

THE ST. JOHN NEWS

July 2022

VBS Wrap Up and Other Summer Stuff

VBS

The Lord has blessed us with another wonderful week of Vacation Bible School (VBS) this summer. About 80 kids from preschool through 5th grade attended each day, plus over 30 volunteers. The focus for this year's VBS was the chief parts of Luther's Small Catechism as presented by Martin Luther and several of his friends, including Elisabeth Cruciger, Walpurga Bugenhagen, and Katherine Melancthon. The Six Chief Parts of Luther's Catechism are 1) the Ten Commandments, 2) the Creed, 3) the Lord's Prayer, 4) Holy Baptism, 5) Confession and Absolution, and 6) the Lord's Supper.

Students were blessed to enjoy a storytelling station, led by Walpurga Bugenhagen (aka Pam), where sketches were performed to help demonstrate the Catechism's chief part for the day. The Bible challenge station, led by Katherine Melancthon (aka Karen) provided students with theme-specific activities to help emphasize the main point for the day. More physical-oriented activities were led by Don. And students were able to enjoy the hands-on activity of craft-making as led by Alice and Carol . Midway through the morning, all of the groups gathered in the fellowship hall for snack time, collaborated by Donna , Joanie , and Janet .

Our preschool students enjoyed their activities in their classrooms, along with some outside play time. Preschool and day school age students had opening sessions in the gym with Elisabeth Cruciger (aka Sara) and Martin Luther (aka Pastor Caithamer), which included songs with motions, and highlights for the day.

An offering was collected throughout the week to support the missionary work of Deaconess Kim Bueltmann, who is sharing the Gospel with Middle-Eastern refugees in Leipzig, Germany. Students raised over \$700.00 for the Lord's work through Deaconess Kim!! On Friday, students and their families celebrated the completion of the VBS week with a closing program and picnic lunch!

Many thanks go out to all those who supported our VBS this year through your prayers, donations, and the volunteering of your time, especially our VBS director, Sara . The Lord bless the families who received the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ through this year's VBS!

Summer Sunday Bible Class

Back in the fall, the Sunday Bible Class began the study of the book called *The Fire and the Staff*, written by Rev. Klemet Preus. We continue to work through that book through the summer and to conclude it by the end of August! All are still welcome to attend this class as it is extremely relevant to our lives as Christians in America today. If you have any family members or friends who attend non-denominational churches—such as First Christian Church in Savoy, Windsor Road Christian Church in Champaign, and The Vineyard in Urbana—then the discussions in this class will help you better understand the theological positions of these congregations and what your loved ones and friends are hearing at their churches. The theological thoughts of these churches are nothing new as they have evolved over time from the emotion-based Anabaptists and the reason-based Zwinglians of Luther's day, through to method of Christian spirituality proposed by John Wesley, and on through to the American revivals and the rise of Pentecostalism in the 19th and 20th centuries. If you have any questions about this class, please email me at revcaithamer—at—stjohn-lcms.org. If you would like to listen to previous classes, please visit the class's archives at stjohnbibleclass.org. The first session was held on 9-19-21.

Creation Museum and Ark Encounter

We are blessed to have within a few hours' drive two wonderful resources that support our defense of the Christian faith. And, we will be taking a trip to these resources from Thursday, August 11 to Friday, August 12. They are the Creation Museum in Petersburg, Kentucky and the Ark Encounter in Williamstown, Kentucky. Both of these museums are founded by Ken Ham, who is the creator of the website answersingenesis.org. A few spots are still available, if you would like to join us. Please call the church office for more information. If you are not able to attend, you can still greatly benefit from the above-mentioned website, which I utilize from time-to-time in Bible classes. You can find articles and videos on Creation, Dinosaurs, Evolution, Worldviews, and more.

Look forward to fall activities at St. John, especially our Rally Day and church picnic on August 21 (still technically summer), along with a second offering of the Evangelism workshop, *Everyone His Witness*, the day before on Saturday, August 20. We will also be hosting our third *Trunk or Treat*, which will take place on Sunday, October 30. And, of course, our day school returns to classes on Thursday, August 18. Please keep all of these activities in your prayers, and especially those who will be participating in them!

The Lord bless and keep you all as you do the many things God has prepared for you to do! (Ephesians 2:10)

In Christ's service,

Pastor Caithamer

Let Us Pray

For Peace and Comfort: Dan & Joyce and family at the death of Dan's mother Esther ; Judy and family at the death of Judy's brother Karl

For Healing and Recovery: Charlene, Judy, Roger -father of Stephanie, Jim, Brian, Larry, Teresa -godchild of Bob & Joan, Barbara-family friend of Bob & Joan, Karla, John, Tom, Hendricks-grandson of Dan & Joanie, Maria, Merv, Rebecca -daughter of Marvin & Esther, Roy father of Anne, Dan -brother of Bonnie, Todd -grandson of Harold , Brett cousin of the Kindts'

For Successful Treatments: Barb, Luke, Earl, Linda, Joan, Jeanette, Nancy

For our Military: Adam, Nick, Andy, Brandon, Zachary, David

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



Evangelism Workshop
Witnessing is the purpose of your everyday life. The Every One His Witness® Lutheran evangelism program considers the real world context in which Lutherans find themselves as witnesses of Jesus Christ. It puts sound doctrine into practical action for sharing the faith with the people whom God has placed alongside His witnesses in their everyday lives.

The workshop will be in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, August 20th from 8am to around 1pm. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided. A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board across from the Fellowship Hall.

Mary Martha will not be meeting this summer. We will meet again on Thursday, September 8th. We hope you all have a good summer and we hope to see you in September. All ladies the congregation are invited to attend.

Sunday School News

Since we are giving our teachers a break, we are in need of volunteers to teach in the summer. We are blessed to have some volunteers already but we could use a little more help. Please consider signing up for a few Sundays. Materials are provided. There is a sign-up sheet by the Fellowship Hall or call Cindy for more details.

VBS

A huge thank you to everyone who helped with VBS, whether it be volunteering during the week, or donating food/items for us to use. It was a great success.

A special thank you goes out to all who contributed items for the snack portion of our recent VBS. Your generous donations helped contribute to a more successful VBS experience for those who participated. Also, many thanks go to those who volunteered their time, talent, and energy to help in this area. Your support is much appreciated.

Ark Encounter & Creation Museum

The participants of the August 11th/12th trip would like to thank the congregation for providing the bus. It has assisted some to attend that might not have been able to because of the cost. Thank you so much. There are still a few seats available on the bus. St. John members can bring a family member or friend who may or may not be a member of the congregation. See the details on the bulletin board outside the church office. Make your checks payable to Susan Warsaw or Sherry and if you have any questions please call. Thank you.



July Music Notes



“Where there is devotional music, God is always present with His mercy and grace.”

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1750) ¹

¹ Bach wrote this comment into his Bible next to 2 Chronicles 5:11-14. The story tells of the dedication of Solomon’s Temple and how, as the musicians sang their songs of “praise and thanksgiving to the Lord,” the glory of God filled the Temple. Through a very fascinating series of events, Bach’s Bible is now in the library of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri (see <https://www.csl.edu/resources/library/bach-bible/>).

The Theological Basis of Music

Music is a special gift of God. Scripture tells us that immediately after God created the world, His angels were so filled with wonder at the beauty and majesty of God’s creation that “the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy.” (Job 38:7) In other words, the angels formed the first choir and sang the first song of praise and thanksgiving to God. The angels have been singing ever since (Isaiah 6:1-3; Revelation 4:8).

Throughout Scripture, God and His children use music to celebrate His wonderful works and proclaim His great redeeming love. In the last book of the Bible, Jesus reveals to the Apostle John that at the end of time the Heavenly Choir of Saints and angels will sing eternally. They will sing the “new song,” that is songs that proclaim God’s greatest act of love, the redemption of mankind through the death and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ. The Heavenly Choir will include all believers who have died believing in our Lord Jesus Christ, for they are counted among the Saints (Revelation 7:9-17). For all eternity the Whole Company of Heaven will sing songs such as this one regarding Jesus Christ: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!” (Revelation 5:12)

As such, music is central to the Divine Service and can be of great benefit to a Christian’s personal and home devotional life. When we sing the songs God gave to us in the Bible, the songs He gave to the faithful Christians past and present, and the songs of the Saints and angels, God is able to write His Word upon our hearts and minds (Jeremiah 31:33) and we are able to meditate upon it “day and night” (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1; Colossians 3:16).

It is important to remember that music is a part of God’s creation and was made by Him to delight His creatures and bring them joy and happiness. Beautiful music therefore not only stands as a witness to the magnificence of God’s creative powers. Music also exists simply for our enjoyment. Martin Luther (1483-1546) spoke often of this and notes how joyful music drives Satan away. May your life be filled with the joy and wonder of God’s gift of music.

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<http://www.jubalslyre.com>

4th Annual

St. John Arts & Crafts Fair

Vendor applications available on the narthex table, from the school office and on the school website, www.stjohnls.com.



Contact the school office with any questions.

Looking for a way to support

St. John Lutheran School and Little Lamb Preschool?

Curriculum and supplemental items are needed to the new kindergarten classroom. Donation tags are on the board outside the fellowship hall with items needed. Take a tag or two and return the tag and monetary donation to the office. Thank you in advance for your support.

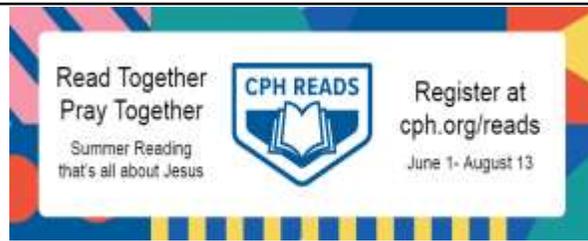
Our teachers also have wishlists on Amazon. Visit the school website, www.stjohnls.com, to see each list.

For other donation and giving opportunities, contact the school office.



Champaign Public Library – Summer Reading Challenge for Kids, Teens and Adults (May 15-August 15)

Sign up for the all-ages READ-A-PALOOZA Summer Reading Challenge at champaign.org. Prizes include books, rainbow walking springs for kids, cool tumblers for teens, and gift baskets for adults.



Prairie Gardens Gift Cards — There are only a few cards left! 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 \$20. PTF receives 20% from each card sold. The money earned from this fundraiser goes towards items that the teachers or school need to purchase, family fun events throughout the school year, and special requests from the teachers for classroom items. Gift cards are available in the school office.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

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|----|--|----|---|
| 1 | Elijah, Joanie, Phyllis, Michelle | 27 | Sanna, Suzanne, Erin, Richard, Nathan |
| 2 | Mindy, Jennifer, Colleen, Parker | 28 | Michael, David |
| 3 | Andrew | 29 | Lauren, Lilly, David, Linda, Lisa, Connie |
| 4 | Jimmy, Haley, Karen | 30 | Olivia, Julia, Emmelyn, Matt, Madelyn |
| 5 | Margaret, Phillip | 31 | Jesse, Brandon, Chris |
| 6 | Elton, Corbin, Jarrett, Lisa, Logan, Nicole | | |
| 7 | Jennifer, Alexa, Ruby, Shelby, Seth, Sydney,
Michelle, Sheryl, Andrew, Joel | | |
| 8 | Ryan, Kai, Steve, Norma, Rachel | | |
| 9 | Stephen, Steve, Anna, Noah | | |
| 10 | Jake, Jay | | |
| 11 | James, Tony, Mary, Staci | | |
| 12 | Olivia, Grace, Sara, Tyler, Jaidyn | | |
| 13 | Monica, Roxy, Karen | | |
| 14 | Satomi, Carmin, Maya, Jamie | | |
| 15 | Nancy, Nicole, Ryan, Ella, Lexie, Izaiah | | |
| 16 | Andy, John | | |
| 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, Ross, Deanna, Kaleb | | |

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|---------------------------------------|
| 7 | Jonathan & Elizabeth(10) | 25 | Lyle & Jayne (35) |
| 8 | John & Sherrie(50) | 27 | Mark & Cheryl (31); Doug & Chris (48) |
| 10 | Jon & Jaylyn(9); Brent & Andrea (12) | 28 | Richard & Judy (54) |
| 11 | Mitch & Lindsey(13); Todd & Aimee(24) | 30 | Jay & Joy Lou (34); Nick & Alayna (6) |
| 12 | Dave & Linda(36); Chase & Nicki(8) | 31 | Cole & Erin (11); Joe & Kate (18) |
| 13 | David & Kendra(20); Chuck & Jean(54) | | |
| 14 | Zach & Brittney (15) | | |
| 15 | Alex & Renee(27) | | |
| 17 | Jim & Kim(41); Jay & Stephanie (29) | | |
| 19 | Evan & Allison (8) | | |
| 22 | Justin & Jamie(16); Rod & Anne (17) | | |
| 23 | Dan & Joyce (50) | | |
| 24 | Brian & Pat (32); Douglas & Megan (18) | | |

JULY

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ
 Jesus for good works, which God prepared
 beforehand, that we should walk in them.
 Ephesians 2:10

2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																																																																		
Church Office 359-1123 School Office 359-1714	Pastor Caithamer's day off: Fridays	Summer Hours: Church Office 10:00am - 2:00pm The School will not have office hours. Phone Messages will be checked regularly.			1	2																																																																																																		
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