



# MAY/JUNE 2019



St. John's Lutheran Church  
Burt, Iowa 50522  
Phone: 515-924-3344  
[www.stjohnsburt.org](http://www.stjohnsburt.org)

He remembers His **Testament** forever,  
the **Word** he appointed for a thousand generations  
Psalm 105:8 (JP)

Rev. Thomas Cowell  
Pastor  
Phone: 515-924-3388

**'Telling the good News about Jesus-In Burt, Iowa, and the World'**



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at St. John's,

The Lord be with you this Easter season! Easter Day is the most joyous day in the entire Church year. The joy of Easter is a joy that stays with us all year round. Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by one man came death, by one Man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia!

That word *all* is a word of pure gospel, but it is also a word that requires faith to receive. Perhaps it is difficult for you to accept that you are a part of that *all* for whom Christ has died and risen. Perhaps it is difficult for you to accept that your neighbor is a part of that *all*. One of the tasks of the Church during the Easter season - through sermons, hymns, art, and any other means - is to communicate this universal nature of Christ's salvation. Jesus gives all people the opportunity to be made alive in Him: by grace alone, through faith alone, by the merits of His death and resurrection alone. It doesn't matter what you have or haven't done. It doesn't matter how late in life you have come to faith in Jesus. Jesus has done all things necessary for you to live forever with Him, and He rejoices to give His life to you free of charge, free of judgement, free of any requirements beside faith in Him.

One of the most succinct and beautiful sermons on Christ's resurrection for all people was preached by a pastor named St. John Chrysostom around the year 400. In fact, this sermon is so succinct and beautiful that every congregation of the Eastern Orthodox Church reads it every year during the Easter season. Here is that sermon, referred to as St. Chrysostom's Paschal Homily:

- If anyone is a devout lover of God, let him enjoy this beautiful and radiant festival.
- If anyone is a faithful servant, let him enter rejoicing into the joy of his Lord.
- If anyone has wearied himself with fasting, let him now receive his reward.
- If anyone has labored from the first hour, let him receive his wage.
- If anyone has come after the third hour, let him with thanksgiving keep the feast.
- If anyone has arrived at the sixth hour, let him be also confident; for he too will not be deprived.
- If anyone has delayed until the ninth hour, let him draw near without hesitation.
- If anyone has arrived even at the eleventh hour, let him not fear on account of his delay.
- For the Lord is gracious, and will accept the last even as the first.

He gives rest to those who came at the eleventh hour, as well as to those who worked from the first hour.

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He is merciful to those who come late, and he cares for those who came at the beginning.  
He gives to the one; and he gives to the other also.  
He rewards the work which is done, and he recognizes the incomplete attempt.  
He honours the act and he praises the intention.

And so let all enter into the joy of our Lord.  
Let the first and the second receive their reward.  
Let rich and poor rejoice together.  
Rejoice today, those who have fasted and those who have not.  
The table is full-laden; let all feast richly.  
The calf is fatted; let no one leave hungry.  
Let all enjoy the feast of faith; let all receive the riches of mercy.

Let none complain of poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed.  
Let none grieve for their sins; for forgiveness has dawned from the tomb.  
Let none fear death; for the death of the Saviour has freed us.  
He has destroyed death by enduring it.  
By descending into hell, he has plundered it.  
He embittered it when it tasted of his flesh.  
Isaiah prophesied this and said: Hades has been embittered by meeting him below.  
*It was embittered, for it was abolished.*  
*It was embittered, for it was mocked.*  
*It was embittered, for it was slain.*  
*It was embittered, for it was annihilated.*  
*It was embittered, for it was then enchained.*  
It took a body and discovered God.  
It took earth and encountered heaven.  
It took what it saw and was conquered by what it saw not.  
O death, where is thy sting?  
O hell, where is thy victory?

*Christ is risen*, and you, O death, are made nothing!  
*Christ is risen*, and the demons are fallen!  
*Christ is risen*, and the angels rejoice!  
*Christ is risen*, and life reigns!  
*Christ is risen*, and none are left dead in the tomb!  
For Christ, being risen from the dead, has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.  
To Him be glory and power forever and ever. Amen.

I hope that St. Chrysostom's sermon is a source of strength for your faith in the victory of Christ's resurrection for you and all people. Consider this Easter season and beyond how you might find opportunities to share with those who do not yet know it that they too are a part of all people saved by Christ.

Yours in Christ,



Pastor Thomas Cowell  
Easter, Anno Domini 2019



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Boyd Shipler
- 4 - Christian Bierstedt
- 5 - Emily Loken
- 6 - Michail Aaron
- 7 - Phillip McFarland
- 7 - Mary Melick
- 8 - Rosann Shipler
- 9 - Steve Madsen
- 11 - Reid Briggs
- 13 - Kim Koestler
- 19 - Jesse Fitzgerald
- 20 - Angela Strait
- 27 - Terry Briggs
- 27 - Michael Eimers
- 28 - Barbara Thilges
- 29 - Roger Evans
- 31 - Jacob Fox

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 8 - Taylor Lynn Parsons
- 9 - Brooklyn Griffin
- 9 - William Griffin
- 9 - Joan Koestler
- 14 - Caelum Blocker
- 16 - Dean Larson
- 16 - Gordon Oleson
- 17 - Alasha Heneen
- 17 - Mary Lou Marlow
- 17 - Gail (Sue) Person
- 18 - Jim Struecker
- 22 - Jacob Haase
- 25 - Shirlee Alt
- 26 - Carolyn Faber



## SPECIAL SENIORS

Joan Koestler - June 9

## Kids of the Kingdom Preschool

Kids of the Kingdom preschool is taking registrations for the 2019-2020 school year. Contact the church office at 515-924-3344 for an enrollment packet or stop in and pick one up.

## Preschool teacher needed

Applications are being accepted for a preschool teacher for Kids of the Kingdom Preschool. Please submit a letter of application and resume to the church office or email to [churchoffice@stjohnsburt.org](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnsburt.org)

## Ladies Aid

St. John's LWML met March 6 at 1:30. The meeting opened with devotions by Barb Harms.

Pastor Cowell led the bible study from the winter quarterly, "Lord I can't handle this", 1Peter 5:6-11. Dealing with good and bad stress in our lives. The Complaine (Prayer at the close of the day) from LSB was noted also includes 1Peter 5:6-9A. Pastor closed with reading Hymn 754, "Entrust your days and Burdens."

Roll call was answered by 3 members and Pastor.

The secretary and treasurers reports were given. Motion carried to give funeral committee \$75 for expenses. Pastors conference is April 9th. Zone board meeting is March 23 @9:00. College students will be remembered with gift certificates.

The Spring rally will be at Zion, Luverne, on April 25th.

Thank yous from Pastor and family and the Kossuth County Care Team.

The LWML Day of Prayer is April 4. Bev Skadburg gave a prayer for 2 members having health issues.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and table prayer.

Hostess was Caradene Parsons.

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St John's LWML met April 4 at 1:30. The meeting opened with the LWML Day of Prayer, 'Mission Grant Stories', led by Pastor Cowell with members reading several stories and Pastor ending with prayers. The following grants are paid in full, 1) prison and jail ministry, 2) Reconnect - Texas District, 3) Indian Ministries - Hawaii, 4) Mercy Medical - students, 5) Ed. loan repayment - LCMS workers, 6) Bethesda, 7) Lutheran Braille

workers, 8) 4 Life - youth, 9) Uganda - school bldgs, 10) Middle Easterns Ministries, 11) Eldercare Home Jacmel Haiti, 12) LWR Quilt & kit shipping fund. The offering is for Pastor Andrew Schlund - missionary in Mexico city.

Roll call was answered by 6 members and pastor.

The secretary and treasurers reports were given.

Bev Skadburg gave a report on the spring zone board meeting. The spring rally will be on April 25th at Zion Luverne, The ingathering is colored underwear and socks for men and children for IOWAY. The speaker is Jonathan Federwitz for Bible Translators.

College students were sent gift certificates.

Birthday cards were signed for Esther Christiansen and Ruth Nerum.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Mary Shipler Oleson was the hostess.

Caradene Parsons - secretary

A changeless Christ for a changing world:  
A look back at our *Parish Messenger* from June, 1931 and May, 1932.

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[The following article taken from *American Lutheran* was published in the May, 1932 edition of the *Parish Messenger* of St. John's Lutheran Church.]

## CHURCH ETIQUETTE

1. If possible, be on time. You need a few minutes to get warm or cool, gain your composure, and offer a silent prayer for blessing from on high.
2. Never pass up the aisle during a prayer or Scripture reading. It distracts others. Wait till the next hymn has begun.
3. Be devout in every attitude. All whispering should be studiously avoided. Find the hymn and sing it if you can. If necessary, share your book with your neighbor.
4. If the sermon has begun, take a seat near the door. The rear pews should not be occupied by those coming first.
5. Silence is demanded in any public reading room. How much more in a church, where people are sitting in worshipful meditation upon heavenly things?
6. Be thoughtful for the comfort of others. Do not expect people to scramble over you to find a seat. Move over.
7. Speak a kindly word to the visitors. If you are a visitor, ask one of the ushers, or one of the members, to introduce you to the pastor, and to the church officers. This will insure you a hearty welcome.
8. Never put on your wraps or overcoat during the closing hymn, nor make a rush for the door, when the benediction has been pronounced. Avoid boisterous laughing as you go out.
9. Remember at all times, that a Christian church is a house of God. It will help you to "keep your foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear than to give the sacrifice of fools."

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[The following are announcements taken from the June, 1931 edition of the *Parish Messenger*.]

- Lest you forget! Mission festival services Sunday, May 31. German and English sermons in the forenoon by Pastor Arnold Schulz of Round Lake, Minnesota; English service in the afternoon conducted by Pastor V.J. Kollmann of Royal. Surely, we ALL want to attend these services. Be sure to read the enclosed literature. We are also enclosing special collection envelopes for each communicant member and some colored ones for the children. Let us all bring liberal offerings, so that God's kingdom may flourish and grow. There will be no Sunday

school. Service begins at 10:30. Bring your lunch. Hot coffee will be served by the ladies. The young people will have a few refreshments for sale.

- The following children were received into the fellowship of the Triune God through Holy Baptism: Leona Mae, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Gifford, was baptized April 5<sup>th</sup>; Emily Blanche, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Heidenwith, was baptized April 30<sup>th</sup>; Joanne Lee, daughter of Mr. and Waldemar Bleich, was baptized May 3<sup>rd</sup>; Eugene William, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Faulstich, was baptized May 10<sup>th</sup>. "Write the names which we have given, write them in the book of heaven."

- An interesting Valparaiso meeting was held in Whittemore last week. Sorry that our Burt representation was not larger. Valparaiso is a Lutheran University, and it is a fully accredited institution. It deserves our whole-hearted support. And our young people who desire a higher education should give Valparaiso first consideration.