



The Informer

July 2022

St. John's Lutheran Church

Volume 64 Issue 9



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From Pastor's Pen:

"For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another." Galatians 3:15

Dearly Redeemed:

This month we will again celebrate Independence Day on the 4th of July. In addition to consuming many hot dogs and brats and watching massive explosions in the sky, we will celebrate the freedoms we enjoy. They are the freedoms expressed by our founding fathers when they wrote: *"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."*

Obviously, as expressed by these words, the freedom or liberty they envisioned was never to be considered absolute. It must necessarily be governed by natural, divine law and concern for others. Without such context and restrictions they understood that it would devolve into anarchy as everyone did what was right in his own eyes. One legal scholar is quoted as saying: *"By liberty I mean the eager maintenance of that atmosphere in which men have the opportunity to be their best selves."*

When St. Paul speaks of the freedom that we have in Christ he likewise has the same understanding. Yes, we have been freed from the law and its condemnation. We have been freed from our bondage to sin and delivered from the power of the devil. This freedom, however, is not to give way to spiritual anarchy. We should not use our freedom to indulge our sinful desires. We can never use God's grace as permission to do whatever we want. To use the Gospel as an excuse for licentiousness is repeatedly condemned in the Bible. In Romans chapter six Paul notes that such an attitude inevitably places one back under slavery to sin. Our Lutheran Confessions also state: *"[Some fanatics] cry out, 'Do what you will, it matters not as long as you believe, for faith blots out all sins,' etc.... It is therefore necessary to know and to teach that when holy people, aside from the fact that they still possess and feel original sin and daily repent and strive against it, fall into open sin, faith and the Spirit have departed from them."* SA III 42-43

This is what our Gospel freedom means: We have been freed to be our best selves. We have been freed to be the people God had intended us to be at creation. We are saved by grace through faith to be new creatures in Christ who do the good works that God prepared in advance that we should walk in them. [Cf. Eph. 2:10] It is important to remember that we have not only been freed from something, but for something. We have been redeemed by Christ to *"live under him in His kingdom; and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness..."* [SC II 4]

So enjoy your Independence Day with cookouts and fireworks and your favorite beverages, and give thanks for the responsible freedom you enjoy that allows you to become your best self. Remember also the freedom you have been given in Christ. Then, guided by God's Word and empowered by the Holy Spirit, use that freedom to become the best self that God has prepared you to be.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Umberger

See The Informer
IN COLOR
On Our Website

Vicar's View

Well, the year is coming to a close. What a year it has been! First, I wanted to thank you all for welcoming me into your congregation as I train for the Office of the Holy Ministry. You all have been such kind, wonderful people, and I have learned a lot serving you. Secondly, I would like to thank Pastor Umbarger. He is an excellent teacher and an even better servant of God. I have learned much under his tutelage, and there are many lessons that I will carry with me throughout my whole ministry. Finally, I thank my wonderful, ever-patient wife, Molly. I give thanks to God for the blessing that she is. Without her prayers and encouragement, I could never have gotten this far. It seems this is goodbye... or is it? Some of you are thinking "here comes a C.S. Lewis quote" and you would be half right! I recently read of a friendship Professor Lewis had with a student of his, and on the conclusion of his studies, Professor Lewis and his student, Sheldon Vanauken, met in the pub for one last beer. The following is told from the perspective of Mr. Vanauken:

At all events,' he [Lewis] said with a cheerful grin, 'we'll certainly meet again, here—or there.'

Then it was time to go, and we drained our mugs. When we emerged onto the busy high with the traffic streaming past, we shook hands, and he said 'I shan't say goodbye. We will meet again.' Then he plunged into the traffic. I stood there watching him. When he reached the payment on the other side, he turned around as though we knew somehow that I would still be standing there in front of the Eastgate.

Then he raised his voice in a great roar that easily overcame the noise of the cars and buses. Heads turned and at least one car swerved.

'Besides,' he bellowed with a great grin, 'Christians NEVER say goodbye!'

Dr. Lewis's words are true. Christians never really say goodbye. Christians are constantly with each other, especially in the partaking of the Blessed Sacrament. Not only do we commune with those present during the Sacrament, we also commune with the faithful who have gone before us, and the faithful who are simply in other parts of the world. So, we will meet again. If not in person, then certainly on Communion Sundays.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost be with you all.

Vicar Lackey

CHURCH COOKOUT



Farewell to Vicar and Molly Lackey

Please join us to say farewell to the Lackeys' on July 10th. We will have a cookout at 11:30am after Bible class. There is a sign-up sheet on the Information table; please sign up to bring a side dish or dessert. Burgers, brats, water and lemonade will be provided. For your entertainment, The Panic River Band will be playing outside from 12-2. Bring lawn chairs if you wish!

Vicar News

Dear St. John's

Hello and blessings from our Lord Jesus Christ! This is soon-to-be Vicar Kyle Moellenhoff, I'm looking forward to joining you in July and getting to know you all. In the meantime, I hope this introduction will help you get to know me just a little bit.

As you know, I'm coming to you from the seminary in St. Louis, but I also grew up in the St. Louis area, and I have lived here for most of my life. Most recently, before I answered the call to the Seminary, I was working as a project manager/engineer for a HVAC and plumbing contractor in the St. Louis area. Mechanical engineering was my major in college at Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, MO. Engineering was a challenging but rewarding field, and I worked in it for almost 3 years. However, I've also always had a strong interest in the Bible and in helping people understand and answer questions about the Christian faith. That interest made me start considering the ministry when I was in college. While I was working, I served as an Elder and helped lead a men's Bible Study at my home church, Salem Lutheran in Affton, MO. After several years of prayerful consideration and advice from church workers and other seminarians, I finally decided to apply at the seminary, and I've been very glad I did. I've learned so much so far and I can't wait to learn a lot more serving with you all at St. John's.

When I have spare time, one of the things I like to do most is read books, especially classic literature, fantasy, and (of course) theology. I've always been interested in the power of good stories to shape our lives and way of thinking, especially as they relate to the Christian faith. I also enjoy cooking, traveling, and spending time with family. My family are all Cardinals baseball and Blues hockey fans, and we also follow the Indianapolis Colts and Indiana Hoosiers basketball, since my mom grew up in Indiana.

I am sure that we'll get to know each other even more when I arrive. I'm looking forward to it and I'm grateful to God for the opportunity to serve among you and grow together as the body of Christ.

"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." Hebrews 13:20-21 (ESV)



Welcome Vicar Kyle Moellenhoff

Please join us on Sunday, July 17th after service for a cake reception to welcome Kyle Moellenhoff to St. John's as our vicar for the 2022-2023 year. There will be a card box available; please consider gift cards for things in our community such as grocery stores, gas stations, movie theatres, and restaurants...

***Vicar Moellenhoff will be moving into the vicarage condo on Thursday, July 14th. If anyone is available to help him move in, please let the office know. Many hands make light work! (The exact time of arrival is TBD, but it is usually around noon.)



Serving the Lord This Month:

Ushers

Sat. July 2: Chuck Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
Sun. July 3: Esther Cashion, Evan Antolik, Brian Engebrecht
Sat, July 9: Chuck Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
Sun, July 10: Evan Antolik & Scott Mattly
Sat, July 16: Chuck Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
Sun, July 17: Esther Cashion, Evan Antolik, Brian Engebrecht
Sat, July 23: Chuck Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
Sun, July 24: Evan Antolik & Scott Mattly
Sat, July 30: Chuck Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
Sun, July 31: Esther Cashion, Evan Antolik, Brian Engebrecht & Scott Mattly

Greeters

Sat. July 2:
Sun. July 3: Lee Copeland & Bali Guerrero
Sat, July 9:
Sun, July 10: Lee Copeland & JoAnn Sager
Sat, July 16:
Sun, July 17: Bali Guerrero & Earl Schaefer
Sat, July 23:
Sun, July 24: Ed & Janet Wachs
Sat, July 30:
Sun, July 31: George Aukee & Penny Schreck

Acolytes

Sun. July 3: Grace Schmidt
Sun, July 10: Jackson Merritt
Sun, July 17: Bennett Johnson
Sun, July 24: Brayden Medinger
Sun, July 31: Alice Schmidt

Altar Guild
 Marsha Boarts
 &
 Monica Scheer



Eternal Candle

July 3: in memory of loved ones
July 10: Evan & Dawn Antolik, in honor of Collin's birthday
July 17: Val McDonald, in honor of Tayler Rusk's 30th birthday
July 24: In honor of Sloane Churchill's birthday
July 31: Lucille Perley, with thanks



Flowers

July 3: Brian & Christine Engebrecht
July 10: Chuck & Bev Brokaw, for Mike
July 17: Karen Schmidt, for God's Blessings
July 24: Chuck & Bev Brokaw, in honor of their anniversary
July 31: Lucille Perley, with thanks

Church News

Birthdays

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| <p>July 2: James Sharp & Larry Sims</p> <p>July 3: Alice Heller</p> <p>July 4: Lois Kelly, Cade Kosche, & Hank VanDamme</p> <p>July 5: Aliza Stone & Rose Sullivan</p> <p>July 7: Laura Chaffee & Cori Rossmiller</p> <p>July 8: Matthew Lorfield</p> <p>July 9: Collin Antolik, Nathan Duffy, & Megan Hess</p> <p>July 11: Helen Carter</p> <p>July 12: Nancy Gosa</p> <p>July 13: Bryan Dennis, Michael Dosch, Ron Erickson, Kevin McAnally, Brayden Medinger, Jackson Weathers & Mary Whipple</p> | <p>July 14: Sue Heller, Henry Schmidt, & Ron Whipple</p> <p>July 16: Amanda McMillin & Noah Ryan</p> <p>July 17: Jane Hipple & Kaitlyn Kahle</p> <p>July 20: Madison Dennis,</p> <p>July 21: Lauren Belzer, Greg Burke, Ann Cobb, Darlene Dopson, Sharon Durling, & Scott Mattly</p> <p>July 22: Steve Braddy, Lee Copeland, Amanda Flaugh</p> <p>July 23: Nick Johanson & Keith Verschoore</p> <p>July 24: Perry Aukee, Larry Hipple, & Grace Schmidt</p> | <p>July 25: Ann Bowman, Sue Burmahl, Cody Rossmiller, Gregory Smart, David VanSeveren & Dylan Whipple</p> <p>July 26: Troy McDonald</p> <p>July 27: Judi Becker & Sloane Churchill</p> <p>July 28: Nancy Smart & Amy Snodgeroth</p> <p>July 29: Greg Hart, Kaitlyn Israel & Donna Moews</p> <p>July 30: Janice Coon & Jim Moews</p> <p>July 31: Wendy Verschoore</p> |
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Weekly Attendance & Offerings

<u>DATE</u>	<u>THIS YEAR</u>	<u>LAST YEAR</u>
5/22	142	127
5/29	159	120
6/5	149	121
6/12	143	147
6/19	102	139
Simply Giving May 2022:		Average monthly attendance of St. John's membership: 22%

Membership Report

New Address:
 Isaac Stone and family
 5310 Aloe Ave
 Baytown, TX 77521-8914

Notes from the Balcony

Red, white, and blue are the colors of July. Sousa marches played in parades, fireworks, and outdoor picnic parties are the sounds and sights of July. In our hymnal, only three hymns make it into the *Nation and National Songs* section and it is located at the very end of the book. However, there are a couple of other hymns that could be considered national songs, one of which is *Eternal Father, Strong to Save* (LSB 717). It is found in the TRUST section of our hymnal and is one of the favorite hymns of two of our members. It was also a favorite of Franklin D. Roosevelt's and was sung at his funeral. It was also sung at the state funeral of John F. Kennedy.

This "Navy Hymn," its original form, was written in 1860 by British William Whiting who was Master of the Winchester College of Choristers' School. He references God's power through the creation of the seas and Jesus' calming of the sea in this prayer for safe sea travel. Each stanza asks a different person of the Trinity for protection from various perils on the seas with the final stanza addressing the whole Trinity. Psalm 107 may have been the inspiration for this hymn. The psalm praises God for deliverance in several situations including sea travel.

- ²³ Some went down to the sea in ships,
doing business on the great waters;
- ²⁴ they saw the deeds of the Lord,
his wondrous works in the deep.
- ²⁵ For he commanded and raised the stormy wind,
which lifted up the waves of the sea.
- ²⁶ They mounted up to heaven; they went down to the depths;
their courage melted away in their evil plight;
- ²⁷ they reeled and staggered like drunken men
and were at their wits' end.
- ²⁸ Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.
- ²⁹ He made the storm be still,
and the waves of the sea were hushed.
- ³⁰ Then they were glad that the waters were quiet,
and he brought them to their desired haven.



Adopted by both the U.S. and U.K. navies, it is often referred to as the "Navy Hymn." In our hymnal, these original verses are denoted on the second page of the hymn by asterisks. The chapel of the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis has the title words of this hymn inscribed above the stained glass window of Jesus walking on water at the front of the chancel. American clergyman Robert Spencer (1877-1961) adapted stanzas two and three to include prayers for safety during land and air travel. The tune, *Melita*, written by an Anglican clergyman and hymn writer, John B. Dykes, refers to the island of Malta where the apostle Paul was shipwrecked. This is a very appropriate hymn to sing at times of traveling, which many do during the summer months. It is also a prayer for safety from dangers on life's journey. It is good to remember Who to turn to and Who has the power to save in times of trouble while not forgetting to praise Him for His protection in "air and land and sea."

His servant,
Christine Engebrecht

Youth News

VBS

This year's VBS was a great success! We had an excellent experience diving into the 10 Commandments. Offerings collected throughout the week will go to Mercy Waters, a great organization that provides filters for clean drinking water throughout the world.

A big THANK YOU to all of our volunteers for all of your hard work this week:

Pastor Umbarger
 Vicar Lackey
 Cris Braddy
 Christine Engebrecht
 Martha & Clinton Merritt
 Flo Moore
 Rex Newman
 Kay Iwen
 Carrie & Aaron Homann
 Ann & Stratton Churchill
 Bailey & Megan Hewitt
 Lori McMillin
 Grace Bergland
 Bentley Orton
 Allison, Kristen, & Easton Antolik
 Stacey Reed
 Addison & Jillian Tompkins



July Circuit Youth Group

Sunday, July 10th

tubing at Maquoketa Caves Park

2:00pm– meet at Immanuel, RI; carpool to Maquoketa

If you would like to go but need a ride, please let Pastor or Vicar know, and they will accompany you.



Youth Group Swim Party

Join us on **Sunday, July 24th** at Willow Springs Pool (3010 Archer Drive, EM). We have a party pavilion from 11:30am–3pm. More details will come as the date draws closer.

From the CID

Wrestling With God –

Many of us are familiar with the account of Jacob wrestling with God in Genesis 32. As we consider this story, we might wonder why God would want to wrestle with Jacob. Furthermore, we might wonder why the almighty God would allow Jacob to prevail.

Prior to his wrestling match with God, Jacob had put his own needs and desires ahead of others. By wrestling with God, Jacob was forced to focus on God rather than on himself. Too often, we focus on our own desires rather than on God and his will. When we are tempted, we tend to focus on Satan and try to fight him with our own strength. This is counterproductive. God sometimes puts us in a difficult or painful situation and graciously invites us to wrestle with him by prayerfully and diligently searching the Scriptures for guidance, strength, and comfort. As we do this, we can see our problem in the light of God's mercy and strength rather than see God in the shadow of our problem.

Jacob was humbled by the wound in his hip. God allows us to be wounded as a means to humble us and teach us that we are dependent on him for wisdom, mercy, and strength. Also, our wounds help us to become more empathetic towards others who are suffering.

Jacob's name was changed to Israel. God gives us a new name in our baptism: CHRISTIAN, which is the name of God's nation, the holy Christian Church. This new name reminds us that through wrestling with God in our trials and temptations, he empowers us to prevail against all adversaries and adversities.

Jacob gratefully realized that he had seen God face to face and his life had been spared. In Christ, we see God through the eyes of faith. Jesus, our Advocate, cleanses us of sin and makes us worthy of being in God's holy presence. Through Christ we are invited to approach God's throne of grace in repentance, prayer, and worship. And we rejoice that one day we will see God face to face as we gather with all the saints before his throne of glory.

Rev. Jeff Harter

Stay Connected with your District

Looking for additional information visit <https://linktr.ee/cidlcms> or connect with the following items:

- ◇ CID's GatePost (newsletter)
- ◇ Subscribe to the E-GatePost/News You Can Use



Church Calendar

July 2022

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1	2 5:00p Worship w/ Communion
3	9:00a Worship w/ Communion 10:15a Bible Study / Sunday School	4 9:00a Morning Prayer Staff Mtg. 6:30p Men's Reunion	5 10:00a Food Pantry 6:30p Guitar Jam	6 9:00a TOPS 6:30p Strategic Planning Mtg.	7 6:30p Board Meetings	8	9 5:00p Worship
10	Laekey's last day 9:00a Worship 10:15a Bible Study / Sunday School 11:30a Laekey Farewell	11 1:00p Staff Mtg. 6:30p Men's Reunion	12 10:00a Food Pantry 6:30p Guitar Jam	13 9:00a TOPS	14	15	16 5:00p Worship/ Communion
17	CID Convention in Springfield 9:00a Worship w/ Communion 10:15a Vicar Welcome	18 CID Convention in Springfield 8:00a Informer Deadline Jr. Police Academy 1:00p Staff Mtg. 6:30p Men's Reunion	19 CID Convention in Springfield 8:00a Jr. Police Academy 10:00a Food Pantry 6:30p Guitar Jam	20 8:00a Jr. Police Academy 9:00a TOPS	21 8:00a Jr. Police Academy 11:30a Ladies Luncheon	22 10:00a Judy Knudsen Funeral 11:00a Funeral Luncheon	23 5:00p Worship
24	9:00a Worship 10:15a Bible Study / Sunday School 2:00p Brokaw Vow Renewal	25 9:00a Morning Prayer 1:00p Staff Mtg. 6:30p Men's Reunion	26 10:00a Food Pantry 6:30p Guitar Jam	27 9:00a TOPS	28 6:30p LWMNL	29	30 5:00p Worship w/Communion
31	9:00a Worship w/Communion 10:15a Bible Study / Sunday School						

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

We're On the Web!!
www.stjohnsem.org

Walking in the Light of Christ!



Worship Schedule:

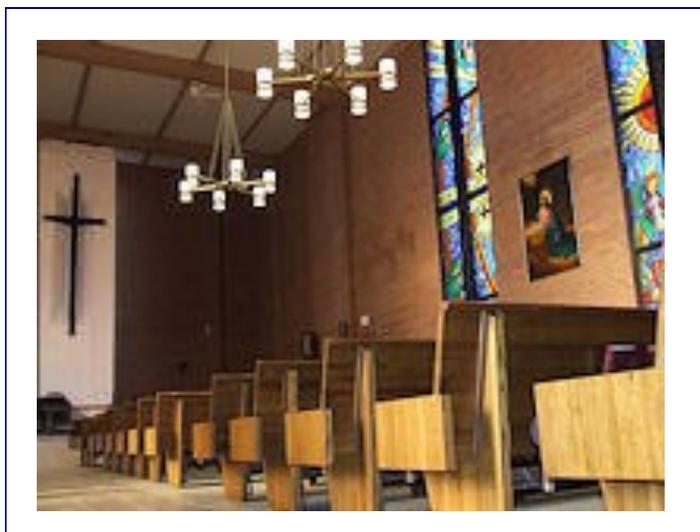
Saturday worship— 5:00pm

Sunday worship- 9:00am

10:15am— Sunday School
& Bible Study

Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday 8:30 am– 12 noon



Inside our Sanctuary.