

The St. John Lutheran Church  
**Volume 46 – Number 08**  
**August 2022 Jottings**

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



**Pastor Michael's Musings**

**August 2022**

“Why, O Lord, do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble... Arise, Lord! Lift up your hand, O God. Do not forget the helpless... But you, O God, do see trouble and grief; you consider it to take it in hand. The victim commits himself to you, you are the helper of the fatherless.”

--- Psalm 10: 1, 12, 14

Psalm 10 is written in the midst of horror and turmoil in King David's life. His son, Absalom, has listened to extremely unwise and very greedy counselors who have encouraged him to depose his father and take the throne. Part of the deposing would be to have King David killed. Blessedly, King David learns of his son's attempt to dethrone him, escapes Jerusalem just in time, and heads out into the wilderness with his still-loyal “mighty men.” A lot of suffering, anger, doubt and continual faith and praise will pour forth from David's pen as he then sits down in the midst of this terrible betrayal and writes the majority of the early Psalms which we now have to cherish and enjoy.

Isn't it interesting how some of the most beautiful, thought provoking, and life-changing pieces of art and literature come from the most dire times and places in a person's life? It seems to be part of the human condition.

You and I have our share of difficulties. We are no different than anyone else. Unless you've been blessed to have lived the “perfect life” so far, when you look back on your hardships you can probably point to something that upon retrospection was redeeming and necessary in your life's journey. Usually that experience comes with the way that someone else treated us, nurtured us, and stepped up to the plate when we couldn't. Perhaps we learned that we are

tougher than we thought. Something that would have crippled us at another time in our lives, or would have decimated other people that we know, was a terrible ordeal to be sure, but from somewhere we were able to pull enough grit and courage out of the bag to keep us going. Once again, the human condition seems to point us to the uncomfortable, to downright horrific, times in our lives as being the most productive or the most knowledge-inducing we will ever experience. It is in the times of plenty and celebration that we tend to be the most casual and trivial. Time can pass swiftly as we coast through life with little meaning.

In Psalm 10, printed above, we see David pouring his heart out to God who seems to be ignoring him, or worse yet, aiding in his downfall. The God who described David as “the apple of his eye” in Psalm 10 seems to have forgotten anything he ever said leaving David to fend for himself. And think of the horrific nature of the struggle! Being betrayed unto death by one’s own son; that is the “valley of the shadow of death” that David must endure. Yet David knows, and it proves to be true, that God does see trouble and grief and takes it in hand. The good news for David is that Absalom is eventually defeated (in a most shameful way) and David is restored to his throne and blessed many-fold for his faithfulness. But this does not come without grief. Even though his son tried to kill him and depose him, when David hears of Absalom’s death he spirals into a depression and mourns and cries for his lost son. Sometimes even in the blessing there can be a twinge of pain. Such is life in this world that needs to be redeemed.

The Good News is that we have a savior in Jesus Christ, descendant of David, who walks with us during the times of trial and does not, ultimately, let us come to destruction. We also have the day of the resurrection as our future in which life will spring anew as we are remade and raised in new spiritual bodies (1 Corinthians 15.) As we face trouble and struggle, we are ultimately the victors because of the Savior who makes us victorious through his grace. May we remember that as we continue to face life’s troubles and struggles. Jesus is the lord of peace, love, healing, and ultimately, eternal redemption.

## Sing a Song of Summer!

OK, here's quick quiz: name some songs that mention SUMMER! Being raised in the 60's, several popular songs quickly came to my mind:

- ♪ SUMMER TIME (and the living is easy)
- ♪ Ain't no cure for the SUMMER TIME BLUES.
- ♪ Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of SUMMER!

You might think of others, but now let's refine the question: Name some HYMNS that mention summer! I'm betting most of you are stumped.....it's not an easy question. Fortunately, through the power of computers and the ELCA's "Sundays and Seasons" web site, I was able to do a SEARCH for the word "summer", and it quickly found four "hits", only one of which we've ever sung. I might have to sing the others with Pastor:

ELW 733, "Great is Thy Faithfulness", says this in verse two:

*Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.*

ELW 829, "Have You Thanked The Lord?" The second verse is:

*Hallelujah! Paradise we taste where we are;  
summer breezes, winter warmth are never far.  
God's love is ever on display: have you thanked the Lord today?*

ELW 690, "We Raise Our Hands To You, O Lord" and in verse four we see:

*As summer follows springtime's rain, grace follows sorrow, and  
grief and joy shall bear much fruit, though hidden from our human eyes.*

ELW 833, "O That I Had A Thousand Voices" has this for the third verse:

*You forest leaves so green and tender that dance for joy in summer air,  
you meadow grasses, bright and slender, you flow'rs so fragrant and so fair,  
you live to show forth praise alone. Join me to make God's glory known!*

## Back to “Normal” ...

Summer is drawing to a close. Schools are getting ready to reopen, and “all things fall” are beginning to appear in all the stores, along with the last of the “summer clearance” items. Thoughts of fresh sweet corn and tomatoes are giving way to apples and pumpkins! What does this mean for St. John?

We will continue our popular **OUTDOOR COMMUNION WORSHIP** for all of August, so it’s not too late to invite friends to join us at 9 am every Sunday.

**CHOIR** will be starting up after Labor Day, and we are looking to have some **NEW** singers join us. We will rehearse on Thursdays at 7 pm and sing about twice a month.

**OKTOBERFEST** is coming, on Sunday September 11th, with outdoor polka communion worship at 9 am and “festivities” to follow. The details are not yet finalized, so watch for more announcements in the bulletin and next month’s Jottings.

We will return **INDOORS** for worship, probably the Sunday after Oktoberfest, but that has yet to be decided.



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! **AND NOW**, thanks to Harold and Juanita Vires, we now have **COFFEE** and **DONUTS** outside...get yours before worship starts!

### Until Next Month...

Outdoor worship gives us a chance to feel close to God by worshipping in the beauty of the natural beauty that God created

*"Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy..."*

Psalm 96: 11-12 (NRSV)

*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 12<sup>th</sup>, 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:**

<b>3 years old-PreK</b>	<b>Kathy Ellis</b>
<b>Kindergarten-3<sup>rd</sup> grade</b>	<b>Becky &amp; Shannon Sanders</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade</b>	<b>Fred Rosenbohm</b>

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

<b>August 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Ten Bridesmaids</b>
<b>August 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Parable of the Talents</b>
<b>August 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Matthias the Apostle</b>
<b>August 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Peter &amp; Tabitha</b>
<b>Sept. 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Peter's Dream</b>

**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 <sup>rd</sup> 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:**

**New Altar Flower Billing:** The July, 2022 bill for Becks Florist arrived this week and reflects an increase of \$1.00 to now being \$36.00 for each two arrangements, per Sunday. While this is the first price increase since beginning service with them, it did come as a surprise as I had received no prior information in order to share this with you ahead of time. Please know the price increase affects the delivery charge AND NOT THE FLOWERS. (Flowers are still \$30 but new \$6.00 delivery charge.) The Altar Guild will pay the extra charges for those of you purchasing flowers from late June and in July. Thanks for understanding and please do call me if you have any questions. My number is 697-1642.

**Adult Bible Study:** Adult Bible Study is on Thursday evenings from 6-7pm. The dates are August 11th, and August 25th. If you have any questions, please text or call Jane Rosenbohm at (309) 645-9009.

**Thank You:** We would like to thank all of the participants that helped out with VBS this past week, it could not have been done without you. Many thanks to: Josh & Kelly Harken, Sheryl Bruninga, Sandy Behrends, Dee Garske, Marilyn Hartseil, Leora Day, Jodi Miller, Rebecca Suydam, Barb Reaktenwalt, Melissa Edwards, and Christina Jones. Thank you again and God Bless!

**Items Needed:** WELCA hasn't had a kitchen shower in a number of years. We noticed after working VBS the kitchen is in need of the following: Cheese Slicer, Paper Towels, Napkins, 2 Jelly Roll Pans (10x15), Zip Lock Bags (gallon, quart and

sandwich sizes), Foil, Parchment Paper, Dish Cloths, and  
Scratchers for Pans. Thank you, Sheryl Bruninga

**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



**The Oktoberfest Service is on Sunday, September 11 at 9am.** There will also be a Baptism that morning during the service. Come and enjoy hymns set to traditional German music.

**The Oktoberfest Meal follows after at 11am.**

Come and join in on the fun and enjoy the delicious food, brats, hot dogs, German potato salad, and many deserts. There will be live music.



## **Usher Schedule for August:**

<b>August 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:00am</b> - Andy Look ; Tim Sammis
<b>August 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:00am</b> - Bonnie Phelps ; LaVonne Sammis
<b>August 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>9:00am</b> - Teri Sammis ; Elvessa Severt
<b>August 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:00am</b> - Carol Alwood ; Roger Shafer

## **Readers Schedule for August:**

<b>August 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Christina Jones
<b>August 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Marilyn Hartseil
<b>August 21<sup>st</sup></b>	Marilyn Hartseil
<b>August 28<sup>th</sup></b>	Jane Rosenbohm

St. John Lutheran Church  
6614 W. Smithville Rd.  
Bartonville, IL 61607-9436  
(309) 697-1440

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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 is at 9:00am, bring friends and family.

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

Communion every week