

**The St. John Lutheran Church**  
**Volume 66 — Number 08**  
**August 2024 Jottings**

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



**Pastor Michael's Musings**

**August 2024**

Then the Lord replied, “Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that the herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.” --- Habakkuk 2: 2 & 3

Habakkuk is a book that we rarely read or preach from. It is due to the fact that the book of Habakkuk, most likely written during the reign of a very wicked Hebrew king named Josiah, tells of impending doom for the nation of Judah (southern Israel.) God’s people have sinned unrelentingly for decades. They have ignored the warnings of the prophets that were sent to them and continue to be wicked like the pagan nations all around them. Although they are the people of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, their actions and culture have strayed far from any kind of understanding as God has laid out for them in the Law. Habakkuk is one of the prophets who receive a vision of total destruction for the nation of Judah. Most likely written in the time frame of 640 – 609 B.C. the stage is set for the conquering and ferocious Babylonians to come in and lay waste. Habakkuk is confronted with a problem, and the book that he writes describes and interesting back and forth between him and God as Habakkuk tries to understand how God can allow the destruction of his very own people. Indeed, God will use the Babylonians as “His rod of judgement” and Habakkuk is troubled because he cannot understand how God could use a nation of people, the Babylonians, who are far more corrupt and evil than Judah is. Such is the quandary. But there is hope and God soon illuminates the dark future, if not to Habakkuk’s liking, at least to his understanding.

The answer comes in the second chapter. Habakkuk 2: 4, “Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by faith.” In spite of the

coming condemnation, in spite of the swiftly arriving turmoil, in spite of the great terror and vengeance that is surely on the horizon, God reminds Habakkuk, and thus all of us, that if we are just, we shall live by faith. God is reminding Habakkuk that the answer to life's dilemmas and downfall is not to be placed in human hands. As battle and suffering rage all around, God reminds his people to continue to put their trust in him. Yes, for their sin, and the countless warnings they have chosen to ignore, the nation of Judah will suffer and be scattered. It is indeed a terrible (to inspire terror) prophecy. But in the verses above, God promises the people a revelation and tells the people to trust it and to run with it. "...the revelation awaits an appointed time...Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay."

In Jesus Christ, Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 6:2, "Now is the appointed time, now is the day of salvation." Jesus brings salvation to all people who have ears to hear and who respond to his call for peace and love. Ironically, in the midst of this message, there is yet another occupier and conquering empire over the Israelites, the people of the Holy Land, and that is the power of Rome. For those who are still fixated on a Messiah who brings worldly power and physical coercion to the world, there is still disappointment and mockery. But at the time of the writing of 2 Corinthians, the power of Babylon is but the substance of dust and despair, and has been since 539 B.C., for nearly 600 years! The Babylon that conquered Judah in Habakkuk lasted less than 100 years in its entirety, which is as nothing compared to the nations all around it. When Habakkuk wrote that God was *using* Babylon as a "rod of judgment" he was right on the mark. Babylon's inherent wickedness brought about its early destruction. Rife with violence and self-destructive rot, Babylon could not help but be the "house-divided" that fell apart by its own weight. Internal weakness (King Nebuchadnezzar was insane and cropped grass like a cow we are told in the book of Daniel) drew the attention of jealous and hateful neighbors who then came in and destroyed Babylon in short order. King Cyrus of Persia couldn't wait! The revelation of Jesus Christ, on the other hand, did wait for an appointed time, and defied the vagaries of time that destroyed so many others. The fulfillment of the revelation did indeed come, and the Gospels and the Apostles tell of it. The revelation perseveres to this day over 2,000 years later.

"The just shall live by faith." Maintain and hold your faith in the revelation of Jesus Christ. It is the one message that will not fall by the wayside of the passing of time.

## We will all be changed!

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### 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 (NRSV)

<sup>51</sup> “Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.”

I imagine many of you grew up hearing these verses read in church or Sunday School. In many cases, you will hear it quoted at funerals or in sermons dealing with the “end times”. Well, for me, the “twinking of an eye” came about noon on Friday July 12 as I was undergoing a cardiac catheterization (angiogram) to investigate potentially blocked blood flow to my heart. I assumed they would find something, insert a couple shunts, and after a few days of recuperation, I’d be “good as new”. What I heard instead was that I had three blockages that could NOT be fixed with shunts. One was 65%, one was 90%, and one was 100%. I heard my cardiologist say that I was to be transferred IMMEDIATELY to the cardiac ICU (***Do not pass GO, do not collect \$200***) and expect open heart surgery first thing the next morning. Wow—I didn’t hear any trumpets, but it certainly hit me in the “twinking of an eye”.

So—long-story-short, I survived the long 8 hour surgery, and could consider myself as to have died, seeing as how they had to put me on bypass and literally stop my heart to do the surgery, so I in many ways, I was in fact raised “imperishable” and I know for sure I have been “changed”. I came back to the ICU wearing enough drains, monitors, IVs, and tubes to deplete the inventory of hardware at any Harbor Freight. I can’t lift or push or pull ANYTHING more than the weight of a gallon of milk for at LEAST 2 months, and I’m doing daily exercises to regain breathing capacity and muscle strength. EVERYTHING wears me out at this point...so we’ll be worshipping “on line” for at least a couple weeks at our “vacation church” which live-streams their services. I’m using the church as my “exercise track” because I can use my walker to go from the altar steps to the Sunday School restrooms over and over and rack up exercise miles (walkers just don’t perform well on grass, gravel, or uneven sidewalks). I hope to be able to resume driving in early August, and I am eternally thankful that Alice Lopez is in good health and able to jump in for Sunday services, and to John Wetterauer for helping set up the outdoor piano (I’ll need that assistance too, if I’m able to return in August).

The outpouring of prayers and greetings from you folks has truly been a blessing! I feel the love of God and the strength it’s giving me. Recovery will be SLOW (and often painful), but I shall return as soon as possible. I might be CHANGED, but I’m not dead yet!

This unexpected situation is resulting in some unexpected worship changes...see the next page for details.

## Summer Worship Continues

Our 9 am outdoor Worship services are once again drawing good crowds to worship in the beauty of God's creation with a less formal structure. I understand this popular time and format is resulting in some new members joining our ranks! WELCOME! This is the perfect opportunity to invite friends, neighbors, and relatives to join us. We will return INSIDE the Sunday after Labor Day weekend.

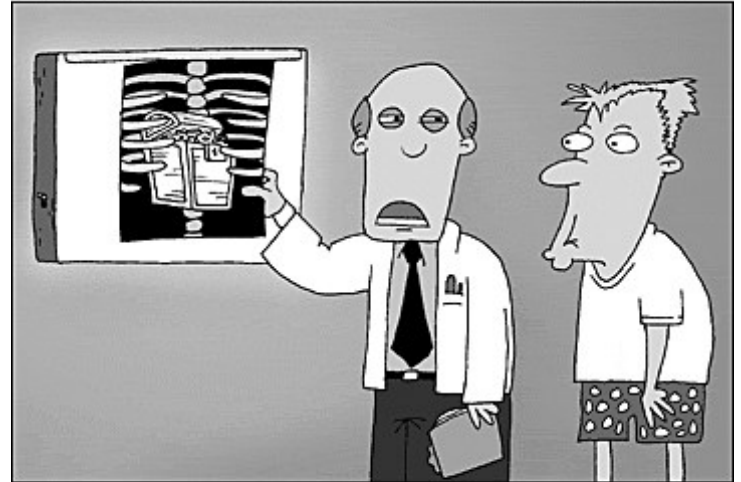
## Oktoberfest—probably NOT this year!

For 25 years, we have ended the fall season with a very popular German-music inspired Oktoberfest Worship service and an after-church "German-style" picnic in our park. This WAS to happen on Sunday, September 8th 2024, but due to my post-surgery recovery, unfortunately, we MUST CANCEL it at this time. It's possible (but probably unlikely) that I can get in shape to put on the service in late October, but playing the accordion includes three major activities/exercises that are currently **VERBOTEN!** until my heart and lungs are back to normal.

## CHOIR returns in September

Our adult "Gospel Choir" should resume rehearsals on Thursday evenings at 7 pm starting September 5th, assuming my health is up for the challenge. Watch for updates in the September Jottings, and consider JOINING US and invite other good singers you overhear during worship! We're a good group and a fun "family".

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Thanks to Earl Brightup (See Matthew 6:19-21) 07-07-2003

IN YOUR RARE CASE, YOUR TREASURE IS  
WHERE YOUR HEART IS

### Until Next Month...

As I recover from triple bypass surgery, I thank GOD for the Surgeon, Doctors, Nurses, and CNAs who brought these verses to life for me:

*"4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord...To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit...All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the spirit chooses."*

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (NRSV)

*Soli Deo Gloria* (To God alone be the Glory)

*Donald L. Bauer* Director of Music

# **Look what is happening in Sunday School.**

**Just a reminder that throughout the summer months, Sunday School is from 10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. There will be no Sunday School starting Sunday, August 4th thru Sunday, September 15th. Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 22nd-Rally Sunday.**

## **There are currently four 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> grade</b>	<b>Patti Riley</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade</b>	<b>Fred Rosenbohm</b>

Throughout the summer months, we will utilize “How to Read the Bible”. This curriculum created by Jeff White, shows our students how to make the Bible a fun part of their life and why the Bible matters so much to their personal faith journey.

**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 June 20, 2024)

Jim & Nadine Bartell	2705 S. Hilton Ln. Bartonville, Il. 61607	Pat Janssen	12615 Lancaster Rd. Hanna City, Il. 61536
Jay Baumgardner	Swan Special Care Center 109 Kenwood Champaign, Il. 61824	Joyce Jones	Villas of Holly Brook 5301 W. Dirksen Pkwy. Apt. 24 Peoria, Il. 61607
Art Campen % Carrie Campen	4169 King St. Denver, Co. 80211	Debra Look	Timber Ridge 2125 Veterans Rd. Morton, Il. 61550
Jeffrey Campen	Lennox Guest Home 2875 W. 33 <sup>rd</sup> Ave. Denver, Co. 80211	Jane Look	Heartis Village Peoria 8201 N. Il. Route 91 Peoria, Il. 61615
Millie Carlson	Villas of Holly Brook 5301 W. Dirksen Pkwy. Apt. 48 Peoria, Il. 61607	Don Norvill	Independence Village 1201 N. Northmoor Rd. Rm. 222 Peoria, Il. 61614
Sally Catterall	Villas of Holly Brook 5301 W. Dirksen Pkwy. Apt. 28 Peoria, Il. 61607	Jerry Pitzer	Independence Village 1201 N. Northmoor Rd. Rm. 242 Peoria, Il. 61614
Evelyn Cool	Lutheran Hillside Village 6901 N. Galena Rd. Acorn Way Apt. A1 Peoria, Il. 61614	Sharon Resler	The Loft 1500 W. Northmoor Room 415 Peoria, Il. 61614
Barb Dickerson	2422 S. Daycor Divide Bartonville, Il. 61607		

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Adult Bible Study:** There will be NO Bible Study in July, so our next Bible Studies will be August 15th and 29th. If you have any questions, please call or text me.

Thank you....Jane Rosenbohm (309) 645-9009.

### **A Heartfelt Thank You!**

Pastor Michael and Christina thoroughly enjoyed the 25<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary of Ordination Reception. A special thank you to Sheryl Bruninga for organizing the celebration. We are also very grateful for all the folks who lend a helping hand to make it such a memorable day for us. This milestone of 25 years of Ministry was made extra special with all of you sharing it with us. Thank you, Lord, for all our blessings!

Love in Christ,

Pastor Michael and Christina

**Thank You Pastor Michael 25th Ordination:** Thank you to all who helped in some way for Pastor Michael's 25th Ordination. Whether the committees, loaded & unloaded the van, sandwiches, picking up chips, cupcakes, cookies, balloons, decorating, cleaning up, kitchen help, taking out garbage, attending the celebration or helping me with the door lock. You are all APPRECIATED & thank you!

Sheryl Bruninga

**Help the Pantry Help Others:** It's the traditional time for spring cleaning! As a part of this, many do a deep clean or spring clean of their home. However, cleaning supplies are often costly and families in need may be unable to purchase these items. Cleaning

supplies are not able to be purchased with SNAP benefits. All of us can play a part in supporting our neighbors in need by supplying important cleaning products to families. Here's how to participate. Buy a cleaning bucket and fill it with the following items: Paper towels, kitchen cleaner, bathroom and toilet bowl cleaner, toilet brush & holder, laundry detergent & dryer sheets, all-purpose household cleaner, sponges or wash rags, dustpan & brush, dish soap, disinfectant spray. When you have filled the bucket, bring it to church and it will be distributed through the St. John Food Pantry.

**Share Program:** Host an International Exchange Student and earn \$300.00 for your church. Volunteers, with or without children at home, are needed to host Christian high school exchange students from around the world for this coming school year. Students speak English, are covered by medical insurance, and have spending money for their personal expenses. Families provide an extra meal at the dinner table and a safe, caring environment. For more information contact SHARE!: 800-941-3738, [ycoffman@sharesouthwest.org](mailto:ycoffman@sharesouthwest.org), or visit [sharesouthwest.org/contact](http://sharesouthwest.org/contact)



**Fall Mum Fundraiser:** The Lutheran Women are having a Fall Mum Fundraiser from now until September 1st. Below is an order form and directions for the fundraiser. If you need anymore, please stop by the office to pick up another one. Thank you, Pepper



## Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria Fall Mum Fundraiser



LWGP is sponsoring a Fall Mum Fundraiser in conjunction with the Picket Fence Foundation. The plants are sourced through Picket Fence Foundation in Chillicothe, which is a nonprofit organization that provides employment and training opportunities to people with disabilities. Learn more at: [picketfencefoundation.org](http://picketfencefoundation.org) The mums come in an 8" pot in a variety of colors for only \$10 each. \$25 GIFT CARDS for the Picket Fence are also available. Please complete this order form and return it along with your check made payable to **LWGP**. Money must accompany your order. **Deadline to order is Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup>.**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ IL Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Phone (nnn-nnn-nnnn): \_\_\_\_\_

Your Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Please specify how many of each color you prefer  
(color choices cannot be guaranteed because of availability from the grower):

\_\_\_\_\_ Yellow x \$10 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Red x \$10 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Orange x \$10 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Pink/Purple x \$10 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ White x \$10 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Gift Cards x \$25 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL FOR THIS ORDER: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline is September 1<sup>st</sup>**

Mail your completed order and check to  
**Mary Conrad,**  
**13511 N. Bridle Lane, Chillicothe, Illinois 61523**  
or give it to your church LWGP delegate.

Mums can be picked up FRIDAY Sept 20<sup>th</sup> at the LWGP meeting  
or between 10 am and noon on Saturday September 21<sup>st</sup> at  
**St. John Lutheran Church, ELCA, 6614 W. Smithville Rd. Bartonville**

## **READERS**

<b>Aug 04</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	Teri Sammis
<b>Aug 11</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	Christina Jones
<b>Aug 18</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	Pepper Bauer
<b>Aug 25</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	Sandy Behrends

## **USHERS**

<b>Aug 04</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	Teri Sammis
<b>Aug 11</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	Lonnie Catterall & Marla Kumpf
<b>Aug 18</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	Roger Shafer
<b>Aug 25</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	Pepper Bauer

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

**Summertime Schedule (starting June 2nd through Sept. 1st):**

9:00 a.m.    Worship With Holy Communion  
10:15 a.m.    Sunday School  
10:30 a.m.    Adult Sunday School

**UPCOMING EVENTS THIS MONTH**

Summer-time Service continues. Service will be held at 9:00am with Adult Sunday School at 10:30. Bring your family and friends. Services continue till September 1st.

Leisure Group will be Wednesday, August 21st at 12:00 noon at Jacks in Tremont.

Sewing Group meets on Thursday morning at 9:00am. Come and sew or cut patterns with them.