



The Informer

August 2026

St. John's Lutheran Church

Volume 69 Issue 9

From Pastor's Pen:

Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you! I look forwards to serving as your vacancy pastor as you continue the call process to find your next shepherd. It is an honor to walk alongside you during this season of transition.

I want to begin by thanking Pastor Anderson for serving your vacancy for the past year. It is quite a drive up here from Sherard. We wish the Lord's blessings on him as he continues to serve.

A little about me: My name is James Thomas Batchelor. I was born May 10, 1950, at Hershey Hospital on Mulberry Street in Muscatine. During my childhood, my family moved frequently until we settled in Milwaukee where my father taught physics at Milwaukee Lutheran High School (MLHS) for 25 years.

I graduated from MLHS in 1968 and earned a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Milwaukee School of Engineering in 1973. My first engineering position was in the Chicago area, and it was there that I met and married my wife, Lynn.

Over the years, we moved about quite a bit until we found ourselves in Davenport. It was then that people began suggesting that I should become a pastor. At first, I rejected the idea, but after years of prayer and discussions with Lynn, I resigned my position as an electrical engineer and entered Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne.

Because of my age and experience, the seminary enrolled me in the Alternate Route program and granted me an Alternate Route Certificate in the summer of 2005. I began my career as a pastor with my ordination in July of 2005. I served two congregations in the Central Illinois District and then retired back to Iowa in November 2022.

My parents had retired back to Iowa several decades earlier and their trust still owned the home they lived in. So, Lynn and I lived in my parents' house for a few months until we found our current residence in Montpelier, Iowa. Since my retirement, I have been assisting congregations in Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois by filling in for pastors who needed a Sunday off and serving vacancies as needed.

Now, the Lord has brought me to this place to serve His gifts to you. My hope is that the Holy Spirit will work through the call process and bring a man to you soon. In the meantime, I pray that the Lord will lead to serve you well.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. James T. Batchelor

SERVING THE LORD THIS MONTH:

Saturday Ushers: Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, and Larry Ripka

Sunday Ushers: Esther Cashion and Evan Antolik and family

Communion Assistants:

Saturdays: Dennis Boarts

Sunday, August 2nd: Kevin McAnally and Ralph Grotelueschen

Sunday, August 16th: Jim Homann and Jonathan Schmidt

Sunday, August 30th: Brian Kern and Kevin McAnally

Altar Guild: Dawn and Stevee Antolik

Acolytes: If anyone would like to voluntarily acolyte during the summer, it would be appreciated!

Altar Flowers:

August 2nd: Steve and Cris Braddy, in honor of their anniversary

August 9th: In honor of Judy Jennings' birthday

August 16th: Lucille Perley

August 23rd: Flo Moore, in memory of Jacob

August 30th: OPEN

Eternal Candles:

August 2nd: Evan and Dawn Antolik, in honor of Allison's birthday

August 9th: In honor of Judy Jennings' birthday

August 16th: Rod and Noreen Hopkins, in honor of their 39th anniversary

August 23rd: Lucille Perley

August 30th: Gail Massey



BIRTHDAYS

8/1: Susan Parvin

8/2: Rebekah Weber

8/4: Sandy Dosch

8/5: Allison Antolik & Linda Sharp

8/6: Betty Bell, Marlene Fellows & Debbie Girard

8/7: Debbie VanRycke

8/9: Lori McMillin

8/10: Mary McGee, Jill Schofield, & Jonathan Weakley

8/11: Duane Gosa & Jennifer Schmidt

8/12: Grant Engelkes, Judy Jennings, & Terry Tipsword

8/13: Todd Miller

8/16: Kathy Verstraete

8/17: Lydia Merritt

8/18: Karen Hatfield & Mildred VanRycke

8/19: Gavin Johnson

8/21: Kinzlee Antolik & Jordan Jordan Johanson

8/22: David Rogers

8/23: Ken Cobb, Brian Engebrecht, Laura Frankowski, Carrie Johnson & Jacob Rossmiller

8/27: Joyce Hoffman, Easton Nitz & Theresa Roberson

8/28: Bill Girard, Robert Lilly, Paula Pratt & Margie Schaefer

8/29: Don Hakeman, Gail Massey & Michele Rogers



WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

<u>Date:</u>	<u>THIS YEAR</u>	<u>LAST YEAR</u>
6/28	115	127(5 th Sunday)
7/5	90	139
7/13	102	151
7/19	154	119

Average monthly attendance of St. John's membership 2026: 25%

2025: 27%

LWML - Lutheran Women's Missionary League

The next meeting will be August 20th at 1:00 p.m.

Please join us for a fun afternoon of bingo!

FLEECE MATERIAL: In September we will be making fleece tie blankets. If anyone has any fleece they would like to donate, please drop off in the box in the concourse.

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 #2



Christ Centered Crisis Pregnancy and Adoption Support -\$25,000

Every year in Illinois, 40% of babies are born to single mothers. Being unprepared to parent and lacking essential support can lead young mothers to make a deadly decision to abort their children or be unable to adequately care for them after they arrive. Those who face unplanned pregnancy without support need attention, care, accurate information, and truth spoken in love provided through counseling, which offers life-affirming options of parenting or adoption, along with clear messages of

God's love, grace, forgiveness, and salvation that are theirs in Christ. In partnership with the LWML CID, Lutheran Family Services (LFS) will grow its established pregnancy counseling and adoption services in Moline, to open a new office near the Bloomington/Normal area, and provide faith-infused services supporting pregnant women, their at-risk babies, and Christian adopting couples throughout the CID. Support this grant by donating to your church's LWML group mite fund.

How can I help?

- ✓ ***Pray*** that God uses the counseling to these mothers to promote adoption and show God's amazing grace.
- ✓ ***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.

CHURCH NEWS

CAKE RECEPTION

The fellowship committee invites the congregation to welcome our new vacancy pastor, Reverend James T. Batchelor and his wife Lynn, with a cake reception following worship on Sunday, August 2nd.



VACANCY PASTOR THANK YOU'S

It was such a blessing to our congregation to have the Circuit Pastor's filling in for us on Saturday evenings, and also with hospital/shut-in visits- please let them know you appreciated their dedication! For the next couple of Saturdays, there will be Thank You cards in the Narthex. If you would like to sign them, please stop by the counter under the Flower and Candle sign-ups and do so.

BOARD MEETINGS

Summer is flying by! Time to get back to routines; Board Meetings are on the calendar for Thursday, August 6th at 6:30pm. Let's get some activities planned!

CONFIRMATION CLASSES



Back to school also means back to confirmation class! If you have a student entering grades 5-7th, keep an eye on your mail for the sign-up information packets. Class day and times will be forthcoming, following the board meetings on August 6th.

LADIES LUNCHEON

All ladies in the congregation are invited to lunch at the Deerfield Family Restaurant in Silvis on Thursday, August 20th at 11:30am. The more the merrier.

MEMBER DIRECTORIES

The Office will soon be printing new directories. If you have any changes that need made, please let Annie know. This includes new addresses, emails, phone numbers, kids moved out, etc...

THE INFORMER

Did you notice The Informer looked a little different this month? It isn't your imagination, it is going through an upgrade! Well, actually, it's a forced remodel...Microsoft is discontinuing the Publisher program, which is what we currently use to produce The Informer. So, Annie is learning how to do it in the Word program instead. She may also play around with other programs such as Google Canva, but this month she used Word.



FROM THE CID

LCMS Health Ministry

August is a month bursting with life and activity! The colors of summer linger for a little longer. Daylight hours are still long and sunny. Children are preparing to go back to school. As Christians, we get to relish in the good life that the Lord has given to us — not simply when the sun shines or when the energy of youthfulness exists — but we rejoice in all times and in all circumstances, for “this is the will of God in Christ,” Paul writes in 1 Thess. 5:16–18! Christians see life most vividly through the cross and resurrection of Jesus, which is utter folly to the world (1 Cor. 1:18). People will question how life has meaning in the face of suffering, challenges, and most especially in the wake of death, and the answer is always found in Jesus (1 Cor. 15). The Lord is the Author and Giver of Life. Whether life feels like a joyous summer or an endless winter, Christ’s movement through the cross and empty tomb means that His presence, His comfort and His joys are yours in all things. For Scriptural reflections of life under the cross, visit the LCMS Life library at lcmslife.org and consider reading “God’s Presence in Suffering: The Theology of the Cross” at thelc.ms/suffering-theology-of-the-cross.

LCMS Family Ministry

1 Thessalonians 5:11 – *“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”* August is a crazy time. Kids are going back to school, with all the activities and bustle. Parents are trying to make sure that their kids have all the things that they need to succeed in this new school year. In the midst of this time of new beginnings and transitions, it can be a challenge for a family to have meaningful connections with each other. Eating meals together can be a wonderful way to spend time together. During all the bustle and busyness, it is helpful be intentional about having time as a family where you can connect. At the beginning of each week, plan what meals you will eat together as a family. Make the most of them by having a family devotion, encouraging each other, building one another up, or having a time of prayer.

LCMS FOUNDATION

Renee and Fran were chatting as they walked out of Church last Sunday. Renee said, “I finally made the decision to move into a retirement community. My house was just getting to be too much for me, especially after Frank went to be with the Lord. But I just don’t know where to get started on the packing. I have lived in that house for thirty years and there is so much stuff to sort through. I’m having a hard time starting.” Fran replied, “If you would like, I can come help. I have a lot of boxes, and we can just pick off one room at a time.” Renee said, “Oh that would be lovely.” The process began on Wednesday with lots of laughter and even a few tears.

There are many “Big Things” in life that become easier to begin if we just have someone along with us. Christian estate planning is one of those. It requires organization of your information. It includes conversations about what you want to accomplish. It culminates in putting together legal documents that seem powerful, and maybe even a little scary.

Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can be your friend who will come along your side to get started. They have expertise and training in helping you move through each step of the process so that you can feel confident about the finished product when you sign documents at your attorney (if necessary). Instead of living with the burden of your procrastination, you can move forward, putting together a faithful stewardship plan directing the gifts the Lord has entrusted to you. For assistance, contact Scott Radden @ 618-977-4049 or scott.radden@lfnd.org.

August Calendar of Church Activity

St. John's Lutheran Church East Moline, IL

Aug 2026 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9am - Worship 10:15am - Cookie 5pm - Brats, Bibles, Bevs 26	1:30pm - Activities Room 27	10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam 28	1:30pm - Activities Room 29	9:30am - Kenny's Pest 6:30pm - Board Meetings 30		5pm - Worship w/ 1
9am - Worship w/ 10:15am - Cake Welcome 2	1:30pm - Activities Room 3	10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam 4	1:30pm - Activities Room 5		7	5pm - Worship 8
9am - Worship 10:15am - Bible Study / 9	1:30pm - Activities Room 10	10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam 11	1:30pm - Activities Room 12	6:30pm - 2nd Friday 13	14	5pm - Worship w/ 15
9am - Worship w/ 10:15am - Bible Study / 16	Informer Deadline 17	10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam 18	1:30pm - Activities Room 19	11:30am - Ladies 1pm - LWML 20	21	5pm - Worship 22
9am - Worship 10:15am - Bible Study / 23	1:30pm - Activities Room 24	10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam 25	1:30pm - Activities Room 26		28	29
9am - Worship 10:15am - Sunday School 30	1:30pm - Activities Room 31	10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam 1	1:30pm - Activities Room 2	All Boards Meet in Prep 6:30pm - Board Meetings 3	4	5pm - Worship w/ 5

St. John's Lutheran Church

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See The Informer
IN COLOR
On Our Website

Bible verse of the Month:

"In Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith." (Gal. 3:26)

Worship Schedule:

Saturday- 5:00pm

Sunday- 9:00am

Bible study & Sunday School

10:15am

Office Hours:

Monday- 8:30am-noon

Tuesday/Wednesday- 8:30am-2:00pm

Closed 12-1 for lunch

Thursday-8:30am-noon



God's creatures by our bell tower