

The St. John Lutheran Church
Volume 46 — Number 07
July 2022 Jottings

“We lift up Jesus Christ in our lives, our church, and our community.”



Pastor Michael's Musings

July 2022

Let what you have heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and the Father...And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

John 2: 24, 28 & 29

Ah yes, those wonderful beginnings! In a past newsletter, I told you that I love beginnings and dislike endings. I don't expect you to remember any of that but suffice it to say that I have a bookshelf full of unfinished books that I have joyfully started and have never finished. I'm sure a psychologist could have a field day with that little bit of information. It more than likely says something about how my brain works.

New beginnings! I love the intensity, sparkle, and brightness of meeting new people, beginning new adventures, and discovering new vistas. Once I experience something and enjoy it I am quite loyal and am extremely reluctant to let it go. I am not a “change for changes sake” junkie, for the record. My desire for newness is not about change as much as it is about the joy of discovery and new possibilities. For example, I can really get into a book, learn the names of all the characters, really enjoy the story line, and then put the book aside, thus not finishing it, maybe because in my mind I don't want the story to end. When I have finished books,

movies, computer games, etc. in the past I have experienced a small sadness that “it” is over. I will never be able to experience that story in an avenue of freshness like I did when I first picked it up. Maybe I like to experience a little bit of ongoing mystery that accompanies an unfinished book. I know, it’s strange, but that is my tendency. I like to think in terms of “forever” and I like to learn new things even years later. Maybe that’s not so strange. You Tube is full of videos like “The Episode that Removed Leave It to Beaver from the Air” or “New Uncovered Trivia in the Making of Star Wars” or “Secrets of The Brady Bunch Revealed.” Why do people click on that stuff? Maybe we just don’t want the stories to end and we’re curious to know what Beaver Cleaver, Darth Vader, or Jan or Marcia Brady were *really* up to all those years ago.

Well, for romantic types like me, the Gospel of Jesus Christ fits the desire for the “never-ending story.” John talks about beginnings in the scripture lesson printed above; the beginnings that abide in us. Abide means “live” in us. The Good News of Jesus Christ is not a story to be read and then, upon completion, discarded and put on the shelf to collect dust. There is no end to it. The story of the abiding love that God has for us stretches into eternity. “And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.” The message of love from God, through Jesus Christ, is about a definite reality in the future where we will all be gathered in his presence. Yes, we have heard the story and have read it through all the way to the end. But, unlike other stories that are simply about this world, and the ways of this world, this story does not end or die when we turn the last page because it involves our future and realities like faith, hope and love that stretch into eternity. Even though we may have finished the physical paper-and-leather copy of the Bible, the story lives on in our minds and hearts because it is true and the characters involved include us. We are most definitely a part of this story. We are in the cast list. “What kind of role will I play?” we are encouraged to ask ourselves. In asking this question we show that God’s love abides in us. May you draw close to that which you have heard from the beginning, and feel no shame, for God’s love covers you.

Summer—a time to relax!

Well, as I write this, we've just enjoyed our first outdoor worship of the season. Yes, it got a bit "rainy" towards the end, but I was impressed by people's willingness to cope. Some came ready with umbrellas, which they opened as needed. Others picked up their chairs and moved under the shelter of the large shade trees, and others simply stayed stoic and held their ground! All in all, that shows that our congregation has the ability to adapt and deal with situations as they arise, and that's a GOOD THING! Last year, we worshipped all summer with NO rain-outs, so hopefully we can continue that this year, but if not, the sanctuary is just a few feet away, cool, dry, and ready to provide us a setting for worship!

Summer outdoor worship is a GREAT way to evangelize, and the 9 am time-frame is perfect for those wanting more time to relax and enjoy summer after church. I encourage you to tell your friends, neighbors, and unchurched relatives about what we offer and invite them to come with you and see for themselves! We will remain outdoors until at least mid-September (weather permitting).

The outdoor services are usually 10-15 minutes shorter than indoor worship because of the way we serve communion, so again, God is praised, we are nourished by word and sacrament, and it gives you a chance to meet members you might not otherwise see, because they normally attend a different service (8 or 10:30) than you do. It's a win-win for everyone!

The music tends to be a bit more "gospel/praise" oriented since it's all played on piano (with Pastor occasionally joining in on Guitar). Of course, as organist, I miss the power and richness of playing the organ, but all-in-all, it's a chance to enjoy praising God in a less formal setting that works well in the summer.

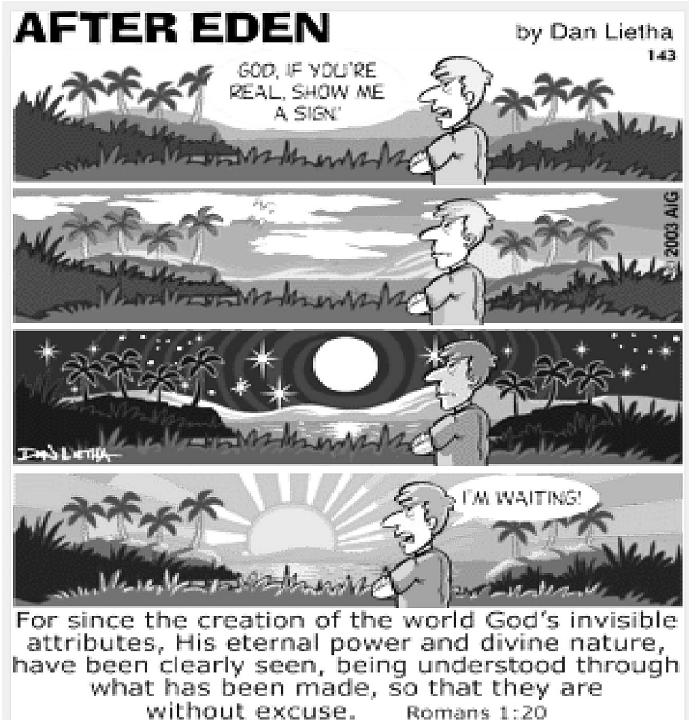
SO, I look forward to seeing you each Sunday, amidst the beauty of God's creation as we live out the familiar hymn "This is my Father's World".

This is my Father's World

Since I mentioned this familiar hymn on Page 1, I thought I'd give more details about it. It was written by Malthie D. Babcock (1858-1901), said to have been a "handsome and popular" Presbyterian minister. He used to leave his home for an early morning walk up a hill overlooking Lake Ontario, saying, "I am going out to see my Father's world." The hymn text is one of the finest nature hymns and is enhanced by Franklin Sheppard's arrangement of an English folk tune. In case you weren't in church when we last sang it, here are the uplifting words:

- 1 *This is my Father's world,
and to my list'ning ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
his hand the wonders wrought.*
- 2 *This is my Father's world;
the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their maker's praise.
This is my Father's world;
he shines in all that's fair.
In the rustling grass I hear him pass;
he speaks to me ev'rywhere.*
- 3 *This is my Father's world;
oh, let me not forget
that, though the wrong seems oft so
strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world;
why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is king, let heaven ring;
God reigns, let earth be glad!*

What a PERFECT "Theme Song" for our summer outdoor worship!



Outdoor worship gives us the unique opportunity to see the wonders of God's creation as we worship! Hear the birds singing, and the wind gently rustling the leaves. The beauty of nature is truly evidence of a loving God!

Until Next Month...

Based on this quote, I think Martin Luther would approve of our outdoor worship:

"The power of God is present at all places, even in the tiniest tree leaf. Do you think God is sleeping on a pillow in heaven? . . . God is wholly present in all creation, in every corner, behind you and before you."

Martin Luther (1483-1546) from LW 37:57.

Soli Deo Gloria (To God alone be the Glory)

Donald L. Bauer Director of Music

Look what is happening in Sunday School.

Beginning Sunday, June 12th, the time for Sunday School will change to 10:15 a.m. due to summer worship service starting at 9:00 a.m.

There are currently three classrooms:

3 years old-PreK	Kathy Ellis
Kindergarten-3rd grade	Becky & Shannon Sanders
4th-8th grade	Fred Rosenbohm

Starting Sunday, June 12th and throughout the summer months, our lessons will follow the Year C Lectionary to connect with Pastor's sermon.

July 3rd	Praise God
July 10th	The Beatitudes
July 17th	Salt & Light
July 24th	Jesus Teaches about Anger
July 31st	Love Your Enemies
August 7th	Ten Bridesmaids
August 14th	Parable of the Talents
August 21st	Matthias the Apostle
August 28th	Peter & Tabitha
Sept. 4th	Peter's Dream

Middle School aged children are taught from the Augsburg Fortress ECHO curriculum, the SPARK Bible, and Luther's Catechism. The lessons in this curriculum include topics that are relevant to their age group and prepare them for Confirmation.

As always, all Sunday School age children are welcome to join. If interested, please contact me to register your child.
John Wetterauer
691-0434-home
678-1736-cell

Homebound List (as of July 01, 2022)

Jay Baumgardner	Swan Special Care Center 109 Kenwood Champaign, Il. 61824	Thelma Hartseil	Snyder Village 404 Flag Metamora, Il. 61548
Anna Bontz	Autumn Accolade 13516 Townline Rd. Room 314 Green Valley, Il. 61534	Pat Janssen	12615 Lancaster Rd. Hanna City, Il. 61536
Art Campen % Carrie Campen	4169 King St. Denver, Co. 80211	Alice Johnson	Evergreen Senior Living 404 Stillwater Dr. #101 Chillicothe, Il. 61523
Jeffrey Campen	Lennox Guest Home 2875 W. 33 rd Ave. Denver, Co. 80211	Joyce Jones	Villas of Holly Brook 5301 W. Dirksen Pkwy. Apt. 24 Peoria, Il. 61607
Millie Carlson	Villas of Holly Brook 5301 W. Dirksen Pkwy. Apt. 48 Peoria, Il. 61607	Judy Kaufman	River Crossing 900 Centennial Dr. Room 201 E. Peoria, Il. 61611
Sally Catterall	Villas of Holly Brook 5301 W. Dirksen Pkwy. Apt. 28 Peoria, Il. 61607	Debra Look	Timber Ridge 2125 Veterans Rd. Morton, Il. 61550
Evelyn Cool	Lutheran Hillside Village 6901 N. Galena Rd. Acorn Way Apt. A1 Peoria, Il. 61614	Don Norvill .	1201 N. Northmoor Rd Rm. 222 Peoria, Il. 61614
		Sharon Resler	River Crossing 1500 W. Northmoor Room 415 Peoria, Il. 61614

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois: Lutheran Social Services of Illinois is starting a new program Called Therapeutic Foster Care. TFC helps children ages 6 to 14 with histories of severe trauma and emotional/behavioral issues thrive in family treatment homes. We are looking for people interested in becoming foster parents. With this program, foster parents receive 24/7 support, specialized training, and a generous stipend. For more information, please contact Andrea at (309) 671-0300 ext. 4267.

Vacation Bible School: VBS will be from July 11th-15th at 6-8pm. We are looking for helpers from the past and also new volunteers. If you would like to help, please contact Jodi Miller at (309) 678-0852. To register, please contact the church office at (309) 697-1440.

Attention Sewing Group: The sewing group meets at St. John on Thursday mornings at 9:00am. If anyone is interested in joining them to help make quilts, whether it be cutting material to putting it together, they can always use the help. If you are unable to come to the church, there are always things that you can do to help at home as well. Please join this wonderful ministry as they send the quilts overseas to help out where needed.

Thank you

Usher Schedule for July:

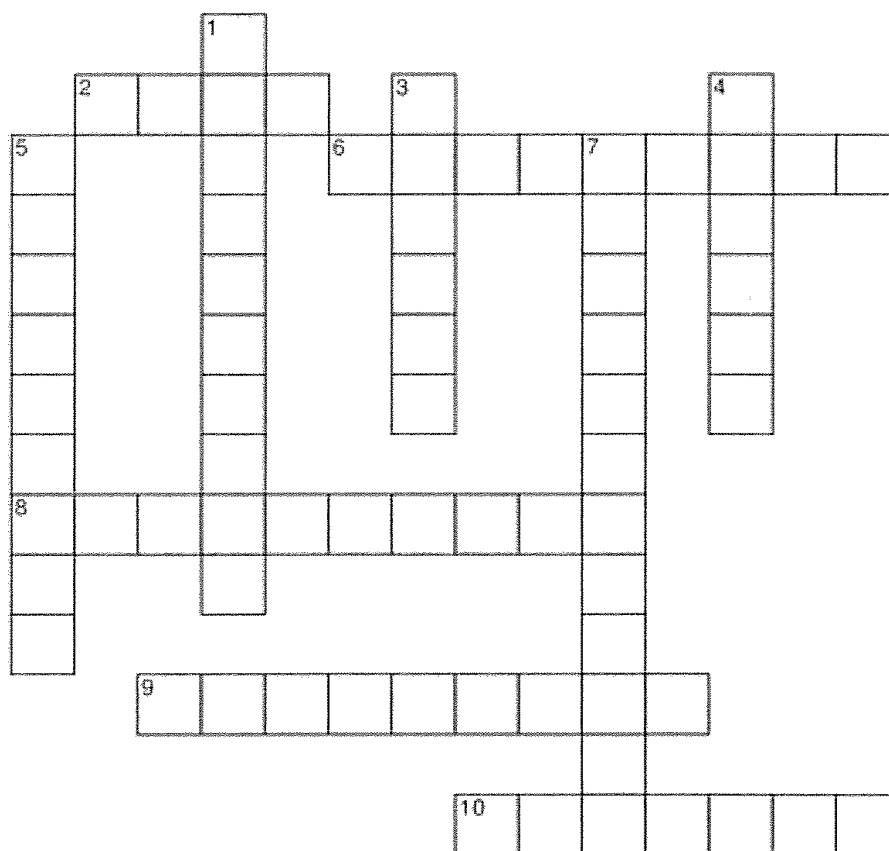
July 3rd	9:00am - Jodi Miller ; LaVonne Sammis
July 10th	9:00am - Teri Sammis ; Leora Day
July 17th	9:00am - Joe Baumgardner ; Roger Shafer
July 24th	9:00am - Eric & Sue Jones
July 31st	9:00am - Dan Sammis ; John Grafelman

Readers Schedule for July:

July 3rd	Sandy Behends
July 10th	John Wetterauer
July 17th	Jim Schultz
July 24th	Pepper Bauer
July 31st	Deb Sammis

Fourth of July

Crossword Puzzle



www.HaveFunTeaching.com

ACROSS

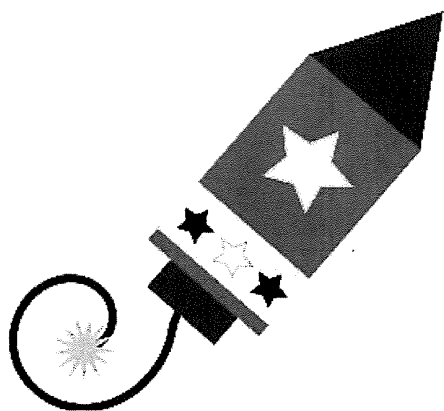
- 2 The 50 stars version of the American _____ was adopted on July 4th, 1960.
- 6 The Fourth of July is considered a very _____ holiday.
- 8 During the American _____, the colonies wanted to separate from Great Britain.
- 9 John Adams and Thomas Jefferson both signed the Declaration of Independence and also became _____ of the United States.
- 10 Independence is a word that also means _____.

DOWN

- 1 George _____ was the first president of the United States of America.
- 3 The Star-Spangled _____ is the national anthem of the United States.
- 4 Independence Day is a holiday celebrated in the United _____.
- 5 It is fun to see the 4th of July parades and watch the _____ in the night sky.
- 7 The Declaration of _____ was adopted on July 4, 1776

4th of July

Word Search



America
Barbeque
Celebration
Fireworks
Flag
Freedom
Independence

Liberty
Parade
Red White and Blue
Stars and Stripes
Uncle Sam
USA

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Year Round Worship Schedule :

8:00 a.m. Worship With Holy Communion
9:15 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

UPCOMING EVENTS THIS MONTH

Outdoor Sunday morning Worship Services will begin on, Sunday June 12, 2022 at 9:00am

Adult and Children Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

Communion every week