



THE INFORMER



November 2021

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

Volume 64 Issue 3

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From Pastor's Pen:

"Do not be deceived my brothers. Every good and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." (James 1:16-17)

Dear Grateful Family in Christ,

This month we will be celebrating our nation's day of thanksgiving. I pray that your celebration will not only involve the careful preparation of the table and food, but also a careful preparation of the heart. As you sit down to partake of your feast I encourage you to remember from where it has all come. St. James reminds us that everything comes from above. Everything we have, all our blessings, come as a gift from our loving, heavenly Father.

Look at all you have! It is all from "God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth." Do you believe this? Do you believe it in such a way that it impacts your life? A number of years ago I offered a couple of suggestions for your Thanksgiving celebration. I wish to offer them again in hope that they will enrich your Thanksgiving Day.

First – Recite these words at your thanksgiving table: "I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still preserves them; also clothing and shoes, meat and drink, house and home, spouse and children, ...and all my goods; that He richly provides me with all that I need to support this body and life; that He defends me against all danger, and guards and protects me from all evil; and all this purely out of fatherly, divine, goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; for all which it is my duty to thank and praise, to serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true!" (Luther's Small Catechism – The Creed, Art. I)

Second – Sit down with two sheets of paper. On the first one list all the things you crave and are yearning to have. On the other enumerate all the things you do have. I think that you will be surprised how quickly the first list is exhausted, while the second appears endless. At this point tear up the first list, and pray: "Lord, you have given me so much, just one more thing I ask: Give me a grateful heart."

My prayer for you is that your Thanksgiving celebration will be blessed as it is devoted to expressions of gratitude for your Father of the heavenly lights.

Gratefully yours,

Pastor Unkerg



Vicar's View

I would like to share with you all a new hymn I have found. Here are the lyrics:

1 O God of earth and altar,
bow down and hear our cry,
our earthly rulers falter,
our people drift and die;
the walls of gold entomb us,
the swords of scorn divide,
take not thy thunder from us,
but take away our pride.

2 From all that terror teaches,
from lies of tongue and pen,
from all the easy speeches
that comfort cruel men,
from sale and profanation
of honour and the sword,
from sleep and from damnation,
deliver us, good Lord!

3 Tie in a living tether
the prince and priest and thrall,
bind all our lives together,
smite us and save us all;
in ire and exultation
afame with faith, and free,
lift up a living nation,
a single sword to thee.



Now, I'd like you to guess when this was written. Perhaps 2016? Or 2020? Right when the world started to fall apart? This hymn speaks to us today, and is so applicable to our situation, isn't it? Now, what if I told you this hymn was written in 1906, 115 years ago! The author is G.K. Chesterton, an English apologist who was known for his staunch defense of the Christian faith.

And here we see the value of good hymnody. This hymn written 115 years ago reads like it could have been written just yesterday. In addition to being timeless, good hymnody proclaims Christ. The last verse asks God to "bind in a living tether/ the prince and priest and thrall." This is what God has done in Christ. Jesus himself is royalty (speaking to *Christus Rex*, literally "*Christ the king.*") *Jesus himself is the high priest, the mediator between us and God the father. "Thrall" is a word we do not use much today, but one of its meanings can be a sacrifice. The death of Christ was the propitiation for our sins, the final sacrifice that, once and for all, crushed Satan and confounded him, and gave us a right standing before God the Father.*

I pray that this has been edifying to you. If you want to sing this hymn, it is best done to the tune of LSB 517, *By All Your Saints in Warfare*.

In the Trinity,
Vicar Lackey

Serving the Lord This Month:

Ushers

Sat Nov 6: Chuck Brokaw, Rick Newlon,
and Larry Ripka
Sun Nov 7: The Antolik family
Sat Nov 13: Chuck Brokaw, Rick
Newlon, and Larry Ripka
Sun Nov 14: The Antolik family
Sat Nov 20: Chuck Brokaw, Rick
Newlon, and Larry Ripka
Sun Nov 21: The Antolik family
Wed Nov 24- Thanksgiving Eve:
Sat Nov 27: Chuck Brokaw, Rick
Newlon, and Larry Ripka
Sun Nov 28: The Antolik family

Greeters

Sat Nov 6:
Sun Nov 7: Earl Schaefer & Hank
VanDamme
Sat Nov 13:
Sun Nov 14: Brian & Ann Engebrecht
Sat Nov 20:
Sun Nov 21: Judy Dugan & Margie Schaefer
Wed Nov 24- Thanksgiving Eve:
Sat Nov 27:
Sun Nov 28: Steve & Rose Sullivan

Acolytes

Sun Nov 7: Aubree Medinger
Sun Nov 14: Jackson Merritt
Sun Nov 21: Payton Braddy
Wed Nov 24-
Thanksgiving Eve:
Easton Antolik
Sun Nov 28:
Stratton Churchill



Communion Assistants

Nov 7: Jim Homann
Nov 21: Glen McMillin



Altar Guild

Flo Moore
Margie Schaefer

Eternal Candle

Nov 7: In honor of Terry & Gail
Massey's Anniversary
Nov 14: Gail Massey
Nov 21: Karen Schmidt
Nov 28: **In honor of Hannah Rossmiller's**
Birthday



Flowers

Nov 7: Susan Bowman in honor of
Nancy Davis' birthday
Nov 14: Karen Schmidt
Nov 21: **Kevin & Wendy Rossmiller's**
25th Anniversary
Nov 28: ADVENT



Church News

Birthdays

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 14 - Gibson Cockerill

Nov 15 – James Vrbn

Nov 16 – Elliot Nickens, Maxwell Park

Nov 18– Marsha Boats, Carole Hodshire, & Diane Ransom

Nov 20 – Ken Hill

Nov 21 – Pete Schaefer

Nov 22 – Lorin Soyke

Nov 25 – Dennis Boats, Charlie Britton, Harvey Lampe & JoAnn Sager

Nov 26- Veronica McKay

Nov 27– Ingrid Hodshire, Hannah Rossmiller & Shirley Schlotfeldt

Nov 28 – Bill Green



Weekly Attendance & Offerings

<u>DATE</u>	<u>THIS YEAR</u>	<u>LAST YEAR</u>
9/26/21	119	94
10/3/21	178	118
10/10/21	154	101
10/17/21	163	49

Average monthly attendance for St. John's membership: 24%

September Simply Giving \$4728.75

Membership Report

New Address:

Helen Carter
Illini Towers
940 Crosstown Ave #904
Silvis, IL 61282

Transferred Out:

Charles & Rosella Porter

New Members:

Penny Schreck
George Aukee
Susan Runyan,
Sue & Beth Burmahl



Notes from the Balcony

Ben, our oldest son, texted us a video this week that brought great joy and rejoicing to our house. In the video, entitled "Alive," Ben's hand turns a key behind the steering wheel of his green 1999 Ford F-250 we affectionately call the T-Wrecks. He bought this diesel, manual transmission, school bus-sounding truck of his dreams from a farmer for \$1600 about 4 years ago. After driving it for a year, he started working on improving its performance. This project ultimately led to him taking the entire engine out with a hoist he assembled himself purchased online. The engine was reinstalled in the fall of 2020 with the physical help of his dad and brother and the less visible help of his mother sitting off to the side in earnest, continuous prayer. The truck rebuild has been a process of one step forward and two (or more) steps back, many hours of work, a fair amount of YouTube tutorials, time spent shopping for parts and tools online, and not a few pennies from his paychecks. In Ben's video, the engine cranks a bit and then chugs to a full start and runs. The phone camera then pans the open engine where all the belts are moving. To see and hear the T-Wrecks' engine running is truly thrilling. It is alive!

Moving is an activity that can also take a person or object from one place to another. Hopefully, in the case of Ben's truck, this moving to another place will happen soon after the drive shafts get reinstalled and the front grill reattached. Moving from one place to another is an activity that occurred frequently in the Bible. Abraham moved from his homeland in Ur to the Promised Land. His descendants moved from Egypt to the Promised Land. Later on, they moved back to the Promised Land after captivity in Babylon. Jesus also moved for a time from His Heavenly home to earth in the area of the Promised Land for our redemption.

Moving from one home to another usually involves a great expenditure of time, effort, and cash. There are aspects of moving that are fun and exciting, but they are often overwhelmed by the troubles it causes. The trouble is enough for some, like me, to put off moving as long as possible. There is one move, however, that we all will experience sooner or later. That is our move to our home in the Promised Land of Heaven. Gratefully, the time, effort, and expense of this move has been taken care of by our Savior. We just have to be ready. The month of November, in the church year, is traditionally a time when we remember that the end of our pilgrimage from earth to Heaven is coming. The month kicks off with a celebration of All Saints Day remembering those who have already made the move to Heaven. Many hymns celebrate and remind us of our move to Heaven. We often sing hymns like *The Day is Surely Drawing Near* and *Lo! He Comes on Clouds Descending*. Some, like *Jerusalem, My Happy Home*, LSB 673, and *I'm But a Stranger Here, Heaven is My Home*, LSB 748, made it onto our favorite hymn list.

I'm But a Stranger Here was written by twenty-seven-year-old Thomas R. Taylor. He wrote it while ill from tuberculosis which took his life that same year. Stanza two speaks of our destination in God's Promised Land where earthly troubles will be over.

What though the tempest rage, Heaven is my home;

Short is my pilgrimage, Heaven is my home;

And time's wild wintry blast, Soon shall be overpast

I shall reach home at last, Heaven is my home.

Like Thomas Taylor, we can look forward to Christ's return and our move to Heaven. We can look forward to the reign of our King, Jesus. We can look forward to life in Heaven with even more joy and rejoicing than our family experienced when Ben's truck came back to life.

His servant,
Christine Engebrecht



Church News

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Join us for Thanksgiving Eve Service with communion on **Wednesday, November 24th at 6:30pm.**

Thanksgiving Potluck

The Thanksgiving potluck is scheduled for Sunday, November 14th at 11:30am. Turkey and table settings will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass. The sign-up sheet is on the Library counter. Any questions can be directed to Rebecca Hinman at rmhjk@yahoo.com or 309-558-7648.



THANKSGIVING FOOD PANTRY BOXES

Thanksgiving is right around the corner, so we will be taking a special offering for the next couple of weeks. Any offerings labeled "Thanksgiving" will go towards the purchase of all the items on the shopping list for the Thanksgiving boxes that the food pantry gives out that week. We will do the shopping for you. Any dollar amount up to \$60 will help to purchase individual items for the meal. A donation of \$60 will purchase all of the food for one box. Any dollar amount over what is needed for the Thanksgiving boxes will go towards the purchase of food for the Christmas boxes. Help us to help our neighbors in need. If using your offering envelopes, please write "Thanksgiving" and the dollar amount in the blank line. You may also use a blank envelope of your own, or you can find pre-marked envelopes near the offering box in the narthex.

Questions can be directed to Carrie Homann, 309-523-3330.

Food Pantry Thanksgiving Baskets

Thursday, November 18th 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 to the church office.

Name of member: _____

Name of nominated family: _____

Size of household: _____

Will the family be picking up the basket or will you deliver it?

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 12:00PM NOVEMBER 18th

Church News

Church Decorating

Please join us as we prepare the church to celebrate the birth of our Lord. We will meet on **Sunday, November 28th** after Bible study. There will be a light lunch provided after we finish. All are welcome to join us!



Advent Dinners

We WILL be having Advent dinners this year! If your family or group of friends would like to host one, there is a sign-up sheet on the Library counter. Meals are served at 5:30pm, with Advent services following.

Dates are:

Dec. 1– The Antolik Family

Dec. 8

Dec. 15

Dec. 22



Poinsettias

YOU MAY NOW ORDER POINSETTIAS for the Poinsettia Tree that beautifies our Sanctuary during the Christmas season. Simply fill out the Poinsettia order envelope, enclose your payment, and place it in the order box on the hallway table.

Poinsettia plants are \$9.00 each. Please make your checks out to St. John's Altar Guild.



Church News

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Sometimes people don't like it when pastors talk about stewardship. For some, it hits too close to home. It is easier to talk about bad people in Washington, in history, or wherever than it is to think about what our daily life in Christ is supposed to look like and how we are supposed to love our neighbor.

The fact that we don't like it certainly means we ought to face it. So, here are a few simple and practical realities.

God calls us to first-fruits, sacrificial giving. That means that we should give off the top. We should set a percentage of our income as a deliberate gift for the work of the Church and then give that first. We write the check to the Lord's work in the Church before we pay the mortgage or pay for our medicine or pay for anything else. We don't pay for all the stuff we need – and stuff we think we need – and then give from what is left over. That is the first-fruits idea. It is hard because we think we need all sorts of other things first. But that is the point of “sacrificial.”

Next, how could the starting point for Christian generosity and sacrifice really be anything less than a tithe – 10%? The ceremonial law of the Old Testament was never arbitrary. In the Old Testament, the Levites received this tithe so that they could be full-time ministers.

Does the New Testament have a ministry that is larger or smaller? It is far larger: “Make disciples of all nations” (Matt. 28:19). And we are still to have a full-time ministry: “The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel” (1 Cor 9:14). So if 10% is what it took in the Old Testament, and we have a bigger mission need in the New Testament, how can we expect the Lord's work to be done on less than a tithe?

By first-fruits, sacrificial, and generous giving – that's how. We shouldn't fool ourselves into thinking that we've outgiven God's goodness or that we've given plenty. We might be tempted to think that way, but consider that no one in the Church has given plenty because no one has given all. No one has died for his sins. Only the sinless Son of God did that.

St. Paul brought the Good News of Jesus into the discussion of our giving to support the Lord's work in the Church when he wrote: “I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich” (2 Cor. 8:8-9).

As you can see, what the Bible commands about our stewardship can sting. It's Law, and the Law shows our sins. It calls us to repentance. The Law is meant to expose and accuse for the sake of showing us Christ and His fulfillment of the Law. So if first-fruits, sacrificial giving has you squirming, that's the point.

In Mark's account of the feeding of the 4,000, Jesus took the disciples' seven loaves and blessed them. It was nothing among so many, but, of course, it was plenty. Jesus makes something from nothing. Mark doesn't say that all the disciples gave Jesus all the bread they had. It is quite possible that some of them held something back. But even if they did, that didn't stop Jesus from blessing them. Jesus makes something out of nothing. He, who fed His people in the desert with Manna every morning, doesn't need their bread.

But they need to give it. And what they give – however little it might be and however grudgingly they do so – He blesses. He not only blesses those whom He feeds with it, but He blesses them – the givers. He blesses the givers not just in that they wind up with a basketful for each loaf, but they are blessed by learning to trust and rejoice in Him.

The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. The Lord gives abundantly, or He asks us to fast. We do not know what will happen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord. He does all things well, and He works all things together for good. The disciples don't give their bread to Jesus because it is a good investment. They give it because He is good, because they love Him, and because they trust Him. Let us go and do likewise.

Church Calendar

November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9:00a Morning Prayer 1:00p Staff Mtg. 6:30p Heavenly Ringers 6:30p Men's Reunion	2 10:00a Food Pantry 6:30p Guitar Jam	3 9:00a TOPS 10:00a Bible Study 6:00p Cherub Chimers 6:30p Confirmation Class	4 6:30p Elders Meeting 6:30p Trustee Meeting	5	6 8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Choir Practice 5:00p Worship w/ Communion
7 9:00a Worship w/ Communion 10:15a Bible Study / Sunday School	8 9:00a Morning Prayer 1:00p Staff Mtg. 6:30p Heavenly Ringers 6:30p Men's Reunion	9 10:00a Food Pantry 6:30p Guitar Jam	10 9:00a TOPS 10:00a Bible Study 6:00p Cherub Chimers 6:30p Confirmation Class	11	12	13 8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Choir Practice 5:00p Worship
14 9:00a Worship 10:15a Bible Study / Sunday School 11:30a Thanksgiving Potluck	15 9:00a Morning Prayer 1:00p Staff Mtg. 6:30p Heavenly Ringers 6:30p Men's Reunion	16 10:00a Food Pantry 6:30p Guitar Jam	17 9:00a TOPS 10:00a Bible Study 6:00p Cherub Chimers 6:30p Confirmation Class	18 11:30a Ladies Luncheon	19	20 8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Choir Practice 9:30a Usher Meeting 1:00p Human Body Shower 5:00p Worship/ Communion
21 9:00a Worship w/ Communion 10:15a Bible Study / Sunday School	22 9:00a Morning Prayer 1:00p Staff Mtg. 6:30p Heavenly Ringers 6:30p Men's Reunion	23 10:00a Food Pantry 6:30p Guitar Jam	24 9:00a TOPS 10:00a Bible Study 6:30p Thanksgiving Eve Service w/Communion	25 Thanksgiving	26	27 8:00a Men's Bible Study 9:30a Choir Practice 5:00p Worship
28 9:00a Worship 10:15a Bible Study / Sunday School 11:15a Church Decorating	29 9:00a Morning Prayer 1:00p Staff Mtg. 6:30p Heavenly Ringers 6:30p Men's Reunion	30 10:00a Food Pantry 6:30p Guitar Jam				



St. John's
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See The Informer
IN COLOR
On Our Website

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



Worship Times

Saturday Service at 5pm
Sunday Service at 9:00am
Sunday School/ Bible Study at 10:15

*Please note, there will be a Thanksgiving Eve service
with Holy Communion on Wednesday, November
24th at 6:30pm*

Office Hours

Mon-Thurs, 8:30am-12:00pm



Walking in the Light of Christ!