

ST. JOHN'S CHIMES

Published monthly in the interest of



**St. John United Church of Christ
204 Seventh Street
Lincoln, Illinois 62656**

July 2025 Newsletter

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

204 Seventh Street ~ Lincoln, Illinois 62656

217-732-6957

E-mail address: stjohnucclincoln@yahoo.com | Website: stjohnucclincolnillinois.com

"Letting God's love shine through us to the Community we Serve"

Darlene Begolka

Office Manager

Volume 56, No. 7

July 2025



*God bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with a light from above
From the mountains to the prairies
To the oceans white with foam
God bless America, my home sweet home
God bless America, my home sweet home*

**ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
UNAPPROVED CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

**Monday, June 23, 2025
7:00p.m.**

Present: Silas Tockey, Randy Pech, Laura Lee,
Kaye Wilmert, Roger Michalsen,
Bob Meinershagen, Donna Kessinger,
and Darlene Begolka, Office Manager
Absent: Keith Birnbaum, Carolyn Pech
Guests: Toni Reifsteck – 165th Church
Anniversary

President Silas Tockey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 23, 2025, and he also gave the invocation.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Council Minutes from the May 29th meeting needed a correction. Under Old Business G. Sanctuary Roof Replacement, the last sentence should read: "Kreilings bid for the roof was \$88,788.00." (The Sundown Co. bid was incorrect and was removed). It was moved and seconded to accept the corrected May minutes. All voting aye the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

It was moved and seconded to approve the consent agenda as submitted. All voting aye the motion passed.

Discussion about what is part of the Consent Agenda. The Secretary's Report and Financial Reports and any Committee Reports submitted in writing are part of the Consent Agenda. Committee Reports given orally don't need to be in the Consent Agenda.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Scholarship Committee: Bob Meinershagen reported that no applicants have applied for the Serve Scholarship and the deadline has passed.
Search Committee: Search Committee does have another pastor candidate interested, but they are waiting for documents at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Confirmation: A motion was made and seconded to move this item to tabled items. All voting aye the motion carried.
- B. Hoefer Memorial Tree: Tree has been removed and another tree has been purchased and will be picked up and planted soon.
- C. Pastoral Supply: July 6—Rev. Chris Schilling; July 13—Silas Tockey; July 20—Ann Lamkey; July 27—Rev. Chris Schilling; August 3—Rev. David Marquardt; August 10—Rev. Chris Schilling; August 17—Ann Lamkey; August 24—Rev. Chris Schilling; August 31—Silas Tockey
- D. Pridefest: June 7th—Silas Tockey asked for someone who was there to report on it. Donna Kessinger said it was well attended with a lot of families in attendance and many people stopping at the church's booth and visiting and asking questions. A question was asked about where the funds for the items that the church gave away came from. Darlene Begolka said they were from an anonymous donor.
- E. 3rd Fridays: The church has a booth at the 3rd Fridays Downtown event. Lots of children played the game and got free items. Several kids were YMCA kids with their parents, and they recognized that the booth belonged to the St. John UCC church.
- F. 165th Church Anniversary: Toni Reifsteck – Recommendations for 165th
 - a. Toni Reifsteck had a handout with information about what the committee has been working on so far. Lynn Spellman wrote invitation letters that were sent to the distinguished Sons of the Church. She's received one response, so far, but it was reported that at least one letter did not get to someone. So hopefully responses to the letters will be coming in soon.

- b. She did ask for a “Mailbox” by the office for any correspondence that will come in the mail to the church for the Anniversary committee. Silas said there are several available and that can be arranged to have the name put on one box.
- c. Kaye Wilmert has purchased a Memory Book that will hold pictures, letters, or other Correspondence, news articles, etc.
- d. Committee is deciding on a memento to give to all in attendance. They are thinking of a lapel pin, key chain, trivet, as just a few ideas.
- e. She reported that the Worship Team helped with deciding the menu for the celebration. It will be catered from Lincoln Land Caterers and the menu will be Roast Pork with sauce, Salad, Green beans with bacon and onions, Au gratin potatoes, (possibly rolls) drinks at \$14.50/person. A special cake will be purchased separately.
- f. There will be an anniversary red t-shirt available for purchase with the Serenity Prayer on the back. There will be a sign up for those t-shirts. Some seed money would be needed for the initial purchase of the t-shirts.
- g. Toni shared a story about a church starting a “Funds For the Future” (FFF). She asked if St. John UCC could start a line item for the anniversary with FFF in mind. She asked about getting some seed money to help with purchase of mementos and red t-shirts, the some of the catering expenses, and other initial expenses.

The council discussed her request for seed money for mementos, and some of the catering cost, and the initial purchase of red t-shirts. Donations may be given to FFF. It was moved and seconded to use \$1000 of the Church Vitality line for seed money for the 165th Anniversary Celebration in October, and Endowment funds would supplement up to \$2000 for a total of \$3000 in seed money. At the

end of the drive the \$1000 from the Church Vitality line will be replaced. All voting aye the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Wedding Policy Review: A copy of the Current Wedding Policy was available to the council for them to review.

CORRESPONDENCE AND EMAILS

A letter was received from Carol Ricker, daughter of Ruth Seyfert (former pastor’s wife). She wanted to let the church know that Ruth had passed away last summer shy of her 100th birthday. The letter will be shared with the congregation in the Memory Book.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. All voting aye. The motion carried. Meeting ended with all saying the Lord’s Prayer. Meeting ended at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Laura Lee, Council Secretary



FILLING OUR PULPIT IN JULY

July 6 th :	Rev. Chris Schilling
July 13 th :	Silas Tockey
July 20 th :	Ann Lamkey
July 27 th :	Rev. Chris Schilling

MISSION NEWS

By: Verdeen Ingram and
Marlene Wilmert, Co-Chairs

SPECIAL OFFERING SUNDAYS...The Mission Committee has designated the following Sundays:

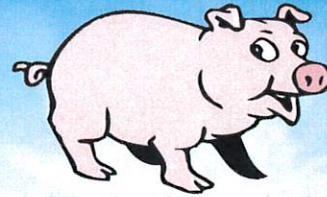
- **Second Sunday** of each month a special offering will be taken for the **Children of Lincoln** project.
- **Fourth Sunday** of each month a special offering will be taken for the **Diaper Project** for Head Start at Community Action.

July Food Item Is...



All non-perishable items are
WELCOME.

JULY IS PORK PROJECT MONTH...



Be sure to memo your check for
Pork Project.

COLLECTING SCHOOL SUPPLIES July, August and September

Bring your donations to The Giving Tree.
Monetary donations are also welcome.
Supplies will be given to Central and
Lincoln Junior High Schools.

(Pencil, pens, crayons,
markers, notebooks,
glue, etc.)



Eat at the
Country Aire Restaurant
Wednesday, July 23, 2025
All Day (6:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.)
Dine-In or Carry Out
10% of the sales that day will go to

TOYS FOR TOTS



CELEBRATE LIFE...

By: Tonita Reifsteck



Eight St. Johner's took time to 'Smell the Roses' for the June Celebrate Life gathering on June 13th at Bob Dorch's Rose garden. Everyone enjoyed their sack lunch and then a short trip to his greenhouse where beauty after beautiful roses of every size and color were

enjoyed. In his gracious time-consuming hobby he gave several flowers or buds to everyone who brought a vase. He also sent a large bouquet back for the altar for Sunday morning. Those who enjoyed the beauty of nature were Alice Paulus, Carolyn Pech, Tonita Reifsteck, Lynn Spellman, Carol Webb, Kaye Wilmert, Sandy Wilmert and friends of the church – Jane and Wendell Hassebrock, Rhond Marten and Don Shull. Everyone thanked Bob Dorch for his time and generous gift – a beautiful day. Birthday and Get-Well cards were signed.

July Celebrate Life will be at Kickapoo Creek Park on Friday, July 11th. Hopefully cooler! In case of rain, it will be at church. NO reservations necessary – all are welcome at 11:30 a.m. at the first shelter at Kickapoo Creek Park. Bring own lunch and drink.



Saturday, July 5th
8:30 a.m.
Imo's Café

All Men of the Church are Welcome.

ATTENDANCE

June 1st

28 In-Person, 35 on Facebook, 14 bulletins mailed and website = 77+

June 8th

38 In-Person, 32 on Facebook, 14 bulletins mailed and website = 84+

June 15th

40 In-Person, 26 on Facebook, 14 bulletins mailed and website = 80+

June 22nd

27 In-Person, 35 on Facebook, 14 bulletins mailed and website = 76+



CHARITY GUILD NEWS...

June was a busy and somber month for Charity Guild. Several members were hospitalized or needed medical attention. Two of the members families experienced death for which luncheons were served. President Karen Birnbaum's husband, Loren and John Tabor, son-in-law of Janet Johnson. Celebration of Life services were followed with a luncheon. Several joined the Guild in serving and clean-up after the luncheons (both in same week). THANKS to Building and Grounds the dishwasher did work – what a blessing! Lacking HOT water on the day of the first luncheon Gary Atteberry came to our rescue and we had HOT water 2 days later for the 2nd luncheon which was another blessing – heating water makes for longer time in clean-up.

Notes left on Eraser board on dwindling supplies has been most helpful – THANK YOU!!!

Karen Birnbaum – President
Marlene Wilmert – Vice-President
Sandy Wilmert – Treasurer
Tonita Reifsteck – Secretary

**St. John Diners
Saturday, July 19th
11:30 a.m.**



Are you planning to attend St. John Diners in July? Sign up on the sheet in the back of the sanctuary to let us know. This way we know how many to make the reservation for. Be at the church parking lot on July 19th by 11:00 a.m. to leave for Atlanta. Those driving on their own the reservation is for 11:30 a.m.

Coming Soon...
3rd Fridays Downtown Event
Friday, July 18
5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Pick-Up A Duck Booth by St. John UCC will be there.



MAY FINANCIALS

Beginning Balance		\$24,286.36
Income	\$ 5,604.38	
Expenses	\$17,715.42	
Ending Balance		\$12,175.32

**St. John United Church of Christ
Logan County Veterans Celebration**

BAKELESS BAKE SALE

A bit of news we have today
A bakeless bake sale is on the way
These busy days; now who could bake
Pies or cookies or even a cake?
You'd be surprised if you counted the cost
Of materials, heat and the time you have lost.
Cooking for a sale is extra work;
Yet nobody really wishes to shirk.
So now we've thought of a plan that is grand,
And felt quite sure you would understand.
In a little envelope, please put the price
Of a pie or a cake or something nice.
Without fuss or bother, you've done your part.
We're sure you will give with a willing heart.
This is the end of our little tale;
Here's to the success of our Bakeless Bake Sale!



This Bakeless Bake Sale takes the place of the usual Bake Sale held in June at the VFW for the Veterans Celebration during the Route 66

Garage Sales. Envelopes will be available at the back of the sanctuary. If you use your own envelope; make sure on your check you put Bakeless Bake Sale on the memo line.



We Extend Our Deepest Sympathy To...



The family of Loren Birnbaum.
Amy Tabor and family at death of her husband, John.

**NEEDED...
COFFEE HOUR
HOST/HOESSTESS VOLUNTEERS**



Sign-up sheets are in Narthex and Kitchen.

GREETERS

- July 6th: Carla Jurgenson
July 13th: Jack and Nancy Leich
July 20th: Toni Reifsteck
July 27th: Dan Row



Articles for the **August 2025** newsletter should be in the Church Office by **July 19th**.

Save the Date...

*A celebration is being planned for
Sunday, October 26, 2025.*

*St. John United Church of Christ is turning
165 years old. Mark your calendars and make your
plans to join for worship and a catered meal.*



1860 - 2025



LET'S REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND

ST. CLARA'S REHAB and SENIOR CARE

1450 Castle Manor Drive, Lincoln, IL 62656

Jerry and Mary Berglin

Edna Mara

Wayne Mara

Ruth Post

Susan Webb

CASTLE MANOR

1550 Castle Manor Drive, Lincoln, IL 62656

Bill Krepps

COPPER CREEK

203 Stahlhut Drive, Lincoln, IL 62656

Steve Aue

LINCOLN VILLAGE HEALTHCARE CENTER

2202 N. Kickapoo Street, Lincoln, IL 62656

Judy Kline

VONDERLIETH LIVING CENTER

1120 N. Topper Drive, Mt. Pulaski, IL 62548

Sandy Sanders

CEDARHURST OF SPRINGFIELD

3520 Old Jacksonville Road, Springfield, IL 62711

Helen Opperman



- July 6th:
July 13th:
July 20th:
July 27th: Paulus

JULY BIRTHDAYS...



- 2 Darlene Begolka, Edward Spellman,
Mike Turner
- 3 William Mulach
- 4 Dana Kline, Lainey Miller
- 6 Glen Birnbaum
- 11 **Helen Opperman**, Glenn Shanle
- 16 Mark Goergen
- 18 Lucy Miller
- 20 Valerie Coombs, Andrew Pagel
- 21 **Judy Kline**
- 22 Gary Atteberry
- 25 Sandy Wilmert
- 27 Donald Begolka, Katherine Christensen,
Shanda Ryer, Lynn Paulus
- 29 Benjamin Spellman
- 30 Kevin Kurtz, Alice Paulus
- 31 Ryman Miller

Names in **red** are members of our church who are on the visitation list. Let's fill their mailboxes on their birthdays.



On October 26, 2025 we will be celebrating the 165th anniversary of our church. Our church has a great history and rich legacy in the Lincoln community.

To help continue this legacy and plan for the future we are starting a special offering or fundraising drive. The name we have chosen is **Funds for the Future**.

Watch your mail for more info.



JULY ANNIVERSARIES



- 2 Tom and Leanne Pech
Ed and Michelle Spellman
- 7 James and Erin Abbott
- 10 Wayne and Edna Mara
- 21 Rod and Lori Christensen
- 23 Kent and Lynn Paulus
- 27 Seth and Ashley Bramel
- 30 David and Marilyn Armbrust

SCHOLARSHIP INFO

The Scholarship Committee is offering the St. John Education Scholarship to members of St. John United Church of Christ in Lincoln who are pursuing higher education.

Applications have been emailed. The deadline to have your application into the church office is **July 15, 2025**. Extra applications are available by calling the church office (732-6957).

OUTREACH and PUBLICITY

By: Jim and Leslie Wilmet and
Tonita Reifsteck, Co-Chairs

Outreach Ministry met on June 3, 2025 with Jack and Nancy Leich, Jim and Leslie Wilmert, Sandy Wilmert and Tonita Reifsteck present.

Meeting opened with a reading. Report of council as recorded in Chimes.

OLD BUSINESS report included:

- Coaches gratitude expressed for St. John's Sponsorship of age 8 and under girls team at Lincoln Park District this summer, the treats and being at the games (last one rained out).
- No response yet from LCHS student needs
- Celebrate: Roger Michalsen has initiated a new look for bulletin board project.

NEW BUSINESS: Details for June 29th Program and lunch after church finalized

- Fire Extinguishers operation and locations Fire inspector will lead
- Operating Heart Defibrillator will be given by Kaye Wilmert
- Water Shut-Off and other info—WHO TO CALL—St. John Building and Grounds
- Menu planned: Chicken Salad and/or Ham Salad/rolls, chips, lettuce, dessert, Iced tea, lemonade and ice water

Noted that Prayer Chain cards will need to be ordered late summer or early fall, (Lincoln Printers NO meeting in July.

COFFEE HOUR – still need support

RECYCLE ITEMS...

Note changes:

- **Humane Society** only taking plastic bags
- **Logan/Mason Rehab** only taking Catalogues and Puzzles. NO CARDS or Calendars
- **Christian Child Care** presently material for crib sheets. NO cereal boxes, NO tubes, NO cards, NO plastic jugs or tubs
- **EGG cartons** some individual requests but limited supply needed
- NO Resource for Medicine bottles, etc. (put lids in 'cap bucket' and recycle bottle)

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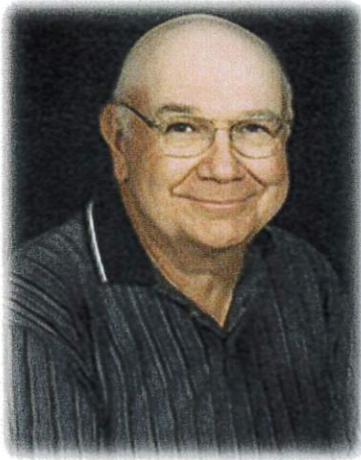
COFFEE HOUR – still need support

Does a ballgame sound fun?

- **Wednesday, August 6, 2025**
- **Game time is 6:35 p.m.**
- **Peoria Chiefs vs. Wisconsin Timber Rattlers**
- **Cost is \$12.00 per person (if we have a group of 10 or more)**
- **Combined outing for Immanuel Lutheran and St. John UCC Congregations**
- **We would be carpooling**
- **There is music between innings, and throughout the game**
- **Fireworks after the game**
- **Are you interested?**
- **Sign up on the sheet in the back of the sanctuary by July 14th**



In Loving Memory...



Loren R. Birnbaum, 84, passed away Thursday, June 5, 2025 at his home surrounded by his loving family. He was born at St. John Evangelical Deaconess Hospital on February 6, 1941, in Lincoln, Illinois, the only child of Edward C. and Gladys (Rupp) Birnbaum.

Loren married Karen Camp on July 24, 1971, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Springfield. She survives, as do his children and grandchildren. Keith and Lori (nee Voyles) of Lincoln and their sons; Avery of Lincoln and Samuel of Iowa City. Glen and Amy (nee Pfeiffer) of Peoria, and Linda and David Nowack, along with their children, Amelia and Emmett; all of Springfield.

Loren attended one-room Hatton School in East Lincoln Township and then graduated from Chester-East Lincoln Elementary School. He went on to graduate from Lincoln Community High School in 1959. He served in the U.S. Army Reserves from 1963 to 1969.

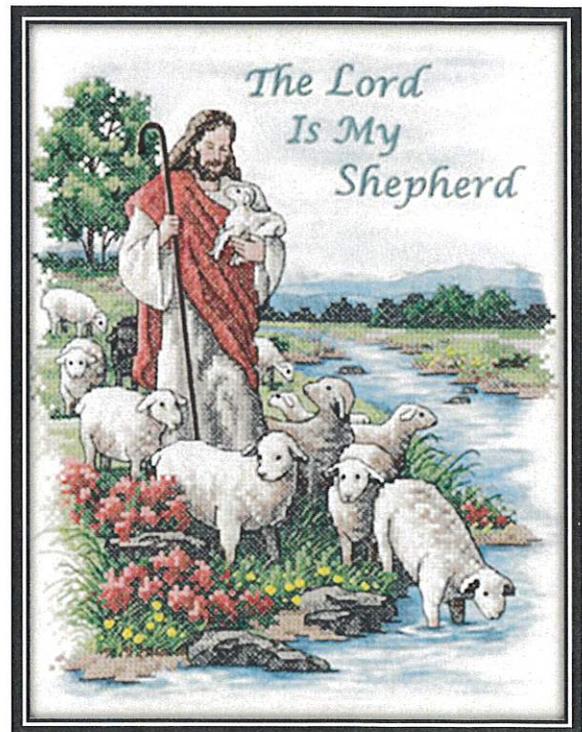
Loren was still actively involved in farming his 4th-generation sesquicentennial family farm in East Lincoln Township. Throughout his 65-year career weeds on the farm were his enemies. Clean fields and road ditches brought him tremendous pride!

Fox and Rat Terrier dogs were his favorite animal companions throughout his life. He enjoyed studying and discussing family genealogy, Logan

County History, and International Harvester tractors.

He was a lifelong member of St. John United Church of Christ in Lincoln and a past member of both the Farmers Union and the American Agriculture Movement. He served two terms as a board member of the East Lincoln Farmers Grain Company.

Services for Loren were held on June 9, 2025 at Fricke-Calvert Schrader Funeral Home in Lincoln; with the Rev. David Marquardt officiating. Burial was at Mt. Pulaski Cemetery.





Calendar

Friday July 4th

Church Office closed for holiday

Saturday, July 5th

Men's Fellowship at Imo's Café at 8:30 a.m.

Sunday, July 6th

Coffee Hour at 9:15 a.m.

Morning Worship/Communion at 10:00 a.m.

Monday, July 7th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Friday, July 11th

Celebrate Life Birthday Group at 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, July 13th

Coffee Hour at 9:15 a.m.

Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Monday, July 14th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Friday, July 18th

3rd Friday Downtown from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 19th

St. John Diners at 11:30 a.m. at Country Aire

Sunday, July 20th

Coffee Hour at 9:15 a.m.

Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Monday, July 21st

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Church Council meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Boy Scout Committee Meeting

Tuesday, July 22nd

Veterans Ministry meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 23rd

All-Day Fundraiser at Country Aire Restaurant
for Toys for Tots

Sunday, July 27th

Coffee Hour at 9:15 a.m.

Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Monday, July 28th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.

Boy Scout PLC meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Note:

The YMCA Summer Camp is here Monday
– Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.



Prayer List



Alissa Smith
Cheryl F.
Katrina Opperman
Lynn
David
"Pete" Luckhart
Abigail
Middle East
Raymond
Stephanie Opperman
Janet Dullard
Sharlene
Jen Steele
Donnie Kirk
Ellen Schweizer
Beverly
David Dennis
Louise Jeffries
Martha
Debbie
Mike
Tim
Tim Schippel
Baby Reese
Duke
Chris
Allen
Linda Barrick
Deborah Lichtenwalter
Wil Buse
Drake Miller
Bill Dennis

Kathy Staten
Jim Walsh
Kristen
Lee Wolfe
Joyce (Gail Marquardt's mom)
Patricia Southerd
Leslie Wilmert
Dave Frank
Kevin Wilham
Kathy
Elizabeth Miller
Katie
Jackie Curry
Ron Brawdy
Dorothy
Merlene Stout
Janet Johnson
Kelli Thompson
Sandy
Dylan
DJ
Jeremy Cook
Laurie Reifsteck
Helen Opperman
Carolyn Pech

Illinois Conference/Western Association

FACILITIES AND HOMEBOUND:

Steve Aue, Jerry and Mary Berglin, Judy Kline,
Bill Krepps, Edna Mara, Wayne Mara,
Sandy Sanders, Ruth Post, Susan Webb

Staff of St. John United Church of Christ

Members and Friends of St. John UCC

Darlene Begolka
Carolyn Pech
Dana Birts
Laura Lee
Darlene Begolka
Calob Pluhm

Ministers

Office Manager
Financial Manager
Custodian
Organist
St. John Chimers Director
St. John Ringers and St. John Singers Director

Church Council for 2025-2026



Silas Tockey, President
Randy Pech, Vice-President
Laura Lee, Secretary
Keith Birnbaum, Current Fund Treasurer
Bob Meinershagen (Elder), Special Funds Treasurer
Kaye Wilmert (Elder), Financial Secretary
Donna Kessinger
Roger Michalsen, (Elder)
Carolyn Pech

Contact us:

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