



# The Informer

November 2022

St. John's Lutheran Church

Volume 66 Issue 11



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IN COLOR  
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## From Pastor's Pen:

*Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness,  
and for his wonderful works to the children of men! (Psalm 107:8)*

Out of control inflation, retirement investments tanking, wars and rumors of war, loss of loved ones, health issues – these and so many other troubles and still we are asked to meet in our houses of worship and give thanks to the Lord for all of His goodness?

This is, perhaps, the real test of a Christian – to be willing to give thanks to God even when it seems that what He is doing, or is allowing to happen, is not good. This requires us to truly believe that God is our dear Father and we are His beloved children.

When you come down to it that is the blessing that stands above all others – to know that we are a child of God and that we will forever share in His life. We are blessed to know that whether personal or national fortunes come or go, all things will work together for our good because we belong to a loving God.

By faith we know that all good gifts, all our blessings, come to us from the Father of the heavenly lights. As His beloved children we are then led to ask: How can I show my Heavenly Father my love and gratitude for all He does for me?

First, our Lord Jesus tells us that if we love Him we will keep His commands; above all that means that we will love and forgive and serve others as He has done for us.

Another way to show our love and gratitude to God is to give Him a gift as an expression of our appreciation for all the gifts He daily and richly bestows upon us. There are many ways to do this – the gift can be monetary or using some of the time and unique blessings that He has given us in serving Him and others. After all, didn't Jesus tell us that whatever we do for others we are also doing for Him?

Perhaps the best way to show both our love and thanksgiving might be to come and visit Him in His house; to take time out of busy lives to carry on a holy conversation with Him. Chances are that in His house we will find many more of His children who feel the same way we do about Him and all His blessings. In case you were interested, in addition to our regular weekend family gatherings in our Father's house, there will be a special service on Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:30pm. Maybe that would be worth adding to your "Thanksgiving" plans.

In any case, let us remember that in all things God continues to abound in steadfast love and to give good gifts to His children. Remembering, let us then fulfill the wish of the Psalmist that *"all men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!"*

A blessed Thanksgiving to all my St. John's family.  
In Christ's love,

*Pastor Umbarger*

## Vicar's View

### What is God's Name?

You probably know or have heard that God's name in the Bible is Yahweh, or maybe that that name means "I Am." Our altar here at St. John's even has the words "I AM" in big capital letters. But I have a feeling that many people are confused about that name and where it comes from, especially because the name "Yahweh" probably doesn't show up anywhere in your Bible if you use a translation like the ESV, NIV, or the old King James. So here are a few things you should know about God's name in the Bible.



The name by which God revealed himself to his chosen people Israel in the Old Testament (OT) is spelled with four Hebrew letters, "YHWH" in English (ancient Hebrew didn't write vowels). Scholars think that with the vowels, the name would probably be pronounced "Yahweh." That name does indeed show up all over the place in the OT, 5321 times in fact. That raises some questions. First, why doesn't it show up in my Bible? And second, what does that name actually mean?

The answer to the first question is that it actually is in your Bible, just not in that form. As you may or may not be aware, most English translations represent the divine name with the word "LORD" in small capital letters. The reason for this is that Jews before the time of Jesus began to avoid saying the name out loud, out of reverence for the name and the commandment not to take it in vain. Instead, they would say "Adonai," which means "lord." That tradition got carried over into most traditional translations through the ages, including English ones. There's nothing wrong with that, but it can cause some confusion if we aren't aware of it. "The LORD" can sound like a lofty and distant title, rather than the personal and familiar name that it is. Next time you're reading the OT, you might try taking note of everywhere "LORD" appears and say Yahweh instead, it might help you get a new perspective on how often the biblical writers call God by name.

But what does the name mean? Does it really mean "I Am?" Well, kind of. The closest we get to an explanation of God's name in the Bible is in Exodus 3 when God tells Moses, "I am who I am" and to "tell the people of Israel 'I Am' has sent me to you." But when God calls himself "I am", he is using a slightly different word; he is speaking in the first person. The name "Yahweh" is a more ancient form of the verb "to be," but it's in the third person, "he is," or it might even mean, "he causes to be." So, God calls himself "I am," but his people call him "He is." When God chose a people so that he could be their God and have a relationship with them, he gave them a name that they could call him, much like other nations had names for their gods. But the name that God chose emphasized his uniqueness as the foundation of all existence, the only God who existed from all eternity and who brought everything else into being. He is. That's the first thing you need to know about him.

So the next time you read your Bible, remember that not only does God know you by name, but you know him by name as well. And he has given you another name to know him by as well: "Jesus," which means "Yahweh saves." The God who is the creator and foundation of all existence is also your

## Serving the Lord this Month

### Ushers

**Sat, Nov 5:** Greg Burke, Chuck Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka  
**Sun, Nov 6:** Evan Antolik & family  
**Sat, Nov 12:** Greg Burke, Chuck Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka  
**Sun, Nov 13:** Evan Antolik & family  
**Sat, Nov. 19:** Greg Burke, Chuck Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka  
**Sun, Nov. 20:** Evan Antolik & family  
**Thanksgiving Eve:** Greg Burke, Chuck Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka  
**Sat, Nov 26:** Greg Burke, Chuck Brokaw, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka  
**Sun, Nov 27:** Evan Antolik & family

### Acolytes

**Sun, Nov 6:** Easton Antolik  
**Sun, Nov 13:** Aubree Medinger  
**Sun, Nov 20:** Johnny Kjera  
**Thanksgiving Eve:** Easton Antolik  
**Sun, Nov 27:** Bentley Orton

### Altar Guild

Flo Moore, Margie Schaefer, and Stacey Roman

### Communion Assistants

**Nov. 6:** Dennis Boarts  
**Nov. 20:** Ralph Grotelueschen

### Greeters

**Sat, Nov 5:** Norm & Orene Antolik  
**Sun, Nov 6:** Sue Bowman & Nancy Davis  
**Sat, Nov 12** Ruby Pancrazio & LouAnn DeRammelaere  
**Sun, Nov 13:** The Jonathan Schmidt Family  
**Sat, Nov 19:** Norm & Orene Antolik  
**Sun, Nov 20:** George Aukee & Penny Schreck  
**Thanksgiving Eve:** Norm & Orene Antolik  
**Sat, Nov 26:** Ruby Pancrazio & LouAnn DeRammelaere  
**Sun, Nov 27:** Glen & Lori McMillin

### Eternal Candle

**Nov. 6:** Terry & Gail Massey, in honor of their anniversary  
**Nov. 13:** Karen Schmidt, with Glory to God  
**Nov. 20:** JoAnn Sager, in memory of Gary Sager  
**Nov. 27:** Kevin & Wendy Rossmiller, in honor of their anniversary



### Flowers

**Nov. 6:** Lucille Perley, with thanks for God's blessings  
**Nov. 13:** Susan Bowman & John Davis, in honor of Nancy's birthday  
**Nov. 20:** Brenda Roggendorf  
**Nov. 27:** Rod & Noreen Hopkins, in thanks for God's blessings



Pastor would like to extend a special thank you to everyone that helped with the Pastors' Conference. We had many compliments about how well the event went and how wonderful everything was. Of special note is the job Vicar Moellehoff did as the event coordinator!



## Church News

### Birthdays

**Nov. 1**— Jessica Dobbeleare & Patrick Lackey

**Nov 3**— Gabriel Hart, Angela Fischer

**Nov 4** — Nancy Krack, Karen Anderson

**Nov 5** — Craig Clough, Noah Cobb, Nancy Davis, & Rylee Sherwood

**Nov 6** — Sydney Heller & Norma Grotelueschen

**Nov 7** - Jacob McMillin

**Nov 8** — Denise Rogers & Donald Cass

**Nov 10** —Jackie Wilson

**Nov 11** — Duane Herron, Jordan Fischer

**Nov 13**— Monica Brashears & Laura Seitzlitz

**Nov 14** - Gibson Cockerill & Robert Myers

**Nov 15** — Sam Cady, Alyssa Hartweg & James Urban

**Nov 16** — Ashley Buck, Elliot Nickens & Maxwell Park

**Nov 18**— Marsha Boarts, Tatum Harford, Carole Hodshire, & Diane Ransom

**Nov 19**— George Aukee

**Nov 20** — Ken Hill

**Nov 21** — Pete Schaefer

**Nov 22** — Zoey Bull, Jill Ryan & Lorin Soyke

**Nov 23**— Kyle Kern

**Nov 24**— Sarah Perry

**Nov 25** — Dennis Boarts, Charlie Britton, Harvey Lampe & JoAnn Sager

**Nov 26**— Diane Kosche, Veronica McKay & Lexi Wingert

**Nov 27**— Ingrid Hodshire, Hannah Rossmiller, Shirley Schlotfeldt & Kay Trask

**Nov 28** — Bill Green

**Nov 29**— Lories Graham & Austin Krueger



### Weekly Attendance

<u>DATE</u>	<u>THIS YEAR</u>	<u>LAST YEAR</u>
9/25	146	119
10/2	141	178
10/9	139	154
10/16	156	163
10/23	146	156

### Membership Report

#### Weddings:

Carl Hartweg and Alyssa Busch were married on September 24th, 2022. Congratulations and may God bless your life together!

#### Address Updates:

Bryce & Jennifer Palar  
31 Timber Ridge Dr  
Coal Valley, IL 61240

Kimberly Medina  
3605 35th St.  
Moline, IL 61265



Join us on Wednesday,  
November 23rd at 6:30pm for  
Thanksgiving worship with  
communion.

### Church News



Please join us on Sunday, November 20th after Bible study and Sunday school for a Thanksgiving Potluck. Table service and beverages will be provided. Please sign up on the Library counter so we can plan!

### Food Pantry Thanksgiving Baskets

**Sunday, November 13th** is the deadline for Thanksgiving basket orders. If you know of a family who would be blessed to receive a basket, please fill out the slip below and return it to the church office.

Pick ups will be Monday, November 21st, 10:00am-noon.  
Questions may be directed to Carrie Homann, 309-523-3330

\*\*\*This year, we will only be asking for donations of hams and turkeys. Watch the Bulletin for more information.



Name of member: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of nominated family: \_\_\_\_\_

Size of household: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated family will pick up \_\_\_\_\_ Church member will deliver \_\_\_\_\_

(If the nominated family will be picking it up, please provide contact info so Carrie knows who she is expecting, and can contact them if needed)

Phone number for nominated family: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION.  
RETURN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY 10:00am SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13th**

## Church News

### LWML

NOTE date and time change. Because of Thanksgiving LWML will meet Thursday, November 17th at 1:00 pm in the Janssen Rooms. Join the ladies for lunch at Deerfield at 11:30, then come over to church for our November Meeting at 1:00. Watch the bulletins for more information.

### Youth Lock-Up

There is a lock up planned for Friday, November 11th from 7-11pm. Invite your friends and come have some fun! We will provide the drinks and you can bring a snack to share. For our service project, we will be collecting food for the food pantry. Watch the Bulletin for more information on those details.

### Food Pantry

The food pantry at St. John's serves approximately 70 families (200 individuals, 90 children) each month. In the past two years, the amount of food the US government donates to Riverbend has been drastically reduced— by over 50%! And as many of you are probably aware, the cost of groceries has risen significantly in the last year. The prices for many of the items we purchase each month from Riverbend have risen 30-50%! Therefore, our costs to provide aid to our community are up. Our food pantry is sustained solely through donations from the congregation. It is not and never has been part of the budget. The money we receive from Birdies for Charity only sustains us for 2 months on average. Another major fundraiser is the annual church golf outing. This event was not able to take place this year.

We are asking you to please prayerfully consider designating at least a portion of your offerings to the food pantry. Every little bit helps, and we need you!

### Advent Suppers

There are 4 weeks in Advent this year. Please start thinking if your family or group could host a supper. It's never too early to start planning!

#### Advent Schedule

Nov. 30th—6:30pm

“Zechariah’s Story—Listening”

Dec. 7th—6:30pm

“Elizabeth’s Story—Expectation”

Dec. 14th—6:30pm

“Mary’s Story—Faith”

Dec. 21st—6:30pm

“Joseph’s Story—Action”

#### Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion—8:00pm

Christmas Morning Communion—9:00am



## Notes from the Balcony

I was just looking back in my Informer file at what I wrote last year in November. The focus was on the end of the church year and remembering we are moving toward Heaven. I had not even an inkling that before the end of the month my own father would have made that trip. He was a man who faithfully read his Bible, led family devotions, and could easily offer Christian encouragement because of his study and meditation on the truths found in God's Word. And yet, he was not one to want to spend time pondering any detail of his own death. God was merciful to his faithful fearful servant and gathered his family around him for a Thanksgiving celebration and granted him a quick and unexpected passing on that holiday. God has called several of His servants from St. John's home this year also. Enough that the funeral home had me fill out a tax form because of too much income. The end of the church year is a good time to remember that we all need to be ready to meet our Lord.

Many November hymns come from the *END TIMES* section of the hymnal (LSB 508-516) reminding, even warning, the singer to be ready for Christ's return. Closely related to this section is the *THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT* section (LSB 670-680) which speaks of what the child of God can look forward to after his or her end of time. There are many beautiful hymns in this section including three favorites of our congregation. One of these hymns, *Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise* (680), was chosen by three members. This hymn, by Herbert Brokering, is a relative newcomer to LCMS hymnody with first publication in 1983. Written at a retreat in 1981 where Walter Bouman gave ten lectures, Brokering wrote a hymn text for each lecture and Carl Schalk wrote the tunes. This hymn lifts the singer from this fallen world's sufferings to the heights of heaven where God is praised by all creatures in the midst of joyous celebration.

May we be ready for the end of time or the end of our time looking forward to joining in the "holy holy celebration jubilee" (stanza 5) standing in the splendor and brightness of our only God and Father.

"He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!  
The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen" Revelation 22:20-21

His child,  
Christine Engebrecht





# Thanksgiving Word Search

Challenging



H L E A V E S O X A W T L I O X N Z P K  
 V J W L F E A S T M C E D Q T L A E F L  
 Y H O O E Z N P Z E D T N I H Y C I E Y  
 C A N K D D N Z L N R K Y I A E E P S C  
 L S D S Z Q U E J A H Y C E N X P J R X  
 S O B I D F B T D W V L I Y K T R X E Q  
 I Q T W L R A I I V O Y M R F R B U B V  
 K R E H A O T L N T Y B H O U C U Y M M  
 D E I T A I H O L U A G T F L Y I T E Y  
 S W I B O N Q V E P G R V K N N J S V C  
 A O H N R Y K N R H E Y G E E D U V O Q  
 N L W Z S J O S E P L O M A S S T R N Y  
 K F T E F B G L G I M J Y I S I N V F M  
 P Y G F H Y B N M I N Q Y H O M E U O M  
 L A N S I B I A S T V O R A C L D Y E I  
 H M I G O F F O G Y X I J C V R Z M Q R  
 X W Y G F C Q W S D W E N I X B J T G G  
 F M T U Z H T U O M Y L P G G B R X J L  
 Z C T E L I S E I R R E B N A R C R M I  
 R S L W V T H G D X U A N I K P M U P P

CELEBRATION  
 FALL  
 GOBBLE  
 HOME  
 NOVEMBER  
 PILGRIM  
 STUFFING  
 TRADITION  
 WISHBONE

CORN  
 FAMILY  
 GRATITUDE  
 LEAVES  
 PECAN  
 PLYMOUTH  
 THANKFULNESS  
 TURKEY

CRANBERRIES  
 FEAST  
 HOLIDAY  
 MAYFLOWER  
 PIE  
 PUMPKIN  
 THANKSGIVING  
 VOYAGE



**11 September 2022- Voters Meeting**

1. Devotion: Pastor Umbarger
2. Acceptance of new voting members- Adam Homann- Motion by Pastor Umbarger, 2<sup>nd</sup> Larry Hipple
3. Approval of last Voter's meeting minutes as printed in the informer – Motion made by Larry Hipple; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rod Hopkins. Motion passed.
4. Old Business- No old business to report.
5. Board Reports

**Executive- No report**

Treasurer's report- Norm Antolik. Norm went over the financials, all looks good right now, even though August reports a loss. The deficit will be made up in the fall months.  
Board Nominating Committee- Looking for volunteers for all boards/committees.

**Board of Elders- Jim Homann- See Attached Report.**

10 year delinquent member dismissal. Outreach from the church occurs throughout the 10 year period- church doesn't just release, the church family does not take it lightly.  
Motion to drop members made by Rod Hopkins; 2<sup>nd</sup> Larry Dodge.  
Strategic Planning has been waiting on materials from district- we have now received them and will be planning a meeting next month. Encourage maximum participation.

**Board of Youth and Family Ministry- -**

Upcoming Events. Pastor Appreciation 10/9/2022, Trunk or Treat 10/30/22 from 5pm – 7pm, will be outside this year and no dinner served. Trunk decorating contest and hay rack rides.  
New Sunday School class called "Coffee with Christ" to encourage more attendance during Sunday School for parents.  
No possibilities for the new youth position as of yet.

**Board of Outreach Ministry- Charlie Britton**

Update on outside digital sign, included in the Board of Elder report.

**Board of Human Care Ministry- Carrie Homann- See Attached Report.**

Blood Drive 22 October 2022.  
Food Pantry will be packing Thanksgiving and Christmas boxes this year.... All donations are appreciated.  
Candlelight Remembrance Program/Service in December, watch bulletin for dates.  
Starting in January, will be a special project for our shut-ins. Care Ministry volunteers will be utilized.

**Board of Trustees- Evan Antolik**

Purchase and replacement of easement sign. Vote

Scrolling Sign update:

Proposed new sign, digital and can be changed from inside- wireless. Sign to be ordered online and we install. Comes with 3 year warranty, also 11 years of technical support. Sign comes with software and graphics. 6-8 weeks for order process and delivery.

## Notes from the Balcony

Two sizes proposed:

8x4	8x5
1-6 rows	1-8 rows
10,752 pix	14,336 pix
18.9"	22.5"
\$17,485	\$21,085

The Memorial Fund intends to cover the cost of the sign. Board spoke with families and funds can be covered.

Of the 2 sizes, the Board of Trustees recommends the bigger sign.

Motion to approve moving forward, pending city approval, for the 8x5 digital sign made by Ralph Grotelueschen

Motion carried.

Pastor conference to be held in October at St. Johns. Church getting new ceiling in Janssen Room, Keyl Room and front of church to be pressure washed.

### **Pastor's Report-** Pastor Umbarger

Pastor needs more people to serve on web page group to input member info, serve on boards and get on webpage. Took down some names of volunteers from the meeting.

### 6. New Business

Pastor Conference- will need to borrow tables from other congregations, St. Matthew's. Need people to pick up Sunday, 02 October and take them back either 05 or 06 October in the afternoon.

7. Move to Adjourn- Motion made by Marsha Boarts; 2<sup>nd</sup> Larry Dodge. Motion passed.

8. End with Lord's Prayer-11:15am

Very much appreciated to all members who attended the Voter's meeting!

Respectively submitted by Val McDonald September 2022.

### **Members Present:**

Flo Moore  
Rod Hopkins  
Kyle Moellenhoff  
Larry Hipple  
Dennis Boarts  
Marsha Boarts  
Kevin Kern  
Ralph Grotelueschen  
Norma Grotelueschen  
John Iwen  
Kay Iwen

Steve Sullivan  
Rose Sullivan  
Charlie Britton  
Kent Umbarger  
Evan Antolik  
Jim Homann  
Adam Homann  
Carrie Homann  
Brian Engebrecht  
David Sountris  
Susan Runyan  
Annie Churchill

Cristina Braddy  
Dawsyn McDonald  
Troy McDonald  
Larry Dodge  
Steven Lackey  
Diana Lackey  
Dennis Schaefer  
Margie Schaefer  
Earl Schaefer  
Judy Dugan



St. John's  
Lutheran  
Church



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*Walking in the Light of Christ!*

## Worship Schedule:

Saturday worship– 5:00pm

Sunday worship- 9:00am

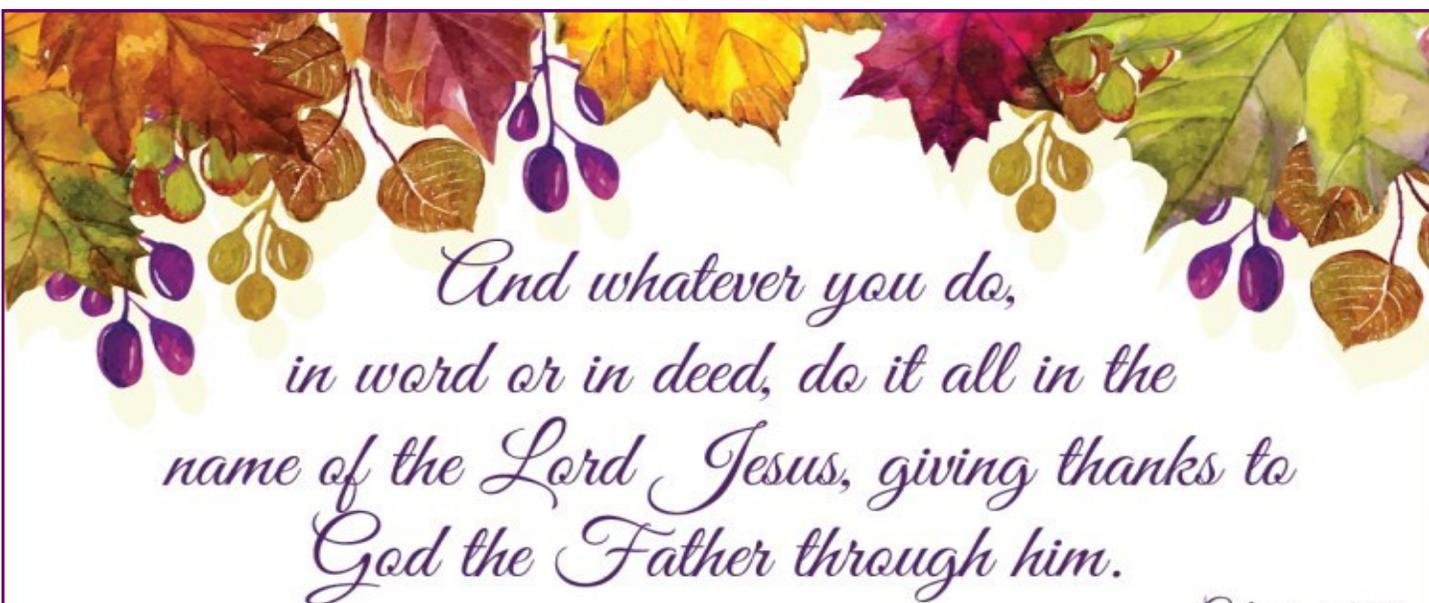
Sunday School & Bible Study-10:15am

Thanksgiving Service with Communion-  
Wednesday, Nov. 23rd @ 6:30pm

## Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday 8:30am– 2:00pm

Closed for lunch from 12-1pm



*And whatever you do,  
in word or in deed, do it all in the  
name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to  
God the Father through him.*