



The St John Lutheran Newsletter is a monthly publication of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Volume 1 Issue 5

Weekly Schedule:

- Service 9:00 am
- Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:15am
- Confirmation 1:45pm
- Monday Ecclesiastes Study
- Wednesday Scripture Study Coffee time 8:30am Study 9am
- 2nd & 4th Thursday Fraternal Friends of Marty @ 7:00 pm
- Women's Bible Study 3rd Saturday of Month @ 9am

Special Activities:

- LWML May 4 @ 5:30pm
- Elders May 4 @ 7pm

From Pastor Beltz's Desk

The American Mind Meets the Mind of Christ: Temptations in Vocation

Sometimes the trials within a vocation become temptation. Gustaf Wingren writes, "Temptation in vocation is the devil's attempt to get man out of his vocation." (Wingren, Luther on Vocation, Fortress, 1994) In short, the devil's grand strategy is to have us quit.

A husband and wife in a troubled marriage are tempted to quit. Divorce seems to be an appealing solution rather than change. However, as we are all aware, divorce solves nothing and only adds gas to the fire of an already unresolved anger, sadness, and grief. The devil, of course, wants to convince us we will be happier, free, and unburdened if we divorce. This is the usual temptation. But this is just further lies.

A pastor in a difficult situation in a congregation can often be tempted to quit and find another profession. After all, they're paying truckers 100k these days. Wouldn't that just be better? No people to deal with and their problems and sin? The impulse to give up as a pastor is

just as powerful as the impulse to quit as a wife or husband. However, the impulse to quit, the temptation to make yourself "free" is from the evil one.

To be sure, there are failures in vocation that are sometimes unavoidable. Sometimes divorce is the only option for a spouse of an abusive drunk. Sometimes a pastor of a troubled congregation does well to practice the ministry in a new setting. But, to reject and quit on one's God given calling and vocation, such as breaking up a family by divorce or resigning ones Divine Call due to frustrations and anger—is always and only the work of the Devil. Yet, there remains more insidious temptations.

One of the greatest vocational temptations in our current context is the temptation that comes from success. Wanting to be exalted rather than a humble servant, regarding your vocation as a possible avenue for increasing power instead of sacrifice, is a great temptation within our vocations. Wingren says in another place, "The natural man is always aspiring to rise out of lowliness to the heights; he follows his evil bent to get away from service. Through the very action of striving upward toward

honor and self-complacent splendor, he separates himself from the living God, who in sacrificial love bows down to created things as stands close to all who are in the depths. This make forsakes his neighbor, so he lives not with God but with the devil who leads him away from the path of his vocation."

In contrast, the Christian lives and uses their vocations as an occasion to be humbled and emptied of self and honor. The Christian, in this way, resembles Christ to their neighbor. Who did not come for honor or thanks, but came in self-denying love and care for the neighbor.

Trials, tribulations, and temptation will come. Sometimes they will win the moment. But it is in those moments that we learn more clearly what St. Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians. In asking God to remove the thorn from his flesh, St. Paul relays the reply from God, "My Grace is sufficient for you. For my power is made perfect in weakness." This does not make our temptations, trial, tribulations and suffering good works or merits. They're crosses. What we learn from Jesus is that they are not the end of Him and they will not be the end of us.

Pastor Beltz

May Duties:

Elder

Marty George

Altar Guild

Karen Westercamp

Caryn Smith

Acolyte

Nolan McKain

Processional Cross

5/21 Madison Smith

Greeter

Fran Katko

Hospitality

5/7 Karen Westercamp

5/14 Rebecca Duffy

5/21 Carol Fynaardt

Fran Katko

5/28 Cassie & Charlotte Beltz

Cleaning

Evie McKain

Shelby Vanderwilt

A big THANK YOU to all members who served as organists, Hospitality servers, and cleaning crew last month. This is just another part of STEWARDSHIP in action at St. John.

LWML NEWS

LWML will be having a business meeting on May 4th at 5:30pm. Please join us for a great time for fellowship. Hostess will be Judy Webb and Carol Fynaardt. All ladies of St. John are welcome to join us.



INTAKE FORMS
We are working on updating church files. There is intake forms in the narthex to fill out. Please fill out an intake form for each family member, including children. Please return all intake forms in the basket marked intake forms. My Goal is to have things update so I can do birthday and anniversaries again. This will also help the office update addresses and phone numbers. Thank you for your help.

Mite Bytes

Internet Infrastructure Improvement
Valley Lutheran School
\$10,000

Valley Lutheran School is a K-12 educational institution located in Cedar Falls, IA. In order to maintain academic and spiritual excellence, there is a need to upgrade the infrastructure of the internet for the school system. It has not been updated in 10 years. During that time, the number of devices needing the internet has grown tremendously, along with the technology. Valley is behind and needs to catch up to serve the current needs.

The total cost of the project is \$37,000. The grant is for \$10,000 toward the cost of the upgrade.



Please include in your prayers daily

Betty Blessum, Betty Loftsgard, Dolores Fynaardt, Lynn Karavitas and Ann Ohms;

For those in Ukraine, Russia, Uvalde and other places suffering from acts of senseless violence;

For those serving in our Armed Forces and for our Police Officers and Fire Fighters; may they remain safe in their service;

For the many that continue to struggle with isolation and loneliness; For those directly and in directly affected by the conflict in Ukraine;

For the many who continue to struggle with natural disasters and bad storms;

For our Church, that God would continue to grant us new members and make us a good gift to each other and our community;

For us as a congregation to faithfully receive God's gifts this day.





Registration is open. Take a look at the different camps at www.campiodiseca.org. The camp does offer scholarship to those in need. Also the church does have some money left from last year for scholarships.



"The difference between listening to a radio sermon and going to church...is almost like the difference between calling your girl on the phone and spending an evening with her."
~ Dwight L. Moody

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Fran Katko 5-03
James Horn 5-04
Jim Poore 5-07
Linda Lanphier 5-08
Aaron Blender 5-08
Adam McKain 5-16
Judith Webb 5-18
Claire Beltz 5-24
Marjorie Roach 5-28
Cole Brendlinger 5-30
Andrew Upah 5-31

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Keith & Betty McWilliams
5-09-70
 Brad & Jami Sickels
5-11-19
 Samuel & Cassie Belt
5-24-08

**LADIES GUILD
(LWML)**

As the has to be veins in a body the LWML has been the veins of the church

As long as there has been a St. John Lutheran Church in Oskaloosa, there has been a group of ladies who have supported and helped the church in any way they could.

At first, they were known as the Ladies' Aid then, the Ladies Guild and then finally, The St John Lutheran Women's Guild. Over many years, this ambitious group of women have cooked, cleaned served receptions, funerals, Mission Fests, dinners, bazaars. They have helped equip the church with furnishings, ceilings, carpet, shades, etc. Way back when, the ladies rolled bandages made from sheets, assembled various kits and quilts. Busy all the time!!!

In 1942, the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) was formed and St. John Ladies are affiliated with that organization, supporting them with that organization., supporting them with their "mites", prayers and participation. Zone Rallies, District and International conventions are an essential part of LWML. Several St. John members have served on the zone and district level.

These may not be up to date at this time.

SUMMER STAFF NEEDED



Looking for a summer job? Get that and more with a summer camp experience at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca in Solon, IA is hiring for male and female camp counselors for the upcoming summer. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to spend your summer serving as a Christian role model for youth from Eastern Iowa and beyond! Employment begins May 30 and ends August 4. All summer staff go through training in early June to be fully trained in camp activities and safety, including CRP, AED, and first aid training. Candidates should be at least 18 years old. To get started, head on over the www.nloma.org and complete a summer service profile. Please contact Alec at 319-848-4187 or email programdirector@iodiseca.org. if you have any questions or for more information, or check out Camp's website at www.campiodiseca.org.

Rice Family

Dave grew up farming in Hedrick, IA, and attended Pekin High School. His family were members of Hedrick Lutheran Church and later, St Paul Lutheran Church in Ottumwa, after its closing. He studied Biochemistry at Iowa State University, and Turf Management at Michigan State University. While in Michigan, Dave worked for several construction companies doing demolition work.

Julie grew up in southeast Michigan. She studied Advertising at Michigan State and graduated in 2003. Her part-time job through college, at a local software company, led to full-time employment upon graduation. She has now been with the company for nearly 20 years, working remotely for the past 15.

Dave and Julie were married at Martin Luther Chapel on the campus of MSU in 2003. They later moved back to Dave's hometown in 2008. Until just recently, Dave worked for Ajinomoto in Eddyville. He now farms full time and does excavation work on the side.

Their children, Eden (10) and Jack (7), attend Fremont Elementary School. Eden enjoys competitive gymnastics, basketball, and softball. She also enjoys reading, crafting and showing chickens for 4H. Jack enjoys playing football, basketball, and baseball. He also loves playing with his dog, Tig and cat, Oliver.



Judith Webb

Judith was born May 18, 1940 at Mercy Hospital, Oskaloosa. She was raised on a farm in Monroe County (17 miles from Oskaloosa), she is the oldest of sibling. She has a sister and a brother. She was baptized at Burxton Evangelical Lutheran Church, and was confirmed at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Albia.

Judith Married Lyle Webb on June 11, 1966 in Morris IL. In 1970 Lyle and Judith adopted their daughter, Lynne and were joined by Lyle's sons Randy and Ron, shortly after. In 1970 they became members of St John Lutheran Church.

Judith worked at Hunt and Associates, CPA office as a receptionist, when she later retired in 2005. Then returned part time in 2020-2022.

Lyle passed away January 17, 2019.

Randy lives in Peoria, IL

Ron and wife Doris live in Independence, MO

Lynne and our grandson Payton live in Burlington.

Granddaughter, Natasha and children, Addison and Preston live in San Diego, CA

May 2023

St John' Evangelical Lutheran Church
 Reverend Samuel Beltz
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www.stjohnnosky.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 2pm Scripture Study at Homestead Bulletin items due	4 LWML 5:30PM Elders 6:00pm	5	6
7 9am Divine Service with Communion 10:15 Bible Study/ Sunday School 1:45pm Confirmation Mite Box Sunday	8 5:30pm Monday Night Meal 6:00pm Bible Study	9	10 8:30am Coffee Time 9:00am Scripture Study 2pm Bible Study at Homestead Bulletin items due	11 Friends of Marty 7pm	12	13
14 9am Prayers and Preaching Service 10:15 Bible Study/ Sunday School 1:45pm Confirmation	15 6:00pm Bible Study	16	17 8:30am Coffee Time 9:00am Scripture Study 2pm Bible Study at Homestead Bulletin items due	18	19 Newsletter Items Due	20 9am Women's Bible Study
21 9am Divine Service with Communion 10:15 Bible Study/ Sunday School	22 6:00pm Bible Study	23	24 8:30am Coffee Time 9:00am Scripture Study 2pm Bible Study at Homestead Bulletin items due	25 Friends of Marty 7pm	26	27
28 9am Prayers and Preaching Service 10:15 Bible Study/ Sunday School	29	30				

