** Thanks be to God.

**ST. JOHN'S PRAYER CARD**

May 9th and 10th, 2026

*Please remember the following in your prayers this week...*

**Anniversaries:**

Kevin & Wendy Verschoore  
(31)

**Sister Congregation**

Rev. Brian Pape  
St. Peter's Lutheran  
East Peoria, IL

**Members**

Barbara Buck  
Greg Burke  
Andy Burke  
Lenora Busch

**Missionaries Serving**

Rev. James & Angela Sharp-  
Uruguay

**Military Chaplains**

Capt. Trenton Wollberg  
LTC Richard Schultz

**Military Deployment**

Elijah Medina- Iran

**Prolonged Illness &  
Special Needs:**

Joan Britton  
Bev Brokaw  
Chuck Brokaw  
Hoa Cooper (Lucille's daughter  
- cancer)  
Steve Fors  
Duane Gosa  
Nancy Gosa  
Jerry Hill  
Dale Johnson  
Merle Loete  
Reid McDonald  
RaeJean Murphy  
Tom Nielsen  
Robin Passman  
Brenda Roggendorf  
Earl Schaefer  
Karen Schmidt  
Kathleen Schmidt  
David Sountris  
Ken Weidenbach  
Cora Whipple

Ingrid Hodshire  
Lori Hopkins  
Mary McGee  
Nancy Smart  
Terry Tipsword  
Barbara Veskauf

**Homebound Members:**

Nancy Bonow  
Ann Bowman  
Don, Wanda, and Jason Cass  
Darlene Dopson  
Mary Ann Eckert  
Rick & Sylvia Fauser  
Angie Fischer  
Peg Heitzman  
Kathy Herron  
Christopher Higgins