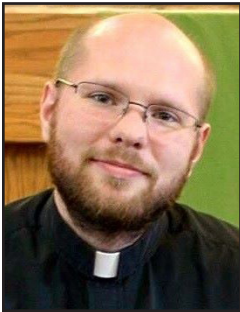


THE MESSENGER

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, STERLING, IL
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PASTOR'S POINTS

Having perspective



I've been thinking a lot about perspective lately. It's amazing how so many things in life are influenced by

a person's point of view. Is a glass half empty or half full? Is a person living in scarcity or do they have what is needed?

Martin Luther often wrote and spoke about all of the "both/and" moments of life. How one's perspective can see some points while missing other's all together. Luther recognized that people are "simul iustus et peccator," that is we are simultaneously justified and sinners. Luther's revelation of this paradox gave a glimpse into how God views creation.

The divine view is all-encompassing. It sees all sides and aspects of every moment—even

those we ourselves are unable or unwilling to. Perhaps this is why God acts with such grace toward humanity. Even though time and again folks fall back into the pains and sufferings of life that pull apart relationships with God and neighbor, the Lord sees what could be and what is yet to be.

Now that July has arrived are we viewing the year as half over or half begun? Are we eager to see what will happen next or are we fixated on what has already been?

I think deep down we all want to have some sense of control over what may come next, including all of the various possible perspectives on what that may end up being. I wonder if perhaps turning to Luther's words in his explanation of the eighth commandment might be helpful. Luther wrights:

"We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations.

Instead we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light."

As we enter into the second half of this year, how will we allow our own perspectives to interpret everything in the best possible light? Will we be willing to refrain from judgments, hearsay, and rumors? Will we be willing to come to the aid of all our neighbors, including and especially those who have perspectives different than our own?

I do believe that God is at work in this time in ways both known and unknown. That each and every day allows for opportunities to glimpse, as Luther did, the view of the Holy Spirit at work.

May God's grace abound and may your own perspective be blessed by Christ's presence. Amen.

Rev. Jacob M. Gaudin

JULY 2022

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Youth & Family Ministries news

SUMMER VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

It is time to register for VBS - Under the Big Top: A Circus of God's Wonders! This year, VBS will be a one day outside event at Bethel Reformed Church on Sunday, July 10th. Check-In/Registration will begin at 1:30 with the VBS program from 2-4. We invite all parents to come at 4:00 to see the closing program and then stay and eat dinner with us outside. The menu will be: hotdogs, chips, fruit, cookies, lemonade/water. VBS is for children ages 4 yrs. - 5th grade. When registering, please put down the grade you just finished. We also need volunteers to help be crew leaders, help at a main station, water station, bathroom host, dinner host, traffic director, set-up, tear-down, etc. There are



many opportunities to serve. Please scan the QR code with your phone or visit our Facebook page to register a child or as an adult volunteer. If there is inclement weather, VBS will be cancelled and not rescheduled. There is also a VBS Worship Service on July 17, at 9:00 @

Grandon Civic Center. Please join the fun! Follow our CommUNITY VBS Facebook page for updates and the latest news: facebook.com/SterlingRFCCommunityVBS.

TRI-CHURCH HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER TRIP CANCELLED!!

Our COURAGEOUS Tri Church Trip for 7th-12th Graders has been cancelled due to schedule conflicts for many prospective participants. Please check with

Pastor Jacob about a possible plan B event that may happen this summer. Thank you for supporting our young people!

CHILDREN/YOUTH MINISTRY PICNIC TABLE

The St John's Sunday school table has been built and is in the process of being painted white. Students will have an opportunity to paint their name and add painted artwork to the table early this summer. If you would like to stop by to paint in the middle of the week, contact the church office.

THANKS BE TO GOD FOR UNITE PARTICIPANTS

Thank you to all the 2022 UNITE participants. Last month 40 teenagers and many adult leaders came together to worship, play together and serve in our communities by painting 5 homes in Sterling and Rock Falls. Thank you to those who participated and supported Sauk Valley Unite! Please check out the UNITE Facebook page for highlights from this year's camp: <https://www.facebook.com/saukvalleyUNITE>.



reNEW – “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” (2 Cor 5:17, NIV)

HOSTING STUDENT MUSICIANS

This summer, some of the UNITE churches (including St. John's!) are hosting student musicians from the Sterling/Rock Falls area. This includes any student completing 8th grade through a just graduated college student. Students are asked to share a piece with their home congregation and then arrange to play that piece at other UNITE congregations where they will be paid \$25/service as a guest musician. This is a chance to keep music skills tip-top over the summer, share an IMEA or audition piece they may be working on, or another special piece. Please contact Dawn Zeigler @ 815.275.3775 or dawn@stjohnsonthird.org for all of the details! We can't wait to hear the music!

2022 Synod Assembly highlights

The 2022 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly was held via Zoom on two Sunday evenings, June 5 and 12, and then in person at Augustana College, Friday, June 17, and Saturday, June 18 under the theme, “For the Sake of the World” from our synod’s mission statement, Walking Together, loving Christ, loving all, for the sake of the world.

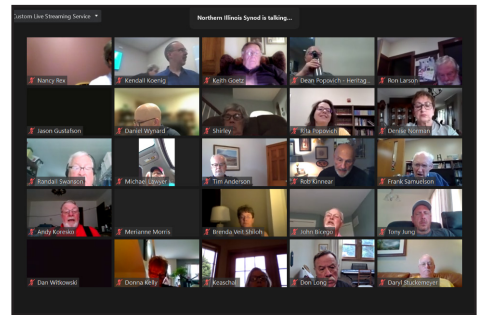
The election of a new bishop was a high point of this year’s assembly. The Rev. Stacie Fidlar was elected on the 5th ballot and will begin her 6-year term on September 1, 2022.



The Rev. Stacie Fidlar of Rock Island, IL, was elected as bishop of the Northern Illinois Synod of the ELCA.

Three-hundred-thirty-eight voting members participated in the assembly through the Zoom platform, 359 voting members attended the in-person portion of the assembly, and countless visitors watched the live stream on the synod website.

We centered our assembly in worship together. We heard reports from our officers, and learned about our synod committees, agencies, and institutions as well as our role in churchwide ministries. We engaged in elections, and adopted the FY 2023 budget and salary guidelines. We considered four resolutions. We celebrated retirements and special anniversaries of rostered ministers and congregations. We remembered those rostered ministers who have died since our last assembly in prayers of remembrance.



NURSE NOTES

Subtle signs of stroke

You may know the classic signs and symptoms of a stroke: face drooping, arm or leg weakness, speech difficulties, impaired vision and dizziness, and loss of coordination. But there are other early warning signs that you probably don’t associate with stroke.

What early symptoms have in common is that they occur suddenly and often can’t be explained by other possible causes. They include:

- Headaches, especially if they’re unusually severe
- Difficulty walking
- Exhaustion or generalized weakness

- Fuzzy thinking or confusion
- Nausea, vomiting or trouble swallowing, especially without an accompanying illness

If you experience a sudden occurrence of these symptoms without any other explanation, seek immediate medical care—especially if you fall into a high-risk category for stroke. This includes people with high blood pressure, the heart rhythm disorder atrial fibrillation, diabetes or heart disease, or a personal or family history of stroke. Additional high-risk groups include adults 55 or older, African Americans, and women taking

estrogen-containing birth control pills or hormone therapy.

Overall, men are more likely than women to have a stroke, but women are more likely to show more subtle signs and symptoms. Of course, it’s possible that you’re not having a stroke and it’s a false alarm. But it’s best to play it safe and get an immediate evaluation. If it is a stroke, the longer it takes to receive care and treatment, the higher the risk of disability or death.

From the Mayo Clinic Health Letter. Submitted by Nancy Rasmussen, Parish Nurse.

JULY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1

- Ann Baither*
- Johnathon Imel

2

- Rick & Geni Clark

4

- Nicole Dettman
- Cole Heald
- Lois LeFevre*
- Teresa & Randy Stewart

6

- Mark Sciacero
- Carman Thorp*
- Sophia Torres
- Clarence & Marilyn Wolf*

7

- Teri Holldorf

8

- Adan Ramirez

9

- Kandra Cook

10

- Elsie Iben*
- Shauna Kramer

11

- Rob & Pat Henson*
- Brian & Jill Lehman
- Devin O'Connell
- Douglas Schmitt

14

- Kay Iben

15

- Kaylen Blumhoff
- Michael Clark
- Eric Douglas
- Jerry McCormick
- Brittany Schmitt
- Hunter Wolfe

16

- Brandon Johnson

18

- Marcie Davis
- Randy & Julie Johnson
- Charles Lehman
- Nathan Stahr

19

- Sarah LeFevre

20

- Brad Barron

21

- Lori & David Gonzales
- Debbie Kibodeaux
- Dina Razo

22

- Gary Cassens

23

- Molly Benson
- Kayla Schmitt

24

- Kevin Amesquita
- Wayne Schmitt*
- Mark Sisson
- Tim Smith

25

- Kerensa & Chad Pink
- Erika Smith

27

- Anna Breneman
- Bradley Lauts
- Mark Oelrichs
- Parker Rogers
- Christine Rucker

28

- Tom & Sharon Leesman
- Matt Murphy

29

- Madeline LeFevre
- Sandra Westbo

31

- Teresa Stewart

**Indicates 80-plus-year birthdays and 50-plus-year anniversaries.*

I will be collecting items for Another Child Foundation during the months of June and July. The items are tennis shoes for children, socks and blankets. There will be a container next to the stairs leading up to the East Room for the donations. Thank you for your support of this ministry. - Denise Carl



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

PASTOR'S REPORT

- Pastor reported that UNITE had meetings and plans have been finalized. 42 youth have signed up to paint 5 houses this year. There have been great donations and volunteers. Kick off for UNITE is 6/22 and will run through 6/25.
- Denise Norman updated the congregation on Sunday on the Synod Assembly.
- There have been more than usual hospital visits. The congregation is asked to keep all in their prayers.
- There has been a meeting of the Sunday School teachers. There are great plans in place for the upcoming Sunday School year. Christine Murphy thanked Michelle Gawlik for all her planning and input on the curriculum.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TREASURER: Motion was made by Denise Norman to accept the Treasurer's report as written. Second made by Kandra Cook. Motion approved.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE: Dave Geil reported that the windows needing repaired in the educational building are repaired. The large crack in the sidewalk

on 2nd Street has been repaired. The parking lot is planned to be sealed in the month of July.

OLD BUSINESS

- Website is continuing to be updated. Council pictures for the website will be taken at next months council meeting.
- Committee descriptions (pages 23-25) have been reviewed by the council members. Decisions on any changes will be gone over to any updates needed.

NEW BUSINESS

- Updated Constitution will be in each Council members mailbox.
- UNITE has purchased a tent to be used at their events and will be shared by the congregations of UNITE. A St. John's congregation member has donated the funds needed for the share of St. Johns.
- Special Offerings:
 1. July- Trinity United Methodist Church/ Back to School packs
 2. August- Lutheran Campus Ministry/ Grace Place
 3. September- Wesley United Church/ Buddy Bags



UNDER THE BIG TOP
A Circus of God's Wonders!

July 10th from 2-4 PM at Bethel Reformed Church
Registration begins at 1:30 PM;
Dinner to follow at 4:15 PM

scan to register!

COMMUNITY
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is to continue discovering God's will for us in His kingdom through prayer, Bible study and building relationships.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Jesus is our Lord and Savior.
2. We make prayer, Bible study and dialog the center of our decision making.
3. We are willing to change as we discover God's mission for us.
4. We invite everyone. Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations." ~ Matthew 28: 19a
5. We recognize and give thanks for our blessings.
6. We act for the discovery and fulfillment of God's mission.

COUNCIL AFFIRMATION STATEMENT

The Council affirms that ministry is a core tenant of our Mission and that established ministries will continue and the opportunity for expanding into additional ministries will be evaluated when presented. The Council fully understands the complex nature of ministry, but as long as God's people are willing to engage in good works, we will do everything in our power to support those ministries.

PARISH REGISTER

DEATHS

- Ada Plummer, 6/4

WEDDINGS

- None

BAPTISMS

- None

MEMBERS RECEIVED

- None

MEMBERS REMOVED/TRANSFERRED

- None

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- None

STAFF BIRTHDAYS

- None

WHO'S WHO AT ST. JOHN'S

PERSONNEL

Rev. Jacob Gawlik, Senior Pastor
Rev. Leo Patterson, On Call/Visitation Pastor
Gerad Von Holten, Director of Youth & Family Ministries
Daudi & Kellen Msseemmaa, Missionaries to East Africa
Dawn Zeigler, Minister of Music & Bell Choir Director
Julie McCord, Praise Sunday Director
Nina Peters, Office Manager
Andrew Stutzke, Systems Administrator
Kyle Morgan, Technical Director
Mont Cessna, Facility Maintenance
Stahr Media, Newsletter & Website
Nancy Rasmussen, Parish Nurse
Jan Klocke, council rep to Tri-Church

CONG. COUNCIL

- Dave Geil, president*
- Denise Norman, vice president*
- Kandra Cook, secretary*
- Teri Holldorf, treasurer*
- Jan Klocke
- John Lichner
- Chrissy Murphy
- Lois Anderson-Rowzee
- Shawn Wolfe

**Exec Committee member*

CHRISTIAN ED

- Brian Luebke
- Chrissy Murphy

CONG. LIFE

- Denise Norman, chair
- Lois Anderson-Rowzee
- Michelle Gawlik
- Nancy Rasmussen
- Pat Redfield

ENDOWMENT

- Mike Doughty, chair
- Art Frey
- John Lichner
- Rhonda Stutzke
- Shawn Wolfe

FINANCE

- Teri Holldorf, chair
- Nancy Breed
- Druann Bushman
- Mike Doughty
- John Lichner

FUNERAL

- Dave Geil, chair
- Linda Geil, chair
- Druann Bushman, chair

MEMORIAL

- Dave Geil, chair
- Rev. Jacob Gawlik
- Brian Luebke
- Nancy Rasmussen
- Jannet Taylor

PERSONNEL

- Denise Norman, chair
- Lois Anderson-Rowzee
- Rev. Jacob Gawlik
- Dave Geil

PROPERTY

- Dave Geil, chair
- Art Frey
- Tom Leesman
- Ken Smith

SOCIAL MINISTRY

- Vacant

STEWARDSHIP

- Jan Klocke, chair
- Nancy Rasmussen

WORSHIP ARTS

- Dawn Zeigler, chair
- Denise Carl
- Shawn Wolfe

WORSHIP TECH

- Anita Carl
- Dan Eads
- Charlene O'Connell

SJLC Activities ~ July '22

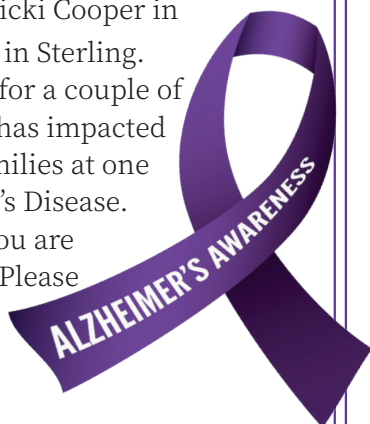
July Open/Close:
Jan Klocke

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 <i>FISH collection</i> 9:30-Worship Service <i>Acolyte: Ryan M.</i> <i>Assistant: Chris Rucker</i>	4 Church Office closed	5	6 6:00-Worship	7 7:00-Al-Anon	8	9 9:30-Prayer Shawl Coffee Hour
10 9:30-Worship <i>Acolyte: Martin F.</i> <i>Assistant: Jeff Fisher</i> 2:00-CommUNITY VBS @ Bethel Reformed Church (Registration @ 1:30)	11 6:00-Men's Group 6:00-Finance Committee mtg	12	13 6:00-Worship	14 4:15-Exec mtg 7:00-Al-Anon	15	16
17 9:00-UNITE/VBS Outdoor Worship @ Grandon Civic Center <i>Acolyte: Alicia L.</i> <i>Assistant: Shawn Wolfe</i>	18	19 <i>Newsletter due</i> 6:00-Council mtg	20 1:30-Parkway communion 2:30-Heritage Woods communion 3:30-Morningside communion 6:00-Worship	21 2:30-Allure of Sterling communion 3:30-Citadel communion 7:00-Al-Anon	22	23
24 9:30-Worship <i>Acolyte: Brynna C.</i> <i>Assistant: Mike Doughty</i>	25	26 6:30-NAMI group	27 9:00-Newsletter assembly 6:00-Worship	28 7:00-Al-Anon	29	30
31 9:30-Worship <i>Acolyte: Jersey S.</i> <i>Assistant: Teri Holldorf</i>						

MENZ GROUP

MONDAY, JULY 11TH, 6:00PM

Hosting will be Larry & Vicki Cooper in their home at 1101 E. 35 St. in Sterling. Bob Sondgeroth will speak for a couple of minutes about a topic that has impacted almost every one of our families at one time or another, Alzheimer's Disease. Please plan to attend and you are welcome to bring a friend. Please RSVP by texting or calling Larry @ 815-499-8438. The meal will be provided.



SAYING THANKS

Thank you to my church family for remembering me with flowers and a gift bag at Christmas and the beautiful Easter flowers.

God bless you,
Barb Johnson

To friends of Fish at St. John,

Thank you very much for your donation to the Fish Food Pantry. Our numbers are increasing as the stimulus money has decreased. We will use your contribution at the Sauk Valley Food Bank and Aldi. You have been a faithful contributor for many years.

Thank you,
Beth Mathew

Outdoor Worship

July 17th at 9:00 AM

Grandon Civic Center

In the case of rain, worship will be held at Bethel Reformed Church.

The Messenger is a monthly publication of St. John's Lutheran Church, a church of the Northern Illinois Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Join us for worship at 9:30am Sundays and 6:00pm Wednesdays. If you would prefer to receive The Messenger via email, contact the church office at office@stjohnsonthird.org.

return service requested

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