

# THE ST. JOHN NEWS

May 2022

## Easter Aftermath *What Comes Next*

It is always a joy to see so many people gather together to celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord. Every church has a swell in attendance for that Sunday as Christians remember that Jesus Christ died and rose again from the dead for them and the forgiveness of their sins. This is most certainly good and we give thanks to God for this blessing!

What is just as certain as attendance numbers dramatically increasing on Easter is that they will also dramatically return to normal the following Sundays. Naturally, those who remain in faithful attendance lament this truth and long to have the church filled every Sunday (and for us, also Wednesday) like it is on Easter Sunday. We at St. John are certainly not any different. When the pews are full, the singing is more exuberant, the camaraderie is enriching, and the spirits are certainly high. This is how it should be every Sunday (and Wednesday), for every Sunday is a celebration of Easter Sunday. The Christian Church has historically worshipped on the first day of the week in remembrance and celebration of the day the Lord Jesus rose again from the dead. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is never to be far from our thoughts and minds and is to be celebrated whenever we are together!

It is also natural for Sundays to tone down a bit following Easter Sunday. We want Easter to remain a major high point in the Church year. At the same time, each Sunday is to be the major high point for each Christian's week. Each Sunday we are blessed to hear the Word of Absolution spoken directly to us, declaring anew that our sins are forgiven. As we continually sin throughout the week, it is always a strong blessing to hear that our sins are forgiven. Each Sunday we are also blessed to hear the Word of God read in our midst. While we may read the Scriptures each day to ourselves, the words of the Bible were first meant to be read out loud and together in the company of believers.

When we gather on Sundays (and Wednesdays), we are also gifted with the very body and blood of the Lord Jesus in the Lord's Supper. This is one of those rare gifts we cannot find anywhere else in the world. It is offered freely at our Lord's altar, his table. To receive Christ into our own bodies is to receive his forgiveness into our own bodies. The Lord Jesus desires this experience for all his people. "Do this in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19).

Following his resurrection, the Lord Jesus appeared to his disciples and spoke his peace to them (John 20:19). To hear of peace from Jesus was very comforting for his disciples who had rejected Jesus and abandoned him. For us who have sinned against Jesus throughout the week and have rejected his Word, we need to hear that comforting peace as well. We depart the Lord's table hearing the words, "Go in peace." And the final words of the Divine Service are from the high priest Aaron's benediction (Numbers 6), "The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace." The peace of Christ is assured to us when we gather together in his name.

As we have celebrated our Lord's resurrection, we move through the season of Easter and proceed to the teaching half of the Church year, as it is called (the season of Pentecost). Prior to that, we hear of the great encounters that new Christians have with the Lord Jesus following his resurrection and before his ascension. We do celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord on the fortieth day after Easter. That is the day that he returned to the right hand of the Father, remaining in his fully human and divine natures. This is a solid reality based on what Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 2:5, "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." In God's heavenly realm, one of our own is eternally present, one who is flesh and blood just like us: the Lord Jesus.

After another ten days, we gather together again to celebrate the Day of Pentecost. It is on that day that the promises of Jesus to his disciples in the upper room discourse (John 14--16) were fulfilled. The Holy Spirit, the Comforter, is sent by the Father to enrich the called disciples of Jesus with the power to speak the Gospel in foreign languages. About three thousand sinners repented and were baptized that day in Jerusalem as a result of Peter's Spirit-empowered preaching (Acts 2). Luke tells us that many who were there that day heard the Gospel in their own language. They would then take that Gospel message back to their homes and share it with their families, setting the stage for the apostolic work of Jesus' disciples into all the world.

On the Sunday immediately after Pentecost, we celebrate the Bible's teaching of the Holy Trinity. It is the one day of the year when we speak the words of the Athanasian Creed. That creed was created because it was needed to properly state the Christian faith and defend that faith against so many false teachings. We have inherited that creed so that we too can benefit from it as our forefathers in the faith have done.

Trinity Sunday will conclude the first half of the Church year and usher in the teaching half. We will then be blessed to hear anew the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fresh light of his crucifixion and resurrection for us and for our salvation.

It is my hope and prayer that you avail yourself and continue to avail yourself of these great opportunities our Lord provides for us to meet him where he promises to be, in his Word and Sacrament. In these divine Means of Grace, the Lord Jesus gives us the fruits of his cross: forgiveness, life, and salvation (*Small Catechism, The Sacrament of the Altar, Question 3*). In so doing, we continue the joyous celebration of our Lord's resurrection, the light of which never fades, no matter what darkness comes our way. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! And nothing can ever overshadow or undo that truth!

In Christ's service,  
Pastor Caithamer

### Let Us Pray

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

**For Peace and Comfort:** The family of Lindermann Miller at his death; Ellie and family at the death of Whitney Knapp

**For Healing, Peace, and Comfort:** Karl -brother of Judy

**For Healing and Recovery:** Byron, Judy, Lindsey, Lola, Roger -father of Stephanie , Jim, Brian, Larry, Teresa - godchild of Bob & Joan, Barbara -family friend of Bob & Joan, Karla, Barbara-friend of the congregation, John, Tom, Hendricks -grandson of Dan & Joanie , Maria , Merv Strom, 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 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



Mary Martha will meet at 1:30pm on Thursday, May 12th in the church overflow. All ladies of the church are welcome to join us. We will have fellowship, a devotion, dessert and coffee.

Sunday School News — We are looking for volunteers to teach in the summer. Please consider signing up for a few Sundays. This would also be a great opportunity for your college students who are home for the summer. Materials are provided. There will be a sheet to leave your name and number so that Cindy Jones can contact you with more information as the time gets closer. The sign-up sheet will be posted by the Fellowship Hall.

**Bike Day Parking Lot Access**  
On Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, our 2<sup>nd</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> grade students will enjoy a Bike Day at school. To allow a safe place to ride, the entrances from Mattis Ave. and Round Barn Rd. will be closed from 9:30-3:00. The entrance from John St. will remain open, as well as the parking lot in front of the church and school. Thank you for your cooperation.



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. Also, if you do not feel comfortable volunteering in person while VBS is going on, but would still like to help, keep on the lookout for ways you can donate items or supplies that we may need. We will be having a VBS planning meeting on May 14 at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall. We will be finalizing plans and seeing what still needs to be ordered. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Sara

**Church Garage Sale, June 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>** – Volunteers are needed to help with the garage sale. Duties included: setting up tables on Sunday, sorting and pricing items during the week, working the sale Friday night and Saturday, packing up unsold items, and cleaning up/putting tables away after the sale. Sign-up sheets are posted on the youth bulletin board by the church office. If there are not enough volunteers by Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, the garage sale will be canceled. Please contact Kim with any questions.



## May Music Notes



Thank you to our Holy Week singers and ringers, and instrumentalists!

### Instrumentalists

We have instrumentalists lined up for several of the Sundays in May. We have plenty of space and opportunities for more people to aid in this way of enhancing our worship. Please be in touch with Keith to share your talents.

### Singers

Mixed Choir	Sunday, May 8	9:45 rehearsal
	Sunday, May 15	9:45 rehearsal, sing at 10:45 service
Men's Choir	Sunday, May 22	9:45 rehearsal
	Thursday, May 26	6:30 warmup, sing at 7:15 Ascension service

Pentecost is June 5, and Trinity Sunday is June 12, and look forward to having the choirs take part in these Festival celebrations.

### Alleluia Ringers

Wednesday, May 11	6:00 rehearsal
Wednesday, May 18 (No rehearsal May 25)	6:00 rehearsal
Wednesday, June 1	6:00 rehearsal
Sunday, June 5	7:30 warmup, ring at 8:00 service (& Prelude at 10:45?)

*Soli Deo Gloria, Keith*

**E.A.T. Night Update-** Thank You to all who supported the April E.A.T. Night at Culver's. It was a great turn out and fun was had by all. St. John's earned \$500 from the event. From August 2021-April 2022, \$4,000 was raised from these nights of food and fellowship! This money will be used by PTF for teacher and classroom needs. E.A.T. Nights will return in August. Have a great summer!



**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.

### Congratulations

#### St. John 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class of 2022

Graduation Ceremony  
Friday, May 20, 2022 at 6:30pm  
St. John Lutheran Church  
Reception  
following the  
ceremony in the  
Fellowship Hall



### SPRING CONCERT

Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm.

Performances by Kindergarten — 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are included

Invite your family and friends to come and hear how musically talented our St. John students are!



### Torch Passing Ceremony

Our Kindergarten/1<sup>st</sup> Grade Torch Passing Ceremony will take place on Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the sanctuary. This is a special time when our first grade students pass the "torch" of leadership to the current kindergarten class. We invite everyone to attend this special school ceremony!



**Our Little Lamb Preschool Students** will be having a promotion ceremony on Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the sanctuary. Families are welcome to come celebrate our preschoolers who will be moving on to kindergarten and to the Preschool 4s class next school year! There will be a reception immediately following the ceremony.



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

# MAY BIRTHDAYS

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Sadie, Anne   | 22 Linda, Jodie, Roger, Kyle                      |
| 2 Ezekiel, Jim, Jayden, Tori                                | 23 Elise, Olivia, Erin                            |
| 4 Jim, Daniel   | 24 John   |
| 5 Olivia  | 25 Isaac, Jackson, Silas                          |
| 6 Rhonda, Rebecca, Laura, Rex, Stephanie                    | 26 Nancee   |
| 7 David   | 27 Lisa, Addison, Gracelyn, Gramercy, Jacob, Liam |
| 8 Leona, Cameron  | 28 Vanessa, Allison, Leah, Chuck                  |
| 9 Brenda, Raine, Joel, Alvin                                | 29 Janell   |
| 10 Spencer, Kristina  | 30 Peter, Mazie, Andrew                           |
| 11 Christopher, Don Ehlers, Nick                            | 31 Katie  |
| 12 Jim  |   |
| 13 Makayla, Sherry, Steve, Kate                             |   |
| 15 Brendan, T.J., Elizabeth, Joshua, Connor, Addison, Pryce |   |
| 16 Debbie, JoAnne, Marshall, Will, Linda, Jeremy, Benjamin  |   |
| 17 Kayla, Zach  |   |
| 18 Lauren, Stephanie  |   |
| 19 Jean   |   |
| 20 Nina   |   |
| 21 Penny, Arian, Chad                                       |   |

# MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 2 Dennis & Linda (54)  | 21 Dan & Timmie (28); David & Jodie (45) |
| 5 Larry & Jeanine (43); Rod & Sheryl (34); Gary & Maura (21) | 25 Dan & Julie (37)                      |
| 7 Bill & Kathy(38); Bryan & Leigh (1)                        | 26 Jake & Hannah (4)                     |
| 8 Gary & Cynthia (62)  | 27 Kevin & Lisa (16)                     |
| 9 Andrew & Jennifer (13); Gilbert & Cynthia (63)             | 28 Larry & Vicky (39)                    |
| 17 Bret & Kara (14); Larry & Terry (42)                      | 29 Kurt & Satomi (24); Dan & Joan (40)   |
| 18 Jim & Dee (20)  | 31                                       |
| 19 Will & Hannah (4)   |  |
| 20 Randy & Sara (27); Don & Shirley (55); Mike & Lori (34)   |  |

**Round Barn Manor Food Pantry Program** – A volunteer is needed to serve as the administrator for this program. (Another church used to run this program but they are no longer able to) Responsibilities include ordering groceries from the Eastern Illinois Food Bank and bringing them to Round Barn once a month. Middle Schoolers from St. John would help set up food products and assist the residents. If you are interested in helping out, please contact the school office for more information.

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



*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Acts 2:42*

# 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																																																																		
<b>1</b> <i>3rd Sunday of Easter</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 New Member Reception, Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 5:15 Fellowship Board 6:00 Evangelism, Trustees, School Athletic Banquet 6:30 School Board	<b>4</b> 8:10 Chapel 10:00 Adult Bible Class 5:45 Midweek School 7:15 Holy Communion	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>																																																																																																		
<b>8</b> <i>4th Sunday of Easter</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion <i>Mother's Day</i>	<b>9</b> 5:30 Finance Board	<b>10</b> 6:00 Elders 6:30 School Spring Concert	<b>11</b> 8:10 Chapel 10:00 Adult Bible Class 5:45 Midweek School 6:00 Handbells 7:15 Holy Communion	<b>12</b> 7:00 Men's Prayer Breakfast @ Sammy's 1:30 Mary Martha	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9:00 VBS Planning Meeting																																																																																																		
<b>15</b> <i>5th Sunday of Easter</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10:00 Adult Bible Class 6:00 Council 6:30 LWML, K/1st Torch Passing Ceremony	<b>18</b> 6:00 Handbells 7:15 Holy Communion	<b>19</b> 6:30 Little Lamb Graduation	<b>20</b> <i>Last Day of School</i> 8:10 Chapel 6:30 8th Grade Graduation	<b>21</b>																																																																																																		
<b>22</b> <i>6th Sunday of Easter</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion	<b>23</b> <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	<b>24</b> 10:00 Adult Bible Class 6:00 Parish Ed 7:00 Youth Board	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <i>Ascension</i> 7:15 Holy Communion	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>																																																																																																		
<b>29</b> <i>7th Sunday of Easter</i> 8:00 Holy Communion 9:30 Adult Bible Class, Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion	<b>30</b> <i>Memorial Day</i> <i>Church &amp; School Closed</i>	<b>31</b> 10:00 Adult Bible Class	<i>Church Office</i> 359-1123  <i>School Office</i> 359-1714	<i>Pastor Caithamer's day off: Fridays</i>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">April 2022</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>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	April 2022							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">June 2022</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>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	June 2022							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
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