

*St. John United Church of Christ
301 S. Market Street
New Athens, Illinois 62264*



Saul's life forever changed on the road to Damascus,
but he became the Apostle Paul only over time,
with the help and acceptance of early Christians.

*The Third Sunday
of Easter*

May 5, 2019

Worship and Grow Today

*Traditional Worship
8 am*

*Contemporary Worship
9:15 am*

Sunday School Classes, 9 am

Learn More About Us
stjohnuccnewathens.com

Contact Our Staff

*Bob Koch, Pastor
stjohnucc@att.net*

*Tarrah Vaupel, Student Pastor
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*Beth Buettner, Office Staff
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*Cindy Vogler,
Director Christian Education
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New Beginnings Daycare
new-beginnings@att.net
475-2969*

*Church Office Phone
(618) 475-2947*

Please fill out and tear off your Attendance/Prayer Concern slip before worship begins. Pass it to the center aisle while the church calendar is being discussed. Our ushers will collect it there.

Please note that large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices are available from our ushers.

New members are welcome and received regularly at St. John's. If you or someone you know is interested in joining our worshiping family, speak to Pastor Koch as you leave today, or check the appropriate box on your attendance card.

If this is a Communion Sunday (generally the first Sunday of each month) we invite all Christians welcome at Christ's table in their own family of faith to join us here. The inner circle in each tray of glasses contains grape juice.

Children are always welcome in worship at St. John's. Live closed circuit TV broadcasts of our services are available in the foyer fellowship room, though, for parents who may decide that their child needs a break from worship temporarily.

Pastor Koch is always available to help those seeking answers, comfort, or guidance. He is usually in his office all day Monday, and at various other times throughout the week. If you'd like to see him, feel free to stop by, or call the church office at 475-2947 to make an appointment.

We cordially invite all members and guests to participate in the on-going ministries of St. John church. If you have any questions, feel free to contact our church office, which is open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. till Noon and 1 p.m. till 3 p.m. It is staffed through the week by Beth Buettner.

Please join us for coffee, juice, and doughnuts in the foyer after worship.



Gathering Together

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

"He Leadeth Me" (Vs. 1)

Beginning five minutes prior to worship

Pew Booklet, p. 11

THE CHURCH CALENDAR

(Please pass your Attendance/Prayer Concern slips to the center aisle.)

THE MORNING PRELUDE, CALL OF THE BELL

Seeking God's Presence

CALL TO WORSHIP *(From Psalm 30)*

I praise you, O God, because you raised me up.

I cried to you for help, O LORD my God, and you healed me.

Sing to the LORD, you who love God! Praise God's holy Name!

There may be tears during the night, but joy comes in the morning.

You changed my despair into a dance—you stripped me of my death shroud and clothed me with joy.

That's why my heart sings to you, that's why I can't keep silent—

O LORD, you are my God, and I will thank you forever!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

You call us amid the ordinary and everyday
to use our skills and talents for your sake, Lord Jesus,
and then bring about results that surprise us
with their abundance and hope.

As we gather for worship, we pray that you'd help us
more clearly heed and more closely follow
your call as it comes to us today. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

"Jesus Calls Us"

Hymnal, No. 207

Asking God's Forgiveness

CALL TO CONFESSION

Time of Silent Confession

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Together

Saul might stand in the spiritual spotlight, holy God,
but in Acts 9 it's Ananias who gets things done.
He called Paul "Brother," healed his blindness, and so made possible
a church of all races, nationalities, and backgrounds.
Ananias' role is easily and often overlooked. We wouldn't like that.
To silently toil behind the scenes, to work thanklessly
and unacknowledged—that's not our way.
But it is your way; it takes Christ and all who would follow him to the cross.
Call us, as you called Ananias, to difficult acts of everyday witness.
Help us to risk and dare for the sake of the gospel, rather than recognition or glory. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon
Gloria Patri
Passing the Peace

Hymnal, No. 493

Hearing God's Word

THE MORNING COLLECT

So often, gracious God, the squeaky wheel gets the grease—even in scripture.
As we hear the story of Saul's Damascus road turnaround,
help us not to miss you working quietly yet powerfully
through Ananias, Judah, and others to change an enemy of the church
into one of its greatest champions. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 9:1-20

CHILDREN'S TIME

THE SERMON

"What About Ananias?"

THE APOSTLES' CREED

HYMN

"Jesus, You Once Called Disciples"

Bulletin, p. 6

Responding With Our Prayers

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF OUR WORSHIPING FAMILY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you.

And with you also.

Let us pray....

Pastoral Prayer, Silent Prayer

Our Lord's Prayer (*Together, Words on Screen*)

RESPONSE

"Hear Our Prayer"

Hymnal, No. 501

Responding With Our Gifts

MORNING MISSION MOMENT, OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

Hymnal, No. 551

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Ananias was willing to step out in faith for the sake of your Word, Holy God.

Paul likewise made great sacrifices, eventually dying a Christian martyr and saint.

Our offerings today put none of us at risk, personally or financially.

Yet, like the deeds of Ananias, they can work in quiet ways to make a difference.

Accept our gifts, and help us to grow in faith

as well as in generous support of Christ's work in the world. Amen.

Responding With Faithful Service in the World

BENEDICTION

HYMN

"Where He Leads, I'll Follow"

Pew Booklet, p. 43

POSTLUDE



Jesus, You Once Called Disciples
Carololyn Winfrey Gillette, 2002
(Tune, "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling")

Jesus, you once called disciples, choosing twelve to follow you:
Simon (also known as Peter), Andrew and Bartholomew,
Philip, Thomas, James, and Matthew,
Simon, Thaddaeus, John, and James—
Then there was the one called Judas.
These were your disciples' names.

Women, too, were your disciples, sitting, learning, at your feet.
Mary knew your word was precious, even more than food to eat.
Martha trusted in your power when her brother Laz'rus died.
Women shared your journey, Lord, and stayed when you were crucified.

Lord, so many heard and followed, like the woman at the well.
Meeting you, the living water, she sought others she could tell.
Like the boy with loaves and fishes, like Zacchaeus in the tree,
Many gladly heard your message; many shared your ministry.

Jesus, still you call your people, "Come and follow me today!"
Some, like Paul, feel sudden wonder; some are brought up in your way.
Lord, no matter how we meet you, by your Spirit, make us new.
May we know your living presence; may we daily follow you.



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Our Bible study class will meet Monday night, beginning at 7pm.

The New Athens Home for the Aged is sponsoring the spring all-town yard sale this Saturday, May 11, from 7 am until 1 pm. Call the Home for the Aged for more information.

Our worship schedule makes scheduling a traditional potluck tricky. ***How about a potluck brunch on May 19?*** We'll gather in the dining hall after contemporary worship. Biscuits and gravy, along with drinks, will be furnished. We're relying on the creativity of all the great cooks at St. John's to supply the rest! Please sign up in the foyer.

Join your friends at St. John's for lunch at the Eagle's Nest in Addieville on June 23. Please sign up in the foyer so we can give folks at the restaurant an accurate headcount. We'll meet in Addieville at 11 am.

*Please fill out this slip, noting prayer concerns on the back.
Legible handwriting or printing is much appreciated!
If you're a visitor with us today, we hope you'll come again!*

Date _____

Your Name _____

☐ Member ☐ Visitor ☐ Child/Youth ☐ Looking for a Church Home
☐ Desire a Call

Visitors--If you're comfortable doing so, please give us your address and phone.

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____

The Way Forward **Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)**

Third Sunday of Easter

"Saul got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength." Acts 9:20

"Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Feed my sheep....'"
John 21:17

In an act of compassionate faith, the followers of the risen Christ share a meal with Saul, their former persecutor. Sharing food is a ritual long associated with peace-making. More than simple nutrients, food is imbued with the legacy of local soil, the people's covenant with the land, and the just or unjust practices of the community. Each morsel is laden with the culture, identity, and values of the communal body and the spirit of those who have gathered, grown, prepared and offered it. When Christians share food, we share the blessing and power of the body of Christ.

This has been true for Rev. Randy Mayer, pastor of Good Shepherd United Church of Christ in Sahuarita, Arizona, who welcomed an asylum-seeking family escaping domestic and gang violence in Honduras into his home in 2018. This was at the time the Department of Justice began changing the rules indicating that domestic and gang violence may not qualify families for asylum. "Having an Asylum Family sitting at your dinner table and on your couch watching TV in your living room is quite the experience as you are listening to the evening news," Mayer said. "Maybe that is the best way to get through an experience like this —having the stranger sitting right in front of you, loving her family and proving right before your eyes that the ugly rhetoric and hate filled comments have nothing to do with the truth."

As you walk in faith this week, consider taking the following acts to welcome others into the circle of God's grace:

- Meet your neighbors and invite them to enjoy a meal together.
- Work through your church to plan an immigrant welcoming dinner.
- Lift up in prayer those who seek asylum and those who would turn them away.
- Prepare food from a culture that is new to you and share with friends.

We want to know what you think! Please include comments, suggestions, or other feedback below:





Pastor
Dr. Robert Koch

Organist
Paul Bickel

Lay Reader
Lidia Hoffarth

Acolyte
Will Benedick

Ushers
Keith Reuss, Becky Stolte

Please pray for these churches, pastors, and friends:

From the Illinois South Conference:

St. Peter's, Lenzburg
Rev. Bob Coffey, Pastor

St. John, Maeystown
Rev. Patrick Poole, Pastor

Members and friends of St. John's:

Darlene and Vernon Recker
Kate and Ira Renshaw
Donna and Richard Reuss
Ryan, Diane and Keith Reuss
Marilyn Roley
Bob Rutkowski and Dawn Murphy
Isaac, Ethan, Levi, Casey and Jennifer Sabaleski
Bryanne McBride, Cheryl and Michael Schanuel
Morgan, Brandon, Dan and Stephanie Schatte
Dennis and Barb Schatte
Davin, Derrick, Daron Schatte
Drew Schatte and Family
Dean and Marilyn Schatte
Clyde and Deb Scherle
Nelda and Mark Schlesinger
Linda Schneider
Jack and Rose Schubert
Florence and James Schulz
Allen and Debbie Schwartz

***Low-cost, Christian counseling is available
through Family Care Ministries.***

Contact Pastor Koch or the church office
to schedule an appointment.

All inquiries are strictly confidential.

Prayer Joys and Concerns

Please pray for:

- ☐ Mention this joy/concern during morning prayers.
- ☐ Please pray for this joy/concern silently.



Sign me up for the following:

- ☐ Prayer Partners
- ☐ "Doughnut time" helper

I'm interested in these opportunities to serve and grow:

- ☐ Usher
- ☐ Teach Sunday School
- ☐ Youth group volunteer
- ☐ Attend Bible study
- ☐ Serve on a committee
- ☐ Join "Prayer Partners"