



# The Informer

July 2026

*St. John's Lutheran Church*

**Volume 68 Issue 9**



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## From Pastor's Pen:

Happy Semiquincentennial, America!

I did not know that word. I asked the Internet what to call it, and that's the word. It's actually sort of a big deal for a country to go 250 years with the same government. For all those years, no revolutions, no coup de ta – a violent overthrow of a government by a small number of people, no kings being overthrown by their sons, wives, or brothers. It's a thing we can take for granted.

It used to bother me from a theological standpoint that our country came out of revolution. The Bible – particularly Romans 13 – is very clear that we are to obey the government. We Christians have always been exemplarily good citizens. The leaders of our War for Independence were mostly Christians, as were most of the men – including some Pastors – who took up arms against Britain.

Then I read *Crucible of War* by Fred Anderson, a book is about the French and Indian War (the SevenYears' War in Europe) and we were allied with the British against the French and their Indian allies. The war was fought from 1754 – 63, and we and the British won, and that's why we speak American – derived from English – and not French. The war was an eye-opener for the Americans.

The Americans, Anderson says, were British subjects, but the British treated them as inferiors. They began to notice that – after over 100 years in America, they were no longer British in custom, in manners, even in the way they talked. That experience left its imprint one young officer in particular. He wanted a career in the British military but was repeatedly snubbed for promotion.

In short, the Americans realized that they were no longer British, but Americans, a people separated by more than just an ocean voyage from the British. Theologically, I see our Founding Fathers as people who wanted to govern themselves – a very Christian thing – and not be governed by another country. They came to see the British as an occupying power, and Britain began to act like one. .

See The Informer  
IN COLOR  
On Our Website

We fought an unwanted war that we had no business winning, but we did. The man who led our ancestors to victory was none other than that snubbed officer named George Washington. In 1783, after much deliberation, editing, and debate, they passed the United States Constitution, the document that has been governing us since. The document is the work of absolute genius.

They instituted three branches of government – the Executive Branch (President), the Legislative Branch (Congress), and the Judicial Branch (the Federal Courts). They included many and various “checks and balances” to make it hard for any one branch to work without the others. They made provision for changes; there have been 27 Amendments to the United States Constitution.

It all started on July 4, 1776 with our Declaration of Independence, declaring out independence from Britain, that we were going to govern ourselves, and explaining to the world why. And this year we will celebrate our Semiquincentennial with the usual day off from work, maybe do some bar-b-q, and there will be a lot of fireworks involved. And we’ll say a prayer of thanks in church.

In Christian service,  
Pastor Anderson

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### Ladies Luncheon

The next ladies luncheon will be Thursday, July 16th at 11:30am. All the ladies of St. John’s are invited to join us at The Deerfield Restaurant in Silvis.

### Activities Room News

Do you need a new puzzle to work on in these hot days? Head down to the Activities Room to pick out a new puzzle. Do you have a puzzle you don’t want to put together for the 4<sup>th</sup> time? Share it with others by dropping it off on the shelves. Please make sure all of the pieces are in the box before donating. Sort your donations by the number of pieces the puzzle has.



### Food Pantry

The food pantry is in need of plastic grocery bags. If you could please donate yours they would be super appreciative!

## Serving the Lord This Month:

### Ushers

**Sat, July 4:** Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka  
**Sun, July 5:** Esther Cashion,  
**Sat, July 11:** Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka  
**Sun, July 12:** Esther Cashion  
**Sat, July 18:** Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka  
**Sun, July 19:** Esther Cashion  
**Sat, July 25:** Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka  
**Sun, July 26:** Esther Cashion

### Greeters

**Sat, July 4:**  
**Sun, July 5:** Kathy McDowell  
**Sat, July 11:**  
**Sun, July 12:**  
**Sat, July 18:**  
**Sun, July 19:**  
**Sat, July 25:**  
**Sun, July 26:**

### Acolytes

For the summer, acolyting will be volunteer.

### Altar Guild

Kathy Ahrens &  
 Rebecca Hinman

### Communion Assistants

**Sun, July 5:** Jim Homann and Kevin McAnally  
**Sun, July 19:** Brian Kern and Ralph Grotelueschen



### Eternal Candle

**July 5:** Evan & Dawn Antolik, in celebration of Collin's birthday  
**July 12:** Mary Whipple, in celebration of her birthday  
**July 19:** In memory of Tayler Rusk  
**July 26:** In honor of Sloane Churchill's birthday



### Flowers

**July 5:** Tim & Tamee Stone  
**July 12:** George & Marlene Fellows, in celebration of their anniversary  
**July 19:** Brian & Christine Engebrecht  
**July 26:** Larry & Sharon Ripka



## Church News

### Birthdays

**July 1:** Peggy Murphy

**July 2:** James Sharp & Larry Sims

**July 4:** Lois Kelly

**July 5:** Aliza Murphy & Rose Sullivan

**July 7:** Cori Rossmiller

**July 9:** Collin Antolik, Nathan Duffy, & Megan Hess

**July 10:** Paige Beale

**July 12:** Nancy Gosa

**July 13:** Michael Dosch, Ron Erickson, Kevin McNally, Brayden Medinger, Jackson Weathers & Mary Whipple

**July 14:** Sue Heller, Henry Schmidt, & Ron Whipple

**July 16:** Amanda McMillin & Noah Ryan

**July 17:** Jane Hipple

**July 19:** Mike Murphy

**July 21:** Lauren Belzer, Greg Burke, Ann Cobb, Darlene Dopson, Sharon Durling, & Scott Mattly

**July 22:** Steve Braddy, Lee Copeland, Amanda Flaugh

**July 23:** Nick Johanson & Keith Verschoore

**July 24:** Perry Aukee, Larry Hipple, & Grace Schmidt

**July 25:** Ann Bowman, Cody Rossmiller & David VanSeveren

**July 26:** Troy McDonald

**July 27:** Sloane Churchill

**July 29:** Greg Hart, Kaitlyn Israel & Donna Moews

**July 30:** Janice Coon & Jacob Rowe

**July 31:** Jim Moews & Wendy Verschoore



### Weekly Attendance

| <u>DATE</u>                                              | <u>THIS YEAR</u> | <u>LAST YEAR</u> |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 5/31                                                     | 128              | —(5th Sunday)    |
| 6/7                                                      | 120              | 142              |
| 6/14                                                     | 123              | 143              |
| 6/21                                                     | 102              | 146              |
| Average monthly attendance of St. John's membership: 25% |                  |                  |

### Membership Report

## Church News

### **LWML - Lutheran Women's Missionary League –** **NO MEETING IN JULY.**

**Next meeting will be August 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.**

**Watch the August Informer for more information.**



### **LWML-Central Illinois District (CID) Mission Grants**

Our mission goal for 2026-2028 is \$220,000 with \$165,000 for district grants and the remaining funds to national mission grants.

#### **LWML CID Mission Grant #1**

##### **- Student Aid for Church Workers - \$60,000**

Due to the high cost of becoming a full-time church worker, many students find it difficult to complete their schooling. This grant will provide partial funding to CID students so they may realize their dreams of becoming full-time church workers. These funds would be distributed through the LCMS CID Scholarship Committee, \$30,000 each fiscal year.

#### ***How can I help?***

*Pray that God provides men and women willing to become church workers to spread the gospel message throughout the world.*

*Support this grant by donating to your St. John's LWML mite fund. Mite boxes are available on the sign-up table. When filled you can bring them to a meeting, turn into the office or give to one of the LWML officers; who are: Diana Lackey, President; Judy Dugan, Secretary and Margie Schaefer, Treasurer.*

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## Obey God Rather Than Man

After the Ascension, Peter and the Apostles boldly preached the good news of Jesus, drawing crowds hungry for healing and hope. Their witness angered the rulers, who arrested and imprisoned them to silence the gospel. But God sent His angel to free them, commanding them to return to the Temple and speak "all the words of this Life." Released by God, they continued proclaiming Christ with courage, refusing to be silenced by earthly authority. Their defiance was not rebellion for rebellion's sake. It was faithful resistance— obedience to divine authority when human authority attempted to overstep its God-given bounds. The Apostles honored earthly rulers where they could, but they refused to surrender the proclamation of Christ, the worship of God, or the conscience bound to His Word. So it remains today. God's people do not resist government simply because they dislike its decrees. Christian disobedience is never rooted in pride or stubbornness; it is grounded in obedience to God. Civil government possesses legitimate, limited authority, but it is not ultimate. When the state issues rules or regulations that contradict God's commands, we obey God, not man. The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty advocates for Religious Liberty.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LUTHERAN CENTER FOR  
RELIGIOUS LIBERTY <https://www.lcrlfreedom.org>

## Notes from the Balcony

July 2026

Discouraged?

I suppose it would be fitting to write on the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. But since it is not hard to find Christian writings and prayers on this subject online, I will address another subject that might be on the minds of St. John's members in July, discouragement. Are you discouraged? We've been turned down by yet another pastor, we can't have another call meeting until we have a new list and all the key players are back from vacations, and we don't know who will be the leader of the pastoral duties in our church in the near future. If that's not enough, even though progress in the center of our structure inches forward, large spaces of the courtyard are barren of any sort of beauty.

Perhaps other areas of your life leave you discouraged. I came across a forgotten diary in my desk last week. It is largely empty except for entries a couple of weeks before and after the start of my first year of college. A few excerpts from the scant words paint a discouraged picture: Friday, September 3, "Every morning I wake up thinking, 'I don't want to go to college.'" Wednesday, September 8, Mom and Dad leave for home, "What a hard morning. Mom and I cried." Later, at the end of the day, "I missed a call from Mom. I tried calling back 3 times." Friday, September 10, Freshman camp, "The cabins aren't the greatest, but all the girls were so grossed out. I know I am of too low class to be at a private college." Sunday, September 12, "I want to go home, please." Monday, September 20, after finding out a week earlier that I did not make it into the college's one and only wind ensemble, "I practiced piano and flute during band, maybe the real musicians won't hear me then." By the end of September, I met my college best friends. Life began getting much better, and my diary writing ended.

"What God Ordains is Always Good," LSB 760, a hymn addressing earthly trials and discouragement, was written by Samuel Rodigast (1649-1708), a German philosophy instructor whose father was a pastor. A friend of Rodigast's was ill and asked him to write a hymn of comfort. The friend then composed a tune and asked it be sung at his burial. As it happened, the friend recovered and lived several more years. This hymn has been a favorite of many, including Johann Pachelbel and Johann Sebastian Bach, who composed music based on it.

Each stanza begins with the same words, "What God ordains is always good," echoing the words of Romans 8:28, "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." All things? Even hardships that cause discouragement? The Word of the Lord is true, and "all" means "all." The first and last stanzas conclude with the singer yielding to God.

Stanzas one and two affirm that God is "just and holy" and is by our side, leading and shielding us in sadness so that we can "take, content, what He has sent" looking forward to future gladness.

1 What God ordains is always good;  
His will is just and holy.  
As He directs my life for me,  
I follow meek and lowly.  
My God indeed in ev'ry need  
knows well how He will shield me;  
to Him, then, I will yield me.

2 What God ordains is always good;  
He never will deceive me.  
He leads me in His righteous way,  
and never will He leave me.  
I take, content, what He has sent;  
His hand that sends me sadness  
will turn my tears to gladness.

Stanzas three and four remind us that our loving "Friend and Father" does not send "poison...in the cup" and "suffers naught to do me harm," but we can trust that His grace and love through "joy and woe" will someday be clearly evident.

3 What God ordains is always good;  
His loving thought attends me;  
no poison can be in the cup  
that my Physician sends me.  
My God is true; each morning new  
I trust His grace unending,  
My life to Him commending.

4 What God ordains is always good;  
He is my Friend and Father.  
He suffers naught to do me harm  
tho' many storms may gather.  
Now I may know both joy and woe;  
some day I shall see clearly  
that He has loved me dearly.

The fifth and sixth stanzas make no bones that suffering is indeed bitter, but we can face it "without shrinking," knowing the comfort of God's embrace shields us until the time of relief.

5 What God ordains is always good;  
tho' I the cup am drinking  
which savors now of bitterness,  
I take it without shrinking.  
For after grief God gives relief,  
my heart with comfort filling  
and all my sorrow stilling.

6 What God ordains is always good;  
this truth remains unshaken.  
Tho' sorrow, need, or death be mine,  
I shall not be forsaken.  
I fear no harm, for with His arm  
He shall embrace and shield me;  
so to my God I yield me.

So we continue to trust that what God ordains is always good. He continues by our side, working His goodwill which includes His generous gift of redemption through Jesus. And do not forget to take advantage of another gift from our Father, "We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer!" (LSB 770)

Hanging in there with God's promises,

Christine Engebrecht

## Voters Meeting Minutes

### **St. John's Lutheran Church Voters Meeting Minutes June 7, 2026**

1. The Voter's meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by president, Brian Engebrecht. Brian opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer.
  2. President Engebrecht asked if there was anyone that wanted to be a voting member. There was not.
  3. President Engebrecht asked if there was a motion to accept the minutes from the last meeting. Marsha Boarts made a motion to accept the minutes as printed in the Informer. Rebecca Hinman seconded. Motion passed.
  4. Old Business  
President Engebrecht reported they were making progress on the courtyard.
  5. Assistant Treasurer - Norm Antolik
    - Norm handed out an update report and asked if any questions. Right now financially we are where we should be.
  6. Board Reports  
Executive Board – Brian Engebrecht
    - President Engebrecht said the church is looking at a new version of Shepherd's Staff software which is web based.
      - The church will be looking into mandatory training for members working with children.
      - No Board Meeting in July.
- Board of Human Care – Rod Hopkins
- Rod reported that their board is still in need of members. So please contact him if you are interested or know of someone who might be.
    - Rod said he has been reviewing a Grief Share Program that will be a twelve week series includes video, workbook and group discussion.
    - Pastor Hagen was checking with shut-ins to see if there were some small jobs that the church could help with.
    - The board is also checking into doing some sort of program with lunch or dinner for the 60 and older members.
- Board of Outreach – Rose Sullivan
- Rose reported they were able to get St. John's tee-shirts ordered. Participants in parade will be wearing them. They can use help with float.

## Voter's Meeting Minutes Continued

### Youth and Family Board – Rebecca Hinman

- Rebecca reported that the VBS money was going to be given towards expenses for the float. There will be a meeting Thursday at 6:00 pm for any interested in helping with the float.
  - Rally day will be August 23 or 30.

### Board of Elders –Jim Homann

- Jim reported that the office is in the process of preparing to send out letters to members who have moved away. Letters will also be sent to members that have not been in church in the last 7 years. If there is no response, a list will be presented at the September Voters Meeting for release of those members.
  - Pastor Anderson informed the elders on Thursday that he will no longer serve as vacancy pastor after July. We will be meeting with Pastor Nerud to discuss who might serve as our next vacancy Pastor.
  - Rock Island Circuit church members are invited to attend a workshop at St. John's Edford on August 8 from 9-3. Registration due by July 30<sup>th</sup>. Phone 815-989-2025 or email: churchoffice@stjohnsgeneseo.org. Jim encouraged anyone who is interested to attend. Lay attendance is essential.

### Trustees - Evan Antolik

- Thanked Brian Engebrecht for all the hard work he has been putting into the courtyard.
  - There have been several requests to have automatic doors at the entrance by the office. The Board received a bid for \$7,176 from the company who put the automatic door by the Sanctuary. A motion was made by Rod Hopkins to accept the bid. Motion seconded by Larry Dodge. Motion passed.
  - The air conditioner unit has been fixed and is working on both sides are working.
  - An inquiry was made if the toilets in the women's bathroom by the Janssen rooms could be replaced with higher stools. They will check.
  - Another inquiry was made about security. Some cameras have been placed.

### 7. New Business

- Brian Engebrecht mentioned that since we do not have a Pastor that he will be reviewing some of financial questions for the Synod Convention with Jim Homann.

8. Jim Homan started the Call portion of the meeting at 2:00 p.m. Pastor Nerud gave an opening statement and a prayer.

9. Jim reviewed the Rules for Voters to Extend a Call.

10. Jim then reviewed the four Pastors that the committee had selected previously. They were Rev. Ryan Anderson, Rev. Peter Kufahl, Rev. Julian Lamie, and Rev. Dr. Gregory Truwe. Discussion followed. 39 Voting members were present voting results were:  
Rev. Ryan Anderson – 18 votes

## Voter's Meeting Minutes Continued

Rev. Peter Kufahl – 9 votes  
Rev. Julian Lamie – 9 votes  
Dr. Rev. Gregory Truwe – 3 votes

11. There was no majority of votes. A second round of voting followed with the top 3 candidates. The results were:

Rev. Ryan Anderson – 23 votes  
Rev. Peter Kufahl – 9 votes  
Rev. Julian Lamie – 7 votes

12. Since Rev. Ryan Anderson received a majority of the votes Jim asked for a unanimous vote. A motion was made by Brian Nielsen to make the call to Rev. Ryan Anderson unanimous. Motion seconded by Jeff Belan. Motion passed. Rev. Nerud attempted to phone Rev. Anderson to confirm he was able to accept a call, but was unable to reach him.

13. Jim Homann then presented what would be Rev. Ryan Anderson's compensation package: salary (which includes insurance and retirement) \$110,956, moving expenses up to \$10,000 and a forgivable loan for \$32,000 for the purchase of a home. Discussion followed. Larry Hipple made a motion to accept the compensation package and seconded by Kevin McAnnally. Motion passed.

14. Evan Antolik made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Flo Moore. Motion passed.

15. Meeting adjourned at 2:40 with the Lord's Prayer.

We very much appreciate all members who attended the Voters Meeting.

Respectively submitted by Diana Lackey, Date: June 7, 2026

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### LCMS FOUNDATION

An LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor just completed sharing a presentation about the importance of having a Christian estate plan, planning especially God's gifts to family and ministry. Frank was present for the presentation. His mind had wandered at times during it, as he was contemplating what exactly he might want to accomplish. Frank came up to the counselor and said, "So what do you really do to help me in this process? I missed that part." The counselor responded, "I am your Christian friend. I will pray with you, discuss with you, and work very hard to become clear about what the Lord has laid on your heart to do. Having this clarity before you begin working with attorneys and financial planners is crucial, so that your plans are not vague, but laser focused. There is no cost for my service to you, but I bring value. We will organize your family and financial information. We will investigate how your beneficiary designations line up with your overall estate intentions. I will offer you some visual designs to get the wheels spinning in your mind, about the possibilities the Lord has given you, of which you might not be fully aware. Then we will gather all that information, sharing it with your advisors so that you step into those appointments, fully prepared to accomplish your goals. I can assist you in preparing a statement of your faith that will speak to family, friends and even fellow Church members, to encourage them in their faith. Finally, if you tend to get stuck on tackling a big project, I can encourage you to get started, and to keep going until you get it done. All of this we will work on, to assist you in being a faithful steward of the gifts the Lord has given you to manage." Frank said, "Now I get it. I think I could be helped by many of those things you just described. When can we meet?"

To begin your faithful gift planning journey with your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor, contact Scott Radden @ 618-977-4049 or [scott.radden@lfnd.org](mailto:scott.radden@lfnd.org).

## Church News

Dear Pastors, Vacancy Pastors, Congregational Leaders and Laity,

We, the member congregations of the Central Illinois District, have received a new resource developed by the Office of National Mission called *Exploring God's Mission Here*. *This tool leads congregational leaders in Bible study about the work of God in accomplishing His mission through the local congregation, and, through specific, objective, appraisal questions, leads these leaders into conversations about next steps to best accomplish that work in a given place for this given time. Through this discussion, leaders are made aware of resources in church planting, revitalization, partnership formation, and other possible courses of action.*

Through a generous grant from CID Church Extension Fund, we are able to present this resource in workshop form as circuits. Each congregation will send their pastor, lay leadership and interested laity. **It would be helpful if each congregation bring a Current Budget, the last 3 annual reports (including a statement of financial reserves/current long-term loans and lines of credit -which is not on the annual report to Synod) or someone who has a general familiarity with those current statuses.** To encourage broader participation from congregations, a grant will cover mileage reimbursement for a second vehicle full of attendees for travel to/from the workshop. This grant will also provide a free lunch to all attendees.

WHAT: *Exploring God's Mission Here*, a district presentation to our circuit

WHEN: Saturday, August 8, 2026

WHERE: St. John's Lutheran Church, Geneseo - 8948 N 1900<sup>th</sup> Ave, Geneseo IL  
Phone: 819-989-2025,

Following is a tentative schedule for the day.

TIME: 8:30 am – 9:00 am, Registration/Coffee  
9:00 am – 12:00 pm, Morning Session  
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm, Lunch  
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm, Afternoon Session  
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm, Wrap Up  
3:30 pm, Dismissal

**Reservations are requested by July 30<sup>th</sup> for the purpose of planning. Please call Annie in the office to RSVP. She will provide a headcount to Geneseo.**

## From the CID

### Harrison Elected to 6th term as LCMS President

The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, having received more than 50% of the votes cast in the third ballot for the election of the president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), is the president-elect for the 2026–2029 triennium. It will be his sixth term in office.

The election for the position of Synod president began last fall with an online nominating process, conducted by YesElections, that concluded Feb. 18, or five months prior to the start of the Synod convention, with a report to the secretary of the Synod.

The resulting candidates for the office of president were the five ordained ministers who received the highest number of votes in the nominations process and who consented to serve if elected. The voting began, according to Bylaw 3.12.2.4, starting June 6 (six weeks prior to the convention) via Internet balloting provided by YesElections.

The 5,478 pastoral and lay voters validly registered by the congregations and parishes of the Synod (Bylaw 3.12.2.3) before the deadline (electronic registration by March 8) or their substitutes (as validly submitted before May 29) served as the voters for this election. Of those, a total of 5,038 votes were cast in the third round of voting, constituting a vote percentage of 92.0% of the electorate. (The voter percentage was 85.4% in the first round and 88.4% in the second round.)

The results of the third ballot tallied and reported to the secretary of the Synod by YesElections are as follows:

- Harrison was voted president-elect with 2,524 votes (50.1%);
- The Rev. Dr. Joel D. Biermann received 2,414 votes (47.9%); and
- The Rev. Benjamin T. Ball received 100 votes (2.0%).
- 

Harrison responded to the news of his election:

“First, thank you to the candidates who were willing to be subjected to this grueling process of public scrutiny, and especially to Dr. Biermann. I had prepared a concession speech thanking Joel for standing, noting how blessed we are in the LCMS to have such a capable theologian as our new president, and vowing my support. Thanks, too, to First Vice-President Lange, Brady Finnern and Ben Ball. Any one of them would be a blessing.

“Thank you for this amazing opportunity to serve a final term. Please forgive me my many faults and sins. I plead for your prayers for fidelity to the Gospel of Christ’s blood-bought forgiveness, and

## From the CID

prayers that I may serve all of you as Christ would have me do in these final three years.

“Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.” (Heb. 13:20–21)

The Bylaws of the LCMS instruct the secretary of the Synod to notify the candidates in the Synod’s presidential election of the results of the balloting at least two weeks prior to the convention. The candidates were informed earlier today, June 24, of the results of the June 20–23 ballot.

Additional information about the election result will be published in the second issue of *Today’s Business*, which will be available at the beginning of the convention. For more information about the election or candidates, see [lcms.org/convention/elections](https://lcms.org/convention/elections).

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The 69th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod will be held from July 18 to 23, 2026 in downtown Phoenix. The Synod will gather under the convention theme, “Christ Is Risen Indeed,” based on 1 Corinthians 15:20–22:

“But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.”

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## 2026-2029 National Offering

Christ is Risen! Tell the Next Generation

The theme for 2026–2029 National Offering reflects the church’s call to share the message of Christ’s resurrection far and wide, across space and time: “Christ Is Risen! Tell the Next Generation.”

It draws upon the theme of the 69th Regular Convention of the LCMS, set for July 18–23, 2026, under the theme “Christ Is Risen Indeed,” based on 1 Corinthians 15:20–22.

The National Offering theme is based on Psalm 78:4:

“We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and His might, and the wonders that He has done.”

The National Offering, which spans the years between conventions, provides an opportunity for congregations, districts, circuits, individuals or other groups to support the work of the LCMS vigorously to make known the Good News of Jesus Christ, that all might rejoice and give thanks to our heavenly Father.

Gifts to the 2026–2029 National Offering will directly benefit ongoing domestic work carried out at the local level by LCMS congregations, districts and others, and supported by LCMS Family Ministry, Youth Ministry, Campus Ministry and School Ministry.

In future weeks and months, additional information will be made available, including information about grant opportunities for LCMS congregations, districts and RSOs to take part in spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ to the next generation.

For more information, contact [mission.advancement@lcms.org](mailto:mission.advancement@lcms.org).

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## Lutheran Hour Ministries

Staying connected is what **Thred**, LHM's digital resource for life and faith at **thred.org**, is all about. And that's the idea behind its recently launched weekly e-newsletter: a thought-provoking, easy-to-read message that wants to know what your *take* is on living as a Christian in an ever-changing, ever-challenging world.

"We want to deepen our relationship with Thred followers," says Rachel Tichich, manager of digital strategy and development. "We're using this email platform as a means of reaching our 22,000- plus (and growing!) subscriber base with content that's Gospel rich, that nurtures a relationship with them, and that equips them for sharing their faith in this day and age."

The latest e-news topics have addressed joy, sharing our faith, our connection to the "stuff" we own, being in charge, owning versus giving, and feeling sufficient. Tracking prior Thred email responses has shown that people are interested in faith empowerment; in establishing and maintaining trust with others; in getting to that elusive—but attainable—place where faith conversations aren't so strange and difficult; and in better understanding how a Christian's worth is tied completely to Christ.

In each e-news, there's a feedback mechanism built in where users can answer a multiple-choice question, or they can add their own comments in an open-text format. This has led to some healthy exchanges.

"It's been encouraging to read the thoughtful and heartfelt responses we've received from members of the Thred community. We're honored to continue offering content that resonates with them and equips them to live out their faith, including online," says Andréa Vasilo, content writer for LHM. These contacts lead to Thred sharing LHM resources, too. "Recently, we had someone chatting with Thred specifically about the topic of how to love your neighbors online in the midst of some pretty volatile digital conversations in our society. We learned that he's a Christian and not only open to more resources on the topic but actively seeking them. We're currently in communication with him, providing him with links to relevant **Project Connect** booklets and other LHM courses," says Tichich. Thred's new e-newsletter is just one of the many ways it makes online connections with its audience. At [thred.org](http://thred.org) you'll find dozens of Christ-centered, faith-enriching blogs in six different categories. FREE, downloadable resources like Thred courses, in-depth PDFs, and a sermon kit for pastors are available. And of course, you can follow Thred on social media.

| Sun                                                                | Mon                      | Tue                                       | Wed                                             | Thu              | Fri                 | Sat                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 9am - Worship<br>10:15am - Bible Study /<br>5pm - BB&B men's group | 1:30pm - Activities Room | 10am - Food Pantry<br>6:30pm - Guitar Jam | 1:30pm - Activities Room                        |                  |                     | 5pm - Worship w/                         |
| 28                                                                 | 29                       | 30                                        | 1                                               | 2                | 3                   | 4                                        |
| 9am - Worship w/<br>10:15am - Bible Study /                        | 1:30pm - Activities Room | 10am - Food Pantry<br>6:30pm - Guitar Jam | 1:30pm - Activities Room<br>3:30pm - Fellowship |                  | 6:30pm - 2nd Friday | 5pm - Worship                            |
| 5                                                                  | 6                        | 7                                         | 8                                               | 9                | 10                  | 11                                       |
| 9am - Worship w/<br>10:15am - Bible Study /                        | 1:30pm - Activities Room | 10am - Food Pantry<br>6:30pm - Guitar Jam | 1:30pm - Activities Room                        |                  |                     | 12pm - McDonald Baby<br>5pm - Worship w/ |
| 12                                                                 | 13                       | 14                                        | 15                                              | 16               | 17                  | 18                                       |
| 9am - Worship<br>10:15am - Bible Study /                           | 1:30pm - Activities Room | 10am - Food Pantry<br>6:30pm - Guitar Jam | 1:30pm - Activities Room                        | 11:30am - Ladies | Baby Shower set-up  | 5pm - Worship                            |
| 19                                                                 | 20                       | 21                                        | 22                                              | 23               | 24                  | 25                                       |
| 9am - Worship w/<br>10:15am - Bible Study /                        | 1:30pm - Activities Room | 10am - Food Pantry<br>6:30pm - Guitar Jam | 1:30pm - Activities Room                        |                  |                     | 5pm - Worship w/                         |
| 26                                                                 | 27                       | 28                                        | 29                                              | 30               | 31                  | 1                                        |
| 9am - Worship<br>10:15am - Bible Study /                           | 1:30pm - Activities Room | 10am - Food Pantry<br>6:30pm - Guitar Jam | 1:30pm - Activities Room                        |                  |                     |                                          |

# St. John's Lutheran Church



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East Moline, IL 61244

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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!*



## Worship Schedule:

Saturday worship– 5:00pm

Sunday worship- 9:00am

10:15am– Sunday School  
& Bible Study

## Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday

8:30 am– 12 noon



*Inside our Sanctuary.*