

July 2026

St John Messenger



CONTACT INFO

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COMMUNION

July 5, 2026
July 19, 2026

LIVESTREAM

YouTube
St John Lutheran, Athol

FACEBOOK

St John Lutheran, Athol

WEBSITE

stjohnlutheranathol.com



“Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.” Psalms 33:12

Dear Members of St. John,

Happy 4th of July! Throughout the United States this week, everyone will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence – a document through which leaders of the colonies in the New World broke free from the King of England. The declaration begins: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, **that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights**, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.” Our celebration finds its basis in a foundational document that appeals to the authority of a Divine Creator. So the Fourth of July should be a day that recognizes God’s participation in the nation’s birth. If we truly want to see healing brought to our nation, then this conditional covenant is for us to do our part in the covenant: show humility, pray, and repent, so that God can forgive our sin and heal our land!

And as you enjoy your Fourth of July festivities and celebrate the freedom of our nation, say a prayer of thanks to God for the freedom from sin He has given you, and for the life He has given you to live now and throughout all eternity with Him.

In His love,
Pastor Ann

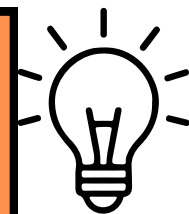
**A Gift from Our Church
is Launching on August 23rd!
Free Access to 25,000
Bible Study Videos!**

**Anytime, Anywhere, Any Device
Individual Study & Small Groups
Children & Teens & Adults**

**www.rightnowmedia.org
Check it out now and learn more
about it at July Sunday services!**



**Mission Festival
Sept. 27th
Mark your Calendars!**



Caleb Meyer will be our mission speaker from The Salt Company, a college outreach ministry of Citylight Kearney Church. Its goal is to reach university students with the gospel and train them as disciples on campus. It offers students opportunities to gather for worship, bible study, fellowship and mission. Caleb is the husband of Tayln Meyer, daughter of Jay and Penny McKenzie. We are excited to hear more about The Salt Company! Check it out at <https://www.citylightkearney.org/college-1>

Prayer Concerns this Month

Blondina Kuhlmann

Virginia Engelke

Roy Dean Bell

Betty Kirchhoff

Pastor Bob & Deb Sinclair

Pastor Doyle & Janna Karst

Family of Roxanne Johnson

Irish Kussmann

Dorothy Seems

Dorothy Wire

Bob Wire

PJ VanderLinden

Kay Snodgrass

Family of Sally Henning

Please let Penny know if anyone needs
added.....penny.mckenzie@yahoo.com

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR JULY



Watch the
weekly bulletin
announcement.



An updated Church
Directory is in the
works! Watch for
more information!

Love Packages.org

July 23-25

Love Packages Mission Trip - Butler, Illinois
Adults and youth - let's go on Mission! We will haul our love packages to Butler, Illinois.
Spend a day sorting and packing bibles and other Christian materials. Please
prayerfully consider your participation in this mission.



Old-Fashioned Watermelon Feed -TBD

Watermelon plants are GROWING!

Will they grow into delicious watermelons?

Only God Knows, but we're praying for a good harvest!

July Upcoming Events:

- July 1 - Communion Service at Sunporch
- July 5 - 9:30 AM Patriotic Hymn Sing
- July 7 - 6:30 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast
10:30 AM Devotions at Sunporch
- July 8 - 5:30 PM Youth Cookout at St. John
- July 15- 7:30 PM - Council Meeting
- July 17-18 - LCMC Heartland District Gathering
- July 19 - 11:00 AM Fair Service -SCMA
- July 23-25 - Love Packages Mission Trip

Ongoing Events:

- Tuesdays: 6:30 PM Bible Study with Pastor Ann
- Wednesdays: 9:00 AM Women's Morning Circle
- Thursdays: 1:30 PM Bible Study at Sunporch

July Member Celebrations

Birthdays

- 1 - Taylor Zabel
- 5 - Julie Ostmeyer
- 11 - Samantha Johnson
- 15 - Brittany Payne
- 20 - John Zabel
- 24 - Levee Frieling
- 26 - Maryanne Kirchhoff
- 26 - Randy Meyer
- 27 - Ray Montgomery
- 30 - Pam Timmons
- 31 - Tyce McKenzie
- 31 - Tom Boxum

Baptismal Birthdays

- 9 - Maeve Cobb
- 13 - Pam Timmons
- 14 - Lynzee Frieling
- 14 - Willa Frieling
- 31 - Tegan McKenzie

Anniversaries

- 2 - Mr & Mrs Taylor Zabel
- 8 - Mr & Mrs Randy Allen
- 29 - Mr & Mrs Nate Kirchhoff

True Freedom

The 4th of July is a day filled with fireworks, parades, and celebrations of our nation's independence. It's a time to remember the courage of those who fought for liberty and the blessings we enjoy because of their sacrifice. But as followers of Christ, this day can also remind us of a deeper, eternal freedom.

The Bible tells us in Galatians 5:1: "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."

While our national freedom is precious, it is temporary and earthly. The freedom Jesus offers is eternal – freedom from sin, shame, and fear. It's a freedom that no government can grant and no enemy can take away. As you watch the fireworks tonight, let each burst of light remind you of the light of Christ that shines in the darkness. As you hear the anthem of our nation,

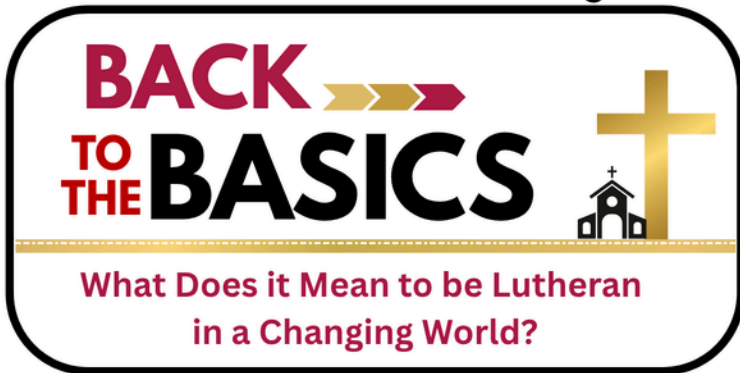
remember the song of salvation that will echo for eternity. And as you gather with loved ones, give thanks for both the liberty of your country and the unshakable freedom of your soul.



Prayer:

Lord, thank You for the gift of freedom – both in this nation and in my heart through Jesus. Help me to live in gratitude, to use my freedom to serve others, and to stand firm in the truth of Your Word. Amen.

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND:
LCMC Annual
Heartland District Gathering



JULY 17-18

**IS GOD CALLING YOU TO BE A LAY LEADER?
FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS MINISTRY!
IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO ATTEND THIS
GATHERING FOCUSED ON LAY LEADERSHIP!**

**IN THE
NEWS**

**MEMBER
CELEBRATIONS**

Let's celebrate our youth and adults in the news! Bring clippings from your paper and hang them on our "In The News" bulletin board! This is a great way to give thanks for our blessings and encourage each other!

July 2026

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------|---|--|---|---|----------|
| 28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Sunday School | 29 | 30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30PM Adult Bible Study | 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00AM Morning Circle 9:00AM Pastor's Office Hours 10:30AM Communion at Sunporch 12:00PM Bulletin Deadline | 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:30PM Bible Study at Sun Porch | 3 | 4 |
| 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30AM Worship - Patriotic Hymn Sing 10:30AM Sunday School | 6 | 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM Men's Discipleship Breakfast 10:30AM Devotions at SunPorch 6:30PM Adult Bible Study | 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00AM Morning Circle 9:00AM Pastor's Office Hours 12:00PM Bulletin Deadline 5:30PM Youth cook-out | 9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:30PM Bible Study at Sun Porch | 10 | 11 |
| 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Sunday School | 13 | 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30PM Adult Bible Study | 15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00AM Morning Circle 9:00AM Pastor's Office Hours 12:00PM Bulletin Deadline 7:30PM Council Meeting | 16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:30PM Bible Study at Sun Porch | 17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LCMC Heartland District Gathering | 18 |
| 19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Sunday School 11:00AM SCMA Fair Service | 20 | 21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30PM Adult Bible Study | 22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00AM Morning Circle 9:00AM Pastor's Office Hours 12:00PM Bulletin Deadline | 23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Love Packages Mission Trip 1:30PM Bible Study at Sun Porch | 24 | 25 |
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