



# THE INFORMER



October 2021

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

Volume 64, Issue 2

## From Pastor's Pen:

*"Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits." (Matt. 21:43)*

To the present heirs of God's word and grace:

As we prepare to celebrate another anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, I have chosen to reference something that Luther wrote which is far from celebratory. In fact, it is a stern warning for all of us who have been blessed by the restoration of the Gospel which was made possible by the confession made and sacrifices offered by previous generations of the faithful. It is Luther's statement regarding the "passing rain."

For the past couple decades many of us have watched in horror as our society has grown to despise its Christian roots, along with biblical principles of morality. We have grown fearful as we witness our world sinking ever more quickly into forms of depravity such as we could not have imagined. We have wrung our hands in angst as fewer from each successive generation retain their faith and the size of our worshipping congregation shrivels. In a recent conference I attended, we were warned that following this nearly two-year reign of COVID terror, it is expected that twenty to thirty percent of those who came to worship prior to COVID will not return, and the remainder will come less frequently and be less active in congregational life! So who exactly is to blame for all of this?

It is us! For many years we have neglected good catechesis - dumbing things down and lowering the bar. We have failed to exercise discipline with our members, allowing them to believe that they can still be "Christians" while despising preaching, the sacrament and God's Word. We have taught our children that most other things in life are far more important than faith, church and God. According to Christ the kingdom of God was given to us but we refused to produce its fruits.

Before you put down this edition of "The Informer" in anger or despair, before you storm my office to throw me in a pit along-side Jeremiah for being such a doomsday prophet, I ask you to read the words of Luther, *"Let us remember our former misery, and the darkness in which we dwelt. Germany, I am sure, has never before heard so much of God's word as it is hearing today; certainly we read nothing of it in history. If we let it just slip by without thanks and honor, I fear we shall suffer a still more dreadful darkness and plague. O my beloved Germans, buy while the market is at your door; gather in the harvest while there is sunshine and fair weather; make use of God's grace and word while it is there! For you should know that God's word and grace is like a passing shower of rain which does not return where it has once been. It has been with the Jews, but when it's gone it's gone, and now they have nothing. Paul brought it to the Greeks; but again when it's gone it's gone, and now they have the Turk. Rome and the Latins also had it; but when it's gone it's gone, and now they have the pope. And you*



### NEW WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Beginning October 1st, we will have a Saturday night service at 5pm, and one Sunday morning service at 9am. Bible study and Sunday school will follow around 10:15am.

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See The Informer  
IN COLOR  
On Our Website

[www.stjohnsem.org](http://www.stjohnsem.org)

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*Germans need not think that you will have it forever, for ingratitude and contempt will not make it stay. Therefore, seize it and hold it fast, whoever can; for lazy hands are bound to have a lean year.” LW 45:352.*

While these are, indeed, words of stern warning, we do not need to take them as a certain prophecy for our churches and nation. It is not too late! We can, by God’s grace and power, return to the LORD. With Luther, we can take our stand upon God’s Word and boldly confess Him before the evil forces of our day. We can regain the courage and commitment of that small band of Lutheran’s who escaped religious persecution to establish what has now come to be known as the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. We can put God in His rightful place upon the throne of our hearts. We can use His name regularly to offer prayer, praise and thanksgiving. We can honor preaching and His Word through regular worship and Bible Study. We can live holy lives and share the Gospel of Christ and Him crucified for the forgiveness of sins with others to bear fruits for His kingdom. You American Lutherans who have been made heirs of God’s word and grace, make use of it! Seize it! Hold it fast and it will certainly not be taken away from you.

In Christ’s Service,

*Pastor Umbarger*

## Vicar’s View

### The Devil, Martin Luther, and Inkwell

What do the devil, an inkwell, and Martin Luther all have in common? Now I know this sounds like the setup to some kind of bad joke, but it’s not. For one, this year (2021) is the 500th anniversary of Luther being hidden away in the Wartburg Castle. This is where he translated the Bible from the original languages (Greek and Hebrew) into German. This was a first, because the translation was actually readable. Previous translations had been extremely wooden sounding and sometimes just illegible.

It was in this small room that one of the most interesting events of his time in the Wartburg took place. Legend has it that the devil himself appeared to Luther, trying to interrupt his translation work. Luther grew frustrated and hurled his inkwell at the devil’s head, and the devil left. Luther here shows us something that we should know about the devil. It’s a lesson I taught to my pre-confirmation students recently. The devil might be a formidable adversary, and he is scary. He can quote scripture and twist it for his own purposes. But all of that is not the defining characteristic of the devil.

The truth is, the devil is a loser. He lost the war. Jesus defeated him, and he is now mortally wounded, lying bleeding and confounded under the nail pierced feet of our risen Lord Jesus Christ. He has no power over your soul. Jesus won that battle in his crucifixion and resurrection. In your baptism, you were included in that victory. Always remember that, especially around the time of Halloween, the time of scary costumes and scary movies. He can try his tricks all he likes, but you belong to Christ.



Quelle: Deutsche Fotothek

In the Trinity,

## Serving the Lord This Month:

### Ushers

**Sat, Oct 2:**

**Sun, Oct 3:** Dave & Esther Cashion,  
Kevin Verschoore, Sue Bowman, &  
David Sountris

**Sat, Oct 9:**

**Sun, Oct 10:** Esther Cashion, Kevin  
Verschoore, and LWML

**Sat, Oct 16:**

**Sun, Oct 17:** Dave & Esther Cashion,  
Kevin Verschoore, Sue Bowman, &  
David Sountris

**Sat, Oct 23:**

**Sun, Oct 24:** Esther Cashion & Kevin  
Verschoore

**Sat, Oct 30:**

**Sun, Oct 31:** Dave & Esther Cashion,  
Kevin Verschoore, Sue Bowman, &  
David Sountris

### Greeters

**Sat, Oct 2:** Ruby Pancrazio &

LouAnn DeRammelaere

**Sun, Oct 3:** Barbara Honert & Karen  
Schmidt

**Sat, Oct 9:** Norm & Orene Antolik

**Sun, Oct 10:** Holly Belan & Nancy  
Cartwright

**Sat, Oct 16:** Norm & Orene Antolik

**Sun, Oct 17:** Donald & Wanda Cass

**Sat, Oct 23:** Theresa Roberson &  
Kathy Ahrens

**Sun, Oct 24:** Jeff & Holly Belan

**Sat, Oct 30:** Norm & Orene Antolik

**Sun, Oct 31:** Marsha Boarts &  
Carole Vrbn

### Acolytes

**Sun, Oct 3:** Lydia Merritt

**Sun, Oct 10:** Alice Schmidt

**Sun, Oct 17:** Bennett Johnson

**Sun, Oct 24:** Easton Antolik

**Sun, Oct 31:** Grace Schmidt

### Communion Assistants

**Sun, Oct 3:** Dennis Boarts

**Sun, Oct 17:** Brian Kern

**Sun, Oct 31:** Ed Wachs

### Altar Guild

Marsha Boarts



### Altar Flowers

**Oct. 3:** Flo Moore– in thanks for God's Blessings

**Oct. 10:** Flo Moore– in honor of Evan & Dawn  
Antolik's anniversary

**Oct. 17:** Karen Schmidt– in memory of Marlin

**Oct. 24:** Dennis & Marsha Boarts– in memory of l  
oved ones

**Oct 31:** Karen Schmidt



### Eternal Candle

**Oct. 3:** Gail Massey

**Oct. 10:** Evan & Dawn Antolik– in honor of their  
wedding anniversary

**Oct. 17:** Karen Schmidt

**Oct. 24:** Barbara Honert– in thanks for  
many blessings

**Oct 31:** Karen Schmidt



## Church News

### Birthdays

**October 1** - Ron Rogers

**October 4** - Tom Nielsen & Joyce  
VanSeveren

**October 6** - Mary Heino & Wanda Resch

**October 7** - Flo Moore & David  
Sountris

**October 9** - Peyton Mattly

**October 10** - Cristina Braddy & Trevor  
Keogh

**October 12** - Diana Lackey & Ron Wilson

**October 13** - Esther Cashion, Rick Fauser  
& Jill Johanson

**October 14** - Mary Wulf

**October 15** - Gloria Burke &  
Frank Hodshire

**October 17** - Barbara Buck

**October 19** - Amber Medinger

**October 20** - Merle Loete & Kaylie  
Pena

**October 24** - Dawsyn McDonald

**October 25** - Gracie Erickson &  
Margery Park

**October 26** - Jean Morrical &  
Diane Peck

**October 27** - Payton Braddy

**October 31** - Jonah Wilson

Happy Birthday to all of  
our members celebrating  
in October!



The grass withers, the  
flowers fade, but the word of our  
God will stand forever.

*Isaiah 40:8*

## Church News

### LWML

We would like to offer luncheons for families after funerals, but we need lots of help! We need helpers to set tables with dinnerware, make sandwiches, serve food, and clean up. We also need volunteers to make salads or desserts. There will be sign-up sheets on the library counter if you are able to help us. Please prayerfully consider offering your assistance.

Thank you,  
LWML



### Altar Guild

There will be an Altar Guild meeting on Tuesday, October 12th, at 6:30pm. We will meet in the Keyl room. Please plan to attend!

## Golf Outing!

Join us on October 17th at the  
Country View Golf Course in Geneseo.

Tee offs will begin at 2pm.  
You can sign up as a group of 4, or individually  
and you will be placed on a team.  
This will be a Best Ball game.

Cost is \$20 with cart rental or \$12.50 for walkers.

There will be a brat dinner to follow.  
\$5.00 for those aged 13 and older.  
12 and under eat free.

Call or Email the St. John's office to sign up.



## Membership Report

### Weekly Attendance & Offerings

<u>DATE</u>	<u>THIS YEAR</u>	<u>LAST YEAR</u>
8/29/21	156	121
9/05/21	149	65
9/12/21	140	105
9/26/21	125	108

Average monthly attendance of St. John's membership: 22%

August Simply Giving Totals: \$4,645

### Address Updates

Ingrid Hodshire– new room # 4102

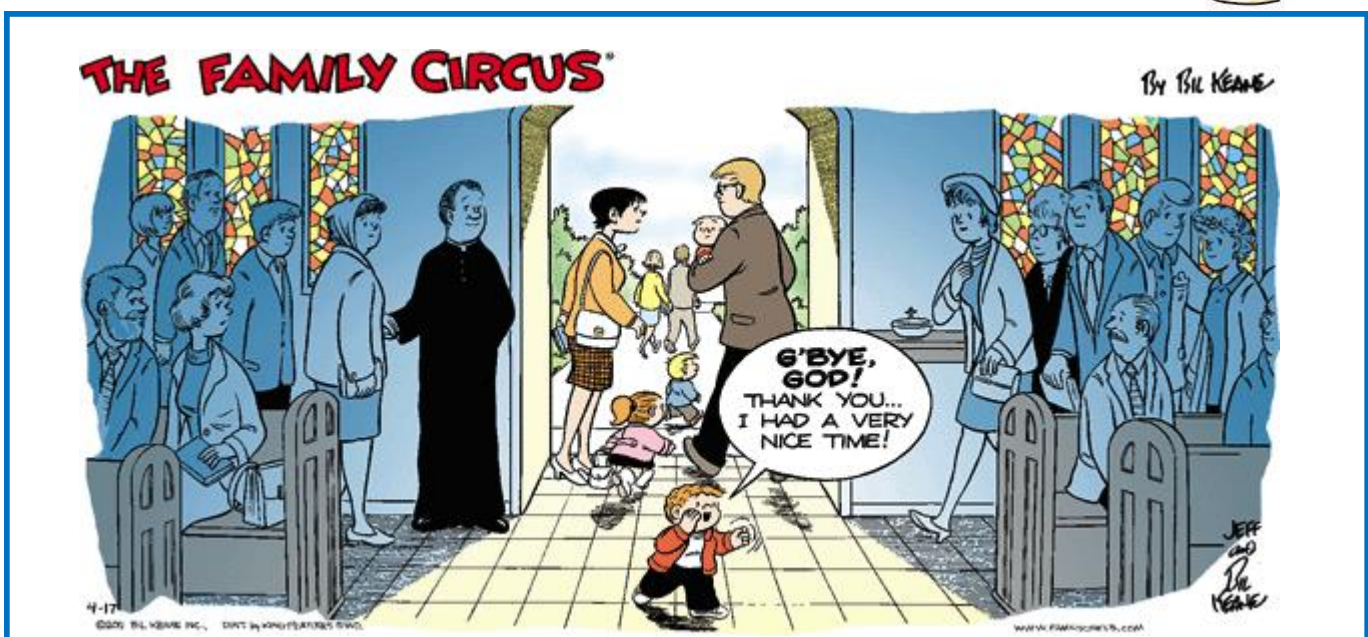
Bill Park  
1900 10th St Apt #193  
Silvis, IL 61282

Ann Engebrecht  
1900 10th St. # 358  
Silvis, IL 61282  
(309) 278-1481



### Baptism

Emme Palar, daughter of Bryce and Jennifer Palar ,  
was baptized in a private ceremony on Sunday, September 19th, 2021.



## From the CID

### “Men, Women, and Marriage”

A seminar led by

Dr. Joel Biermann

**Saturday, October 9, 2021**

**9 am - 3:15 pm**

**Christ Lutheran Church**

**311 Hershey Rd**

**Normal, IL 61761**



Dr. Biermann is the Waldemar A. and June Schuette Professor of Systematic Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. A faculty member since 2002, Biermann teaches doctrinal theology with a special interest and emphasis centered on ethics and the correct role of the Law in the life of the believer. He also is the faculty marshal.

#### Tentative Schedule

9:00-9:30 registration - (light breakfast snacks & drinks provided)

9:30-11:30 first session (with break at 10:30)

11:30-12:30 lunch (provided)

12:30-1:45 second session

1:45-2:00 break

2:00-3:15 third session, includes interactive Q&A

**\$10 Registration** fee includes light breakfast, lunch, and drinks.

**Register by Tuesday, October 5th, 2021 at this link:**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSerqnOJdUPTaZ-pKEy3ywYD3eU7Ka\\_JrwKSVv6RKLS5yDNW3w/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSerqnOJdUPTaZ-pKEy3ywYD3eU7Ka_JrwKSVv6RKLS5yDNW3w/viewform?usp=sf_link)

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### **"Do Not Be Deceived"**

"Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." (1 Cor. 6)

All of humanity shares in one common failing: we are thoroughly sinful from conception. This inherited sin expresses itself in a myriad of ways. If left in that sinfulness and sin, we are doomed—we will not inherit the kingdom of God.

But notice Paul's past-tense wording: "And such were some of you." In your Baptism, God called you out of the kingdom of darkness into His marvelous light. Your Sin is overpowered by the righteousness of Christ, now yours. The greatest sin, turned over to Christ in repentance and faith, is forgiven. The greatest sinner—washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of Jesus—inherits the kingdom of God.

The Rev. Michael Schuermann is pastor of University Lutheran Church, Champaign, IL.





## ***LERT Volunteer Basic Training Event***

To be held at: Redeemer Lutheran Church  
6801 N. Allen Rd.  
Peoria, IL 61614

Saturday, October 16, 2021  
9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
(Sign-in begins 8:30 a.m., sessions begin 9 a.m.)

The registration fee (\$35.00) will include light breakfast, lunch, manual, credential card, and t-shirt. Walk-ins are welcome. In the chaos of disaster, it is important to stay focused on the task at hand. At the center of our LERT Volunteer training is Christ's mercy, which is the basis for everything we say and do. This 6-hour training event will help equip you to be an effective volunteer should a disaster strike. You should be an LCMS Congregation member to attend.

**If you are already LERT certified, the event is considered continuing education (no charge for re-training, but \$15 if you want a manual and/or t-shirt). This helps to defray shipping costs.**

*To register, follow the registration link below. You will need to register for access to the LCMS LERT website first and then you can view training events, deployment needs, and other information from around the country. Note that we will use this same site for registering for deployments.*

**Basic Disaster Preparedness Training Registration**  
To Register click [here](#) or copy/paste the Online Link:  
[https://www.lcms-lert.org/need/detail/?need\\_id=590988](https://www.lcms-lert.org/need/detail/?need_id=590988)  
**Look in the Trainings & Deployments Section**

For further information, please contact Cynthia Steinwedel at 309-472-8877  
or email at [cmsteinwedel@gmail.com](mailto:cmsteinwedel@gmail.com)



## 12 September 2021- Voters Meeting

1. Devotion: Vicar Lackey
2. Acceptance of new voting members- Nancy Cartwright, JoAnn Sager, Steve Sullivan, Rose Sullivan. Motion to accept made by Dawn Antolik; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Flo Moore. Motion Passed.
3. Approval of last Voter's meeting minutes as printed in the informer – Motion made by Ralph Grotelueschen; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Margie Schaefer.
4. Old Business- No old business to report.
5. Board Reports

Executive- Kevin McNally

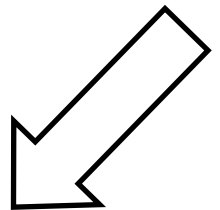
Treasurer's report- Norm Antolik. There has been excellent giving through the summer months.

Funds were allocated approximately 15 years ago for a van purchase by Frank Stegenga. A van is no longer needed. We would like a motion to 'Re-Allocate' said funds to the church Capitol Improvement Fund. Vote by Congregation.

Motion by: Glen McMillin; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ralph Grotelueschen. Motion Passed.

The board encourages all members to download and use the new Subsplash app which has church information, services, bible studies and other announcements. Encourage all members to use; you can also sign up for scheduled offering in any amounts.

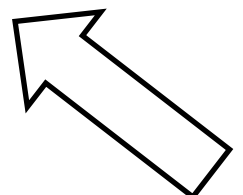
Board of Elders- Jim Homann – see attached scanned report. Main topic for discussion- Moving forward the Board of Elders recommends returning to one Sunday service at 9am and one Saturday service at 5pm instead of 6:30pm. This change will begin with the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday/Sunday in October, 02 October (Saturday) and 03 October (Sunday). A motion to change the Saturday service time from 6:30pm to 5pm was made by Ralph Grotelueschen; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave Sountris. Motion Passed.



### **CHANGE TO WORSHIP SCHEDULE!!!**

Beginning the *FIRST* weekend in October, the worship schedule will be:

- Saturday at 5pm
- Sunday at 9am
- Bible Study and Sunday School to follow at 10:15am



### Voter's Meeting Minutes Continued...

Board of Outreach Ministry- Cora Whipple.

There are phone #'s on the bulletin board in hall with a list of numbers for people to contact if you need something.

A board with people's names on it is in the office? For people who want to work with others, mentor.

The Board of Outreach is discussing the possibility of a lighted sign out front by street. Haven't really looked into finances or cost, just discussing.

Board of Human Care Ministry- Carrie Homann- see attached scanned report.

Board of Trustees- Evan Antolik- see attached scanned report. Discussion regarding a chair lift/elevator was introduced in the Voter's meeting, no vote or motion proposed. Just providing information to the members for discussion and the potential project.

6. Pastor's Report- Pastor Umbarger- No Report given.
7. New Business- No new business to report.
8. Move to Adjourn- Glen McMillin; 2<sup>nd</sup> Larry Hipple.
9. End with Lord's Prayer

Very much appreciation to all 42 members who attended the Voter's meeting!

Respectively submitted by Val McDonald 14 September 2021

#### **Members Present:**

Larry Hipple	Margie Schaefer	Brian Engebrecht
Jeff Belan	Dennis Schaefer	Caleb Engebrecht
Jim Homann	Kathleen Ahrens	Ann Engebrecht
Carrie Homann	Flo Moore	Jonathan Schmidt
Nancy Cartwright	Dawn Antolik	Ed Wachs
Joann Sager	Rod Hopkins	Janet Wachs
Candace Sountris	Norma Grotelueschen	Karen Schmidt
Orene Antolik	Ralph Grotelueschen	Barbara Honert
Esther Cashion	Christine Engebrecht	Glen McMillin
Dave Cashion	Judith Becker	Norm Antolik
Larry Dodge	Cora Whipple	Dave Sountris
Theresa Roberson	Jean Morrical	Kevin McAnally
Bali Guerrero	Judy Dugan	Val McDonald
	Rose Sullivan	
	Steve Sullivan	

## Calendar

## Church Calendar

October 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Choir Practice 5:00p Worship w/ Communion
3 9:00a Worship w/ Communion 10:15a Bible Study / Sunday School	4 9:00a Morning Prayer 1:00p Staff Mtg. 6:30p Heavenly Ringers Men's Reunion	5 10:00a Food Pantry 6:30p Guitar Jam	6 9:00a TOPS 10:00a Bible Study 6:00p Cherub Chimers	7 6:30p Elders Meeting Trustee Meeting	8	9 8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Choir Practice 5:00p Worship
10 9:00a Worship 10:15a Bible Study / Sunday School	11 9:00a Morning Prayer 1:00p Staff Mtg. 6:30p Heavenly Ringers Men's Reunion	12 10:00a Food Pantry 6:30p Guitar Jam	13 9:00a TOPS 10:00a Bible Study 6:00p Cherub Chimers Confirmation Class	14	15	16 8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Choir Practice 5:00p Worship/ Communion
17 9:00a Worship w/ Communion 10:15a Bible Study / Sunday School	18 9:00a Informer Deadline Morning Prayer 1:00p Staff Mtg. 6:30p Heavenly Ringers Men's Reunion	19 10:00a Food Pantry 6:30p Guitar Jam	20 9:00a TOPS 10:00a Bible Study 6:00p Cherub Chimers Confirmation Class	21 11:30a Ladies Luncheon	22	23 8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Choir Practice 1:00p Ekin Baby Shower 5:00p Worship
24 9:00a Worship 10:15a Bible Study / Sunday School	25 9:00a Morning Prayer 10:30a Funeral for Ted Knudsen 12:00p Luncheon 1:00p Staff Mtg. 6:30p Heavenly Ringers	26 10:00a Food Pantry 6:30p Guitar Jam	27 9:00a TOPS 10:00a Bible Study 6:00p Cherub Chimers Confirmation Class	28 6:30p LWML	29	30 8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Choir Practice 5:00p Worship with Communion
31 9:00a Worship w/ Communion 10:15a Bible Study / Sunday School	6:30p <del>Men's Reunion</del>					



St. John's  
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IL

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Fax: 309-792-0776

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*Walking in the Light of Christ!*



## Worship Times

Saturday at 5pm

Sunday at 9am

Bible Study and Sunday School at 9:15am

## Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 8:30am-12noon



*St. John's Sanctuary.*