

**The St. John Lutheran Church**  
**Volume 47 — Number 09**  
**September 2022 Jottings**

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



**Pastor Michael's Musings**

**September 2022**

“I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. My soul will boast in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together. I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears...This poor man called, and the Lord heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.”

--- Psalm 34: 1 – 4, 6 & 7

I've had a tough life lately.

- 1) My self-propelled push lawnmower is all gummed up with old oil and after it heats up it doesn't restart if it shuts off (which it does when I have to let the little handlebar go to move debris out of the way, or if the little plastic funnel-thingie on the side pops off because I hit it on a branch or bush or go backwards in tall grass.) I have to wait a few hours till the mower cools down before I can start mowing again and that's a problem, a trouble, most of the times, because I don't have the time to wait.
- 2) The battery in our Chevy Traverse went dead yesterday and I had to find the darn thing (battery) after trying to figure out how to raise the hood to charge it or replace it. Well, it's not under the hood, and I had to refer to the manual to figure out how to flip the hood-latch so I could raise the hood and see it wasn't there. Wasted time. I finally located the battery under the floor (!) behind the passenger seat by watching a You-Tube video. I had to strip back the carpet which of course, was latched with a little plastic latching-thing. I then needed a weird star-shaped drill bit to undo the proprietary cover, so I could get to the super-secret battery compartment under the floor. I had to

tear away some plastic girding to get the proprietary cover off, and then, the battery needed to be separated from the positive and negative posts which were so cramped in there I had to force a metric socket down there....I ended up with sore wrists and a bleeding back of my hand as I had to lift a battery out which had no handles for some mysterious reason. And then I had to put the new battery in, after spending \$200.00 on it, reversing this whole process.

- 3) The stock market's down (E.L.C.A. Lutheran pastor's retirement tied in directly with the Stock Market for good or ill, out of my control), my right ear gets plugged up with wax sometimes, I'm getting these little black floaters in my eyes occasionally, I haven't been able to see my mom & dad lately, our "new" dog Melvin runs out any open door sometimes and is reluctant to come back inside the house when it's time for us to go places, I need some new shoes, I'm getting more gray hair and looking more like my mom everyday...and more....

And then there's the people in Pakistan; crude stone houses, what little they have to begin with, wiped out by flood waters; the people standing calf-deep in fetid water that (as you read this now) is becoming a disease hazard of epic proportions. Death, killing and war in the Ukraine. Impending disaster with food shortages in the horn of Africa as drought has wiped out most of their crops and grain shipments are delayed or canceled because of the war in the Ukraine. Even in Europe, people fearing a bitter, harsh, and cold winter as natural gas is cut off from Russia.

The Lord says he will save me from all of MY troubles in the Psalm above, but how many of those troubles are really troubles and how much of what I complain about is simply the challenges of everyday life – and in some places maybe challenges that are self-inflicted?

I know, we can always look to someone else's worse conditions in the hopes of inflicting a kind of pseudo-shame on ourselves so that we feel we are paying some sort of price through recognizing such hardship. Empathy is a big word these days (even though it is usually used incorrectly.) But that's not what this is about. This Musings isn't about tssking, looking at other people's pain, and then walking away saying "but by the grace of God there go I..." No, instead its about questioning what we've become used to; our sense of perceived entitlement, and then our oftentimes petty outrage when the world doesn't agree with us or inflicts challenge and pain.

I will extol (praise) the Lord at ALL times writes the Psalmist. In praising the Lord we not only see a more proper perspective in how we should live, but we have a more proper perspective on how, and when, God helps us and delivers us.

## For everything, there is a season...

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*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:  
a time to be born, and a time to die...Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NRSV)*

How does one write an obituary for a church? Unfortunately, this summer saw the death of what was once a vibrant ELCA Congregation: St. John in Lacon. Founded in 1944, the church served the small community of Lacon diligently, and at one time, had enough congregants to afford their own Pastor, but times change. Young people grow up and move to “the big city”, old people transfer to the church triumphant, and for many, church is no longer a priority in their lives. This small but mighty congregation built a wonderful handicapped accessible sanctuary and was a shining light in the little river town of Lacon, but as their attendance shrunk, they became part of the three-point parish served by one pastor, along with St. Mark in Chillicothe and St. Timothy in Wyoming. At one time, all three churches had organists and small choirs and vibrant ministries. But we organists are an endangered species, and soon, only Wyoming had an organist, who recently announced she needs to retire because of arthritis, and the other two depend on “canned music” unless they could borrow a musician from another parish. That’s how I came to know them. When Alice played at our church, I played a 9 am service at Chillicothe and a 10:30 service in Lacon. Now, I’ll be playing at Wyoming at 10:30. It’s a long drive, but I feel an obligation to help supply LIVE music, even if there are only 10 people in the pews. When COVID struck, Lacon was not prepared to offer online worship, and worse yet, a bevy of bats moved into the attic above the church sanctuary. Their droppings polluted the pews and carpet, and the church had to shut down for months as hazmat crews came in to clean things up and relocate the bats. When they were ready to reopen, less than a dozen members returned. This summer, the congregation voted to “merge” with the Chillicothe church, but NONE of the Lacon members chose to make the 11 mile drive. So, the church now has just a Wednesday afternoon “service” in the Lacon community center, and their beautiful building has been sold to become a day-care center. I helped move their organ to Chillicothe, to replace the very old one at St. Marks, and worked with those in charge to move many items to our church. If you enjoy the “memory garden” by the handicapped entrance, you should notice 4 new

statues: a praying angel, St. Francis, a small angel, and Jesus. You should see pictures on this month's "picture page". We also inherited some beautiful altar paraments and banners, Bibles, hymnals, and reference books for Pastor and other miscellaneous items.

Some have heard about this and said "Will this be US in another 30, 40, or 50 years?" We hope NOT, but it could happen. Our attendance is still steady, BUT our weekly attendance is far less than it was even a few years ago. We see similar causes in almost EVERY church: COVID still worries some, and others simply found "other things to do" on Sunday mornings, death of older members, young people moving away or simply putting church low on their priority list. What can we do? Ecclesiastes continues:

*For everything there is a season...a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;*

If we want to avoid the same fate as Lacon, we must realize that NOW is the "time to plant" by doing our part to GROW new members. INVITE people; WELCOME visitors, ENCOURAGE young families to make Sunday worship an important part of the weekly routine, and most importantly, SET AN EXAMPLE by making sure you make weekly worship a TOP priority in your life! I dare say few who are reading this will be alive in another 50 years, and in some cases, our remaining time is much shorter! We must act NOW so there can be a long vibrant future for St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bartonville Illinois.

## Coming SOON...

**Labor Day weekend (September 4th)** will be the **last 9 am OUTDOOR worship service for the summer.**

**CHOIR starts September 1st** and we are looking to have more singers join us. We rehearse on Thursdays at 7 pm and sing about twice a month.

**OKTOBERFEST is coming, on Sunday September 11th**, with INDOOR polka communion worship at 9 am and "festivities" to follow. See details elsewhere in this month's Jottings.

We will return **inside** for **TWO SUNDAY SERVICES (8 and 10:30) starting September 18th** with Sunday School and coffee & donut-time between services.

### Until Next Month...

The "death" of a church is a sad and unfortunate side-effect of our culture. Martin Luther talked about the need for us to reach out in a sermon in 1533:

*"The noblest and greatest work and the most important service we can perform for God on Earth is bringing other people, and especially those who are entrusted to us, to the knowledge of God by the holy Gospel."*

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, September 18th, the time for Sunday School will return to 9:15 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, September 18th and throughout the fall months, our lessons will follow the Year C Lectionary to connect with Pastor's sermon.

<b>September 18th</b>	<b>RALLY SUNDAY</b>
<b>September 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>The Parable of the Rich Man</b>
<b>October 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>A Seed of Faith</b>
<b>October 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Ten Men Healed</b>
<b>October 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Jacob Wrestles</b>
<b>October 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>The Pharisee and the Tax Collector</b>
<b>October 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Zacchaeus</b>
<b>November 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>The Sadducees' Question</b>
<b>November 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>God's Love is Forever</b>
<b>November 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>The Day Jesus Died</b>

**Middle School aged children are learning about the Twelve Disciples and how their lives are relevant to them in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.**

As always, all Sunday School age children are welcome to join. If interested, please contact me to register your child.

John Wetterauer  
christian.reichert@att.net  
691-0434-home  
678-1736-cell

## Homebound List (as of September 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	% Carol Cowser 20307 N. Elmore Rd. Laura, Il. 61451
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:**

**Greeters Sign-Up:** Inside church services will resume on September 18, and public health restrictions concerning COVID are easing; so we can resume having greeters before each service. Please sign up on sheet at back of sanctuary. Any questions, please call Elvessa at 309-338-3818.

Thank you, Elvessa

**Garden Club:** The Garden Club is preparing for Fall decorating. If anyone would like to donate a mum, we would greatly appreciate it. Very simple: you purchase a mum and bring it to the pavilion. The mums will NOT be thrown away. After decorations are removed, the plants will be planted or donated to local assisted living/nursing home. Thank you - Garden Club  
P.S. We welcome new garden members!

**Adult Bible Study:** Adult Bible Study will be September 8 from 6-7 with Pastor as guest teacher. On September 21st Bible Study will change to Wednesday nights and we will begin studying the book of Acts. Max Lucado's Life Lessons from Acts: Christ's Church in the World will be our study guide. In October we will meet the 5th and 19th. If you have any questions please contact me Jane Rosenbohm at (309) 645-9009.

**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 September:**

<b>Sept. 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:00am -</b>	Eric & Sue Jones
<b>Sept. 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:00am -</b>	John Grafelman Joe Baumgardner
	<b>Greeter -</b>	Janice Baumgardner
<b>Sept 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8:00am -</b>	Dan Sammis
	<b>10:30am -</b>	Jodi Miller
<b>Sept 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8:00am -</b>	Teri Sammis
	<b>10:30am -</b>	Leora Day

### **Readers Schedule for September:**

<b>Sept. 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:00am -</b>	Dee Garske
<b>Sept. 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:00am -</b>	Rick Allen
<b>Sept 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8:00am -</b>	Sandy Behrends
	<b>10:30am -</b>	Sandy Behrends
<b>Sept 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8:00am -</b>	Teri Sammis
	<b>10:30am -</b>	Teri Sammis



# **RALLY SUNDAY**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2022**

CALLING ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL  
STUDENTS FROM AGES 3 TO 103...

Rally Sunday is fast approaching and to mark the occasion, an Ice Cream Social will be held in the church basement at 10:15 a.m. In addition, there will be activities for school age students afterwards. Please plan to attend and if you have any questions regarding the upcoming fall semester, please contact John Wetterauer @ 309-691-0434.

**There will be no Sunday School, September 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>. Sunday School will resume on Rally Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at the regular time of 9:15 a.m.**



**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.



St. John Lutheran Church  
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Permit No. 704

**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**

Inside service starts back up this month, on the 11th.

Sunday 11th 9:00am (INSIDE) - Oktoberfest Service  
11:00am - Oktoberfest Festivities

Sunday 18th 9:00am RALLY SUNDAY  
10:15am Ice Cream Social