

The St. John Lutheran Church
Volume 26 — Number 5
May 2026 Jottings

“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of people; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and do good while they live.”

--- Ecclesiastes 3:11-12



Pastor Michael's Musings

May 2026

My great-grandmother Hilda, who came over “on the boat” from Sweden in the first decade of the 20 th century, brought with her the traditional folksongs and hymns that she had been brought up with as a child. One of them I remember best was the song that heralded the arrival of the first day of May. I do not know Swedish but being a phonics child of the 1970’s, I can “sound it out” and come to some kind of approximation of what she sang. Her words and voice are etched into my memory, and it went something like this: “Eee dogg-idda first of My, Eee dogg-idda first of My, Eee dogg-idda first of My, My, My, Eee dogg-idda first of My....” And of course, there were many verses after that.

Very soon we are going to be experiencing the First Day of May (by the time you read this it may have already come and gone – it’s April 22 nd today) and with it comes all the changes that truly herald the arrival of Spring, heading into Summer! Around the parsonage here in Bartonville, and as one drives down Smithville Road to head into town, the frogs sing out loud and strongly during the night and through the early morning, wherever they have a great puddle to live nearby. I am always amused by the frogs! I drive by and can hear their chirruping come like a flood of sound through the car window. When I go out behind the house, I can hear them raising a big chorus from the woods. The frogs know when the seasons have definitely and truly changed. They are a great bellwether in predicting that Summer is near! The birds are fun to watch too, and then the big thrumming bumble bees arrive traipsing from

flower to flower that seem to spring up out of nowhere. All of these things combined display the lovely flow and purpose of God's creation through the seasons. It might take a little bit of effort to stop and notice them, but the effort is well worth it.

In the verses from Ecclesiastes printed above, we see King Solomon pouring over many thoughts as he tries to grapple with the meaning, and ultimate purpose, of the world. Solomon has seen it all. He has suffered the good and the bad, been exceedingly wise and exceedingly foolish, has accumulated much wealth, and has witnessed the senseless squandering of a lot of it. By the time he writes Ecclesiastes he has acquired much "life-wisdom" but for him it has raised many more questions. Eventually, he realizes that the purpose of it all is to love and please God in living a life that is worthy of His purpose and commandments. And for God's creation? Well, the verses above sum things up nicely.

Although we have been created for eternity, we cannot, as human beings, ever ultimately plumb the eternal to its true depths. As a result of being people who might have to live with questions, doubt, and wonderment, we are called to nevertheless see the immediate beauty in everything, to enjoy the gift of God's creation insofar as we can, and to do good things for one another so that we might live in fellowship, prosperity, and service to one another. The ushering in of the various seasons reminds us that even though seasons change (and they can be life- seasons as well as we live out our years) God always walks with us and shows us something of beauty as we live out our days.

Soon it will be the First of May, the "Eee dogg-idda first of My!" Look around, see the beautiful sights, enjoy the company of good friends and the wonderful ministry of your church amid a sometimes-crazy world. Add yourself to the grand mix of things! As the verses say, "He has made everything beautiful in its time."

JOYFUL NOISE

A monthly column with all the noise
that is news about Music & Worship
at St. John Lutheran Church

Volume 26, Issue 11

May 2026

Now what?

Well, as you read this, you probably realize that for the first time in 15 years, we are without a full-time Pastor. There are still many unanswered questions in many people's minds:

When will we get an Interim Pastor assigned?

When can we expect to get candidates to consider for a permanent call?

Who's going to visit our shut-ins during the interim period?

Who's going to handle "emergency" situations for hospital visits and such?

Who's presiding at the upcoming wedding this month?

Will the yet-to-be-named interim be on-board with Summer outdoor services?

As I write this, I can't answer any of those questions except to say we were told to expect an interim to serve us for about a year and then we can go into the call process. We are not alone in this situation. There is a critical shortage of ordained ministers, and we are probably in line behind several local churches who've lost their pastors earlier than us:

St. Peters in Glasford has been looking for over 4 years.

First English in Peoria was recently turned down by a candidate who accepted a call to a church in Decatur.

Salem in Peoria has an interim who drives an hour and a half to get to Peoria.

St. Paul in Peoria just said a fond goodbye to their pastor, who retired April 12 due to health issues.

Times like this are when we can really appreciate being part of the ELCA, because we are the largest Lutheran denomination in the country, so we have the most resources from which to draw. It's more important than ever that we rise up and support our national church and our synod through benevolence giving, for that is part of what funds our seminaries. Were it not for scholarships, many young persons could not afford to attend seminary and become the pastors of tomorrow.

The other thing we can and must do is step up and see what we can do to keep our church alive and active. Pastor Jones made it his mission to regularly visit with shut-ins in their homes and assisted living/nursing home environments. We can't forget those who are still members even though they cannot occupy a pew on Sundays. I hope some group can take on the task of making sure they are not forgotten.

As for the rest of us, just because we are in a state of "flux", we can't sit back and "see what happens." We can continue to invite friends and relatives to join us on Sundays. Summer is a great time to do that, assuming we will be having our outdoor services.

Once we get an official interim Pastor, another thing we need to do is make sure they understand that we will step up and help them with whatever they feel needs done.

Whether we have an ordained interim or a Synodically Assigned Minister, we need to make them feel welcome as they do their best to serve the Lord and lead us into the future. I know things seem dark right now, but we have to reach for the light and we can't do that by expecting an interim to do it alone.

NOW more than ever, it is important that we start living by the ELCA tag line:

God's Work, OUR Hands!

Coming in May

Mother's Day is May 10. It's not an official "church" holy day, but given the commandment to **honor our father and mothers**, it is only right that we give our Mom's some special treatment on this day.

Pentecost Sunday is May 24th this year...celebrating the Holy Spirit. Traditionally, we ask people to WEAR RED on this special day.

Sunday May 31st will be our LAST INDOOR service until fall unless something changes (or it rains). Starting June 7th we will have ONE weekly service at 9 am outdoors in the shelter area. We will be looking for volunteers to help set up and break down the outdoor sound system each week. Please let me know if you can help with that.

Until Next Month...

I offer this benediction to Pastor and Christina, and those of us left behind:

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matt.28:19-20 (NRSV)

Soli Deo Gloria (To God alone be the Glory) Donald L.

Bauer Director of Music

Sunday Services:

Readers:

May 03	Pepper Bauer
May 10	Sandy Behrends
May 17	Tom Tate
May 24	Marilyn Hartseil
May 31	Pat McGrew

Ushers:

May 03	9:00 am	Tim & LaVonne Sammis
May 10	9:00 am	Dan & Deb Sammis
May 17	9:00 am	John & Jane Rosenbohm
May 24	9:00 am	Skeeter & Jodi Miller
May 31	9:00 am	Roger Shafer

Greeters:

May 03	9:00 am	Dan & Deb Sammis
May 10	9:00 am	Carol Super
May 17	9:00 am	Jessica Rosenbohm
May 24	9:00 am	Levi Miller
May 31	9:00 am	Jerry Siebold & Wilma Bruninga

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:

05/01	Karen Williams
05/02	Tom Anderson
05/03	Brody Lyons
05/04	Cheryl Russell
05/08	Joe Baumgardner
05/08	Dylan Bontz
05/08	Terrance Malone
05/08	Tim Sammis
05/08	Riley Spiller
05/09	Elizabeth Bontz
05/14	Addison Grafelman
05/14	Judith Tinnon
05/17	Stephen Flier
05/18	Joan Ressler
05/19	Marla Kumpf
05/21	Curt Caudill
05/21	Ivy Day
05/22	Carter Day
05/25	Bruce Bontz
05/25	Sheryl Bruninga
05/27	Pamela Condre
05/30	Brenda Heuermann

*Happy
Birthday*

Anniversaries:

05/01	Bradley & Theresa Johanson
05/02	Stephen & Leora Day
05/04	Harold & Juanita Vires
05/14	Dan & Kathy Meskimen
05/15	Chuck & Rosanna Krause
05/24	Joe & Janice Baumgardner
05/25	Michael & Christina Jones
05/26	Randall & Patricia Riley
05/29	Akex & Brenda Heuermann

*Happy
Anniversary*

Fairwell Luncheon
April 19, 2026

Pastor

Christina



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Jottings Articles: Jotting articles are due to the office by May 20th. Volunteers will meet on May 27th @ 9:00 to put them together.

Church Council: On May 26th, the Trustee's will meet at 6:00 pm, Elder's at 6:30 pm and Church Council at 7:00 pm.

Worship Committee: They will meet on Thursday May 21st at 6:00 pm before choir practice.

Thank you: A heartfelt thank you to the Farewell Dinner Committee who made Pastor Michael and Christina's dinner go so smoothly. Although we planned for 100, we had 150, and everything worked out fine. Thank you to Deb Sammis, Patty Thornton, Marilyn Hartseil, Marla Kumpf, Elvessa Severt, Betty Marlin, Shirley Schmitt, Jessica Rosenbohm, and Sheryl Bruninga. Thank you to all the people who helped clean up! What a glorious day that brightened our hurting hearts. God is good all the time! Jane Rosenbohm

Thank you: We collected a total of \$450 in the offering basket from the Lenten Suppers. As in previous years, that money has been sent to the ELCA Good Gifts program. We received the following THANK YOU acknowledgement from the national church: Thank you for your donation to support the mission and ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through ELCA Good Gifts. Your generous gifts are making a difference in the world -- responding to hunger and poverty, sharing the gospel, equipping leaders, and growing the church. Thank you for all that you have graciously given so that others may experience God's love.

Adult Sunday School: We are study the Book of Psalms. Please feel free to join us every Sunday in the Conference room from 9:30 - 10:15. Jane Rosenbohm is our leader.

Electronic giving: If you are interested there is an authorization for in the back of the church for electronic giving. You can have it withdrawn Monthly (1st), bi-monthly (1st and 15th) or weekly (Monday), from a checking account, with a debit or credit card. Please fill it out and give to either Patti Thornton or Marla Kumpf.

PACK-A-SACK SUNDAY! The need for food from our food pantry has increased greatly! You can help fill our shelves by bringing a sack of NON-

PERISHABLE food on the 1st Sunday of the month! Cash donations are also helpful, or checks can be written to the "St John Lutheran Food Pantry". Thanks to everyone for helping support this vital out reach ministry.

Sewing: Join us on Thursday at 9:00 am. If you do not sew and would like to attend there are plenty of things you could help us with. Great fellowship! Hope to see you there!



15
Years

Memories



MEMORIAL GIFTS

JUDY WOOLAND

Date of death: January 17, 2026

Bldg and Special Repair Fund \$ 495.00

TOTAL \$ 495.00**

** \$25.00 of this amount was already acknowledged 3/22/26 in the church bulletin. It is included again in this total.

BERNARD JOHNSON

Date of Death: March 11, 2026

(Long-time member before moving nearer family)

Altar Guild Fund \$ 25.00

Bldg/Special Repairs Fund 45.00

Cemetery Fund 100.00

Handicap Bathroom 630.00

TOTAL \$ 800.00

SHARON TRIPP

Date of Death: April 1, 2026

Cemetery Fund \$ 100.00

Child Care Fund 300.00

Sunday School 115.00

TOTAL \$ 515.00

May

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:00 - Worship 10:15 – Sunday School	12-2:00 - Food Pantry			9:00 – Sewing 7:00 pm – Choir rehearsal		2:00 - Karen Bart Graveside Funeral
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:00 - Worship 10:15 – Sunday School 9	12-2:00 - Food Pantry		2:00 Pantry Load Out	9:00 – Sewing 7:00 pm – Choir rehearsal		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:00 - Worship 10:15 – Sunday School	12-2:00 - Food Pantry		Jottings articles Due	9:00 – Sewing 7:00 pm – Choir rehearsal	5:00 Cooper/ Grafelman Rehearsal	2:30 Cooper/ Grafelman Wedding
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:00 - Worship 10:15 – Sunday School	12-2:00 – Food Pantry	6:00 Trustee’s 6:30 Elder’s 7:00 Council	Jottings Volunteers	9:00 – Sewing 7:00 pm – Choir rehearsal		
31						
9:00 - Worship 10:15 – Sunday School						

Look what is happening in Sunday School.

3 years old-PreK	Kathy Ellis/Becca Smith
Kindergarten-3rd grade	Becky & Shannon Sanders
4th-6th	Patti Riley
8th – High School	Fred Rosenbohm
Adult	Jane Rosenbohm

Starting Sunday, February 22nd and throughout the late winter/spring months, our lessons will follow the Year A Lectionary to connect with Pastor's sermon.

May 3rd	God's House
May 10th	The Promise of the Holy Spirit
May 17th	The Ascension
May 24th	The Holy Spirit
May 31st	Creation

The Adult Sunday School class is currently studying "Psalms-Hymns for God's People". All adults are welcome to attend, and if you would like more information, please reach out to Jane Rosenbohm.

As always, all Sunday School age children are welcome to join. If interested, please contact me to register your child.

John E. Wetterauer
christian.reichert@att.net
309-678-1736



Best of Luck



15 Years



Nursing Homes Residents and Homebound

Nadine Bartell	2705 S. Hilton Ln. Bartonville, Il 61607	Jo Ann Lambie	C/O Pepper Bauer Lutheran Hillside Village 5220 S. Cameron Ln. Mapleton, Il 61547
Art Campen	C/O Carrie Campen 4169 King St. Denver, Co. 80211	Jane Look	Heartis Village Peoria 8201 N. Il. Route 91 Peoria, Il 61615
Jeffrey Campen	Lennox Guest House 2875 W. 33 rd Ave. Denver, Co. 80211	Jerry Pitzer	Independence Village 1201 N. Northmoor Rd. Apt. 334 Peoria, Il 61614
Millie Carlson	Villas of Holly Brook 5301 W. Dirksen Pkwy Apt. 48 Peoria, Il 61607	Sharon Resler	Arcadia Care 190 E. Queenwood Room 43 Morton, IL 61550
Barb Dickerson	2422 S. Daycor Divide Bartonville, Il 61607	Eilynn Resler	Arcadia Care 190 E. Queenwood Room 43 Morton, IL 61550
Pat Janssen	12615 Lancaster Rd. Hanna City, Il 61536	Shirley Cramer	7815 W. Plank Rd. Peoria, IL 61604
Joyce Jones	Villas of Holly Brook 5301 W. Dirksen Pkwy. Apt. MC19 Peoria, Il 61607 Or c/o Lisa Fate 7411 Durham Lake Ct. Peoria, IL 61607	Bob & Sharron Farris	2214 Cameron Lane Peoria, IL 61607
Debra Look	Apostolic Christian Home 2125 Veterans Rd. Morton, IL 61550	Bonnie Watson	7103 Depot St. Bartonville, IL 61607
		Joyce Grafelman	120 S. Murphy Rd. Hanna City, IL 61536



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St. John Lutheran Church
You will be missed!

St. John Lutheran Church
6614 W. Smithville Rd.
Bartonville, IL 61607-9436
(309) 697-1440

May 2026

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

PAID

PEORIA, ILLINOIS

Permit No. 704



Current Resident or:

Year Round Worship Schedule :

- 9:00 a.m. Worship With Holy Communion
- 10:15 a.m. `Sunday School for All Ages
- 10:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School

UPCOMING EVENTS THIS MONTH

Make sure to pay attention to the Announcements...Picture page included!