

# St. John's Messenger

Sharing the good news of forgiveness and eternal life  
through Jesus Christ.

JUNE 2021



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
GALATIA LUTHERAN & SAN JOAN



## *From the Pastor's Study*

Dear Friends,

The City Council of Beloit has removed the city's mask mandate and social distancing requirements as of Monday, May 17. Consequently, we have removed the tape from the pews and are no longer specifically requesting that worshippers wear face coverings at St. John's. However, those who feel more comfortable wearing face coverings are more than welcome to continue doing so. In fact, I will continue to wear a face covering as I distribute the Lord's Supper. We also ask everyone to be intentional in respecting each other's space and distancing preferences.

In the world, there are "vaxxers" and "anti-vaxxers" - as well as "maskers" and "anti-maskers" - but in Christ's Church there is only the baptized. The values and struggles of our culture so dominate our lives that we sometimes forget that the Church is not of this world. It is important for us to be reminded that in the Church, we follow Christ not the world. One's identity as a baptized child of God supersedes all other identifying values. St. Paul reminded the church gathered in Galatia of this when he wrote "In fact, you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. Indeed, as many of you as were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ. There is not Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female, for you are all one and the same in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:26-28, EHV). Perhaps you believe that all people should be vaccinated without delay, or maybe you believe that no one should be vaccinated. In Christ, you are free to hold that opinion but you are not called upon to impose it on others within the household of God. Perhaps you are appalled that we are no longer asking all worshippers to wear face coverings, or maybe you think that it is ridiculous that we made this request for so long. Again, our own opinions regarding such things do nothing to build up the body of Christ - which is the Church.

In the ancient world, a myriad of so-called "gods" were worshipped. Animals were frequently offered in the temples of these "gods." Frequently, meat remaining from their sacrifices were sold to the public to eat. This caused an uproar among many Christians who said to eat this meat is to acknowledge those "gods" and amounted to worshipping them. Paul reminded them that because those "gods" do not actually exist their worship is a falsehood, however, he helped Christians to see that respecting one another's consciences within the body of Christ is far superior to expecting them to unconditionally accept our opinions. As we consider masking and vaccinations, we do well to listen to Paul's words regarding meat sacrificed to false "gods."

*(continued on page 2)*



"So, concerning the eating of food from idol sacrifices, we know that an idol is not anything real in the world and that there is no God but one. Indeed, even if there are so-called "gods," whether in the heavens or on earth (as in fact there are many "gods" and many "lords"), nevertheless for us there is one God—the Father, from whom all things exist and we exist for him—and one Lord—Jesus Christ, through whom all things exist and we exist through him.

However, that knowledge is not in everyone. Instead some, who are still affected by their former habit with the idol, eat the food as something sacrificed to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. Food will not bring us closer to God. We do not lack anything if we do not eat, nor are we better off if we do. And be careful that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if someone sees you, a person who has knowledge, dining in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of this man, weak as he is, be emboldened to eat food from an idol sacrifice? You see, the weak person is being destroyed by your knowledge—the brother for whose sake Christ died! And when you sin in this way against your brothers and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food causes my brother to sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I do not cause my brother to sin." (1 Cor. 8:4–13, EHV).

In the world, it is considered acceptable to judge people according to their use of face coverings and decision to be vaccinated or not, but in the Church we are called to a higher level of respect. There are legitimate reasons for choosing to be vaccinated and equally-legitimate reasons for not being vaccinated. Because of my allergies (peanuts, etc.), I was not an ideal candidate to receive the vaccine. Convinced that not doing so would prevent me from being able to make visits in the hospitals and nursing care facilities, I signed up to be vaccinated a few months ago. Following the administration of my second dose, I ran a fever for 30 hours before it finally broke. For the next four days, I ran a fever every night. I dreaded bedtime until this cycle finally ended. Given my experience, I cannot accept that everyone must be vaccinated. However, I also believe that the increasing number of those being vaccinated has much to do with the lessening of active COVID diagnoses. Thus, I also respect the decision of those who have chosen to be vaccinated.

May each one of us use our Christian freedom to give one another space in these matters.

In Christ Jesus,

*Pastor*

*Each week's Worship service bulletin is available for you in its entirety on our website on the On-Line Resources page. It will be used both for streaming Worship and in-person worship. If you don't wish to use the service book, you may use an electronic device or print a copy for yourself.*

*<https://www.stjohnsbeloit.com/connect-with-us.html>*



## **Time Off for Good Behavior**

**Your Office Administrator,  
Berta Eddy, will be  
taking time off from  
Monday, June 7th through  
Friday, June 18th.**

**She will be in the office on  
Saturday, June 19th.**



**June 6th, 2021 is Graduation Sunday!**

During the Worship service that week, Pastor Roser will be offering a special blessing for the graduates. In the meantime, he invites the congregation to say a prayer for these men and women as they celebrate the completion of their high school or college years:

- Alexa Gill (Clinton High School)
- Levi William Bartz (University of White Water, WI)
- Ethan Burns (Carroll University)
- Alexa Larson (Carroll University)
- Alex Nohr (University of WI, Stout)

If your graduate is not on the list and you would like them included, please email the church office:  
[officestjohnsbeloit@gmail.com](mailto:officestjohnsbeloit@gmail.com)

## **Voters' Meeting**

**Our Church Council has called a special meeting of the Voters' Assembly for Sunday, June 20, immediately following worship.**

The purpose of this meeting is to consider a proposal to enter into a long-term lease agreement with Family Promise of Greater Beloit (formerly Hands of Faith). This not-for-profit community organization works to prevent homelessness among Beloit residents and to provide shelter to those who are experiencing homelessness.

You can learn more about them by going to their website:

<https://www.familypromisebeloit.org/> .

They are interested in entering into a ten-year lease agreement with us for the use of the three classrooms, kitchen, and lockerrooms in the new school building ('82); and the three downstairs classrooms in the first school building ('51). Their intention is to establish a permanent facility that can shelter up to six families at any given time. The Midwest Tarheels Select Sports organization will continue to occupy the gym and the upstairs classrooms in the first school building ('51) on a month-to-month basis. Because of the length of the lease and the building modifications that will need to be undertaken (at Family Promise's expense), the Council is bringing this before the Voters for approval. If you have questions, please speak with Pastor or any of our Council members. We are excited about this opportunity to bless our community through the resources that God has placed into our care.



## Special June Sermon Series

It would be quite unfeeling for us to ask you if you have experienced a sense of isolation during the last year. During the pandemic, each of us has experienced isolation in some way, and many people to a very large extent. Because God has created us as social beings intended for life in community, much of what we have experienced in order to reduce the spread of the virus has been unnatural and painful. Just as God's merciful care gets us through each new week, with its unique challenges, God also refreshes us with the gifts of community received through the local congregation.

During the Sundays in June, Pastor will be presenting a five-part message series entitled "Overcoming Isolation through Community." This series springs from the new book by LCMS pastor, Rev. Brian Davies, entitled "Connected to Christ: Overcoming Isolation through Community." You may purchase the book from CPH or for Kindle, and you can find more information about the author on YouTube. Links are available on our webpage under A Message From Our Pastor.

While Pastor will be preaching original sermons on each Scripture passage, he will be following Pastor Davies' outline of weekly themes and referring to the wonderful material in the book.

June 6 - "Created for Community," John 17:20-26

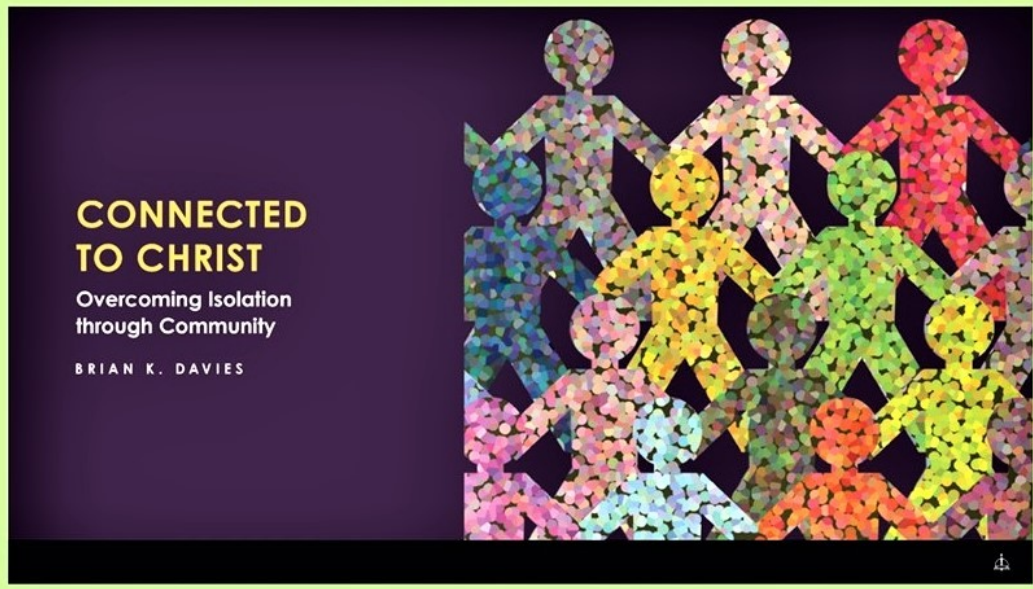
June 13 - "Jesus' Invitation to Find Community in Him," Luke 5:17-26

June 20 - "God's Vision for People in Community," Luke 2:46-52

June 27 - "Essential Practice 1: Regular Worship," Matthew 11:28-30

July 4\* - "Essential Practices 2 and 3: Relationships and Service," Matthew 14:13-21

\*not technically in June.









# *Women's Guild* News *Respectfully submitted by Betty Pearson*



## **Mustard Seed Daily Devotions**

### **Simple Trust**

### **God's Protection Assured**

#### ***In the Word***

“Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they: (Matthew 6:26)?

#### ***Of the Word***

What thought-provoking message was once found in a bird's nest? “We trust in the Lord our God.”

In a tree marked for limb trimming, city workers in Hamilton, Ontario, found a nest of baby robins. They agreed to not touch the limb until the young birds flew away. When the nest was abandoned, the workers found a little scrap of paper in the bottom. The parent robins had used the paper in the building of the nest. The tattered paper read, “We trust in the Lord our God.”

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life ...Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they” (Matthew 6:25a, 26)?

Those birds were out on a limb. We may one day find ourselves in the same place. It is then we can be certain that, just like the birds, we can be at rest knowing our Lord God can be trusted for protection.

#### ***Walking with my Lord***

Thank you, Father, for constantly caring for me. Knowing I am valuable to You, may I never doubt the assurance of Your guidance and protection. In Your loving name I pray. Amen

*(Mustard Seed: Simple Trust, Elaine Bickel, author.*  
[www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org))





## June Birthdays

5 Eric Nohr  
6 Carol Gusk  
7 Marcia Stenberg  
9 David Koebernick  
16 Danielle Peterson  
24 Roger Stenberg

26 Katerina Vander Kooi

30 Autumn Mears



## Wedding Anniversaries



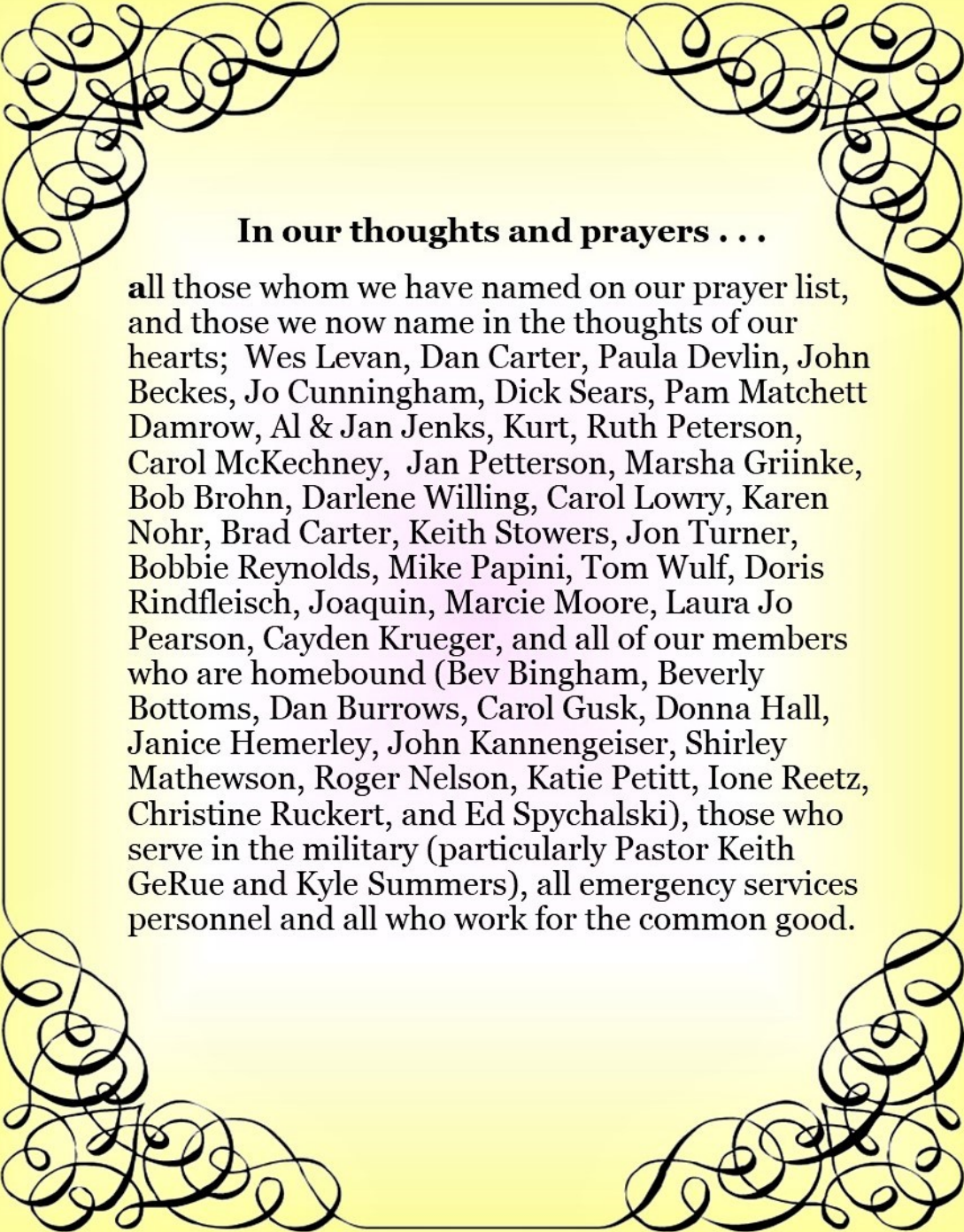
10 Harold and Garnet Bauling  
13 Mark and Kimberly Baker  
25 Don and Nancy Nohr  
28 Micah and Robin Wildauer  
29 John and Ruth Kannengeiser

Faith is the strength  
by which a shattered world  
shall emerge into the light.  
Helen Keller

Please be aware, we have chosen when the office is  
“unmanned” to forward calls directly to Berta’s cell.  
If she is unable to answer, you are welcome to leave a  
message, and she will help you as quickly as possible.  
Thank you.





A decorative border of black scrollwork and flourishes surrounds the text, with the most elaborate designs in the corners.

### **In our thoughts and prayers . . .**

all those whom we have named on our prayer list, and those we now name in the thoughts of our hearts; Wes Levan, Dan Carter, Paula Devlin, John Beckes, Jo Cunningham, Dick Sears, Pam Matchett Damrow, Al & Jan Jenks, Kurt, Ruth Peterson, Carol McKechney, Jan Petterson, Marsha Griinke, Bob Brohn, Darlene Willing, Carol Lowry, Karen Nohr, Brad Carter, Keith Stowers, Jon Turner, Bobbie Reynolds, Mike Papini, Tom Wulf, Doris Rindfleisch, Joaquin, Marcie Moore, Laura Jo Pearson, Cayden Krueger, and all of our members who are homebound (Bev Bingham, Beverly Bottoms, Dan Burrows, Carol Gusk, Donna Hall, Janice Hemerley, John Kannengeiser, Shirley Mathewson, Roger Nelson, Katie Petitt, Ione Reetz, Christine Ruckert, and Ed Spychalski), those who serve in the military (particularly Pastor Keith GeRue and Kyle Summers), all emergency services personnel and all who work for the common good.



## **Our Homebound Members**

Beverly Bingham, Rock Bay Harbor Apts.

Beverly Bottoms, Riverside Terrace

Dan Burrows, Skaalen Nursing & Rehab, Stoughton

Carol Gusk, Home

Donna Hall, Willowick, Clinton

Janice Hemerley, Suites at Beloit

John Kannengeiser, Home

Shirley Mathewson, Beloit Sr. Living

Katherine Petitt, Green Knolls at Beloit

Ione Reetz, Home

Christine Ruckert, Autumn Lake, Beloit

Ed Spychalski, Home

“And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick,  
and the Lord will raise him up.”

(James 5:15 ESV)



Miss a sermon?

Want to share a particular message with family or friends?

All Sunday services from October of 2019 through the most recent Sunday are available to you on CD or MP3. You need only ask Berta Eddy, and she will provide it for you.



## Sunday Morning Streamed Worship CATEchism and Dog

Like St. John's on-line videos?

We encourage you to share them on your own Facebook page, and with your family and friends. It's a great way to invite people to learn more about the Word of God!



Our local food banks are experiencing **significant shortages** as individuals and families are still struggling with changes and challenges.

The items most needed are:

- \* Toilet Paper
- \* Rice
- \* Canned Meats/Tuna
- \* Canned Hearty Soups or Mixes
- \* Dry Beans
- \* Canned Vegetables
- \* Baby food/diapers

FOOD COLLECTION  
FOR THE  
SALVATION ARMY



Giving  
Hope  
Today

**All other items, of course, will be gratefully accepted** as visits to the food banks are rising, and expected to continue to do so in the coming months.

**St. John's Lutheran Church has a collection bin for the Salvation Army in the Narthex.** If you would like to drop off items at a time other than Sunday morning, please contact our Administrative Assistant, Berta Eddy, to arrange a time.

Thank you for your generous help. (608)-362-8595



**Stay connected to St. John's Lutheran Church, Beloit!**

Our podcast stream is available on the iHeart radio app!

<https://www.iheart.com/podcast/269-st-johns-lutheran-church-i-76708569/>

Or try our Podbean website or app:

<http://stjohnbeloitmedia.podbean.com/>

You can also find our podcasts at  
iTunes, Spotify, and the Google podcast app!

Our livestreaming and recorded Worship services are still found  
on our Facebook page and on YouTube.

**Take the Word of God with you wherever you go!!**



**We gather for worship every Sunday morning at 9 am,  
whether in-person or on-line, and everyone is welcome!**

You have a savior who is Christ the Lord, and we invite you to join us in receiving the gifts which God delights in giving you through His Son.



God loves all people. His Son died in the place of everyone and answered for all of our sins - including yours. Everyone who trusts in his death for the forgiveness of their sins will receive the free gift of eternal life with God. We would love to have the opportunity to tell you more about this good news.

Where everyone is invited, and Jesus is Lord!

### **Stay Connected!**



Did you know if you miss a regular Sunday Worship Service, you can watch it in its entirety on YouTube!

Just use this link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw9-9SrlBpZwdb2bPj-7Stg>



If you would like see links to Pastor Roser's blog, uplifting posts, occasional humorous posts, and reminders of upcoming events, check out the St. John's Facebook page.

The posts are public, so you don't even have to be a Facebook member to see what's happening. The links are also available on our website.

### **Staff and Contact Information**

**Rev. Dennis Roser, Pastor**

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**Mrs. Berta Eddy, Administrative Assistant**

officestjohnsbeloit@gmail.com

[www.stjohnsbeloit.com](http://www.stjohnsbeloit.com)

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[www.youtube.com/channel/UCw9-9SrlBpZwdb2bPj-7Stg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw9-9SrlBpZwdb2bPj-7Stg)

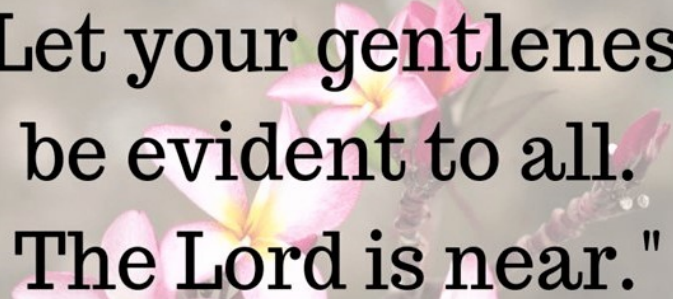







Rejoice with those  
who are rejoicing;  
weep with those who  
are weeping.  
(Romans 12:15 EHV)



A close-up photograph of several pink flowers with yellow centers, likely plumerias, set against a soft, out-of-focus background.

"Let your gentleness  
be evident to all.  
The Lord is near."

*Philippians 4:5*

A photograph of a single pink lotus flower in bloom, surrounded by dark green leaves, set against a black background.

Everything that  
is done in the  
world is done  
by hope.

(Martin Luther)

A close-up photograph of vibrant green leaves, possibly from a peace lily, covered in numerous clear water droplets.

Let us acknowledge the LORD.  
Let us pursue knowledge of the LORD.

As surely as the sun rises,  
the LORD will appear.

He will come to us like a heavy rain,  
like the spring rain that waters the earth.

(Hosea 6:3 EHV)



Happy  
Father's  
Day

The righteous  
man walks in  
his integrity;  
**His children  
are blessed  
after him.**

PROVERBS 20:7



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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