



Communion Notice Today we celebrate Holy Communion in which we joyfully receive Christ’s own body and blood, under bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sins. Because we believe that participation in this sacrament is also a public confession of unity in the faith we invite communicant members of congregations in fellowship with the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod to receive the sacrament.

We welcome our fellow Christians who wish to come forward but do not share all our beliefs to fold their arms in front of them and receive a blessing. We pray that our common baptism and the continued work of the Holy Spirit will draw us closer to one another and dispel the sad divisions that separate us. We pray that as we are led into all truth from God’s Word such divisions will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ’s prayer for us "that they may all be one" (John 17:21). Let us all express in our hearts a prayerful desire for such unity of faith to be achieved.

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.

ETERNAL CANDLE The eternal candle glows to the glory of God in memory of Tayler Rusk.

ALTAR FLOWERS The flower bouquet that adorns the Altar are from Brian & Christine Engebrecht.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS *Romans 8:18 – “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”* It is very easy to get caught up in the present and lose track of our ultimate destiny in the kingdom of God. St. Paul encourages us to keep eternity in mind. This certainly has an application to our support for the Gospel — if we keep our focus on “the glory to be revealed,” we will see our tithes and offerings in a new light.

BUILDING HEALTHY FAMILIES: This week, take time to notice the beautiful (or wilting!) flowers and vegetables growing in your own or someone else’s garden. Let them remind you that great relationships don’t just happen – they require time and attention. Who needs more of yours? *“Remember that children, marriages, and gardens reflect the kind of care they get.”* (H. Jackson Brown, Jr.) Learn more at www.LutheranFamilyService.org **Lutheran Family Service**

UPCOMING OFFICE CONSTRUCTION The first week of August, the office will be inaccessible as the floors are re-done. At approximately the same time, the doors by the office will be out of order as automatic openers are installed.

ATTENTION CIRCUIT MEN The next “Brats, Bibles, & Beverages” will be held on Sunday, July 26 at 5:00pm. The first BBB had members from 4 circuit churches present; let’s double that in July! Each time we meet, the Bible Study will be a different topic, so come when you can. Brats, hot dogs, buns, unsweetened iced tea, and water will be provided (feel free to bring your own beverage). Bring something to share such as chips, salads, casseroles, desserts. Weather permitting this will be an outdoor event, so bring a lawn chair. If it rains we will move indoors. Please sign up by July 19th so we know how much food to purchase. This will be a great opportunity for fellowship with others in the Circuit.

GOD’S MISSION HERE DISTRICT PRESENTATION St. John’s Geneseo is hosting a workshop on **Saturday, August 8th** for both congregational leaders and laity in a Bible study about the work of God in accomplishing His mission through the congregation. This will run from 8:30am-3:30pm; lunch is provided. There is a sign-up sheet at the sign-up station; please help them plan for the day.

Apologetics Boot Camp is August 16–19 at Concordia University Chicago, 7400 August St., River Forest, IL
Have you ever been asked questions—or have your own questions—about faith, the reliability of the Bible, the truth of Jesus’ resurrection, or how Christianity connects with society and science? Join Concordia University Chicago for an in-depth exploration of apologetics during its second annual Apologetics Boot Camp. Find strength and confidence as you learn to defend your faith, fortify yourself against personal doubt, and respond to the many and various challenges posed to our faith in recent years.
This four-day on-campus event includes an agenda full of presentations from world-class speakers and panel discussions, as well as opportunities for chapel services, film screenings, interactions with others interested in apologetics, and more.

Adult lay member registration ranges from \$25 to \$75, with single-session, one-day, and full-conference options. Learn more about the event at <https://www.cuchicago.edu/events/2026/08/apologetics-boot-camp/>

If you have any questions, please reach out to Rev. Dr. Kirk Clayton, assistant professor of theology and director of CUC’s Pre-Seminary program, at Kirk.Clayton@CUChicago.edu or by calling 708-209-3195. Flyers available at the sign-up station. Registration closes August 2

COURTYARD HELPERS NEEDED The flowers in the courtyard have been such a beautiful blessing to see this spring and summer! If you would like to help keep this going, please see Sara Anderson; she is willing to help assist anyone willing to learn about seeding, planting, and the maintenance required to keep it thriving. Sara will still be helping in the courtyard into the fall after Rev. Anderson retires as our vacancy pastor. This only requires 1-2 hours a week, and can be a fun opportunity to learn a new skill and spend time with a friend!

SEED STARTING MEETING If you have ever thought about starting your flowers from seed, this is the place for you! Please join Sara Anderson on Thursday, July 23rd at 6:30pm for an informational meeting where she will talk about the process of cultivating beautiful flowers from seed!

**July 18th and 19th, 2026
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Divine Service Setting IV**

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The Lord's Week

Sunday, July 19th

9:00am– Worship w/Communion
10:15am– Bible study/Sunday school
2:00pm– Pastoral Call Voter's Meeting

Monday, July 20th

1:30pm– Activities Room– dominoes

Tuesday, July 21st

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

Wednesday, July 22nd

1:30pm– Activities room-dominoes

Saturday, July 25th

5:00pm– Worship
(Pastor Nerud)

Sunday, July 26th

9:00am– Worship
10:15am– Bible study/Sunday school
5:00pm– Bibles, Brats and Beverages

PASTORAL CALL VOTER'S MEETING!

The next meeting to vote on a pastoral call candidate is Sunday, July 19th, at 2:00pm. All members of the congregation are encouraged to attend. If you would like to read about the candidates, the binders will be available during office hours.

INCOMING VACANCY PASTOR

On August 1st & 2nd we will welcome Rev. James T. Batchelor who will begin serving us during our vacancy. Rev. Batchelor is a retired pastor who lives in Montpelier, Iowa. He is a second career man who worked as an electrical engineer for 28 years before enrolling in the seminary. He is married to Lynn who is a retired nurse. They have three children who live in Galesburg, Davenport, and Osceola, WI.

Bible Study Opportunities

Sundays, 10:15am

Join Pastor Anderson in the Janssen rooms following worship; we are doing a study on the book of Matthew.

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? On summer break. We will resume Sunday, September 13th.

Wednesdays, 10am– Women's Bible study

We are on summer break. Class will resume after Labor Day

Saturdays, 8am– Men's Bible study: On Summer break. We will resume Saturday, September 12th

Weekly Memory Verse:

1 John 4:18

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.

Serving the Lord this Week:

Organist: Christine Engebrecht

Greeters: (Sat.)

(Sun.) Margie Schaefer & Carole Krouth

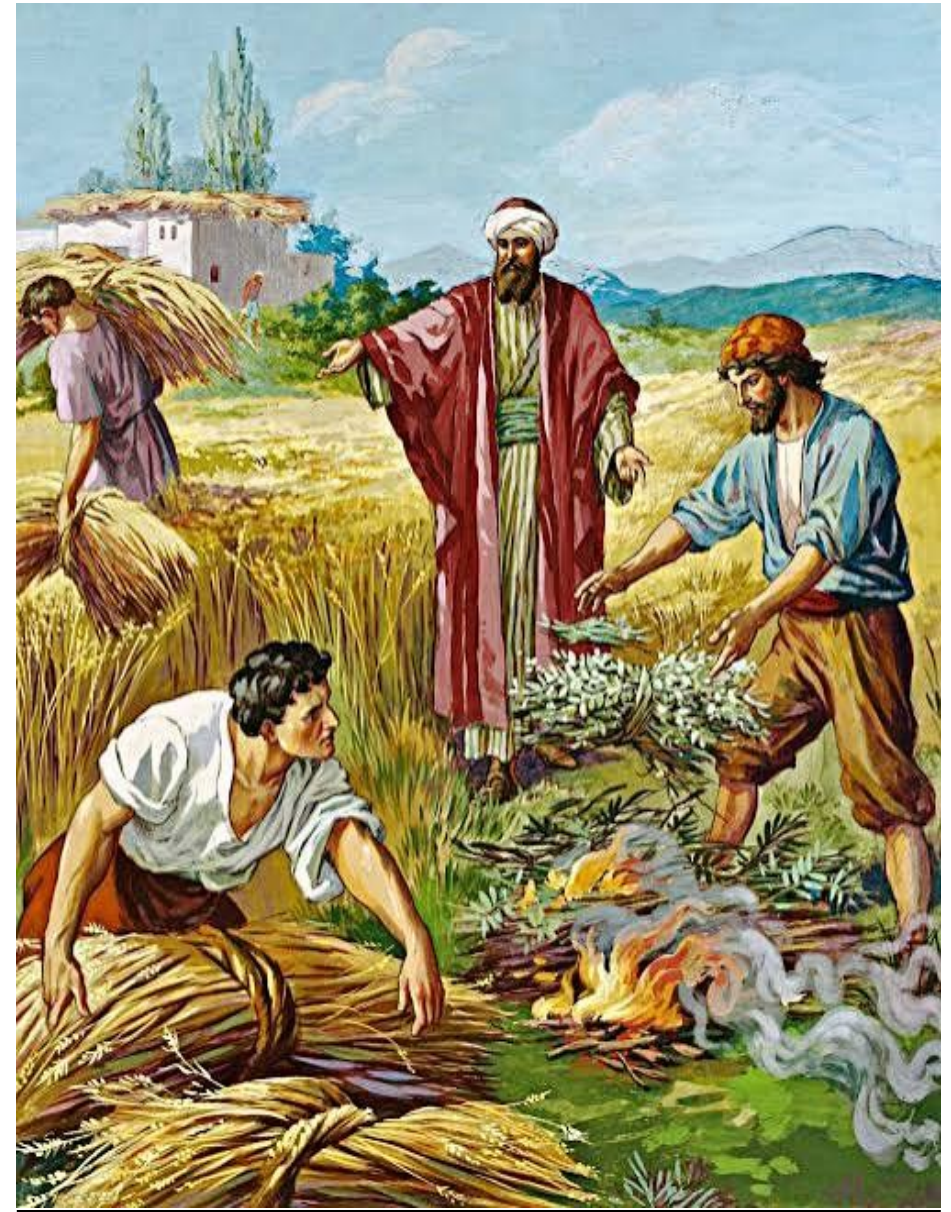
Ushers: (Sat.) Greg Burke, Bill Johnson, Todd Miller
& Larry Ripka

(Sun.) Dave & Esther Cashion, Clinton Merritt, & Rex Newman

Communion Assistants: (Sat.) Dennis Boarts

(Sun.) Brian Kern & Ralph Grotelueschen

Altar Guild (July): Kathy Ahrens and Rebecca Hinman



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Introit

P Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;
listen to my plea for grace.

C Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth;
unite my heart to fear your name.

I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
and I will glorify your name forever.

**For great is your steadfast love toward me;
you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.**

O God, insolent men have risen up against me; a band of ruthless
men seek my life, and they do not set you before them.

**But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.**

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.

Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;
listen to my plea for grace.

Readings

P The Old Testament reading is from Isaiah, the forty-fourth chapter.

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer,
the Lord of hosts: “I am the first and I am the last; besides me there
is no god. Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and
set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them de-
clare what is to come, and what will happen. Fear not, nor be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my wit-
nesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not
any.” (*Isaiah 44:6-8*)

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Epistle reading is from Romans, the eighth chapter.

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not
worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the
creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of
God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but be-
cause of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be
set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glo-
ry of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has
been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not
only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the

Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the
redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope
that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we
hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise
the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray
for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groan-
ings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is
the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints ac-
cording to the will of God. (*Romans 8:18-27*)

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, “The king-
dom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in
his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and
sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants
came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the serv-
ants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did
you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have
weeds?’ He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants
said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he
said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along
with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest
time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in
bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’” . . . Then
he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to
him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He
answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The
field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom.
The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed
them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers
are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so
will it be at the close of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels,
and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-
breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there
will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine
like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him
hear. (*Matthew 13:24-30,36-43*)

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

ST. JOHN’S PRAYER CARD
July 18th and 19th, 2026
Please remember the following in your prayers this week...

Members

Jayden Fairweather
Jeffrey Fauser
Rick & Sylvia Fauser

Ill and Hospitalized

Bev Brokaw
Tom Keel
Grayson Schultz– grandson of
Ron and Cora Whipple

Military Deployment

Elijah Medina– Iran

Missionaries Serving

Melissa Pflug– Romania

Military Chaplains

LT Patrick Flynn

Sister Congregation

Rev. Chris Sansom
St. John’s Lutheran Church
Green Valley, IL

Deepest Sympathies

To the family of Tom Keogh at
his passing

Prolonged Illness &

Special Needs:

Joan Britton
Chuck Brokaw
Steve Fors
Duane Gosa
Nancy Gosa
Bill Green
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

Homebound Members:

Nancy Bonow
Ann Bowman
Don, Wanda, and Jason Cass
Darlene Dopson
Mary Ann Eckert
Rick & Sylvia Fauser
Angie Fischer
Peg Heitzman
Christopher Higgins
Ingrid Hodshire
Lori Hopkins
Mary McGee
Terry Tipsword
Barbara Veskauf