

# THE ST. JOHN NEWS

July 2019

## VBS Review and Thank You Miraculous Mission Indeed!

Adam and Eve were just like you and me, especially after their fall into sin. Abraham was just like you and me. Mary and Joseph were just like you and me. The Magi were just like you and me. All of these people from our Vacation Bible School (VBS) Bible stories this year were normal human beings. They all saw this world and their lives from their own perspective. They tried to manage their own lives and they impacted the lives of a few others around them in their families and among their friends, just like you and me.

Through these very normal people, God worked his miracle of salvation. God's mission to save all people after the fall into sin is truly a miracle. God used average, ordinary individuals to make his promises and to fulfill them. Adam and Eve after they disobeyed God were consumed with themselves. How would they survive life outside of the garden? Adam's workload to provide for his family severely increased, definitely causing a strain on his relationship with his wife and his children, to be felt in every family to follow (Genesis 3:17-19). Eve's pains in child birth and child-raising were multiplied, certainly causing a heartache before unknown in the joys and burdens that mothers bear (Genesis 3:16).

Abraham was a pagan worshipping the gods of his fathers in the land of Ur, and then in Haran (Genesis 11:31; 12:1). He was successful in his dealings and obtained many possessions (Genesis 13:2). He had trained men and was considered a leader by his kinsmen (Genesis 14:14). Joseph was a carpenter working his trade in Nazareth (Matthew 13:55; Luke 2:4, 39). Like everyone else, he did what he could to make ends meet and to have enough to pay the Roman taxes that always came due. Mary, his betrothed, was a maiden girl (Luke 1:27), likely learning the crafts needed to properly care for a husband and, one day, their children. The Magi were advisors in a foreign land who gleaned knowledge from as many of the surrounding cultures that they could so as to better aid those who sought their guidance (Matthew 2:1; Daniel 2:2).

To Adam and Eve, God promised that he would send a Savior from their sin and from all sin (Genesis 3:15). That Savior would physically be the seed of Eve, God in human flesh. Thousands of years later, God made a

promise to Abraham that this one man would be the father of many nations (Genesis 12:2-3; 15:5). Through Abraham would come the Savior of the world and all who would believe in him would be called sons of Abraham (Matthew 1:1). Joseph and Mary were a betrothed couple whom God had chosen to care for his incarnate Son. They were to give him the name Jesus because he would save his people from their sin (Matthew 1:21). Jesus would be miraculously conceived inside of Mary, bearing her own human flesh and blood (Matthew 1:20). And the Magi were directed by God through the star to the place where the Savior of the world was born and being raised (Matthew 2:1-12).

None of these people expected to be used by God. None of these people heard God literally speaking to them each and every day. And none of these people had deserved God's choosing of them to bring about his mission of mankind's salvation. In truly miraculous fashion, the Lord God worked through these people and countless others through thousands of our years to bring his plan of redemption into fruition. It is extremely difficult for us, like Adam and Eve, Abraham, Joseph and Mary, and the Magi to see beyond our own little roles in this world. We can only see this world through our own eyes and from our own perspective. And yet, God's working of our salvation, the Gospel story of Jesus, is not something that we have to figure out how to fit into our own lives. Rather, true joy and peace from God comes in knowing that it is we who are a small part of God's great miraculous mission to save us for all eternity.

For this purpose, our Lord Jesus has come into this world. "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him" (John 3:17). And that message is what was shared with each of the 120 registered students who attended our VBS this summer. We were blessed to have over 45 loving and caring volunteers from our congregation and its community give of their time and their talents to bring that message to our students.

Each day, the children gathered in the gym for an opening and closing program, where VBS songs were sung,

the Bible story for the day was introduced, and a video skit about the theme of the day was viewed. As a part of their groups, students then moved on to the following activity sites: Storytelling; Bible Challenge; Crafts; Games; and Snack. During snack time on Tuesday, the students got to view a space suit that was brought from the planetarium at Parkland College. This suit allowed the students to appreciate all that goes in to travel into space and how God has allowed his creatures to develop this knowledge as a part of his miraculous mission.

Our mission offerings this year were for the purchasing of Bible story books for children in the United States. As many churches throughout the world are sending missionaries to our own country, it is important for us to help serve those in our own land with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our target goal for the week was \$750.00, which we were again blessed to exceed by almost \$100.00! That is always a wonderful achievement as students do not know about the offering at all until the first day, so the second day is the first time they bring an offering. We even had a couple of our students set up a lemonade stand by their house to raise money for the mission offering. They made and donated \$100.00!! Thanks be to God for their creativity and generosity.

We also give thanks to God for all of those who helped with our VBS. It truly cannot happen without the many hours of service given by our volunteers. Thank you for your help! And thank you to all of our congregation members who have prayed for our VBS and continue to pray for those who attended. Our gratitude also goes to those who donated snack items and craft supplies, along with all other donations given. And a special thank you to our VBS director this year, Ms. Sara McPike. She got the whole event moving this year and kept it running smoothly without.

I pray that the Lord of the Church, Christ Jesus himself, works through the students who attended and their families to bring them into his own Church and keep them with him unto life everlasting. What a joy it is to provide this VBS and to participate in all that the church offers all throughout the year. To God alone be the glory, through our Lord Jesus Christ!

In Christ's service,  
Pastor Caithamer

### *Let Us Pray*



**For Peace and Comfort:** Kathy and family at the death of husband John

**For Healing and Recovery:** Jeff -brother of Tim, Lavina, Karen, Nicholas, Merv, Joan -mother of Bill , Judy -mother of Rochelle, Rebecca-daughter of Marvin & Esther, Roy-father of Anne, Joe, Dan-brother of Bonnie, Lois, Ellie, Todd -grandson of Harold, John, Tom

**For Successful Treatments:** Jayne, Linda, Phyllis, Roxy, Todd -husband of Kim, Philip -son of Starley, Jeanette, Joan, Nancy, Shawn-sister of Maxine

**For our Military:** Adam, Joshua, Nick, Zachary, Mitchell, Taylor, Andy, Brandon, Suzzanna, Ben, Allyson

**For our Missionaries:** Pastor Randrianasolo Dembiniana Havanjanakary and the Madagascar Lutheran Seminary, Pastor Magnus Bengston and Lielsalaca Lutheran Church in Latvia, Pastor Obot Ite and the Lutheran Mission in Kingston, Jamaica



### Men's Prayer Breakfast Is Changing Location!

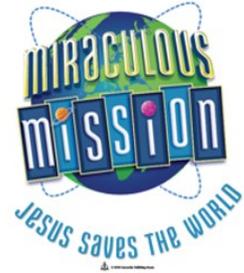
On Thursday, July 11, at 7:00am, the men's prayer breakfast will meet at the Farmhouse Restaurant at Harvest Market on 2029 S. Neil St. in Champaign. We will gather in the upstairs level after ordering our food downstairs. All men are welcome to attend!



Thank you to Pastor Caithamer and all the members of St. John for the prayers, cards, and words of encouragement at the death of our son-in-law, Phillip. Steve and Pam

**Mary Martha** will hold it's summer picnic on Thursday, July 11 at 12:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend. Please bring a dish to share.

**THANK YOU** to all of the wonderful individuals who volunteered for this year's VBS! You all were a blessing to work with, and you made my job as director a lot less stressful. Also, thank you to everyone in the congregation for your prayers for our Miraculous Mission VBS, as well as for your generous donations. I am blessed to be in a congregation such as you who are so willing to give their time and talents to teach our students about our Savior. Sara



**Senior Women's Luncheon**-first Thursday of each month at 12:30pm at Arby's on Springfield Avenue. Widow's Group has decided to open up our monthly luncheon to any senior women in the church who would like to attend. It's just a social gathering. Feel free to join us.

On September 15, 2019 after the late service there will be a potluck dinner to honor and celebrate Pastor Caithamer's 10 years serving St. John's. Watch for more information and plan to attend!



### E.A.T. Night @ Jarlings!

The July E.A.T. night will be at Jarling's Custard Cup on **Monday, July 8, Noon-10pm!** Jarling's is giving back **20%** of our purchases! No flyer needed - just mention St. John when you are ordering. Tell your friends, family, co-workers - spread the word!



University Lutheran Church at the University of Illinois has been blessed by the ministry of Pastor Rick Milas for the last 25 years. They are honored to host his retirement service on Sunday, July 28 at 10:30am. Following the service will be a cookout. For those who cannot make it that Sunday, an additional Saturday (July 27) event will be held from 3-7pm, also at University Lutheran. You are invited to attend either or both celebrations. Please RSVP to email in printed copy. We pray for God's blessing on Pastor and Martha Milas as they enter into this new season of retirement together.



The July 28th Stewardship/Fellowship Sunday with potluck dinner before the voter's meeting has been changed/

cancelled. The new plan is for this event to coincide with Rally Day on August 18, with a church picnic following the late service. Also please note that the July Voter's Meeting will begin at 1:30 instead of 1:00, to accommodate those planning to attend Pastor Milas' retirement service at University Lutheran that morning.

### Mission Statement:

United in faith, we serve the Kingdom of God by building lives that are rooted in the Word, centered on Christ, and motivated by Grace; to reflect Christ's love and share His Gospel with all.

ATTENDANCE  
FIGURES FOR  
MAY



Sundays	8:00	Comm	10:45	Comm
June 2	149	137	82	72
June 9	153	126	129	94
June 16	154	137	127	84
June 23	163	141	110	97
June 30				
Wednesdays	7:15	Comm		
June 5	20	18		
June 12	25	23		
June 19	25	22		
June 26				

1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL ST. JOHN  
CRAFT FAIR  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19



More information about reserving booth space and other details coming soon. Contact the school office with any questions.

Prairie Gardens Gift Cards

Before you shop, get a \$10 gift card from St. John PTF.

Gifts cards can be used on any purchase at Prairie Gardens. The cards do not expire and will carry a balance if you spend less than \$10.

Gift cards are available in the school office.



Music Notes



**A good time was had by all!** The organ rededication concert on June 9 was well-attended and well received. Thank you to all who came to sing and listen, to all who contributed to the post-concert Reception, to everyone who helped coordinate the work in the building to prepare for the installation of the new equipment, and to all who helped to make the work possible with their financial support.

Everyone seems to agree with me that the organ is now even better at leading and supporting the congregation in song; in accompanying the choirs, soloists, and instrumentalists; and in providing to all of us who are privileged to play it a wide palette of tone and color.

Thank you!

While our choirs are on Summer hiatus, we welcome soloists and instruments to join us in the balcony to play along on a hymn, and/or play a Prelude, Offertory, or Postlude. If you know advance you'd like to take part on a particular Sunday, let Keith know. Just showing up is also fine!

Speaking of Preludes –



True...

True...

True...?!

# JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Elijah, Joanie, Phyllis, Michelle
- 2 Mindy, Jennifer, Colleen, Parker
- 3 Andrew
- 4 Jimmy, Floyd, Haley, Karen
- 5 Margaret, Phillip
- 6 Elton, Corbin, Jarrett, Lisa, Logan, Nicole
- 7 Jennifer, Alexa, Ruby, Shelby, Seth, Sydney, Sheryl, Andrew, Joel
- 8 Ryan, Kai, Steve, Norma, Rachel
- 9 Stephen, Steve, Anna, Noah
- 10 Jake, Jay
- 11 James, Tony, Mary, Staci
- 12 Grace, Sara, Tyler, Jaidyn
- 13 Monica, Roxy, Karen
- 14 Satomi, Alyssa, Carmin, Maya, Jamie
- 15 Nancy, Nicole, Ryan, Ella, Lexie, Izaiah
- 16 Andy, John, Phyllis
- 17 Avery, Emma
- 18 Dorothy, Kylene, Pat, Duncan, William, Bonnie
- 19 Donna, Abigail
- 20 Alice, Ray, Holly, Isabelle
- 21 Angel, Dave, Norma, Patty
- 22 Shirley, Cynthia, Linda, Isla, Judith, Jeffrey
- 23 Ron
- 25 Pat
- 26 Jessica, Kade, Deanna, Kaleb
- 27 Sanna, Suzanne, Erin, Richard, Nathan
- 28 Michael, David

- 29 Lauren, David, Linda, Lisa, Connie
- 30 Olivia, Emmelyn, Matt, Madelyn
- 31 Jesse, Brandon, Chris



# JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Jonathan & Elizabeth (7)
- 8 John & Sherrie (47)
- 10 Brent & Andrea (9)
- 11 Mitch & Lindsey (10); Todd & Aimee (21)
- 12 Dave & Linda (33); Chase & Nicki (5)
- 13 Chuck & Jean (51); Michael & Theresa (6)
- 14 Zach & Brittney (12)
- 15 Alex & Renee (24)
- 17 Jim & Kim (38); Jay & Stephanie (26)
- 19 Evan & Allison (5)
- 20 Bruce & Eleanor (61)
- 22 Justin & Jamie (13); Rod & Anne (14)
- 23 Dan & Joyce (47); Otis & Jessica (8)
- 24 Brian & Pat (29); Douglas & Megan (15)
- 25 Lyle & Jayne (32)
- 27 Mark & Cheryl (28); Doug & Chris (45); Bruce & Annette (45)
- 28 Richard & Judy (51); Butch & Pam (46)
- 30 Jay & Joy Lou (31); Nick & Alayna (3)

- 31 Cole & Erin (8); Joe & Kate (15)



# JULY

*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.  
Hebrews 11:1*

# 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																																																																									
<i>Devotions &amp; Hymn-sing at Amber Glen on the 14th &amp; 28th at 2:30pm</i>	<b>1</b> <i>Summer Hours: Church Office 10:00am-2:00pm School Office 9:00am-12:00pm</i>	<b>2</b> 10:00 Adult Bible Class 6:00 Trustees 6:30 School Board	<b>3</b> 5:45 Summer Book Club 7:15 Holy Communion	<b>4</b>  Independence Day	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>																																																																																																									
<b>7</b> <i>4th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion	<b>8</b> 6:00 Finance Board E.A.T. @ Jarling's Noon-10pm (no flyer)	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 10:00 Adult Bible Class 5:45 Summer Book Club 7:15 Holy Communion	<b>11</b> 7:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast (@ new restaurant) 12:30 Mary Martha Picnic	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>																																																																																																									
<b>14</b> <i>5th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 10:00 Adult Bible Class 6:00 Council	<b>17</b> 5:45 Summer Book Club 7:15 Holy Communion	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 2:30 Wachtel/Benge Wedding																																																																																																									
<b>21</b> <i>6th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion	<b>22</b> <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	<b>23</b> 10:00 Adult Bible Class 6:00 Parish Ed 7:00 Youth Board	<b>24</b> 5:45 Summer Book Club 7:15 Holy Communion	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 6:00 PreK-3rd Gr Playdate	<b>27</b>																																																																																																									
<b>28</b> <i>7th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion 1:30 Voter's Meeting	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 10:00 Adult Bible Class	<b>31</b> 5:45 Summer Book Club 7:15 Holy Communion	<i>Pastor Caitthamer's day off: Fridays</i>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">June 2019</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	June 2019							S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30							<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">August 2019</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1 2 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	August 2019							S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1 2 3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
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