



The Informer

October 2022

St. John's Lutheran Church

Volume 66 Issue 10



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See The Informer
IN COLOR
On Our Website

From Pastor's Pen:

"I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last." (Romans 1:16-17a)

My dearly loved family in Christ,
Dr. Martin Luther, like St. Paul, was a man of God who stood firm in his faith. Despite every evil force pressing against him, Luther remained unashamed of the Gospel. Truly, the celebration of the reformation, is a celebration of God's goodness in providing such faithful champions of the truth for our eternal welfare. When I think of Luther, and the reformation, I am reminded of a certain story of heroism involving a father and a toy:

Once there was a child who came running out of his room, terribly upset over the fact that his favorite toy was broken. As he came to his parents, carrying the pieces of the shattered treasure in his shaking hands, his mother furiously jumped from her chair to grab the toy. She said, "Now, you've done it! I told you to be more careful with it. Now, it's broken for good. I'll just have to throw it away!" At this the child turned to his father with tears gushing down his face pleading, "Daddy, please fix my toy. It means so much to me, and I want to keep it." The father reached out and took the jigsaw puzzle of a toy from his pitiful child and said, "I'll try, son, but it looks pretty bad. You go to bed, now, and I'll see what I can do," The father stayed up all night working on that silly toy. A spot of glue here, and a wire there, and by morning he had it together and working, but he knew that his repairs were only temporary. He warned the child to be extremely careful because the toy would now be even more fragile. The toy would break again, but that morning the boy's father became his greatest, bigger than life hero. And that toy became his greatest treasure.

Luther was just such a loving spiritual father and pastor of Christ's Church. At the time of the reformation he heard the cries of God's children, and saw their tears of anguish. They cried because the precious treasure of the Gospel had been broken to pieces, and the Church was in a shambles. At just the right time, when the heavenly treasures were ready to be tossed onto the garbage heap, he stepped forward and by the power of the Holy Spirit restored the pure Gospel. He gave us back the Gospel which was, is and ever shall be the power of God unto salvation for all who believe. When ordered under the threat of death to recant his trust in "a righteousness from God that is by faith from first to last", he boldly stated: "HERE I STAND." By God's grace we are now privileged to receive the blessings of that Gospel at St. John's Lutheran Church. Yet, the warning to us is like the father's warning to his child, "be careful the Gospel is ever more fragile, now."

There are many in the church who, knowingly or unwittingly, are in danger of destroying the Gospel among us. Rather than standing upon God's Word as infallible, all sufficient and the only rule of faith and life, many are ashamed of the Gospel. As a result, they deal with God's Word in reckless and careless ways; even breaking it altogether. We, the children of God, are called upon to love and care for the treasures of Word and Sacrament that have been handed down to us by our fathers. Now is the time for us to stand where St. Paul, St. Martin, and so many others stood before us in defense of the Gospel. I urge you, God's children at St. John's to boldly confess with me, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel! Here I Stand! "

In Christ,

Pastor Umbarger

Vicar's View

Christians and Halloween

That time of year is coming around again when there's a chill in the air and the leaves start to change, which means that some among us are getting excited to celebrate Halloween! Yes, it's the time for trick-or-treating, scary stories, and fun costumes. But with all the witches, ghosts, and goblins, is it appropriate for Christians to celebrate this holiday? Some Christians say no, that the "spooky" elements of Halloween are pagan or demonic and not appropriate for Christians to participate in. Is that true?

The history of our modern Halloween traditions is complicated, and some of them may indeed have come from non-Christian traditions. But some may be surprised to learn that Halloween was originally a Christian holiday. The name "Hallowe'en" is short for "All Hallows Evening," another way of saying "All Saints Eve." The Christian Church has been setting aside November 1 as a day to celebrate the saints who have gone before us, whose souls are with Christ, for over a thousand years, and All Hallows Eve was the nighttime vigil that started the evening before this holiday. While people celebrated these righteous souls and the victory Christ won for them, they were also aware of Satan and his evil spirits, and some Christians wore frightening masks to "scare" evil spirits away, or even to mock them. In a sense, it was a way of celebrating what St. Paul says in *Colossians 2:15*, "[God] disarmed the rulers and authorities [demonic spirits] and put them to open shame, triumphing over them in [Christ]" (ESV). Dressing up like ghouls, goblins, and monsters can be a way for Christians to celebrate the victory that Christ won for us and the saints who went before us over the powers of sin, death, and the devil.



So, what should we Christians do about Halloween? Well, as is true in most things, let your conscience be your guide. No one should participate in a celebration they aren't comfortable with, and obviously Christians should stay far away from anything actually associated with the occult. But if you're someone who has fun putting together a great costume, decorating your house, or trick-or-treating with your kids, you are free in Christ to enjoy it. Remember to thank God for the faithful Christians who went before you, and that the kingdom of Satan has no more power over you. I think the advice that Paul gives in the very next verse in Colossians applies, "Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ." (Col. 2:16-17)



Serving the Lord this Month

Ushers

Sat, Oct 1: Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
 Sun, Oct 2: Adam Homann & team
 Sat, Oct. 8: Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
 Sun, Oct. 9: LWML
 Sat, Oct. 15: Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
 Sun, Oct. 16: Adam Homann & team
 Sat, Oct. 22: Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
 Sun, Oct. 23: Adam Homann & team
 Sat, Oct. 29: Greg Burke, Todd Miller, Rick Newlon, & Larry Ripka
 Sun, Oct. 30: Adam Homann & team

Acolytes

Sun, Oct. 2: Lydia Merritt
 Sun, Oct. 9: Brayden Medinger
 Sun, Oct. 16: Bennett Johnson
 Sun, Oct. 23: Stratton Churchill
 Sun, Oct. 30: Payton Braddy

Altar Guild

Monica Scheer, Rebecca Hinman, Kathy Ahrens, Marsha Boarts, and Jennifer Schmidt

Greeters

Sat, Oct. 1:
 Sun, Oct. 2: James & Carole Vrbn
 Sat, Oct 8: LWML
 Sun, Oct. 9: Lee Copeland & Judy Dugan
 Sat, Oct. 15:
 Sun, Oct. 16: Marsha Boarts & Mary Whipple
 Sat, Oct 22:
 Sun, Oct. 23: Kris McAnally & Sandy Young
 Sat, Oct 29:
 Sun, Oct. 30: Flo Moore & Margie Schaefer



Eternal Candle

Oct. 2: Pastor & Carla Umbarger, in honor of their anniversary
 Oct. 9: Evan & Dawn Antolik, in honor of their anniversary
 Oct. 16: Gail Massey
 Oct. 23: Karen Schmidt, in memory of Marlin's birthday
 Oct. 30: In honor of Payton Braddy's 13th birthday



Flowers

Oct. 2: Flo Moore, in thanks for God's blessings
 Oct. 9: John & Ruby Pancrazio, in thanks for God's blessings
 Oct. 16: Karen Schmidt, for Glory to God
 Oct. 23: Rick & Janet Newlon, in honor of their 34th anniversary
 Oct. 30: Chuck & Bev Brokaw



Church News

Birthdays

October 1 - Ron Rogers & Jace Thurman

October 2 - Rolen Stone

October 3 - James Fauser & Sherry Orey

October 4 - Tom Nielsen, Madison Streeter, & Joyce VanSeveren

October 6 - Mary Heino & Wanda Resch

October 7 - Shannon Brand, Flo Moore Alexander Shryack, & David Sountris

October 9 - Peyton Mattly

October 10 - Cristina Braddy, Trevor Keogh, & Jennifer Majetic

October 12 - Diana Lackey & Ron Wilson

October 13 - Esther Cashion, Rick Fauser Jill Johanson, & Sebastian Parker

October 14 - Mary Wulf

October 15 - Frank Hodshire

October 16 - Josh Schatteaman

October 17 - Barbara Buck

October 19 - Amber Medinger

October 20 - Andy Burke, Merle Loete & Kaylie Pena

October 21 - Maren Bull

October 24 - Jeff Fauser, Kelly Lack, & Dawsyn McDonald

October 25 - Gracie Erickson & Margery Park

October 26 - Jean Morrival & Diane Totten

October 27 - Payton Braddy

October 28 - Wendy Trujillo

October 31 - Jason Krack & Jonah Wilson



Weekly Attendance Offerings

<u>DATE</u>	<u>THIS YEAR</u>	<u>LAST YEAR</u>
8/28	128	151
9/4	141	149
9/11	139	140
9/18	156	125

Membership Report

Death:

Ed Wachs (9/4/2022)

New Address:

Paul & Kami Sellers

PO BOX 27

Andover, IL 61233

*****Please take notice*****

As some of you may have heard, there have been reports recently of cars being broken into in church parking lots during services. Last weekend, 3 vandals were recorded trying to open car doors in a church parking lot in East Moline. Please, please, please, remember to lock your vehicle before coming into church.

**PLEASE LOCK
YOUR CAR**



Church News

October is Church Worker Appreciation Month!

In His great love and mercy, God blesses and sustains His church through the men and women serving in church work vocations. The LCMS rejoices and gives thanks for the more than 14,000 faithful church workers who serve in congregations and schools across our Synod. People serve the church in many roles, especially: Pastor, Vicar, Music Director, Education Director, and all those serving on our various Boards.



Altar Guild

There will be an Altar Guild meeting on **Tuesday, October 11th at 6pm**. Please plan to attend.

LWML

The October LWML meeting will be on **Thursday, October 27th at 6:30pm**. Come learn more about the history of LWML and some of our mission projects.

Donations- Thank you! Thank you to all of you for your donations! Beginning October 1st, we will be collecting men's coats; especially warm winter coats, hats, and gloves for the men's shelter. There will be a box in the concourse.

Trunk or Treat

Trunk or treat is back!!! Join us on **Sunday, October 30th from 5-7pm** for an evening of safe and fun treating. We will be outside in the parking lot and yes, there will be hayrack rides!!!

There will be a sign-up sheet on the Information table...please let us know if you will be decorating a trunk.



Church News

Blood Drive

GOT BLOOD? WE NEED IT!!

Did you know that 4.5 million people in the U.S. need a blood transfusion each year? Our local blood bank, Impact Life, is currently in short supply of ALL blood types!



Blood Drive

Join us Saturday, October 22, 8-11:30am for a blood drive.

There are a few ways to sign up:

1. In the concourse on the display
2. Go to our Facebook page and click on the link in the Blood Drive event, this will take you right to the current schedule
3. Or pick up a flyer with a scannable QR code. This will also lead you to the online schedule.
4. Contact Carrie Homann for assistance signing up

Who can donate?

- Anyone age 17 and up (16 with parental consent)
- At least 110 pounds
- Feeling well on the day of donation
- Haven't taken aspirin products 48 hours before donating (some other medications that affect platelets may result in a temporary inability to donate - see the list on the display)

Have you been denied in the past for visiting or living in a European country?

- Don't worry if you have been previously denied for giving blood because of living or visiting European countries in the 80s and 90s. The FDA has lifted this previously stated restrictions for this large group of people because Mad Cow disease is no longer an issue.

Sign up today!!!

To prepare for the donation don't forget to drink lots of water to be well hydrated, eat before you come, and don't forget your photo ID and a mask (our service provider is requesting that all present wear a mask).

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
9am - Worship w/ 10:15am - Bible Study / 5pm - Trunk or Treat	9am - Morning Prayer @ 1pm - Staff Mtg. 6:30pm - Class: What We 6:30pm - Heavenly Ringers	10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam	9am - TOPS 10am - Midweek Bible Study 6pm - Chines 6:30pm - Confirmation 6:30pm - Woke Bible Study	9am - TOPS 10am - Midweek Bible Study 6pm - Chines 6:30pm - Confirmation 6:30pm - Woke Bible Study	6:30pm - Board Meetings	8am - Mens Bible Study 9:30am - Adult Choir 5pm - Worship w/
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Pastor on Vacation	Childs Pastors' Conference	6:30pm - Guitar Jam	6:30pm - Woke Bible Study	Childs World	Childs World	8am - Mens Bible Study 9:30am - Adult Choir 5pm - Worship
9am - Worship w/ 10:15am - Bible Study /	6:30pm - Heavenly Ringers	6:30pm - Guitar Jam	6:30pm - Woke Bible Study	6:30pm - Board Meetings	6:30pm - Board Meetings	8am - Mens Bible Study 9:30am - Adult Choir 5pm - Worship
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9am - Worship 10:15am - Bible Study / 12pm - Pastor Appreciation	Childs World 9am - Morning Prayer @ 1pm - Staff Mtg. 6:30pm - Class: What We 6:30pm - Heavenly Ringers	10am - Food Pantry 6pm - Altar Guild Meeting 6:30pm - Guitar Jam	9am - TOPS 10am - Midweek Bible Study 6pm - Chines 6:30pm - Confirmation 6:30pm - Woke Bible Study	9am - TOPS 10am - Midweek Bible Study 6pm - Chines 6:30pm - Confirmation 6:30pm - Woke Bible Study	8am - Mens Bible Study 9:30am - Adult Choir 9:30am - Usher's Meeting 5pm - Worship/ Communion	8am - Blood Drive 8am - Mens Bible Study 9:30am - Adult Choir 5pm - Worship
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9am - Worship w/ 10:15am - Bible Study / 2pm - Rock Island Circuit	Informor Deadline 9am - Morning Prayer @ 1pm - Staff Mtg. 6:30pm - Class: What We 6:30pm - Heavenly Ringers	10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam	9am - TOPS 10am - Midweek Bible Study 6pm - Chines 6:30pm - Confirmation 6:30pm - Woke Bible Study	11:30am - Ladies Luncheon	8am - Blood Drive 8am - Mens Bible Study 9:30am - Adult Choir 5pm - Worship	8am - Blood Drive 8am - Mens Bible Study 9:30am - Adult Choir 5pm - Worship
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9am - Worship 10:15am - Bible Study /	9am - Morning Prayer @ 1pm - Staff Mtg. 6:30pm - Class: What We 6:30pm - Heavenly Ringers	10am - Food Pantry 6:30pm - Guitar Jam	9am - TOPS 10am - Midweek Bible Study 6pm - Chines 6:30pm - Confirmation 6:30pm - Woke Bible Study	6:30pm - LWML	8am - Mens Bible Study 9:30am - Adult Choir 5pm - Worship w/	8am - Mens Bible Study 9:30am - Adult Choir 5pm - Worship w/
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
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St. John's
Lutheran
Church



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

Walking in the Light of Christ!

Blessed are those whose hope
is in the Lord their God.

PSALM 146:5B

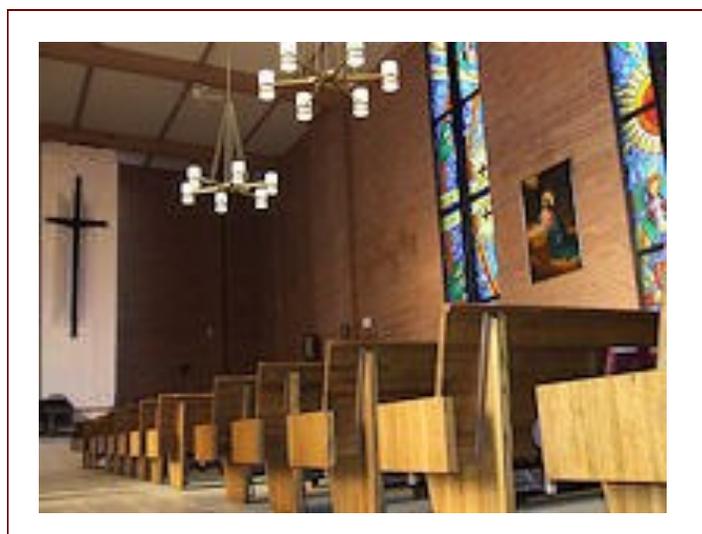


Worship Schedule:

Saturday worship- 5:00pm
Sunday worship- 9:00am
Sunday School
& Bible Study-10:15am

Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday 8:30am– 2:00pm
Closed for lunch from 12-1pm



Inside our Sanctuary.