

THE ST. JOHN NEWS

June 2022

The Friends of Martin Luther Vacation Bible School 2022

Not one of us is an island. Not a one of us can get through this life alone. We are brought into this world through the actions of others. We learn from a young age that we are dependent on many people for our survival. Even as adults, we utilize goods and services from other people, some for our pleasure, some out of necessity. Our parents were the first to give us their love and support. As we grew older, we gained friends of those who were outside of our family. Family members typically love us unconditionally through the bond of blood. Friends, in a different way, love us because we share ideals and characteristics in common. Friendships strengthen our other relationships and our personalities. And, of course, none of us live, breathe, or have our being apart from God.

When we think of the Reformation, the primary figure that jumps to mind is Martin Luther, and rightfully so. God gave Martin Luther a thirst for the truth that would not be quenched by any earthly good. Luther persisted in his quest for the truth of the right doctrine of the Scripture despite persecution, slander, shame, vice, and other attacks. Luther possessed great courage and resilience to match that of any of history's greatest heroes, and all for the sake of the Gospel, thanks be to God!

Even Martin Luther was not alone. He had the support of many friends throughout his life and work as the reformer. Luther was able to build upon the seedlings of foundations laid by other seekers of truth who came before him, such as John Huss and John Wycliffe. Johann von Staupitz was Luther's father confessor while a monk in Erfurt. Staupitz encouraged Luther to study the Scriptures, which opened the door to Luther's revelation about the Gospel. Luther posted his Ninety-Five Theses in 1517 with the support of several fellow faculty members at the University of Wittenberg. He had been in regular discussion and debate with them over his explorations of the Scriptures.

Our Vacation Bible School this year will present a student's-eye perspective of the friends of Martin Luther. These supporters include Luther's wife, Katharina von Bora—also called Katie and Kate, Philip and Katherine Melancthon, Johannes and Walpurga Bugenhagen, and Caspar and Elisabeth Cruciger.

Luther married Katharina in 1525, about 8 years after posting the Ninety-five Theses. Katharina supported Luther in all that he did, caring for their home and children, and welcoming the many travelers who had come to learn from Martin. Philip Melancthon was a talented young linguist and joined the faculty at Wittenberg in 1518. Melancthon was one of Luther's closest associates and friends. They balanced each other out in many ways. Luther was more bombastic in his writings, which Philip helped to temper. Melancthon, on the other hand, was more prone to compromise on key teachings of the Lutheran faith, which Martin directed Philip not to do.

Johannes Bugenhagen was also well-versed in languages and mastered education at a young age. Having read Luther's powerful work, *The Babylonian Captivity of the Church*, Bugenhagen was sold on Luther's theology and began teaching in Wittenberg in 1522. Bugenhagen became the pastor at city church in Wittenberg and was Luther's own pastor and confessor. Johannes's wife, Walpurga, became good friends with Katharina. In order to help Katie with those who were sick with the plague, Johannes and Walpurga moved into the big Luther house in Wittenberg.

Caspar Cruciger was the youngest of these friends of Luther. He was a student under Luther at Wittenberg in 1521 and became a pastor in Magdeburg. Cruciger, along with Melancthon and Bugenhagen, assisted Luther with his translation of the Bible, especially the Old Testament Hebrew into German. Caspar married Elisabeth in 1524, with Luther preaching at their wedding. Elisabeth was also good friends with Luther's wife. Before marrying Caspar, Elisabeth had written her own hymn, which Luther encouraged her to publish. It is included in our hymnal, hymn number 402, entitled *The Only Son from Heaven*.

Skits will be performed throughout our VBS with these characters being highlighted. Our usual site rotation will occur with students enjoying crafts, games, snack, Bible challenge, and storytelling activities. **Registration is open and can be completed online at vbsmate.com/stjohnchampaign. VBS is open to students age 3 (and potty trained) through completed 5th grade. Older students are welcome to help out!**

Our VBS is from Monday, June 20 to Friday, June 24, meeting each day from 9am to 11:30am. A closing program will take place at the end of Friday's session, with a picnic potluck to be enjoyed by all immediately following.

The Lord bless the work of our Vacation Bible School this year, that the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ be promoted and emphasized for the salvation of all and the glory of Christ's name!

In Christ's service,

Pastor Caithamer

Let Us Pray

For Peace and Comfort: Jill, Sara & Ryan at the death of Jill's father Kenneth, Jim and family at the death of Jim's brother Bill

For Healing and Recovery: Charlene, Karl -brother of Judy Cash, Judy, Lindsey Chapman, 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 nnie , Todd Hempel-grandson of Harold Hempel, 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



Vacation Bible School - Friends of Luther June 20-24 9:00-11:30am

The name Martin Luther may ring a bell, but do you know Elisabeth Cruciger? Phillip Melancthon? And what did they all believe? Come learn as these and other friends of Luther teach the basics of the Christian faith, five of the six chief parts of the Catechism. Students will hear Bible stories, as well as sing songs, make crafts, play games and eat snacks. They will do this while learning about our one true God, and how He is our fortress. Registration will be open for children 3 years old (and potty-trained) to completed 5th grade. Please be on the lookout in bulletins to come for when registration becomes available.

Volunteers Make Our VBS a Success!

Youth (completed 6th grade- 12th grade) and adult volunteers are needed. If you can help full or part time, we have many ways to be involved to suit your schedule needs or interests. A sign-up sheet is posted by the Fellowship Hall. Email vbs—at—stjohns.com if you have any questions.

VBS Donation Requests have now been posted on the bulletin board by the Fellowship Hall. Various items are needed to provide snacks for each day of VBS during the week of June 20. Please use the donation slips provided for requests and return your donated items to the coat room by June 17, 2022. Please contact Donna, with any questions you may have. Thank you!

Church Garage Sale, June 10th & 11th Canceled

Sincerest thank you's to everyone who volunteered! Your willingness to help is greatly appreciated. The event is a very large undertaking, requiring a lot of help, from setting up dozens of tables, sorting, organizing and pricing all of the donated items, running the sale on Friday and Saturday (managing the crowds, checking people out, helping them with their purchases, etc..) and cleaning up afterward (packing up all the unsold items, loading the boxes, putting away all the tables, etc..).

Sunday School News

We would like to acknowledge and thank our faithful Sunday School Teachers for the year (Pam, Sara, Karen, Stephanie, Katie, Karen, Bill & Don) Their willingness and flexibility were a blessing. 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. Thank you and God bless your summer.

Ark Encounter & Creation Museum

There has been a lot of interest shown in taking a bus trip to the Creation Museum & Ark Encounter. The dates have been tentatively set for August 11th & 12th. There are 50 spots available to go and there is a sign-up sheet located on the bulletin board next to the church office. Fliers are available in the church office for more information on both locations. Cost to you would be entry to both museums, food & hotel. Please contact the church office with any questions.



June Music Notes



Our choral singers and handbell ringers are wrapping up their seasons this month. We are grateful for their contributions and fellowship, and look forward to resuming normal scheduling for them in the Fall.

Alleluia Ringers

Wednesday, June 1
Sunday, June 5

6:00 pm rehearsal
7:30 warmup – ring for 8:00 service & Prelude for 10:45

Mixed Choir

Sunday, June 5

10:15 warmup - sing for 10:45 Pentecost service

Men's Choir

Sunday, June 12

7:30 warmup – sing for 8:00 Trinity service

Instrumentalists-

Thank you to all who continue to offer their musical talents to enrich our worship in this way. Please be in touch with Keith if you are available to play an instrument. Keith can help offer selections if you would like, or let me know what you have in your repertoire!

Housing Sponsor – One of our former members, Clara (daughter of John & Jennie) will be interning with Keith Williams at Buzard Pipe Organ Builders in June. She is seeking a place to stay in Champaign during the last week of June. Clara is asking if any St. John family might be able to offer a place to stay. Please be in touch with Keith if you have questions or suggestions, thanks!

Soli Deo Gloria, Keith

Welcome our New Teachers:

Miss Sarah Barrett—K-1st grade

*Miss Barrett grew up in Bloomington, graduated from Wheaton College and has been teaching for one year.

Miss Elizabeth Wheatman—Middle School

*Miss Wheatman is a member of St. John, graduated from UIUC, and has been teaching for 7 years.



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.

Round Barn Manor Food Pantry Program

An administrator has been found. We are in need of extra helpers to pick up the order at the food bank once a month. In the past, the order would fill two minivans or similar size vehicles. Please consider helping on a monthly or on a rotating basis. If you are interested in helping out, please contact the school office for more information.

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.

Read Together
Pray Together
Summer Reading
that's all about Jesus



Register at
cph.org/reads
June 1- August 13

CHAPEL OFFERINGS



Chapel offerings went to
Lutheran Church Charities K-9
Comfort Dog Ministry.

The approximate total collected was \$1205.75
*This total will include Sunday School offerings



Prairie Gardens Gift Cards — Before you start your spring planting, get a \$20 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 \$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 throughout the school year, as well as special requests from the teachers for classroom items. Gift cards are available in the school office.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Mike, Habte, Andy, Earl | 20 Tony, Austin |
| 2 Pastor Jeff Caithamer, Aaron, Noah, Peter | 21 Charles |
| 3 Lisa | 22 Jane, Taylor, Louise |
| 4 Amy Jo, Justin, Terry, Lela, Beth | 23 Jacklyn, Lucas |
| 5 Taylor, Letty | 24 Lydia, Carol, Carol |
| 6 Marilyn | 25 John, Earl |
| 7 Karla, Chelsea, Jill, Bob | 26 Hannah, Evan, David, Elizabeth |
| 8 Gerald, Evan, Christina | 27 Lois, Pam, Jill, Timmie |
| 9 Mark | 28 Rick, Betty |
| 10 Milo | 29 Elise |
| 11 Kevin, Jennifer Diane, Randy | |
| 12 Wayne | |
| 13 Callie | |
| 14 John, Haley | |
| 15 Neil, Kim | |
| 16 Sam, Ashleigh, Katie, Hannah, Hannah | |
| 17 JoAnne, James | |
| 18 Zayne, Jake,
Jim Moser, Dale Sinder | |
| 19 Erin, Rick, Jodie, Abby | |

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 David & Carol (43); Blake & Nancy (44); Sean & Rachel (5); Duane & Juleigh (32); Dan & Julie (38); Jay & Carol (32) | (11); Louis & JoAnne (56)
19 Aziz & Amy (12); David & Karen (40) |
| 4 Earl & Barb (67) | 20 David & Monica (29); Rick & Martha (41),
Doug & Lynn (7) |
| 5 Jason & Nicci (29) | 21 Mark & Sherry (31) |
| 6 Dan & Faith (30); Kevin & Carmin (35); Wally & Lisa (35) | 22 John & Beth (20); Neal & Deanna (9) |
| 7 Chris & Lisa (42); Seth & Melissa (28); Dan & Beth (25); Jim & Robin (31); Ron & Carol (53) | 23 Ralph & Renae (54) |
| 9 Will & Olivia (4); David & Cindy (32); Cole & Morgan (4) | 24 Fred & Geneice (61); Duane & Chris (50) |
| 10 Dan & Allison (16) | 25 Brian & Penny (34) |
| 11 B.J. & Christina (17) | 27 Rick & Ronda (47), Charlie & Elizabeth (2) |
| 14 Rex & Cynthia (25) | 28 Walt & Jill (36) |
| 15 Richard & Shirley (65) | 29 Steve & Vanessa (26) |
| 16 Jonathan & Emily (10) | |
| 17 Roger & Charlotte (55) | |
| 18 Raymond & Debbie (34); Scott & Rebecca | |



For I decided to know nothing among you
except Jesus Christ and him crucified.
1 Corinthians 2:2

2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																																																																									
<p><i>Church Office</i> 359-1123</p> <p><i>School Office</i> 359-1714</p>	<p><i>Pastor Caithamer's</i> day off: Fridays</p>	<p><i>Summer Hours:</i> <i>Church Office</i> 10:00am - 2:00pm</p> <p><i>The School will not have</i> <i>office hours. Phone Messages</i> <i>will be checked regularly.</i></p>	<p>1</p> <p>6:00 Handbells 7:15 Holy Communion</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>																																																																																																									
<p>5 <i>Pentecost</i></p> <p>8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion</p>	<p>6</p> <p><i>School Summer</i> <i>Program Begins</i></p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:00 Adult Bible Class 5:15 Fellowship Board 6:00 Trustees, Evangelism 6:30 School Board</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:15 Holy Communion</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast @ Sammy's 1:30 Mary Martha</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>																																																																																																									
<p>12 <i>The Holy Trinity</i></p> <p>8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion</p>	<p>13</p> <p>5:30 Finance Board</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:00 Elders</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:00 Adult Bible Class 7:15 Holy Communion</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>																																																																																																									
<p>19 <i>2nd Sun after Pentecost</i></p> <p>8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion</p> <p><i>Father's Day</i></p>	<p>20</p> <p><i>Newsletter Deadline</i></p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:00 Council</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:15 Holy Communion</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>																																																																																																									
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