

St. John Lutheran Church, New Minden, Illinois  
Use Church website: [stjohnnewminden.360unite.com](http://stjohnnewminden.360unite.com) for electronic giving (monthly or one-time donation) for home budget or missions

St. Luke Lutheran Church, Covington, Illinois

Timothy P. Mueller, Cell: 618-314-3972

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Teacher: Dawn Mueller, 314-4027

Teacher: Melanie Cooper, 967-8951

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TSJ website: [tsjlutheran.org](http://tsjlutheran.org)

Don Duensing, Principal CORLHS, 226-3315

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LuAnn Sprehe, Secretary, 478-5542

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Acolyte: Wyatt Shew

Organist: Sherry Wessel

## **MISSION SUNDAY**

**11/12/23**

**WELCOME** in the name of our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ! We are happy to have you worship with us this morning. Visitors are invited to sign our guest book at the church entrance.

Sermon: "The Righteousness of God," Amos 5:18-24 (Pastor Jeff Nehrt, Our Redeemer, Greenville, and SID Prison Ministry Cosordinator)

St. Luke's, 8:30 a.m.

P. 15 Hymns: SD 21 SD 28; SD 27; SD 23

St. John's, 10:00 a.m.

LSB 184-193 Hymns: 837; 826; 831; 829; 816

**ATTENDANCE:** (M) 76 (C) 15 Sunday School: 14 Adult Bible Class: Sunday: 4

**REGULAR ENVELOPE COLLECTION** at St. John's next Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.

**ST. JOHN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN** will sing in next Sunday's service, November 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **IMMANUEL, OKAWVILLE, ANNUAL MUSIC FESTIVAL**

will be held today at 3:00 p.m. Local talent in music festival—adult and children's choirs, organ, piano and other instruments. Admission free. Offering will be received to support Christ Our Song Lutheran School of Music at St. John's.

## **IMMANUEL, OKAWVILLE, MEN'S CLUB/ALUMNI**

**ASSOCIATION** chili, chicken soup and pie supper to follow the music festival from 4-7:00 p.m. Menu—Chili, hot dogs, chicken soup, dessert and drink. Adults---\$12.00 (All You Can Eat); children 10 and under \$6.00; 5 and under free. Part of the proceeds will go to the Cemetery Fund. Carry outs available (bring your own containers).

**ENVELOPE COLLECTION** at St. John's this morning is for District Missions—Unity Lutheran Christian Elementary School. (Use special mission offering envelope.) All money not in an envelope will go to the home budget.

**WE WELCOME IN JESUS' NAME:** Pastor Jeff Neshrt, Pastor of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Greenville. He and Pastor David Kollmeyer (Trinity, Conant, and Zion, Pinckneyville), coordinate prison ministry in the Southern Illinois District. Pastor Nehrt is often consulted by national LCMS officials in matters relating to prison ministry. Pastor Mueller is at Greenville today speaking about Uganda.

**PASTOR'S ABSENCE:** Pastor's brother Bob is in intensive care in a hospital in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Pastor hopes to get down there to see him for a day or two this week. Hopefully Pastor Nate Wollenberg from Hoyleton (office: 618-493-6226 or cell: 618-335-4155) will be able to be on call in case of an emergency.

**PLEASE JOIN** the Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School choir as they present "Christmas Music from Around the World" on Sunday, December 10, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hoyleton.

Luanne Foster- St. Mary's, Centralia

**PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK OF November 12<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:**

**Bob Mueller**—Pastor's brother—ICU in Fayetteville, AR

**Sandy Martin** diagnosed with breast cancer; doctors are optimistic as plans for treatment unfold.

**Brendan Pfister**—grandson of Bryan & Julie Wessel—recuperating from knee surgery at home in Bloomington

**Jim Tyberendt**—father of Jill Witte—in ICU at St. Elizabeth's

**Corrina Rose Stevenson**, daughter of Jon and Amanda Stevenson (C), still at Riley Hospital for Children, Indianapolis, IN, continues to make progress

**Larry Brinkmann** now home under the care at SLU for liver cancer

**Lorna Kottmeyer (C)** at home recuperating from neck surgery

**Gene Knolhoff** at St. Mary's Centralia

**Bob Jack** diagnosed with prostate cancer

**Amanda Garrison**—daughter-in-law of Rosalie Rice—has health issues

**Danny Brinkmann** on kidney dialysis

**Tom Anderson**—friend of the Hausler's—health issues

**Wayne & Lola Wessel**—in need of prayers

**Sara Leinberger**—friend of Judy Vogt—ongoing health problems

**THOSE RECEIVING TREATMENTS/OTHER SERIOUS AILMENTS:**

**Stanley Renth** started chemotherapy

**Rosemary Miller**—sister of Howard Weihe—starting new experimental drug

**Duane Miller**—brother-in-law of Howard Weihe—diagnosed with pancreatic cancer—holding his own



**Amie Evans**--sister-in-law of Jesse Krawiecki--diagnosed with cancer. We give thanks that she received a good cat scan report.

**Rev. G. Robert Heimgartner**--retired in Texico, IL--chemotherapy

**MISSION PRAYERS:**

- LCMS World Missions
- Ministry to inactive members.
- Missionary Micah Wildauer & Family serving in Belize, our Sunday School Mission Project
- Centralia Correctional Center

**We Remember:**

- St. Salvator, Venedy, and Olive Branch as they prepare to call a pastor again

**We Remember:**

The People of Ukraine and Israel

The people suffering from the earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, fires, etc.

**BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS:** Mary McQuaid & Tony Seeger 11-12;  
Lacey Edge, Terry Rueter, Charles Vogt & Clinton Dunn 11-15; Dustin Brinkman 11-16; Cathy McQuaid & Nolan Kohlbrecher 11-17; Phyllis Jack & Lucas Boester 11-18

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:** Gary & Kelly Deering 11-13 and  
Mike & Jill Witte 11-16

**TRINITY, HOYLETON** wurstmarkt TODAY from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Adults: \$12.00; children 6-12: \$8.00; 5 and under: Free; All carryouts \$12.00. Dine in or carry out. Menu: pork sausage, mashed potatoes and gravy, sauerkraut, green beans, corn, applesauce and dessert. Cooked and fresh sausage also available for purchase.

**FINANCE BOARD REPORT FOR OCTOBER:** Home--\$19,889.76; Missions--\$1,325.00; Building Fund--\$405.00; Thrivent--\$614.91; St. Luke's third quarter--\$3,624.92; Fall Festival Leftovers--\$16.00; God's Garden--\$45.00; Mission Sunday Offering--\$305.00; Lutheran Braille Works--\$300.00; Radio Broadcast--\$600.00; Received from SID for Prison Ministry--\$425.00; Olive Branch Printing--\$183.06

**RESPONDING TO ARGUMENTS AGAINST**

**CHRISTIANITY**... When people challenge the truths of the Christian faith, do you find yourself at a loss for answers? You can listen to the new audiobook, "Objections Overruled: Answering Arguments against Christianity," at [issuesetc.org/objections](http://issuesetc.org/objections) overruled. This new audiobook is free and produced by Lutheran Public Radio based in Collinsville, IL. LPR produces radio talk shows, podcasts, and 24/7 sacred music and talk stations.

**THE LUTHERAN WITNESS:** Are you currently receiving the Lutheran Witness? If not, would you like to receive it? Let LuAnn Sprehe know by November 20<sup>th</sup> if you would like to receive the Lutheran Witness.

**CATECHISM POSTERS AVAILABLE:** Trinity, Nashville, is offering posters with the six chief parts of Christian teaching. A generous grant has made them available free of charge. You can get one from the table in the hallway by the restrooms. (If you would like to make a donation to make them available to others in the future, the suggested donation is \$9.00. See Pastor Mueller.)



# ***“REACHING IN”***

## **PILOT PROGRAM**

*This information from the District LWML President describes the program that Pastor Jeff Nehrt will talk about after both services today.*

Since early this spring, exciting plans have been taking hold here in the Southern Illinois District concerning the *Reaching In* LCMS Prison Ministry Program. The vision of the *Reaching In* is “to increase the sharing of the Gospel in jails and prisons by implementing the *Reaching In* model.” This model is a multi-faceted approach which involves communicating with incarcerated men and women through pastors, teachers, and layperson mentors who share Bibles, LCMS reviewed Bible studies, devotions, *Portals of Prayer*, and *Luther’s Small Catechism* with individuals who request these items. More about this program can be found in the brochure that is included as an attachment with this letter.

For the past two years, the COVID pandemic has hindered the men and women who serve in SID prison ministry as prison facilities have been on lockdown to help prevent the spread of the virus and its variants. Pastors and others involved in the prison ministry programs in Illinois and throughout the United States have had few opportunities to enter prison facilities to share the Gospel with men and women who are incarcerated. Early this spring, Pastor Jeff Nehrt, LCMS SID Prison Ministry, spoke to me as LWML SID President about the need for mentors to “reach in” to our prisons via the USPS so that the sharing of the Gospel might continue in a meaningful way in spite of the lockdowns.

Since this initial conversation, it is exciting to report our awesome God has been moving in wonderful ways to enable this program. Here’s what’s been happening:

- Agreements have been reached to be able to provide a pilot program in the prisons in our district.

- Following a presentation by Pastor Nehrt to the LWML SID Board of Directors, LWML SID has offered both prayers and needed financial support to provide the Lutheran materials necessary for this program.
- Lutheran Braille Workers will print the large print Bibles and other needed large print materials and will be able to send them free of charge into the prisons to those who request them via a U.S. Library of Congress program for the visually impaired. Why large print materials? In many prisons, men and women who are incarcerated are not allowed to wear eyeglasses as they can be fashioned into weapons. Large print materials are therefore essential for reading.
- An advertising poster for the program has been developed for display in the prisons. This poster shares the words of Matthew 28:20, [Jesus said,] "I am with you always, to the end of the age." It also proclaims the truth: "You are not alone. Christ is here for you."
- A postcard has been developed for men and women who are incarcerated to use to request a free large print Bible, catechism, and a Bible study from Lutheran Braille Workers. Another postcard has been designed for these men and women to use to request a mentor who will help guide them through the Bible and study materials and to provide Christ-centered support.

So here's where you come in. To get this program in place, mentors are needed to communicate with men and women in our district prisons who are serious about hearing the Gospel. The LCMS SID Prison Ministry Team is looking for men and women, still working or retired, to serve as these mentors. A large group of men and women are needed to serve who have a big heart for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. These mentors could be pastors, Lutheran school teachers, and others who have a strong understanding of how to present the Law and Gospel in ways which center on Christ and on His saving love offered to all. You can be assured that no personal information of any mentor will be shared with any of the men and women who are incarcerated or with any prison workers. A program is being developed where requests and communications from those men and women would be sent to a secure post office box in our district. The information would then be collected and scanned by volunteers and sent to the mentors so that communication can begin. All communication would take place in this secure way.



St. John Lutheran Church, New Minden  
Quarterly Voter's Meeting-October 26, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dean Sprehe with 24 members present. Pastor Mueller began the meeting with opening devotion from Philippians Chapter 1 and prayer. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved as read. A Report on the fall Festival was added to the agenda under New Business.

**Principal's Report:** Mrs. Diane Backs, Assistant Principal shared the following:

- Mrs. Laurie Eubanks fills in when Mrs. Deitt Schneider or Mrs. Diane Backs are not available.
- Theme for the academic school year is "God is our guard."
- Enrollment of 113 for Pre-K thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Trinity 60; St. John 14; Other 39.
- First day of attendance was August 15, 2023
- Reviewed staffing with no current open positions. The School Board continues to work on calling a principal.
- Over \$1,000 was received after the recent Savers drive.
- Sports are making the transition to basketball.
- Field trips and fundraisers continue.
- Technology upgrades as the result of a grant.

Motion made, seconded, and approved to accept the principal's report.

**School Treasurer's Report:** Martha Polczynski presented the T-SJ school treasurer's report showing a balance of \$40,377.60. Motion made, seconded, and approved the School Treasurer's report. Martha also requested a motion to approve spending from the Building fund to pay for upgrades deemed necessary after the Accreditation visit. This requires approval from both congregations. Per Clinton Dunn recommendation from the School Board; motion made, seconded, and approved this request.

**School Board:** Clinton Dunn presented the proposed T-SJ school budget for 2024. The budget assumes a tuition increase of 10% and an annual average raise of 3.5% for staff. Overall, the budget will increase by approximately \$40,000. St. John's monthly payment will \$12,845.85. This amount is down \$1,100 from what St. John has been paying for the last 5 months of 2023. Motion made, seconded, and approved the T-SJ 2024 budget.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Andi Hoffman reported a deficit in the Receipts collections of approximately \$24,000. Synod collections have a deficit of nearly \$3,700. The current checking account balance is \$8,100.58. Motion made, seconded, and approved the Treasurer's report. The proposed church budget will be presented in January.

**Finance Board:** Nothing to report.

**Elder's Report:** Nothing to report.

**Pastor's Report:**

- The radio bible study needs donors.
- Pastor Hans Trinklein has been installed as a Professor at Concordia, Nebraska.
- Prison ministry is going well.
- Grief Share has new materials and will resume in November.
- Appreciates the support for the Uganda mission trip/books.
- Christ Our Song Lutheran School of Music has several taking piano lessons.



- The school year is going well with the Interim administration.
- CORLHS has several international students, and the Sterling evening event was a success.
- Responsibilities as Vacancy Pastor at Olive Branch & Venedy will end November 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Pastor Jeff Nehrt from Greenville will preach at New Minden on November 12<sup>th</sup>.

Third quarter statistics: Baptized members 355, Communicant members 290, Sunday School 10, Sunday adult Bible Class 12. Through the first three quarters: Sunday service 95, Saturday service 17, Weekend 98 (pre-Covid attendance was 99 per weekend), 166 communed at least once. One wedding Eric Hemminghaus and Kimberly Hartman. Motion made, seconded, and approved Pastor Mueller's report.

**Trustees:** Nothing to report.

Motion made, seconded, and approved the bid from LuAnn Sprehe of \$4,000 for church janitor.

Motion made, seconded, and approved the bid from Terri Witte of \$2280 for school janitor.

Motion made, seconded, and approved the bid from Tony Becker of \$6,000 for cemetery caretaker.

**Cemetery Committee:** Nothing to report.

**Scholarship Treasurer's Report:** Nothing to report.

**Historical society:** Offered appreciation for all the volunteer hours.

**New Business:** Robert Langrehr shared a preliminary report on the Fall Festival; approximately \$5,671 (approximately \$3600 before donations). He thanked Terry Lange for lining up volunteer workers and asked that next year the Finance board take the money home after the stand closed for the evening.

Motion made, seconded and approved to adjourn. The meeting closed with "The Lord's Prayer".

Natalie Ibendahl, Secretary



**24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost + November 12, 2023 + 10:00 a.m.**

St. John's Lutheran Church, New Minden, Illinois  
*Lutheran Service Book—Divine Service, Setting Three*

**HYMN:** "Lift High the Cross" *LSB 837*

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *LSB 184-185*

**PSALM:** Psalm 70 *spoken responsively by half verse* *LSB 70*

**KYRIE** *LSB 186*

**GLORIA IN EXCELSIS** *LSB 187-189*

**SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *(Sing:)* **And with thy spir - it.**

P: Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(Sing:)* **A - men.**

**OLD TESTAMENT**

*Amos 5:18-24*

- P: <sup>18</sup> Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!  
Why would you have the day of the LORD?  
It is darkness, and not light,  
<sup>19</sup> as if a man fled from a lion,  
and a bear met him,  
or went into the house and leaned his hand against the  
wall,  
and a serpent bit him.  
<sup>20</sup> Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light,  
and gloom with no brightness in it?



- 21 "I hate, I despise your feasts,  
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.  
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and  
grain offerings,  
I will not accept them;  
and the peace offerings of your fattened animals,  
I will not look upon them.  
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;  
to the melody of your harps I will not listen.  
24 But let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

P: This is the word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE

*1 Thessalonians 4:13–18*

P: <sup>13</sup>But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers,  
about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as  
others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that  
Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will  
bring with him those who have fallen asleep. <sup>15</sup>For this we  
declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are  
alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not  
precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord  
himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command,  
with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the  
trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.  
<sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up  
together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air,  
and so we will always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup>Therefore  
encourage one another with these words.

P: This is the word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN:** "Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying"

*LSB 826*

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Matthew 25:1–13*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25<sup>th</sup> chapter.

C: *(Sing:)* **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

P: <sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven will be like ten  
virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the  
bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.  
<sup>3</sup>For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil  
with them, <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.  
<sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy  
and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the  
bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' <sup>7</sup>Then all those virgins  
rose and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>And the foolish said to the  
wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going  
out.' <sup>9</sup>But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not  
be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and  
buy for yourselves.' <sup>10</sup>And while they were going to buy,  
the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in  
with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut.  
<sup>11</sup>Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord,  
open to us.' <sup>12</sup>But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not  
know you.' <sup>13</sup>Watch therefore, for you know neither the day  
nor the hour.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *(Sing:)* **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

**APOSTLES' CREED** *LSB 192 or inside back cover*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**HYMN:** "'How Shall They Hear,' Who Have Not Heard" *LSB 831*

**SERMON:** "The Righteousness of God" *Amos 5:18–24*  
*Pastor Jeff Nehrt, Our Redeemer, Greenville, and*  
*SID Prison Ministry Coordinator*

**HYMN:** "Christ the Eternal Lord"

*LSB 829*



## OFFERING

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

### LORD'S PRAYER

**C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

### COLLECT FOR THE WORD *[LSB inside front cover]*

**P:** Lord God, bless Your Word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a word of power and peace to convert those not yet Your own and to confirm those who have come to saving faith. May Your Word pass from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the lip, and from the lip to the life that, as You have promised, Your word may achieve the purpose for which You send it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### BENEDICTION *[LSB 202]*

**P:** The Lord Bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

**C: (Sing:) Amen, amen, amen.**

### CLOSING HYMN: "From All That Dwell Below the Skies"

*LSB 816*

#### Acknowledgements

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**This Week : -Nov 12<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Today	8:00 a.m. The Lutheran Hour on KSIV 91.5 FM 12:30 & 5:00 p.m. KFUD 3:00 p.m. Music Festival at Immanuel, Okawville
Monday	6:30 p.m. Grief Share
Tuesday	9:30 a.m. Pastor Has Service at FMNH 10:30 a.m. Pastor Has Service at WCH Skilled Care 6:30 p.m. Bible Study
Wednesday	6:00 p.m. Weekday Religion
Thursday	8:30 a.m. Pastor at CCC 6:00 p.m. LWML in FH
Saturday	9-1:00 Christ Our Song Piano Lessons in FH NO Worship
Sunday	8:30 a.m. Worship at St. Luke's 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class 9:00 a.m. St. John's Bible Study on WNSV 104.7 10:00 a.m. Worship at NM w/HC 10:30 a.m. "Worship Anew" on DIRECT TV 377 and Channel 18 on Cable TV SS Children Sing