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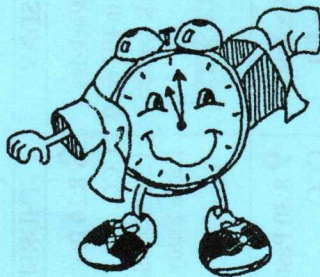
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The Herald
is published monthly by
St. John's Lutheran Church
New Minden, Illinois

Worship Services

St. John's: Sunday - 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School & Bible Class -
9:00 a.m.
St. Luke's: Sunday - 8:30 a.m.
St. John's Fourth Saturday -
6:30 p.m.

**Time
Change**



Daylight Savings
beginning



MARCH

THE HERALD

Spring

In response to God's love, the mission of
St. John's and St. Luke's is to extend His
kingdom by using our God-given talents to
proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ within
our community and the changing world.

MARCH 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 6:00 Weekday Religion in FH 6:30 Mid-Week Lenten Svc 7:30 BOCE at TSJ	2 8:30 Pastor at CCC 1:30 St. Luke's Bible Study in FH	3 11:15 School Early Dismissal for School Improvement Program Day	4 LWML Spring Retreat at Our Savior, Carbondale 6:30 CORLHS Trivia Night NO Worship
5 Second Sunday in Lent 8:30 Worship at C 9:00 SS & ABC 10:00 Worship at NM w/HC TSJ Children Sing Lutheran Schools Week Begins	6 NO School—Casimir Pulaski Day 11:15-1:15 Confirmands in FH 6:30 GriefShare	7 6:30 Bible Study	8 6:00 Weekday Religion in FH 6:30 Mid-Week Lenten Svc	9 8:30 Pastor at CCC	10	11 NO Worship
12 3rd Sunday in Lent 8:30 Worship at C w/HC 9:00 SS & ABC 10:00 Worship at NM TSJ Knowledge Fair 4-7:00 Chicken Supper	13 6:30 GriefShare	14 6:30 Bible Study	15 6:00 Weekday Religion in FH 6:30 Mid-Week Lenten Svc	16 8:30 Pastor at CCC 6:00 LWML in FH	17	18 NO Worship
19 4th Sunday in Lent 8:30 Worship at C 9:00 SS & ABC 10:00 Worship at NM w/HC Mite Box Collection 11:15-1:15 Confirmands in FH	20 6:30 GriefShare	21 6:30 Bible Study	22 6:00 Weekday Religion in FH 6:30 Mid-Week Lenten Svc	23 8:30 Pastor at CCC	24 CORLHS Evening of Fun	25 6:30 Saturday Evening Svc w/HC
26 5 th Sunday in Lent 8:30 Worship at C 9:00 SS & ABC 10:00 Worship at NM	27 5-7:00 Confirmands in Church NO GriefShare	28 6:30 Bible Study	29 6:00 Weekday Religion in FH 6:30 Mid-Week Lenten Svc	30 8:30 Pastor at CCC	31 6:30 Questioning Service of Confirmands	

“Yearning for Home”

“Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls” (1 Peter 1:8-9).

Lent is about Jesus Christ. Peter writes about Him: “Though you have not seen Him, you love Him.” Is that true? Do you love Him? I don’t mean do you know about Him in your head. Of course you do. I’m not asking if you know things about His life. Sure you do. No, the question is this, do you love Him? There’s a story about a married couple going someplace in the car; the husband was driving. The wife was lamenting that the romance of their youth had gone out of their marriage. The wife recalled that when they were first married they used to sit close together in the front seat of the car. The husband smiled and said, “I haven’t moved away.” Do you love Jesus? I can’t answer for you but can only answer for myself. Yes, I love Him but I certainly don’t love Him the way I ought. Sometimes I move away from Him. You will probably admit that you do too. I need, we all need this penitential season of Lent. Lent gives you and me the opportunity to reflect on our journey, not just our journey from this Ash Wednesday to Easter but our bigger journey through life to our eternal home with God. If you take this Lent seriously, and I pray you will, you’ll see that life is not just “ashes to ashes and dust to dust.” Take this Lenten journey seriously and you’ll see that it’s Lent to Easter; it’s ashes to glory and dust to glorified bodies in our heavenly home. Here’s the promise: Take this Lenten journey seriously and you’ll love Jesus more and more because you’ll be more convinced than ever that Jesus is the way to your true home.

Have you ever yearned to go home to the people you love? Sure you have; we all have. A young person goes off to college, filled with excitement and apprehension. If that brand new college student came from a good home, there’s a yearning for the holidays when she can get back home. If you have served in the military, served overseas, or been in combat, you know the yearning for home. When you go on a vacation, as enjoyable as it might be, you eventually say, “It’ll be good to get back home.” And that yearning for home is true on a daily basis as well. We go to work and look forward to the end of the day, to going home and to rest. We all know the feeling of yearning for home, the feeling of yearning to be at peace with the people we love. So I’ll say it again: Lent reminds us that we’re on a journey, a journey to our eternal home with God. We love Jesus because He’s our way home.

“Though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, “obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.” Our journey is toward salvation. Although our circumstances are different than those people long ago, we’re yearning for deliverance just like them. The troubles you have, the ills that beset you, all the unwanted stuff that sin causes in our lives . . . You’re journeying toward your full salvation when the former things will be no more. Who can imagine what our true home will be like? “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him” (1 Corinthians 2:9; NIV). Jesus successfully completed His journey to the cross in order to prepare this eternal home for us. As you journey through this life, keep yearning for home – your eternal home prepared by the life, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus our Lord!

Pastor Mueller

DIVINE SERVICE TENTATIVE SCHEDULE, MARCH, 2023

“Though you have not seen him, you love him.

*Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,
obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls” (1 Peter 1:8-9).*

Date	Time	Festival	Readings	Sermon Text and Theme	Liturgy and Hymns	Other Remarks
Wednesday Mar 1	(M) 6:30 p.m.	2 nd Wednesday of Lent	2 Kings 2:19-22 Colossians 4:2-6 Matthew 26:1-29	<i>Promised Treasures</i> “Salt: The Gift That Sweetens and Preserves” Matthew 5:13-16	Printed Order of service; Hymn sing, LSB 420, 425, 880	
Sunday Mar 5	(C) 8:30 a.m. (M) 10:00 a.m.	Second Sunday in Lent / Lutheran Schools’ Week	Genesis 12:1-9 Romans 4:1-8, 13-17 John 3:1-17	“God Justifies the Ungodly” Romans 4:1-8, 13-17	(C) TLH P.5; 377 (sts1-6), 377 (sts7-10), 245, 301 (M) LSB 151-166; 555 (sts1-6), 555 (sts 7-10), (571, 601, 722, 718), 673	Holy Communion at St. John’s. TSJ Children sing at St. John’s.
Wednesday March 8	(M) 6:30 p.m.	3 rd Wednesday of Lent	Genesis 7:11-23 1 Peter 3:17-22 Matthew 26:30-46	<i>Promised Treasures</i> “Water Gives Me Life” John 3:1-8	Printed Order of service; Hymn sing, LSB 440, 435, 883	
Sunday March 12	(C) 8:30 a.m. (M) 10:00 a.m.	Third Sunday in Lent	Exodus 17:1-7 Romans 5:1-8 John 4:5-30, 39-42	“Peace with God” Romans 5:1-8	(C) TLH P.15; 277, 324, 311, 313 (M) LSB 151-160; 609, 430, 423, 763	Holy Communion at St. Luke’s. Children’s Message at St. John’s.
Wednesday March 15	(M) 6:30 p.m.	4 th Wednesday of Lent	Genesis 1:1-5 Ephesians 5:1-2, 8-14 Matthew 26:47-68	<i>Promised Treasures</i> “Light Shining in the Darkness” John 8:12-18	Printed Order of service; Hymn sing, LSB 433, 427, 890	
Sunday March 19	(C) 8:30 a.m. (M) 10:00 a.m.	Fourth Sunday in Lent	Isaiah 42:14-21 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41	“God Displays His Works” John 9:1-41	(C) TLH P.5; 151, SD57, 245, 657 (M) LSB 151-166; 420, 430, (618, 435, 703, 571), 744	Holy Communion at St. John’s.
Wednesday March 22	(M) 6:30 p.m.	5 th Wednesday of Lent	Exodus 16:2-5, 11-18 1 Cor 10:1-4, 15-17 Matthew 26:69-27:10	<i>Promised Treasures</i> “Bread of Life” John 6:32-37	Printed Order of service; Hymn sing, LSB 424, 625, 887	
Saturday March 25	(M) 6:30 p.m.	5 th Sun in Lent (Observed)	Ezekiel 37:1-14 Romans 8:1-11 John 11:1-53	“Believe and Live!” John 11:1-53	(M) LSB 184-202; 708, 552 (tune: 661), 633, 548	Holy Communion at St. John’s.
Sunday March 26	(C) 8:30 a.m. (M) 10:00 a.m.	Fifth Sunday of Lent	Ezekiel 37:1-4 Romans 8:1-11 John 11:1-53	“Believe and Live!” John 11:1-53	(C) TLH P.5; 429, 206, 207, 158 (M) LSB 151-160; 708, 552 (tune: 661), 741, 548	Children’s Message at St. John’s.
Wednesday March 29	(M) 6:30 p.m.	6 th Wednesday of Lent	Deuteronomy 16:13-17 Revelation 7:9-17 Matthew 27:11-31	<i>Promised Treasures</i> “Palms and Victory” John 7:37-44	Printed Order of service; Hymn sing, LSB 441, 531, 443	
Sunday April 2	(C) 8:30 a.m. (M) 10:00 a.m.	Palm Sunday	Isaiah 50:4-9a Philippians 2:5-11 John 12:20-43			No Communion at either church; Rite of Confirmation at St. John’s.

PARISH NEWS

HAPPENINGS AT ST. JOHN'S

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING:

The following celebrated Baptismal birthdays during February: Kendall Sprehe, Dylan Willis, Samantha Brinkmann and Summer Brinkmann.

Chandler Witte received a \$1250.00 scholarship from Farm Bureau. He is enrolled at Rend Lake in mechanics.

Will Ballantini was named to the high honor roll at Centralia High for the second quarter and first semester.

Kirsten Twenhafel was named to the Dean's List at KC.

The ILS/TSJ Lady Titans are state champions. Samantha and Summer Brinkmann are members of the team. They also won the championship title at the Springfield Trinity Lutheran Tournament. Samantha and Summer were named to the All Tournament Team.

The TSJ/ILS titans won their regional. Sam Blumhorst is a member of the team.

The Nashville Middle School Hornets were headed to the SIJHSAA Class M Tournament. Dax Redenius is a member of the team.

Those Celebrating Birthdays:

Mar 2.....	Connor Jack
Mar 3.....	Roger Vogt, Nora Brink
Mar 4.....	Nola Kraft
Mar 5.....	Lucas Meinert, Gabrielle Garrison
Mar 6.....	Brenda Vogt
Mar 8.....	DeAnna Holm
Mar 9.....	Misty Owens, Kevin Kellermann
Mar 10.....	Keith Schuette
Mar 11.....	Ariel Foltz
Mar 13.....	Brittany Weihe
Mar 18.....	Angie Wells
Mar 20.....	Betty Koelling
Mar 23.....	Shirley Hanenberger, Huck Moore
Mar 25.....	Abbi Lange, Gerri Twenhafel, Pam Funke, Wally Holm
Mar 26.....	James McQuaid, Cody Bevil
Mar 27.....	Deanne Hemker
Mar 28.....	Taylor Ladwig (C)
Mar 30.....	Shawn Stevenson (C)

Mar 31.....	Austin Lange, Kody Moore
Apr 2.....	Aria Rettinger
Apr 4.....	Jacob Rounds, Howard Weihe, Gene Schuette, Mike Witte
Apr 6.....	Liz McQuaid
Apr 7.....	Peggy Brinkmann, Ada Spenner
Apr 8.....	Mark Meinert
Apr 9.....	Amy Hanenberger, Elsie Barton
Apr 10.....	Lori Schnitker, Addison Knolhoff

We remember the following that are shut in or in skilled care:

Diane Rueter, 1550 Villas Drive, DeSoto, MO 63020 Phone:
636-586-1353

Nola Kraft, 485 S Friendship Dr, Nashville, IL 62263

THE SID LWML PRAYER SERVICE/Spring Rally will be held on April 22, 2023, in Ferrin. Registration at 8:30 - Prayer Service beginning at 8:45. The ingathering will be for the Matthew 25 Food bank in Carlyle. Suggested items for the ingathering are personal hygiene items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, body wash, shampoo and socks (over the ankle in white or black) or money. A collection box is located in the hallway by the bathrooms.

READY, SET...PLAYGROUND! Silent Auction, Food Truck Frenzy, and Live Auction Event May 12th, 2023 @ T-SJ Donations Wanted! **T-SJ FAMILIES AND FRIENDS,** We need you to help us to make this year's auction amazing! Each auction year many congregation members, school families, and community members donate wonderful items to our auction. We appreciate each and every donation. What can you donate? There are so many options and ideas: gifts, services, vacation rentals, homemade decor, homemade food, gift cards, designer purses, toys, experiences, parties, etc. The list could go on and on. Please email us at auction@tsjlutheran.org or send a donation into the church/school office by April 24th, 2023! Thank you, T-SJ's Auction Committee

ST. JOHN'S NEW MINDEN DRIVE-THROUGH ONLY CHICKEN SUPPER: German potato salad, fried chicken, green beans, applesauce and dessert at the chicken supper Sunday, March 12, from 4-7:00 p.m. Please enter by the west parking lot drive at the God's Garden sign. Cost is \$12.00. A portion of the proceeds will be supplemented by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

THE "MISSION PROJECTS FUND" listed on the enclosed page titled "Mission Projects Fund" will be discussed at the voters' meeting in April. If you have any comments/suggestions, please contact one of the elders or Pastor Mueller before the voters' meeting.

2023 Finance Report

	Home Collections(Finance Board)			Synod Collections		
	Budget	Actual	Over (Under)	Budget	Actual	Over (Under)
January	22,254	15,939	(6,315)	1,584	885	(699)
February						
March						
April						
May						
June						
July						
August						
September						
October						
November						
December						
	Year-to-date			Year-to-date		
	22,254	15,939	(6,315)	1,584	885	(699)

Contribution/Offering Options

Auto Debit

If you have an account with Farmers & Merchants you have the option to set up automatic recurring contributions to St. John's. You can either contact Marla Hempen at F& M Bank or the Treasurer(Andi Hoffman) to complete a form. If you have an account at another bank and would like to setup recurring contributions, please contact the Treasurer. F&M Bank does not charge a fee for this.

Online Giving

Electronic Giving thru the Church website.

1. stjohnsnewminden.org
 2. Click on the (Online Giving) button on the left hand side
 3. Click on the General or Mission button to setup payment OR sign up to create an account.
- (this option will have fees involved to you and/ or the Church)

If you are 70 1/2 you have the option to make tax free contributions directly from you traditional IRA to the church. Please consult your IRA administrator/financial advisor if you are eligible for what steps or procedures you can take.

OFFERING ENVELOPES: Envelopes are ordered in March for the following year so 2024 envelopes will only be ordered for people that sign up before March 1, 2023, on the sheets in the narthex, hallway by the Fellowship Hall or contact Marla Hempen. It was decided at the last voters' meeting to have the finance board look for alternatives for ordering all the envelopes since a lot of boxes are not picked up/used and the cost of them. Alternatives include:

1. Only ordering envelopes for those members actually using their envelopes for contributions and/or a sign-up sheet to put your name on if you want a box of envelopes.
2. Using plain envelopes with labels and member number (lifetime member number)
3. Plain envelopes printed with the different collections for the year on one envelope and members could pick up the envelopes as needed. You would have to mark the box by the fund you wanted that money to go into.

Members can contribute on line to the General & Mission funds or direct deposit into church account (please contact Andi Hoffman or Marla Hempen).

Any other suggestions/improvements are always welcome by contacting any finance board member or Marla Hempen. We are wanting feedback from the members. The voters will be voting on the options at a later date.

HEAVEN'S WEALTH

Pocketbook's near empty,
Savings a double aught –
To some I may seem poor,
But friend, I know I'm not.

I'm really very rich –
Yes, rich as one can be,
You see, I have the Savior
Who lives inside of me!

"MISSION PROJECTS FUND"

The "Mission Projects" Fund, according to the 3rd Quarter Treasurer's Report, has a balance of \$22,303.23, funded by the Schmidt/Quatto Bequest. The Elders would like to start a discussion about how to put these funds to work. With inflation as it is, the funds lose purchasing power over time. On the other hand, Jesus promised that His word, when it falls on good soil, produces 30, 60, or even 100 times what was sown. (That is a return of 3,000%, 5,000%, or even 10,000%!) There are four projects that we suggest for a one-time gift:

1. LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES FLOAT IN THE PASADENA TOURNAMENT OF ROSES PARADE:

The Men's Club supported this endeavor annually for many years. I have heard it is perhaps the only Christian float in the parade. This year's theme was "Turning the Corner" and so the committee chose "A New Day with Jesus" as its theme for the float. It's a beautiful and meaningful way to give a Christian witness. This year (2023) was our 72nd annual entry. The parade aired on several networks and their streaming services. The float is supported by "petal pushers," volunteers who travel from all over the US to help prepare an additional 7 floats. The volunteers also manage the floral tent to prepare fresh flowers for their floral debut—in 2022 they cared for 200,000 roses!

Suggested donation: \$100.

- 2. EVERGREEN LUTHERAN SCHOOL, DETROIT, MICHIGAN:** The Ladies' Aid supported this school at least once at Christmas. Every year we receive a Christmas appeal from Pastor/Principal William F. Danowski. Our District President Tim Scharr grew up in Detroit. I asked him about this school again the other day and he says they are truly worthy of our support. He used to drive in that neighborhood every day as a high school student. They are indeed the last Lutheran School in operation in the city of Detroit, not a large school, but Pastor Danowski reported seven of their elementary students were baptized on Easter or graduation day last spring!

Suggested donation: \$100.

- 3. DAVID "MOOSE" AND KATHLEEN GARRETT, SERVING WITH "JEWS FOR JESUS":** Jews for Jesus is not a Lutheran organization *per se*, but David graduated from River Forest (maybe Kathleen, too) and they have served faithfully with Jews for Jesus for 40+ years. If memory serves correctly, one or two of their sons is an LCMS pastor. He gave a presentation on "Christ in the Passover" here a few years ago. We are still called to confess the truth of Christ as the Son of God and Savior to Jewish people today: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, *to the Jew first* and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16, emphasis added). Moose and Kathleen have especially worked a lot with Jewish youth over the years, pointing them to Jesus the Messiah (Christ).

Suggested donation: \$100.

- 4. EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI:** The Synod headquarters reported that this historic black church was completely destroyed by an arson on November 8, 2022. A suspect was reported to be in custody. We all remember the tens of thousands of dollars that came to us (totally unsolicited) after the tornado. Here's a chance to "pay it forward."

Suggested donation: \$100.

*In addition, there are five other missions that we suggest for more substantial and ongoing support, to the tune of a **\$1000 each for four or more years**. Four of them are already in our offering schedule; we chose them because we have personal connections with them. The plan is that we continue to have an annual offering for each of these, but would supplement the offering with money from the "Mission Projects" Fund to bring the total donation up to \$1000 per year. For example, if that Sunday collection brings in \$300, the Fund would add another \$700. The five projects are:*

LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS WORKCENTER #315 (NEW MINDEN): The national organization in Yucaipa, CA, wants each center to try to raise the funds it needs each year to buy supplies. They manufacture Braille books of the Bible that are literally sent all over the world. They have done Deuteronomy, and also (in one volume) Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon. These are sent postage-free to blind people. I just saw a package addressed to someone in India the other day.

UNITY LUTHERAN CHRISTIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, EAST ST. LOUIS: The miracle continues at this school, despite the incredible hardships. (Can you imagine how hard it is to recruit and retain good teachers?) We have had members volunteer in remodeling the building when it first opened; Dawn Mueller served on the board for several years, including as chairman. They report an enrollment of 180 students, PreK 3 – 8th Grade each year, daily instruction in God's word for all students, a secure loving learning environment where parents and students feel welcome, 100% high school graduation rate, including a strong partnership with Metro East Lutheran High School, a high level of respect from the residents of East St. Louis. "Our first graduates (2012) are now well into adulthood. Several have earned bachelor's degrees, others have enlisted in the military, others are into full-time careers. All are leading productive lives."

DR. HANS TRINKLEIN MISSIONARY SUPPORT: I got to spend a couple days with Pastor Trinklein at the end of October/November. He is, of course, still dealing with the aftermath of Gretchen's death. The Synod's Board of International Mission has been very supportive of him; they gave him leave to take her back to the states when she was diagnosed—melanoma is virtually unknown in Korea—and have continued to stand by him. He is easing back into ministry, doing some on-line training of pastors in Sri Lanka and, I think, Taiwan. Meanwhile, the situation in South Korea is changing: the Lutheran Church in South Korea may be ready to break ties with the LCMS over theological issues. Lots of prayers are needed. He is not sure where he will end up, but we certainly still want to support him.

JON AND CAROL SHANEYFELT, SERVING WITH LUTHERAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS: You'll remember that Jon is the aerospace engineer who left a lucrative job to provide tech support for Bible translators all over the world, especially helping them to get dependable electricity and internet, which is crucial for their work. I'll never forget the week their whole family volunteered with our VBS. They are truly humble servants and have always maintained communication with us. This gives us a chance to do more for them.

PASTOR JASON AND ANNA MARIE STEPHENSON, LCMS THEOLOGICAL EDUCATOR IN TANZANIA. You might remember that Jason vicared at Trinity, Hoffman, a few years ago. We had him on our prayer list for a long time when he suffered from a head injury. After graduating, he served a dual parish in Oklahoma from 2019-2022. Anna Marie grew up in the Middle East on the mission field and should be suited to life abroad. As I understand it, Jason will have to learn to teach in Swahili so that he can help form students at the new Lutheran seminary in Tanzania. (Jason is a gifted linguist and would be the guy to take this on.) For a long time the Lutheran church there has been requesting that the LCMS send them a professor to help train their pastors. Finally, here is someone willing and able to go! But first he has to develop a support network. He specifically requested that the Synod invite us to be part of his network of support. It costs about \$150,000 annually to send and maintain a missionary family in the field—with all that transportation, education costs, medical evacuation insurance, etc. They are asking congregations to consider \$6000 per year; we are suggesting \$1000/yr. to help him get started.

Dear Friends and Family in Christ,

This letter is long overdue to each of you, but now that the rush of Christmas is past, perhaps you'll have more time for a what's-new-with-us letter. So much has happened since my sweet wife passed away in June! It's really hard to believe it has been six months already. But since our last official newsletter was back in April, let me *briefly sketch out the events from Easter, 2022 to the present*:

1) Gretchen

Many of you have followed Gretchen's ordeal on the CaringBridge web page that I set up for her. (If this is something new to you, and you have computer access, go to CaringBridge.org, and search for Gretchen Trinklein. There you will find my journal entries from the site's beginning (August, 2021) right up to the time Gretchen went to be with our Savior (June 21, 2022). I am gratified that the site has been visited more than 18,000 times! But many of you are not computer-types, and so I want to give you the...um...highlights. (Suddenly I don't care for that word.) As I begin, remember that earlier this year, Gretchen had made very it clear that she did NOT want any further hospitalization, physical surgeries, or radiation treatments.

April, 2022

Gretchen was feeling much, much better in April, even though the end-of-March MRI had disclosed some new brain tumors, two of which were hemorrhaging some. The Barrow people decided to begin weaning her from the steroids she'd been on since August's craniotomy, since long-term use of steroids can usher in a whole bunch of problems she didn't need on top of everything else.

May, 2022

A PET scan thankfully disclosed no tumors anywhere in her body other than the ones in her cranium. Still, the doctors (Naturopathic and Oncological alike) agreed that the proliferation of brain tumors indicated the need for additional treatments beyond Vitamin C/Quercetin to address the melanoma cells at large in her system overall. Unfortunately, during this month Gretchen's cognition and mobility began to suffer, adding to her frustration; it didn't help the stress level for the kids and me, either. ☹

June, 2022, bit by bit

June 3 – Insurance approval for Immunotherapy received.

June 7 – First of four scheduled Immunotherapy infusions received. Gretchen had had trouble walking for several days before, and significant issues trying to walk in to the doctor's building, so they gave her an IV of steroids, too, to try to reduce cranial swelling.

June 8 – Regular Vitamin C/Quercetin infusion

June 14 – Got MRI, heard that it shows further growth of tumors. Doctor to give steroid infusion tomorrow.

June 15 – Gretchen collapses trying to walk from car to Doctor's office. Got steroids IV.

June 16 – Regular Vitamin C/Quercetin infusion.

June 17 – Gretchen's birthday! Doctor gave her an additional infusion of steroids to try to reduce swelling and allow better cognition and communication. Unfortunately, thorough discussion with the oncologist regarding the July 14 MRI revealed that there were "many" new, inoperable, bleeding tumors in Gretchen's brain. Doctor recommended I contact hospice, given Gretchen's expressed wishes regarding treatment options. Still, this was *Gretchen's birthday*, and her sisters Heidi and Rachel had planned a family party that evening in her honor. It was *so* sweet to see her family gather around, and sing, and love on her, and see her face light up as they opened gifts for her. We have some wonderful and cherished photos from that day.

June 18-20 – Gretchen's abilities continued to 'fade' over these days, unable to walk unassisted, and only able to speak a few phrases. She still smiles like the sun breaking through the clouds, though.

June 21 – Gretchen was in great distress starting about 2:00 a.m.—labored breathing and not responsive. We carried her into the living room, I called hospice, and the kids and I gathered around her, reading Scripture, praying, and singing hymns by the half-dozen. The hospice nurse—named *Angel*, can you believe it?—arrived and said it appeared Gretchen had suffered a stroke. She joined us in our hymn-sing after she ordered some emergency meds by phone. But those of you who know Gretchen may well

remember her aversion to taking medicine of any kind, and who knows? Maybe she heard the nurse on the phone and thought “No way am I letting some medicine get in the way of seeing Jesus!” Be that as it may, our Lord Jesus called Gretchen’s name at 4:55 a.m. that morning and gathered her into His arms—long *before* the medication arrived at our house.

So I said goodbye to my dear, wonderful wife; the kids and I surrounding her, praying and telling her how much we loved her and looked forward to seeing her again, as she breathed her last. And I can tell you that, despite the numerous times that I’ve been bedside as a pastor when a parishioner was called to glory, it’s a whole different thing when the loved one is your own! I am so thankful for the promise of everlasting life, and **I cannot wait for the day of the Resurrection!**

July, 2022

In July there were two Memorial Celebrations for Gretchen—one in Phoenix, since we’d been staying here since May of 2021 *and* because so many people in Gretchen’s father’s congregation had known and loved her for the more than forty years her dad has served here; the other one was in Okawville, Illinois, where the Trinkleins served at Olive Branch Lutheran Church for the fifteen years before we were called to South Korea. That’s where she’s buried (with a spot reserved next to her ♥), in the Olive Branch cemetery in what was our back yard for most of the kids’ lives. Man, that’s going to be an exciting place when the angels blow the trumpet!

2) Life and Ministry Since Gretchen’s Homegoing

+ + + Life + + +

After returning from the Memorial Celebrations, the three younger children and I have tried to “pick up where we left off”—except that up to this point, “where we left off” was mostly focusing all our time and energy on Gretchen’s care! So the weeks and months since then have really been trying to tie up loose ends *and* adjusting to a “new normal” without Mom. **August** was almost completely taken up with hosting dear out-of-town friends who were a great comfort and encouragement; **September** was filled with phone calls and getting final medical bills paid; **October** and **November** saw kids traveling and launching out in new directions (Johnny, of course, at Concordia University, Irvine, continuing his pre-Seminary training; Mike beginning work at a local LCMS congregation as youth/family life leader and director of liturgical worship; Abi expanding her online art commissions work to include clients in Europe ☺; Jael and family moving from Colorado to San Antonio, Texas, for Hispanic ministry opportunities) as well as my availing myself of an unusual ministry opportunity (more below). Then in **December** (family festivities and another wave of visitors—this time friends from Korea!—notwithstanding), things began to develop where my missionary service is concerned. (Again, more on that in a minute.) You know how they say that time speeds up as you get older? Wow! These last six months have gone by in a rush...and in a numbed blur, if I may say so.

Through the months, though, my primary focus has been my kids—who are having to deal with a tremendous change in their lives more than thirty years earlier than seems appropriate to me. I have to admit that they have been a tremendous support and encouragement to *me*, as well! I cannot imagine having tried to weather this storm without them here (or in Jael’s case, a FaceTime call away). But as many of you know, Grief is a strange and unpredictable thing...you can be doing just fine one day, and the next, something insignificant happens and triggers a blow to your heart that’s almost physical. How do people cope who don’t have the hope of eternal life? How do you find meaning without the promises and presence of God? These months have given each one of us a lot to think about, and they’ve created (or sharpened) a compassion for *other* people who are hurting on the inside.

It’s funny, but as a pastor I have repeatedly counseled members who’ve undergone a major loss or upheaval in their lives, “Don’t make any major/life-changing decisions for a full year, if you can possibly avoid it.” In my *head* I knew this was sound advice, even if I didn’t fully understand why. Now I do!

I *still* feel like I’m kind of in a daze, and there are *still* mountains of important things to do. (Or so it seems.) And the ex-CPA, Type-A personality inside my head is jumping up and down saying “Why aren’t you over it by now? Get a grip! Get back in the saddle, pick up the battle axe, and get back in there, swinging!” But I’m realizing that, sometimes, there’s no substitute for Time...and also that God works with His own Plan, on His own Timetable, which is *not* dictated by mere children like me.

I would have loved to jump right back into action as if everything was fine, gathering up the kids, “loadin’ up the truck, and goin’ to South Korea...” (Apologies to those who don’t know the Beverly Hillbillies song.) But just as the initial cancer diagnosis stubbornly refused to let us continue in “business as usual” mode in 2021, so also this significant change in all our lives obstinately refuses to recede into insignificance. Doggone it!

But let me tell you what *is* happening in the Missions & Ministry part of life, nevertheless:

+ + + Missions & Ministry + + +

As you know, I’ve been assisting/filling in as needed at my father-in-law’s congregation, Christ Church Lutheran here in Phoenix. Besides Sunday worship duties, I’ve also frequently been asked to help out with Bible Studies at some area Retirement Homes that house a lavish level of Lutherans. Talk about some feisty Scripture sessions! But it’s great fun nonetheless.

But there’s been another exciting development in the *Missionary* department!

In October of 2022, in a conversation with LCMS Asia Regional Director Rev. Charles Ferry, I asked him if there was any way that I could get involved with the ministry again, even though the team leaders at OIM (Synod’s **Office of International Missions**) still wanted me to focus my time and efforts on caring for my family’s needs. The answer turned out to be more interesting and challenging than I could have imagined!

You see, many of the countries in which LCMS OIM operates do not have a sufficient quantity of Lutheran churches or clergy-in-training to be able to afford a genuine brick-and-mortar Seminary (much less the luxury of a Lutheran college or university!). But the need for theological education is no less real. Additionally, some of the locations are so remote or hostile that trying to get the clergy together, and a real live LCMS professor to that location, would be too difficult or dangerous. But then came COVID! And one of the very few benefits of the pandemic is that it forced many/most educational institutions to implement *some* form of remote learning (can you say Zoom?). Video conferencing via the internet suddenly became *the* way to continue higher education during lockdowns, and for an entire year before Gretchen’s illness I had been conducting all my classes that way! So in October, when I asked Pastor Ferry “Isn’t there *something* I can do, even at this stage?” a light bulb went off in his mind. He said “Hans, I have an idea...”

He contacted some of our missionaries in countries without Seminaries, and asked whether their clergy could connect online, and whether they would be interested in Zoom-type seminars in Systematic Theology—and what topics they’d like to pursue. Answers have come in, and (for the time being) I am working on developing these classes. I’ve been able to present one seminar so far (on Biblical Apologetics, or Defense of the Christian Faith—a topic in which I got a Master’s Degree, back in the day) and feedback was very positive. Now I’ve had a request to develop a course on World Religions, which I’ll tailor to fit the demographics of the country or countries in which the clergy live. I’ve taught Religions of *America* before, though that was mostly differences-between-Christian-denominations. I’ve got lots of work ahead!

So where does that leave the question of overseas deployment? OIM and I have been working on that; I visited Headquarters in St. Louis a few weeks ago, and we’ve charted out some ‘next steps’ to see what the future will hold. I’m so grateful for their encouragement and hard work—researching deployment options, resolving visa challenges, and above all, their prayers and words of support. I am really blessed to be part of that awesome team—in St. Louis and Iowa alike! Further developments should be forthcoming in mid-February; I’ll work hard at keeping you posted on a more timely basis. At least in *this* matter I can resume a more regular cadence!

Thank you for your encouragement and support over the years, and *especially* during the time of Gretchen’s health crisis. Now that she is in the arms of her blessed Savior, I ask that you would continue to pray for the kids and for me. There are many challenges still to come, but the Lord knows the way He wants us to go. Though I wish He’d make the path clear right away, I know He has our best in mind, and I trust Him to guide us.

God be with you all! You are precious in my sight, and I love you dearly.

*With you in His service,
Hans (and children)*

Important P.S.:

I rebuilt and updated my Master Supporter list in December, and I'm certain that, as last time, this new Master List probably contains some errors. Please, please forgive me! If:

- 1) You previously asked to have your name removed, or
- 2) You're getting a hard copy of this Newsletter and would rather get it by email, or
- 3) You're getting an email copy of this Newsletter and would rather get a hard copy in the mail, or
- 4) There's something wrong with the address (or the person(s) to whom it's addressed!), or
- 5) There's *anything else at all* that you want to correct or say...

then please let me know and I'll be more than happy to attend to it. We are so thankful for all of you!

Now the fun part: Pictures!



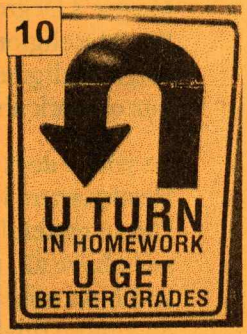
LEGEND:

- 1 Even as a little girl, Gretchen had dreams of flying ☺
- 2 At the hospital after a good doctor's report
- 3 Gretchen gives Johnny some motherly advice on the CUI campus back in May



HOW DO HISTORIANS AND SCHOLARS DECIDE IF AN ANCIENT DOCUMENT IS "RELIABLE?"

- > Is it old enough to have been written by eyewitnesses?
- > Treatment of the text over the centuries?
- > Internal inconsistencies/contradictions?
- > External proof/disproof?
- > Any reason to think they're lying?



- 4 With the whole gang at the Alamo earlier this month
- 5 ...WHAT family resemblance?? Mike reads to niece Esperanza
- 6 THIS one is me, reading to Ezequiel
- 7 The boys shoot some hoops with the Bates cousins
- 8 Early efforts at instruction via the internet, back in Korea
- 9 A slide from November's Apologetics seminar
- 10 What part of this is so hard to understand?!
- 11 My beloved, who crossed the bridge to eternity, and now waits for us all! (Hanging out with Jesus meanwhile, no less!)

