

# THE EAGLE

## St. John's Newsletter

### May 16, 2021

From Our Pastor ...



This is Pastor Josh Theilen, a young, energetic and faithful shepherd of souls. He's the Director our Camp CILCA,\* near Springfield. Next Sunday, May 23, he'll be here at St. John's for our Convocation on Ministerial Recruitment, speaking in a breakout on "Why Did I Go to the Sem?" I think he's an excellent example for any young man who's even remotely thinking about studying for the pastoral ministry. Moms and dads: bring your sons to this Convocation. Plant the seed of thinking about pastoral ministry. Attending the Convocation is not a commitment to being a pastor; it's an introduction to thinking and praying about it.

Last year one of our confirmation students asked me, "why did you become a pastor?" I told them I didn't have an amazing experience of God speaking directly to me. Rather, some ordinary people talked to me, asking me to think and pray about it. One was my confirmation pastor. Another was a fellow college student, studying with me late one night as we sat at the Sambo's counter in Macomb. Mom and dad were influential, too. Ordinary people. Like you. That's why we're hosting this Convocation. I hope you'll come, because, even if the seminary is not in your future, you're an ordinary person who can encourage someone else – either toward pastoral ministry or another fulltime church career.

On a separate subject: someone told me that their child was quite upset to see that the beautiful stained-glass window in the

library was removed. Good news! It's only being repaired and will be back very soon. We thank God that all of our stained windows are being refurbished.



This Sunday our adult Bible Class (9:15am in the Trinity Room) is especially important, as we prepare to care for the straying sheep of our flock. "Shepherding Our Strays" is an effort being led by our Elders, but it needs everyone's help. Will you, please, come to the Bible Study?

I'll be out of town for the next three days, as Kathy and I go to Minnesota to visit our children and grandchildren. Pastor Fortkamp is ready for pastoral care anytime, so please feel free to contact him (he told me to pass that along!). We're grateful to God for all of the support that allows us to make this little trip.

Alleluia, Christ is risen ... and reigning!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Josh Theilen".

**\*CILCA asterisk**

\*Central Illinois Lutheran Camp Association -- where 21 of our youth will participate in summer camp starting next month! Due to the scholarship fund, we can cover the entire cost of camp, minus the registration fee. Praise the Lord.

### **SEA Lutheran Layman's League**

Summer Rally of SEA will be held on Sunday, June 13, 2021 at Faith Lutheran Church in Shumway. Reservations must be made by June 9<sup>th</sup>. Check the bulletin board for details.

### LCMS Stewardship Thought

1 John 5:12 – “Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.” Jesus is the foundation, the bedrock, the beginning, and the end. To have Him is to have it all. In Him we have life. We are called to live in Him, to live this new life He has given us, and to grow up into His image. This is a struggle in this sinful world! But His grace is sufficient as He refreshes us through Word and Sacrament.

### LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

“William Shakespeare once reasoned, ‘Love sought is good, but given unsought is better.’ How do you know that God loves you? While you and I were yet wandering, Christ was wandering after us, pursuing us, even by way of the cross: love seeking the lost in human flesh.

It is this sacrifice that stands as the greatest marker in all time.” *Ravi Zacharias, evangelist*  
– A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

### This Week’s Sunday School Lesson

2 Kings 18:1-13, 28-35; 19:14-20, 32-37  
Today’s lesson, “The Praying King,” tells the account of Hezekiah. When Hezekiah becomes king over Judah, he removes the altars and idols. Having conquered Israel, the king of Assyria attacks Judah, mocking Hezekiah and God. Reassured by the prophet Isaiah, Hezekiah appeals to God to uphold and protect His people. Isaiah responds by prophesying the defeat of Sennacherib’s army. That night, the angel of the Lord strikes down 185,000 of the Assyrians

### May Pantry Donation

Ritz Crackers & Peanut Butter

### VBS Decorating

The next decorating meeting for VBS will be Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

### Prayer List

Derrek Mellendorf, Dennis Siebert, Janet Brinkopf, Gloria Fortkamp, Ruth Holland, Doug Wendte, Debbie Barr, Dick Hulskotter, Dean Wetherell, Brian Wenthe, Shirley Cheadle, Deb Meyers, Doris Hammer, Craig Wolff, Bob Miller, Cassie Power, Brett Kull, Rose Boggs, Mike McWhortor, Evelyn Shumaker.

Members of the Armed Forces, including Dylan Koester, Ryan Budde, Paul Smith, Nathan Vail, Baileigh Longwell, Jason Mette, Gabriel Walker, Johnathon Schuette, Henry Bielenberg; and all first responders of our community and nation

### Your Response to the Gospel

#### Our Attendance Last Week

##### In Person Attendance

Sunday, May 9 .....	388
Online Worship Views .....	83
Sunday School Pre-K-HS .....	50
Adult Sunday School Class .....	17
LifeLight.....	9

#### Our Offerings Last Week

General Fund, May 2 .....	\$8,991.50
Online General Fund.....	\$4,570.00
<b>Total General Fund Offering .</b>	<b>\$13,561.50</b>
<b>Building Fund .....</b>	<b>\$105.00</b>



### Baby Bottle Project



We are once again participating in the Family Life Pregnancy Center Baby Bottle Project. Be sure to pick up your Baby Bottles today, and return them on Father’s Day, Sunday, June 20.

### Sunday School News

Our Sunday School is blessed with great leaders! Emily Lotz has served as Superintendent with great distinction and dedication for many years. We’re glad she can get a respite soon, as Kiley Bohnhoff steps into that role. Thank you, both!

### **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Food Drive**

#### **Concordia Seminary Food Bank Drive**

Sunday, May 30 will be the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday. We will be collecting food for Concordia Seminary Food Bank. Items needed are:

Brown Rice  
Cereal  
Baked Beans  
Olive Oil  
Regular Oats  
Coffee  
Body Wash  
Laundry Detergent  
Jelly  
Any pasta except Spaghetti or Egg noodles.

There will be a cart in the Atrium for you to place your items. If you wish to make a monetary donation, please make your checks out to: Concordia Seminary Food Bank, & place them in the offering boxes provided.

#### **A Great Big Thank You**

Thank you to all who participated in the Rural King Church Week. Because you took the time to register your purchases, for the week in April, Rural King has donated \$224.86 to the St. John's Food Pantry. Thank you so much for your support!

#### **Eagles Nest Preschool**

What a blessing our Eagle's Nest Preschool is! Many thanks to Sandy Esker and her staff for providing a vibrant and safe year of learning. Graduations and celebrations were held this past week, and it's time to prepare for next year. You can help by encouraging families to enroll their children for the 2021-22 school year. Registration forms are on the Welcome Center, and online.

### **Veterans Cleanup Day**

Howard & Laura Janis are scheduling a Veterans cleanup day at Arborcrest Memorial Park, which is located on Route 40, west of Funkhouser. The date will be May 22 from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m., with a rain date of Sunday, May 23 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. We will place over 240 American flags on all the Veterans buried there, to honor them on Memorial Day. This is a tradition that was started years ago by the late Lowell & Joyce Miller.

There is a need for trimming around some of the memorials, and we would appreciate help from volunteers and lot owners. The cemetery is partially funded by a trust fund, but deeply needs donations by the community, and lot owners if we intend to continue with keeping Arborcrest beautiful. If you could help us with a donation, we would greatly appreciate it. The address for donations is:

Arborcrest Memorial Park  
2216 South Willow St.  
Effingham, IL 62401

Please help us continue the heritage that was started by Lowell & Joyce Miller. Thank you in advance for all your help.

#### **Today's Light**



"Sanctify them in the truth. Your Word is truth," Jesus said. Maybe you started reading the truth of our "Today's Light" lessons back in January, but have fallen off. On June 1 we will begin reading the New Testament, and that may be the perfect time for you to get back into the routine of daily readings. Let us read the Word and be "sanctified in the truth!"

***Pray for our Vacation Bible School  
June 14-17!***

# CALENDAR-----May 16, 2021 – May 23, 2021

Sunday	16	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Worship Services
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:00 a.m.	Worship Service/Mediacom Channel 81
Monday	17	12:00 Noon	Board of Evangelism
		5:30 p.m.	Choir
		6:00 p.m.	VBS Decorating Meeting
Tuesday	18		
Wednesday	19	6:00 p.m.	Board of Youth
		7:00 p.m.	Adult Catechism
Thursday	20		
Friday	21		Pastor Sabbath
Saturday	22	8:00 a.m.	Praise Band Practice
		5:30 p.m.	Worship Service w/HC Guest Speaker is Pastor Craig Muehler
Sunday	23	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Worship Service w/HC Guest Speaker is Pastor Craig Muehler
		9:00 a.m.	Cilca Smiles Group Photo
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:00 a.m.	Worship Service/Mediacom Channel 81
		3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Convocation Ministerial Recruitment

### Birthdays This Week

- 5/16 David Storm, Dennis Rubin,  
Douglas Storm, & Kelsey Baker
- 5/17 Audrey Jansen, Janet Shepard, &  
Vicki Manford
- 5/18 Anne Young, Dennis Johnson,  
Katy Miller, Travis Sipe, &  
Zachary Haake
- 5/19 Cailin Ohnesorge & Seth Wilson
- 5/20 Colin Wendling
- 5/21 Ashley Flach & Kelly Keitel
- 5/22 Coraline Ohnesorge, Doris Mueller, &  
Jane Tolch

### Anniversaries

- 5/18/19 Isaac & Laura Galvan
- 5/19/01 Travis & Angie Sipe
- 5/21/93 Rick & Nancy Kohnert



### Armed Forces Sunday

will be May 23, and our guest preacher will be Pastor Craig Muehler, Director of Ministry to the Armed Forces for the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. He will also speak at our Convocation for Ministerial Recruitment that afternoon.

### CILCA & SS Photo

Next Sunday, May 23 at 9:05am, we'll be taking two important pictures:

- 1) all of the youth and parents who are going to Camp CILCA this summer,
- 2) all of our Sunday School students and teachers.

Meet in the Sanctuary immediately after the 8:00am Service. THANK YOU.