



THE INFORMER



September 2021

St. John's Lutheran Church of East Moline, IL

Volume 64 Issue 1

Special points of interest:

Letters from the Pastor & Vicar

September Birthdays

Upcoming events

In this issue:

Pastor's Letter	1
Vicar's View	2
Serving the Lord This Month	3
Birthdays	4
Church News	5-8
Calendar	9

From Pastor's Pen:

This month I am borrowing some thoughts from a friend of mine, Pastor Michael Strong. He recently offered a response to the all-too-often used statement: "I'm spiritual, but not religious." I agree with his retort, "What does that mean? I can't tell you the number of people, both young and old, who have given me that line of malarkey." And that is what it is, nothing but foolish nonsense!

If a person is truly spiritual, how can they not be religious? But then I guess it depends on what they mean by spiritual, doesn't it? So, what does the "spiritual, but not religious" person mean? Well, in scripture we find that those who considered themselves "spiritual, but not religious" were people who did not listen to and obey God's voice, nor follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. Instead, they were people who followed another spirit. In Numbers 14 God declared that those who did so would not be allowed to enter the Promised Land. In contrast God says, **"But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it."** In other words, Caleb had the Spirit of God and the others didn't.

They were all spiritual, right? The thing is that they possessed and followed very different spirits. Those who would not enter the Promised Land, had said to one another, **"Let us select a leader and return to Egypt" (Numbers 14:4).** That was an act of rebellion against God. Theirs was a "spirit" of disobedience. Only Caleb and Joshua urged the people to enter the Promised Land. They had the Spirit of God!

Now, the question today is whose spirit do the "spiritual, but not religious" folk follow? God's answer, through St. Paul, describes them this way: they **"follow... the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience" (Eph 2:2).**

Examine the lives and words of these "spiritual, but not religious" people. Most likely, you will discover that they fail to honor at least the first three commandments, so how can they be "spiritual"? Their "spirituality" is really following "the prince of the power of the air" (and you know who that is). Sadly their "spirituality" is an ungodly spirituality.

The book of Jude closes the door on these different-spirit people. By inspiration of the Holy Spirit he writes, **"In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions." It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit (of God).** (vv.18-19) God will not be mocked. In the end, those who refuse to listen to the Word of God and be led by the Holy Spirit, will be barred from entering the greater Promised Land.

The truly spiritual listen to God's Word – they seek to order their lives, according to His Word, not by their own rules. Rather, the spiritual and religious, hold each of the 10 commandments as sacred. They hold them to be important to them, especially the 3rd commandment which leads them to hear God speak to them in worship along with the other parts of the Body of Christ (the church).

Do not be deceived by the foolish nonsense that is being spewed out! God makes no distinction between being spiritual and being religious. The one who is truly spiritual is religious. And the one who is truly religious is spiritual. The spiritual-religious person is guided by the Spirit of God, not the spirit of this world, the spirit of their inner being or the spirit of the prince of the power of the air. So listen to the warning of 1 John 4:1, **"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God."**

Forgiven in Christ and sanctified by the work of the one true Spirit of God, prove yourselves to be both spiritual and religious.

In Christ's service,

Pastor Umbarger



Vicar's View

I don't think it is any secret that the world changes fast. Especially living in the time of the Virus-That-Shall-Not-Be-Named, sometimes it feels like waking up every morning brings an updated set of closings, regulations, and fears. A lot of these fears might prompt a lot of you to turn to God's word for comfort, at least, I hope it does. But what do you do for home devotion? If you have a Lutheran Service Book (LSB) at home, then good news, you have a lot of options!

A lot of people think you have to always have a pastor to lead a service from the LSB. This is true for some services, such as ones with confession and absolution, or services that have the Lord's supper in them. That still leaves a wide variety of services one can do at home, either by themselves, or with their family. A particular favorite of Molly and I is the service of Compline, which we do right before we get ready to go to bed. An important way to get yourself to actually do this is to just tie it to something else you regularly do. For us, that is Compline right before bed time. Do not just say that you will do devotion "in the morning" or "in the evening." That's too broad. To get a habit going, you should "bundle" it with something you already do. For example, pray while you are waiting for the coffee to finish brewing.

Some of the services are chanted or sung. If you are not gifted musically, that's ok! You can speak any of the services, and there are lots of services that are written to be spoken aloud, not chanted. Your devotions don't have to be long, either. Sometimes, I just like praying a psalm. And of course, home devotion doesn't take the place of corporate worship on Sundays. It supplements it. It lets you chew on God's word and his promises throughout the week. I'll leave you with a prayer of St. John Chrysostom, used at the end of the Great Litany of the Church of England, for you to use in your devotions:

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests; Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen.

Vicar Lackey

Serving the Lord This Month:

Ushers

September, 8am Service:

Adam Homann, Aaron Homann, Donna Greene, Larry Dodge, and Collin Antolik

September, 10:30am Service:

Dennis Boarts, Karen Schmidt, Lee Copeland, Rick Newlon, and Lorin Soyke

Greeters

Sept. 5:

Sept. 12:

Sept. 19:

Sept. 26:

Acolytes

Sept 5, 8am: Kinzlee Antolik

10:30am: Grace Schmidt

Sept 12, 8am: Payton Braddy

10:30am: Dawsyn McDonald

Sept 19:

Sept 26:

Communion Assignments

Sept 5, 8am: Jim Homann

10:30am: Brian Kern

Sept 19, 8am: Ralph Grotelueschen

10:30am: Ed Wachs



Altar Guild

Cori Rossmiller,
Wendy Rossmiller &
Brandi Erickson

Flowers

Sept. 5: In honor of Steve & Diana Lackey's Anniversary

Sept. 12: In memory of Judy Umbarger

Sept. 19: In celebration of Karen Schmidt's Birthday

Sept. 26: In memory of Pete & Doris Loete

Eternal Candle

Sept. 5: In honor of Steve and Diana Lackey's Anniversary

Sept. 12: In celebration of Parker Myers' 2nd Birthday

Sept. 19: In celebration of Karen Schmidt's Birthday

Sept. 26: Gail Massey



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Church News

Birthdays

1st: Jan Hanson, Nolan Johnson,
& Rhonda VanDamme

2nd: Deborah Weidenbach

5th: Larry Dodge

6th: Matthew Dosch

7th: Hillary Ekin

8th: Sheena Johnson, Kathy
Petosky, Troy & Trace
Shryack

9th: Brenda Hanerhoff

10th: Nancy Cartwright

11th: Chris Heller & Keith
Schnabel

12th: Marilyn Kupresin

13th: Jim Beswick & Kaitlyn
McMillin

14th: Annie Churchill, Ann
Engbrecht, Otto Hartweg,
Rick Newlon & Demetrius
Williams

15th: Alan Ahrens and Martha
Merritt

18th: Sharon Kirklin

21st: Karen Schmidt

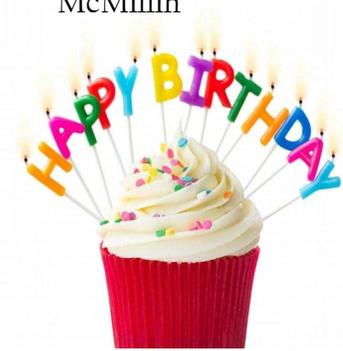
23rd: Parker Myers &
Addison Rowe

25th: Brian Hart, Thomas Hart &
Steve Lackey

26th: Noreen Hopkins

29th: Susan Busch & Carlie
Schofield

30th: Lori Hopkins & Glen
McMillin



Weekly Attendance & Offerings

<u>DATE</u>	<u>THIS YEAR</u>	<u>LAST YEAR</u>	<u>SUN. SCHOOL</u>	<u>RECEIVED</u>
7/25/21	145	117	NA	\$
8/01/21	160	115	NA	\$
8/08/21	129	108	NA	\$
8/15/21	155	117	3	\$
8/22/21	151	101	4	
<i>St. John's membership 23%</i>		<i>July simply giving \$</i>		

Membership Report

New Address:

Judy Knudsen
20450 Hubner Rd #12116
San Antonio, TX 78258

REMINDER

All Boards Meet Thursday, September 2nd at 6:30pm
Please plan to attend **IN PERSON**
There is a Voter's Meeting on
September 12th at 9:15am



Youth News

Sunday School

Rally Day will be on Sunday, September 12th between services. Please bring a plain white t-shirt to dye! We will also color the sidewalks with chalk.



Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Committee at St. John's needs your help!
We are in need of members who want to:

Promote attendance and involvement of the congregation's parents, children and youth in worship and in all activities and congregational functions.

Plan and carry out a year-round spiritual, social, and recreational program for the members of the congregation, i.e. children, youth, adults, families, etc...

Promote and provide opportunities for activities and events to build relationships among the members of the congregation, i.e. small or specialized groups, congregational dinners, supper clubs, etc.

If you would be interested in this super fun group, please let the Office or a member of the Board of Youth and Family know.



As **ARROWS**
in the hand of a
MIGHTY MAN
so are the **Children** OF **Youth**
HAPPY
is the man who has his
Quiver Full of **them**
PSALM 127:4-5



Church News

LWML

The September meeting will be held on Thursday, September 23rd at 6:30pm in the Janssen Rooms. The program will be making Lutheran Rosaries. Please join us.



Have you heard about LWML mites? Based on the widow's mite in *Luke 21:1-4*, St. John's LWML donates to the Central Illinois District mites grants and National mite grants. In the spring of 2021 the ladies of CID LWML voted for a 2021-2022 mission goal of \$105,000 with \$78,750 for district grants and the remaining funds to national mission grants. As funds become available throughout the year, the mission grants will be paid in the following order. Updates will be available at www.lwmlcid.org. Praise the Lord for His blessings!

1. Student aid for church workers- \$30,000
2. Food Banks at St. Louis and Ft. Wayne Seminaries- \$10,000 total
3. Expanding access at Camp CILCA- \$16,000
4. Filling Haitian Tummies-Trinity HOPE- \$5,000
5. Resourcing and Restructuring CID Prison Ministry- \$10,000
6. Our Savior Lutheran Church and school in Uganda– partial funding of \$7,750

Watch the October Informer to learn about the Mission Grants.

Join a Music Group!

Musical groups are starting back up!

Cherub Chimer's practice on Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm. Their first day was August 25th, but its not too late to join!

Choir will meet on Saturday mornings at 9:30am. First practice is September 11th.

Heavenly Ringers will meet on Monday evenings at 6:30pm. First practice is September 13th.



From the CID

Uplifted Hands

Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword. Exodus 17:12-13

Life can sometimes feel like a battle. This is true especially for Christians who are trying to honor the Lord by serving others and by proclaiming the Gospel. This is also true for pastors and other professional ministers in our Lutheran churches and schools. The world considers Christians to be intolerant, narrow minded, and out of touch with reality. We can become weary from always “swimming upstream” against the currents of popular opinion and world philosophies.

It is important to remember that Jesus already fought and won the battle against sin and the devil. All we must do is stand (Eph.6). The devil cannot harm us. Yet, still at times, we need people like Aaron and Hur to hold up our hands and the hands of God’s professional workers so they can continue to bless us with God’s Word.

In Exodus 17 we see the account of when Aaron and Hur stood with Moses while Moses blessed the people of Israel as they fought against the army of Amalek. As long as Moses held his hands up in blessing, the Israelites were winning. If he lowered his hands, they began to lose. So Aaron and Hur stood beside Moses and held up his hands.

Are there any “Aarons” and “Hurs” in your congregation? If so, praise God and thank them for their service. If you are an Aaron or a Hur, never forget how important you are! God may be using you to uplift your pastor and other workers so they can continue to bless your congregation and/or school with the powerful and life-giving Word of God.

Rev. Jeff Harter

Lutheran Laymen’s League Retreat

Saturday September 11th
Camp Cilca – 4124 Camp CILCA Road, Cantrall, IL.
9:00 am- 2:00 pm Doors Open at 8:00 am



Topic: *How Critical Race Theory and Wokism Are Their Own Religion*

Speaker: Dr. Russell Dawn – President Concordia University- Chicago

\$15.00 per person includes Lunch (children are free)

For Registration Information please reach out to Deloris Blessmann (deloriblessman@yahoo.com) or by phone 309.361.1461

The Camp CILCA Chicken Fry and Auction

will be held Sunday, Sept. 5. Dinner is served from 11:30-2:30. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children ages 4-12. The live auction begins at 1pm with a wide variety of items, including gift baskets, weeks of summer camp, a guided youth hunt, and more. Check out all the items at cilca.org/auction-items.

Notes from the Balcony

Dear Friends,

Last month I shared with you some Psalms/songs for morning meditations. This month I looked up some verses for evening or night devotions. If you can, try to sing them. I generally try to fit the words into a hymn tune, which can be a bit awkward at times, but I like it better than just saying them or using a Psalm tone.

Blessings to all.

His servant,

Christine Engebrecht

Psalm 141:2

Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, and the lifting up of my hands as the **evening** sacrifice!

Luke 24:29b

"Stay with us, for it is toward **evening** and the day is now far spent."

Psalm 74:16

Yours is the day, yours also the **night**; you have established the heavenly lights and the sun.

Psalm 42:8

By day the Lord commands his steadfast love, and at **night** his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life.

Psalm 92:2

to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by **night**

Psalm 63:6

when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the **night**;

Psalm 16:7

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the **night** also my heart instructs me.

Psalm 19:2

Day to day pours out speech, and **night to night** reveals knowledge.

Psalm 119:55

I remember your name in the **night**, O Lord, and keep your law.

Psalm 119:148

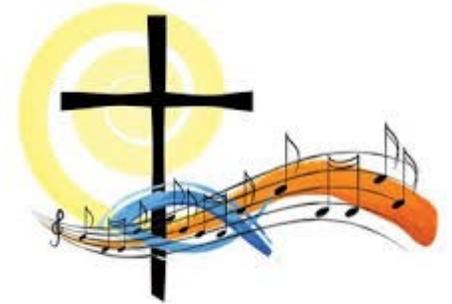
My eyes are awake before the watches of the **night**, that I may meditate on your promise.

Psalm 139:12

even the darkness is not dark to you; the **night** is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

Revelation 22:5

And **night** will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.



Church Calendar

September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:00a TOPS 10:00a Bible Study 6:30p Confirmation Class	2 6:00p Web & App Committee Mtg. 6:30p All Boards In Person Meeting	3	4
5 8:00a Worship w/ Communion 9:15a Bible Study / Sunday School 10:30a Worship w/Communion	6 9:00a Morning Prayer Staff Mtg. Men's Reunion-outdo ors/city room	7 10:00a Food Pantry 6:30p Guitar Jam	8 9:00a TOPS 10:00a Bible Study 6:00p Cherub Chimers Confirmation Class	9 6:30p Parish Planning Council	10	11 8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Choir Practice
12 8:00a Worship 9:15a Rally Day 10:30a Voters Meeting Worship	13 9:00a Morning Prayer Staff Mtg. Heavenly Ringers Men's Reunion-outdo ors/city room	14 10:00a Food Pantry 6:30p Guitar Jam	15 9:00a TOPS 10:00a Bible Study 6:00p Cherub Chimers Confirmation Class	16 11:30a Ladies Luncheon	17	18 8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Choir Practice
19 8:00a Worship w/ Communion 9:15a Bible Study / Sunday School 10:30a Worship/ Communion: Sanctuary	20 9:00a Informer Deadline Morning Prayer Staff Mtg. Heavenly Ringers Men's Reunion-outdo ors/city room	21 10:00a Food Pantry 6:30p Guitar Jam	22 9:00a TOPS 10:00a Bible Study 6:00p Cherub Chimers Confirmation Class	23 6:30p LWML	24	25 8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Choir Practice
26 8:00a Worship 9:15a Bible Study / Sunday School 10:30a Worship	27 9:00a Morning Prayer Staff Mtg. Heavenly Ringers Men's Reunion-outdo ors/city room	28 10:00a Food Pantry 6:30p Guitar Jam	29 9:00a TOPS 10:00a Bible Study 6:00p Cherub Chimers Confirmation Class	30		



St. John's Lutheran Church
of East Moline, IL

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

*Walking in the Light of
Christ!*



St. John's in the Summer Sun...

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday 8:30am-12noon

Worship Times

Sunday 8:00am & 10:30am
Sunday School and Bible Study: 9:15am