

THE ST. JOHN NEWS

June 2023

God's Living Water Vacation Bible School 2023

How many stories in the Bible can you think of that include water? A quick list might be:

- the Creation where the Spirit of God hovered over the surface of the waters and the Father separated the waters below from the waters above (Genesis 1:2, 6–10);
- the Flood (Genesis 6–9);
- God using Moses to part the Red Sea so the Hebrews could escape from Egypt (Exodus 14);
- Moses striking the rock so that water would come forth (Exodus 17:1–7);
- the Hebrew people crossing the Jordan River on dry ground (Joshua 3);
- Naaman being cleansed of leprosy by following Elisha's command to wash in the Jordan River (2 Kings 5:1–14);
- Jonah getting swallowed by the big fish (Jonah 1);
- Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River (Matthew 3:13–17; Mark 1:9–11; Luke 3:21–22);
- Jesus changing water into wine (John 2:1–11);
- Jesus calming the storm (Matthew 8:23–27);
- Jesus walking on water (John 6:16–21);
- the miraculous catches of fish (Luke 5:1–11; John 21:4–8);
- Paul's shipwreck (Acts 28:1–10);
- the sea becoming glass in the book of Revelation (4:6; 15:2), and disappearing (21:1).

With so many stories involving water throughout the Bible, it is no surprise that water has been a regular VBS theme throughout the years. God implemented water as a vital part of all of creation. Water has also been God's choice for salvific reasons. "He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit" (Titus 3:5). "Unless one is born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). "Baptism...now saves you" (1 Peter 3:20).

As the title of this year's VBS is *God's Living Water*, our attention is turned to John chapter 4. There, Jesus interacted with a Samaritan woman outside of her village. Jesus was thirsty and asked her for some water. Jews and Samaritans were not supposed to interact, which led to the woman questioning Jesus about this. Jesus responded, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water" (John 4:10).

Now, what is meant by "living water"? What is "living water" as opposed to "dead water" or "dying water"? These are not terms usually associated with water. We might compare living water to flowing or moving water, and dead water to stagnant water. Stagnant water becomes corrupted over time and is not beneficial for drinking or cleansing. Moving water, especially water that is purified through movement over rocks and other like substances, gives us water for drinking, cooking, and cleaning.

Jesus connects living water with the idea of not ever needing to drink water again. “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life” (John 4:13–14). Following this statement, the talk about living water ceases. Yet, the living water continues to flow because that living water is Jesus himself. Jesus, the Word made flesh, speaks and that Word is living water. It wells up to eternal life. Jesus returned to this subject later on in Jerusalem, on the last day of the feast he was attending. He cried out in the temple, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water’” (John 7:37).

This year’s VBS will explore the living water that is our Lord Jesus Christ and how he has used water throughout history to teach about his grace and peace. Always connected to that water is the Word of Christ, primarily that of the Gospel. Here are the VBS days and their Bible stories:

- Monday** Water from the Rock (Exodus 17:1–7)
- Tuesday** Naaman Is Healed (2 Kings 5:1–14)
- Wednesday** Jesus and the Woman at the Well (John 4:1–30)
- Thursday** Jesus Washes His Disciples’ Feet (John 13:1–20)
- Friday** Pentecost and Baptism (Acts 2:1–41)

We will once again enjoy great music, fun games, meaningful crafts, thought-provoking stories, and more! VBS is open to all students from 3-year-old preschool through completed 5th grade. Those who have completed 6th grade and up are invited to help throughout the week. If you would like to register children for VBS, you can do so by visiting vbsmate.com/stjohnchampaign. If you would like to volunteer, please email our VBS director, Sara McPike, at saraj—at-n9cqs.com, or contact the church office at 217-359-1123.

I am looking forward to another great week of learning and fun and interaction with returning students and new students alike! Please pray for all involved, that the Holy Spirit would work through this proclamation of the Gospel!

In Christ’s service,

Pastor Caithamer

Let Us Pray

For Peace and Comfort: Barb and family at the death of husband Earl

For Healing and Recovery: Nina, Ellie -daughter of Laran & Erin, Lydia, Joyce, Robin, Greg -brother of Joyce, David -grandfather of Sara and Ryan Bentley -great grandson of Bob & Joan, Herb, Karla, Charlene, Brian, Teresa -godchild of Bob & Joan, Barbara -family friend of Bob & Joan, John Lynch, Hendricks Hartman-grandson of Dan & Joanie, Maria, Merv, Rebecca-daughter of Marvin & Esther, Roy-father of Anne, Todd-grandson of Harold, Brett -cousin of the Kindts’

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

For our Military: 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 - **God’s Living Water June 19-23** 9:00-11:30am

1 Timothy 1:14 says, “The grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.” This is the starting place for ‘God’s Living Water: Covered in Jesus’ Grace’. Each of the lessons focuses on biblical accounts that emphasize the Living Water, Jesus Christ. Kids will learn about Jesus using all their senses at different sites. These sites provide yummy snacks, energetic games, inquisitive science experiments, clever crafts, and theatric Bible stories. All work together to speak the truth of overflowing grace. Registration is now available for students 3 years old (and potty-trained) through completed 5th grade at vbsmate.com/stjohnchampaign. If you have any questions, email vbs—at-stjohnls.com.



June Music Notes



Sunday, June 4 is Trinity Sunday, and marks the final Sunday on which our Alleluia Ringers, Mixed Choir and Men's Choir will help to lead worship until the Fall. We have a very devoted group of singers and ringers, and I am truly grateful for their commitment.

We also continue to enjoy the participation of many instrumentalists, who will take part whenever possible throughout the summer. If you wish to be among them on any given Sunday, please let me know of your availability, what you play, and if you have music or wish me to provide it. It has been especially exciting to welcome and encourage younger players this year! Even playing along on a verse of one hymn has an impact and we look forward to fostering this aspect of our musical lives together.

All of us thank the entire congregation for their ongoing support of our music ministries here at St. John. One aspect of this has included the development and maintenance of our music library and database. I want to thank Susan for her work in creating it, and Nancy for her work in making additional entries as new music has been added to the library. We are blessed to have a significant collection of choral, handbell, and instrumental music here! If anyone is interested in doing additional work on this, please be in touch with me.

As always, a highlight of our worship together in music is our strong congregational singing. Lutherans love to sing, and there is a lot of this kind of love here! We will again have a Hymn Sing Prelude at both services on June 25. Forms for you to request your favorites are on the table on the Narthex. Bring a friend!

Soli Deo Gloria,

Keith

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—ast—stjohns.com if you have any questions.

VBS Donation Requests— Donation slips have been posted requesting a variety of items needed for this year's VBS. Items are to be placed in the coat room by June 15th. Should you require further information or have any questions regarding the requests, please contact Donna E.

Young Adults Group will be having a cookout on June 4th at 4:30pm at the McPike home in Urbana. Come celebrate the beginning of summer with us as we enjoy good food, fun and fellowship. All who are ages 18-35 (including college students returning home from school) are welcome. Please bring a side dish to share. For more information, including the address, please contact Sara McPike at saraj@n9cqs.com.

LWML National Convention

The LWML 40th Biennial Convention is to be held in Milwaukee, WI on June 22-25. Linda Thiele and Linda Kovell will be participating in the Mission Pledge Walk. All donations will support the 2023-2025 Mission Grants. Make checks payable to LWML and in the memo line, write WALK. Place your donation in the LWML drop box, located on the narthex table. Thank you for your support.

SUMMER Office Hours

Church Office Summer Hours will be from 10am-2pm
The school office will not have regular office hours.
If you need to get in touch with the School Office staff for any reason over the summer, please call the school office at (217) 359-1714. Messages will be checked regularly. You may also reach us through email at kschmidt—at—stjohns.com.



This summer, we don't want more screen time. While screens and other technology can connect us to others worldwide, we're ready for something different. We're ready for an authentic togetherness.
Reading is a well-documented and studied way to benefit yourself and your children. It can help connect to one another and grow together. When we spend time together learning about Christ, we find hope, joy, and peace no matter the circumstances. This summer, join CPH Reads, a program that will reward your family for reading together about the Good News of Jesus Christ.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Mike, Habte, Andy, Earl | 20 Tony , Austin |
| 2 Pastor Jeff , Aaron, Noah, Peter | 21 Charles |
| 3 Lisa | 22 Jane, Taylor, Louise |
| 4 Amy Jo, Justin, Terry, Beth | 23 Jacklyn, Lucas |
| 5 Taylor , Letty | 24 Lydia, Carol, Carol |
| 6 Marilyn | 25 John |
| 7 Karla, Chelsea, Jill | 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 Kim | |
| 16 Ashleigh, Katie, Hannah , Hannah | |
| 17 JoAnne, James | |
| 18 Zayne, Jake ,
Jim Moser, Dale Sinder | |
| 19 Erin, Rick, Jodie, Abby | |

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 David & Carol (44); Blake & Nancy (45); Sean & Rachel (6); Duane & Juleigh (33); Dan & Julie (39); Jay & Carol (33) | 20 David & Monica (30); Doug & Lynn (8) |
| 5 Jason & Nicci (30) | 21 Mark & Sherry (32) |
| 6 Dan & Faith (31); Kevin & Carmin (36); Wally & Lisa (36) | 22 John & Beth (21); Neal & Deanna (10) |
| 7 Chris & Lisa (43); Seth & Melissa (29); Dan & Beth (26); Jim & Robin (32); Ron & Carol (54) | 23 Ralph & Renae (55) |
| 9 Will & Olivia (5); David & Cindy (33); Cole & Morgan (5) | 24 Fred & Geneice (62); Duane & Chris (51) |
| 10 Dan & Allison (17) | 25 Brian & Penny (35) |
| 11 B.J. & Christina (18) | 27 Rick & Ronda (48), Charlie & Elizabeth (3) |
| 14 Rex & Cynthia (26) | 28 Walt & Jill (37) |
| 15 Richard & Shirley (66) | 29 Steve & Vanessa (27) |
| 17 Roger & Charlotte (56) | |
| 18 Raymond & Debbie (35); Scott & Rebecca (12); Louis & JoAnne (57) | |
| 19 Aziz & Amy (13); David & Karen (41) | |



CHAPEL OFFERINGS—
CAMP CILCA OUTDOOR MINISTRIES
The total collected was over \$1500!! Collected offerings will be used to purchase a canoe or kayak and items from their wish list.



PLEASE notify the church office (359-1123 or churchoffice—at—stjohn-lcms.church) if your birthday or anniversary is missing or incorrect.



And the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with
the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.
1 Timothy 1:14

2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																																																																									
<p>Church Office 359-1123</p> <p>School Office 359-1714</p>	<p>Summer Hours: Church Office 10:00am - 2:00pm</p> <p>The School will not have office hours. Phone Messages will be checked regularly</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">May 2023</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>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	May 2023							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				<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">July 2023</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>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	July 2023							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						1	2 6:00 Youth Lock-In	3 
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