



## THE REPORTER

*For freedom Christ has set us free;  
stand firm therefore,  
and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.  
(Galatians 5:1)*

When we think of freedom, we think of deliverance from oppression. We enjoy our political freedom. Freedom which cannot always be stated clearly. Freedom which is regularly questioned.

When Christ set us free, there is no question to our freedom. "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36). But what has Christ set us free from? He has set us free from our slavery to sin. "Everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin" (John 8:34).

As St. Paul continues in his epistle to the Galatians, he contrasts the works of the flesh with the fruit of the Spirit. "They are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do" (Galatians 5:17).

We often think that freedom allows us to do whatever we want, but Christians do not have that privilege. We are freed to follow after Christ's example. "Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Galatians 5:24). As he also writes, "I am crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

We live in the freedom to imitate our Savior: "through love serve one another" (Galatians 5:13). He did not come down to establish an earthly kingdom. He came "to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10). He saves by serving through love. His love and service is seen through the call to freedom that echoes from His cross. There, He took away all the guilt of your sin. There, He set you free. From there, He strengthens you to stand against the yoke of slavery the devil, the world, and your sinful nature wishes to put you under again.

We live in freedom because we live in the Spirit. The Spirit who "calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith." All of the Spirit's work is to help us to stand firm in the freedom we have in the Gospel. The Gospel that has been proclaimed around the world for nearly two thousand years. The Gospel of loving service through the One who died and rose again to give us the ultimate freedom. Freedom to live with Him forever in Heaven.

In Christ,

Rev. Doug Minton

### Men's Bible Breakfast

We will conclude our study of the *Intersection of Church and State* from Lutheran Hour Ministries on Saturday, July 14 at 8am. Norm P will be our host. This month, we grapple with the places where Church and State collide with one another and where they are able to cooperate. Are the Founding Fathers relevant today? Who should meet social needs: federal government, local government, or local churches and charities?

### Women's Bible Study

Our study of "Golden Fruit" will continue on Thursday, July 10 at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. This month we will study the Patience of Mary, the Mother of Jesus. "Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices! Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil. For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land." (Psalm 37:7-9) Join us!

### Reading through the Confessions

In July, our readings from the Confessions discuss the Lord's Supper. Not surprisingly, these articles are the longest articles in the Formula of Concord. The arguments over the doctrine of the Lord's Supper are not new to our time or place. Not only is the doctrine explained, but the mystical and superstitious elements that had been added to the Lord's Supper by the laity and clergy are rebuked.

The language can be difficult to get through because we don't think and speak in the same way about the Christian faith as in previous generations. I encourage you to keep up with the reading. If you have stopped, give it another try again this month.

### July Voters' Meeting

Thursday, July 24 - Church Council meeting at 7:00pm

Sunday, July 27 - Annual Meeting following service.

**\*\*Due to the Iroquois County Fair July 15-20, the July Voters' meeting will be held Sunday, July 27 following service. Please put this on your calendar now so you can attend and be involved in the decisions of your church.**

### Seminarian Jacob Bergstedt

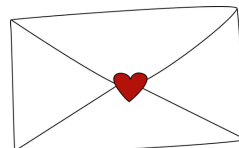
Seminarian Bergstedt will be preaching here on Sunday, July 27 before he travels to Gresham, Oregon for his Vicarage year. We will take a Door Offering for him on Sunday, July 13 and July 20 to help with moving expenses. This will be presented to him on July 27th. His apartment is furnished, but moving to Oregon is not the easiest thing to do. He will likely be shipping his car, packed with his belongings, and he will fly. It will be an adventure for him!

### Change of Missionary

We were notified in May that our current Missionary, Rev Samuel and Erica Bobby serving in Latvia, will be ending their service July 31, 2025. Our new Missionary is Rev Jordon and Alison Andreasen. They are serving in Romania. More information is on the insert.

### *Remember Those Unable to be with Us on Sunday Morning*

Dianne Estes	423 N Dixie Hwy
Delmer Henrichs	IMH Residents Home, 200 E. Fairman Ave
Sara Janssen	325 E Orange, Rm 303
Dorothy Knake	106 Fritz Dr
Joanne Sloan	2364 E 900 North Rd
Brenda St. Peter	817 S Hanson Dr



Hoopeston, IL 60942  
 Watseka, IL 60970  
 Hoopeston, IL 60942  
 Milford, IL 60953  
 Milford, IL 60953  
 Watseka, IL 60970

**Dollars for Mission Update**

Dollars for Mission had a very good month of May! By June 1, the gathering of funds for three distinct projects could be declared complete:

- \$25,000 for Masonry/tuckpointing at University Lutheran Church, Champaign
- \$2,600 for Parking lot closure devices and camera installation, Immanuel Lutheran Student Center, Macomb
- \$6,000 to Refurbish seating in library and game room and technology in game room, Immanuel Lutheran Student Center, Macomb

May was a good month indeed. In fact, by the end of it there was still some money left over for President Michael Mohr to designate a new project from the District mission sites "repairs and upgrades list," which by the way is the last thing to be found in the Mission Commission report at <https://www.cidlcms.org/resources/missioneducationtoolkit/2025MissionCommissionConventionReport.pdf>

THANK YOU for your donations during our Lenten Meals this Spring!!

**2025 Seminary Placements**

President Mohr reported on this year's candidate placements from both seminaries. There were 145 requests for a candidate and only 92 candidates were assigned. There were 53 requests unfilled. There has been a shortfall of new Pastors for the last several years. Three Candidates were placed into CID and one Deaconess. Continue to pray for those serving our churches. Having a full time Pastor is a blessing.

**Weekly Bible Verse Challenge for July****Week of July 6, 2025****John 15:5**

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

**Week of July 15, 2025****Psalms 119:11**

I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

**Week of July 20, 2025****1 Corinthians 15:58**

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

**Week of July 27, 2025****Deuteronomy 6:6-7**

And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.



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Worship Service 9:00 am  
Sunday School and Adult Bible Class  
10:30 am

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## **JULY REPORTER**

**Join Us Every Sunday Morning for Service  
starting at 9:00 am**

**Our Savior Lutheran Church  
209 West Jones Street, Milford  
or listen to the service live on the radio  
on WIQI 95.9 FM or WHPO 100.9 or  
listen to a live audio stream on our website**

**Email - [secretary@OurSaviorMilford.com](mailto:secretary@OurSaviorMilford.com)  
Website - [www.oursaviormilford.com](http://www.oursaviormilford.com)  
Facebook - OurSaviorLutheran**