

ST. JOHN'S PRAYER CARD

September 19th and 20th, 2026

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

Members

Shari, Adam & Megan
Hess

Chloe Hewitt

Chris Higgins

Anniversaries

David & Candace
Sountris(37)

Carl & Alyssa Hartweg(4)

Dustin & Angie
Fischer(16)

Military Deployment

Elijah Medina- Iran

Ill and Hospitalized

Marsha Boarts- sepsis
infection

Bev Brokaw- hospice

Cindy Hart

Missionaries Serving

Michael & Jane Morizio-
Eurasia

Chaplain Birthdays

Capt. Vincent Shaw

Capt. David Edwards

MAJ Joel Giese

Sister Congregation

Rev. Samuel Smith

Immanuel Lutheran
Church
Charleston, IL

Prolonged Illness & Special Needs

Joan Britton

Chuck Brokaw

Steve Fors

Duane Gosa

Nancy Gosa

Bill Green

Jerry Hill

Dale Johnson

Melinda Loete

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, & Jason
Cass

Darlene Dopson

MaryAnn Eckert

Rick & Sylvia Fauser

Angie Fischer

Peg Heitzman

Chris Higgins

Ingrid Hodshire

Lori Hopkins

Mary McGee

Terry Tip sword

Barbara Veskauf



Sunday, September 20th

9:00am– Worship w/Communion
10:15am– Bible study/Sunday School/ 5th & 6thgrade
Confirmation Instruction
2:00pm- Allison Antolik’s Bridal Shower

Monday, September 21st

1:30pm– Activities Room– dominoes
6:00pm- Cherub Chimers
6:30pm- Heavenly Ringers

Tuesday, September 22nd

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

Wednesday, September 23rd

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

Saturday, September 26th

8:00am- Men’s Bible study
9:30am- Adult Choir Rehearsal
3:00pm- Catechism Instruction
5:00pm– Worship

Sunday, September 27th

9:00am– Worship
10:15am– Blessing of the Courtyard/ 5th &
6th grade Confirmation Instruction
2:00pm- Pastoral Call Voter’s meeting

SAVE THE DATE All are welcome on Sat, Oct. 2nd after worship for an Evening in the Courtyard. Hors d’oeuvres and refreshments will be offered as we mingle and learn about the Biblical elements showcased in this project! There is a sign-up sheet at the sign- up station, please help us to plan this event!

Serving the Lord this Week:

Organist: Christine Engebrecht
Ushers: (Sat.) Greg Burke, Bill Johnson, Todd Miller & Larry Ripka
(Sun.) Clinton Merritt
Communion Assistants: Kevin McAnally & Jonathan Schmidt
Altar Guild (Sept.):Jill Schofield & Flo Moore

Sundays, 10:15am

The Lutheran Confessions: Pope vs. Pastor. Paul Timothy McCain the editor of Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions introduces the “Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope” with these words: How do Christians receive pastors? How is the Church organized, structured, and governed? The Roman Catholic answer is that everything depends on the pope, the “vicar of Christ,” the one who is said to be the immediate successor to the Apostle Peter. Through the pope, so it is thought, flows Christ’s authority to His Church on earth. This is not the Bible’s answer. In this document Philip Melanchthon provides the Lutheran view of authority in the Church and the basis on which the Church is founded and continued. In this class, we will learn how the sixteenth century reformation returned the office of the pastor back to its Biblical roots using the “Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope.”

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? Meet in the Yellow room in the Education wing; each week we will discuss 3 common 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

We are studying the book of Romans.

Saturdays, 8am- Men’s Bible study.

We are studying 1 Corinthians.

Bibles, Brats, and Beverages- Men’s group

Our next BBB fellowship evening is scheduled for October 25th at 5pm. If the weather cooperates, we plan on being outdoors in the new courtyard around the new firepit. Please sign-up or call Annie in the office to let us know for food preparations.



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Vacancy Pastor

Rev. James T. Batchelor batchelorjt@gmail.com (309) 349-0229
Music Director Christine Engebrecht bcengebrecht@att.net (309) 738-2797
Secretary Annie Churchill office@stjohnsem.org

Introit

[P] I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanks- | giving*
and call on the name | of the Lord.

[C] What shall I render | to the Lord*
for all his bene- | fits to me?

I will lift up the cup of sal- | vation*
and call on the name | of the Lord.

Precious in the sight | of the Lord*
is the death | of his saints.

O Lord, I am your | servant;*

I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have
loosed my bonds.

I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call on the name | of the Lord.

Gloria Patri- LSB 186

Readings

[P] The Old Testament reading is from Isaiah, the fifty-fifth chapter.

"Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

(Isaiah 55:6-9)

[P] This is the Word of the Lord

[C] Thanks be to God.

[P] The Epistle reading is from Philippians, the first chapter.

I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . .for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall

choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have. *(Phil. 1:12-14, 19-30)*

[P] This is the Word of the Lord.

[C] Thanks be to God.

Alleluia Verse (LSB 190)

[P] The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

[C] **Alleluia** Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' So the last will be first, and the first last." *(Matt. 20:1-16)*

[P] This is the Gospel of the Lord.

[C] **Alleluia** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

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 from Karen Schmidt, in honor of her 89th birthday.

ALTAR FLOWERS The flower bouquet that adorns the Altar is from Karen Schmidt, in honor of her 89th birthday.

SERMON NOTES Pastor Batchelor mentioned Chaplain Henry Gerecke in the sermon today. You can learn more about Chaplain Gerecke from the following resources: From the Internet: <https://www.1517.org/articles/from-hitlers-wolves-to-christs-lambs-the-chaplain-to-nazi-war-criminals>

<http://www.messianicgoodnews.org/henry-gerecke-chaplain-to-nazi-war-criminals>

<http://www.stjohnchester.com/Gerecke/Gerecke.html>

Other Resources:

- Tim Townsend, Mission at Nuremberg: An American Army Chaplain and the Trial of the Nazis, HarperCollins, 2014.
- F. T. Grossmith, The Cross and the Swastika, Henry E. Walter Ltd., Worthing, England, 1984, which tells Gerecke’s story.
- N. M. Railton, “Henry Gerecke and the Saints of Nuremberg,” Kirkliche Zeitgeschichte, Vandenhoeck and Ruprecht, 2000, pp.126-7.

Many of the primary sources about Gerecke, including his own My Assignment with the International Military Tribunal at Nürnberg, Germany, are found at Concordia Historical Institute, St. Louis, MO, the official archive of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

GRIEF SHARE An upcoming class is starting on Tues., Oct. 6th at 6:30pm. This class is for church members that have experienced a significant loss in 2025 or 2026. Postcards were sent to this group of members; please contact Annie in the office if you did not receive one but believe you should have, and also to RSVP. Space is limited.

BUILDING HEALTHY FAMILIES: Do you find that hurtful or disrespectful words sometimes come out of your mouth during the week as you interact with your spouse or family? If so, know that continuing this habit unchecked is damaging to your relationships in ways that you might not even realize. Try memorizing this verse and call it to mind when you are tempted to bite at someone you love this week: “May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.” (Psalm 19:14) You – and your relationships – will be better for it! www.LutheranFamilyService.org.

FOOD PANTRY/GARDEN BOUNTY We are in dire need for plastic grocery bags to help in food pantry, and for taking home produce that is generously donated by Clark Stojan. We would be very grateful for any extras you could bring in!

ADULT CHOIR Rehearsals have resumed on Saturdays at 9:30am. Don’t feel like you are a good singer? That’s ok, we will make you stand in the back! (Just Kidding) All are welcome!

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS *Matthew 20:9 – “And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius.”* Behold the generosity of God! He gives out of His grace, not what we deserve to receive. Living a godly life means living in imitation of God — and surely one of the foundations of God’s being is His generosity

BLOOD DRIVE We are hosting our annual blood drive on Sat., Oct. 10th from 8-11am. Please sign up at the sign-up station, or you can scan the QR code and register digitally. If we don’t get enough registrants, the event may be cancelled.

LCMS BOWLING LEAGUE Join us for a fun night of fellowship and bowling on Mondays at Highland Park Bowl on the Avenue of the Cities. Meet at 6:15pm for warm-ups, and League bowl begins at 6:30pm. The cost is \$12 per night. Hope to see you there! This activity is open to LCMS members, children and spouses of a member, and those in membership classes.

THANK YOU Joyce Hoffman would like to thank everyone for the abundance of birthday cards she received for her 93rd birthday. What an amazing outpouring of love from her church family!

***September 19th & 20th, 2026
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Divine Service III***

Prelude

Confession and Absolution

“With the Lord...” **869**
Invocation — Absolution 184-185

Service of the Word

Introit (See Cream Insert)
Kyrie 186
Gloria in Excelsis 187-189
Salutation and Collect 189

Readings (See Cream Insert)
Alleluia Verse 190
Holy Gospel(See Cream Insert)
Nicene Creed 191

Children’s Sermon

“Salvation Unto Us...” **555**
(women sing v. 3 and 7; men 4 and 8)

Sermon: Pastor Batchelor
“God is Unfair, That’s a Good Thing!”

Offertory-Prayers 192

Service of the Sacrament

Preface – Agnus Dei 194-198
Distribution
“All Christians Who...” **596**
“Here, O My Lord...” **631**

Nunc Dimittis-Thanksgiving 199-201
Salutation- Benediction 201-202
“Seek Where You...” **557**
Postlude