

From Pastor Kleinschmidt

Some words you say in church and in prayers and you have never given them a second thought. In fact, you may not even be sure what they mean. You say them so often that they have lost any original meaning and now they are just filler. More than likely the word 'Amen' is like that.

Amen is typically added to the end of prayers or blessings. It is a Hebrew word that means faith or faithfulness. Amen is one of those unique Hebrew words that has followed the Gospel into every language in which it has been preached. It is not translated, it is just transliterated. Of this word that ends the Lord's Prayer, Martin Luther wrote in the Small Catechism, "This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Amen, amen means 'Yes, yes, it shall be so.'"

Jesus uses this word also. In John's Gospel he uses a double amen. In the ESV translation this is translated as "Truly, truly..." What Jesus is teaching is that what he will say next is a truth that will confront those who do not understand His message or doubt him. It is way of saying that he is the truth and what he speaks is the truth...whether we think it is or not.

When amen is added to the end of the prayer it is you saying that you are sure that God will hear you and answer you according to His Divine will.

Another way amen is used is at the end of prayers or blessings at church. I speak some words at church by myself and the congregation adds their amen to those words. For example, the Invocation is like this. "In the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit." The congregation then adds, "Amen." What you are doing is claiming those words as your own and saying they belong to you and all the blessings they bestow are yours.

Your amen is like your hand reaching out to God and receiving all that He has to give. It grabs onto those words that are spoken by me and makes them your own.

There are other times that Amen is the appropriate response at the end of something I say. At the beginning of the sermon, "Grace, mercy, and peace... and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ." Amen is the response of the congregation and not my response. Or another example would be at Communion when I say, "The Body of Christ for your forgiveness", you say "Amen." This is your declaration that "Yes, yes, Jesus is for me!" Or at the dismissal, "Now the Body and Blood of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen and

preserve you until life everlasting. Depart in His Peace with your sins forgiven." The response is a hearty and loud "Amen!" You are saying, "Yes, my sins are forgiven and my faith is strengthened and I have

been fed with the medicine of eternal life!"

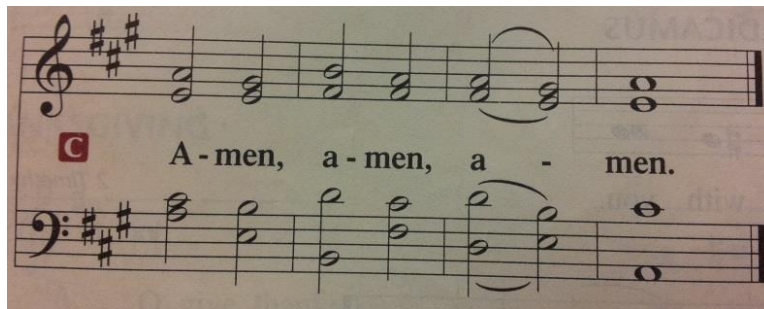
Martin Chemnitz was a 16th Century Lutheran who helped to write the Book of Concord. He says a similar thing about Amen. "Prayers and invocations are ended with this expression, not only to show that in a general way we approve of the prayer but also that it may be applied to us personally."

Basically, the Amen at church is your opportunity to be an enthusiastic participant in the service and to apply the words that are being said to you and declaring them to be true.

I will soon stop saying Amen during the service when it is your response to give. I don't want to take away from you what is properly your word to say. In this way I hope to show you that you are not an inactive observer, but an active listener and receiver of all that God has to give you during the Service.

Praying that your Amens ring out with the angels,

-Pastor Kleinschmidt



ST. JAKOBI NEWS & EVENTS

CHURCH PICTURE DIRECTORY

Did you ever see people in church and wonder what their names are? Have you ever heard an announcement regarding a member and wished that you could put a name with a face? Are you new to our church and wish that you had something to help you put names with faces? Well, help is on the way! The congregation is in the process of preparing a Picture Directory for St. Jakobi. **The dates for photo sessions will be Tuesday, January 21st through Saturday January 25th. Times are 2-9pm, weekdays and 9-4pm on Saturday.** You can order family pictures and our new directory should be back by Easter Sunday. Also if you know of any non-members that would like to have professional pictures taken, let them know that this is available for them too. The only difference is that their pictures won't be included in the St. Jakobi directory.

We want all church members included in the directory. Sending us a picture can include members out of town or in a nursing home. Members having their pictures taken will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 photo and a church directory. **It is not necessary to purchase additional pictures** to have your picture taken or to be included in the directory.

Sign-ups have begun. You can sign up before or after church or go to www.stjakobi.org and click the link on the bottom of the page to sign up that way. We hope everyone can participate and make our Church Directory complete!

LADIES OF ST. JAKOBI!

The Ladies of the Congregation meet every month for Bible Study. We have great discussion about the Bible topic assigned. In January we will meet on the 8th at 1pm in the Church Library. Remember to bring your mite collection for missions.

VOTER MEETING

The regular January Voter Meeting will be held on January 26th after Church. Watch the bulletin for an announcement of the agenda.

PORTALS OF PRAYER

The Church purchases 100 Portals of Prayer and 5 copies that are in Large Print. They are free for you to take. This little daily devotional book has a Bible reading and Psalm with a devotion that ties to the reading.



There are also prayers in the back that are tied to the Church Year and for each day of the week. You can pick up your copy by the Guest Book or on the Bulletin table. Your old Portals of Prayer can be placed in the basket and they will be donated to Christians who need devotional material.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The second Saturday of every month, the men of the congregation are invited to have breakfast in the Parish Hall. Each month we have a discussion of things going on the news and looking at them from a Christian perspective.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Upcoming lessons at Sunday School:

- 1/5/14 Hezekiah Prays
- 1/12/14 The Three Men in the Fiery Furnace
- 1/19/14 Daniel in the Lion's Den
- 1/26/14 No Class

LIBRARY NEWS

PLANTING SEEDS

The library is in need of checking, updating, cleaning house. This is a project that will be looked at over the next few months. Because of this, we are asking a favor. Did you take out and return a library item that you did not mark on the Check-out sheet? If so, would you please write it down? The clipboard with the sheets is on the podium next to the bookshelves. If you are bringing an item back and had not listed it on the sheet, please make a note of it also. Listing the books, videos or other items on the sheets helps us see what is working and what isn't. This will assist us in making future decisions regarding the library.



ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to sign up to provide flowers for the Altar, you can do so on the bulletin board in the hallway at church. The flowers should be here before church on Saturday evening. You can provide them in memory of someone, in honor of someone or some event, or just because. Thanks for beautifying church in this way!

CEMETERY LOTS

Sometime in 2014 the price of the cemetery lots at St. Jakobi will be increasing. It has not yet been determined what the new price will be. Currently they are \$15 per lot. This is far below any comparable cemeteries. If you would like to buy a lot at the current price, contact Warren Gueths at 715-526-5636

FELLOWSHIP

The next time we spend time together is FRIDAY, JANUARY 10. We'll be meeting at STUDIO LOUNGE. Eating is set for 6:30, but fellowship will start sooner. After dinner we'll be having dessert at the Parish Hall and playing games (bunco, and feel free to bring any games along that you'd like to play) Also, bring a wrapped white elephant gift (re-gift item) The sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex. Come one, come all! Don & Joanne, 526-5315.

THANK YOU

There are numerous Thank You cards on the bulletin board in the hallway from schools that hats and mittens were donated to. Take a minute to read them.

SCRIP PROGRAM NEWS

Have you signed up to purchase Scrip online? It couldn't be easier. Some retailers let you print out the certificate right away and others will be at church the following weekend if they are ordered by Monday night. Pick up instructions at the Scrip table after church and click www.shopwithscrip.com.

CHRISTMAS CANDY BAGS

Thank you to the Board of Education and the Altar Guild for providing and helping stuff the candy bags that were given out to the children and shut-ins after the Children's Christmas Service. There were 88 bags made up this year.

AROUND THE WORD JOURNAL

Around the Word is a journal for Lutherans. The theme of the most recent issue is Sin, Death, and the Devil. It has articles entitled: 666-The Number of the Beast, The Care and Feeding of Pastors, Do 21st



Century Lutherans Still Believe in Satan and Demons, and a review of *Gravity*. Inside you will also find devotions for every day. One week of devotions was written by Pastor Kleinschmidt. You can purchase the Winter 2013-2014 issue at www.aroundthewordjournal.com. An electronic copy is \$7 and a print copy is \$9.99.

LUTHERAN MALARIA INITIATIVE

The congregations in our circuit worked together to raise money for the Lutheran Malaria Initiative. The money goes to education and the purchase and distribution of bed nets to stop mosquitos from biting and spreading malaria. There was a golf outing held in August and in October there was a 5k Run/Walk. The total of door offerings in congregations and the fundraisers was \$8,706.06. Our circuit is the only one in the district that did this and we can give thanks to God for the generosity of so many people and the good work that will be done to stop the spread of malaria in Africa.

UPCOMING READINGS AT CHURCH

- January 5th:** 1 Kings 3:4-15
Ephesians 1:3-14
Luke 2:40-52
- January 12th:** Isaiah 42:1-9
Romans 6:1-11
Matthew 3:13-17
- January 19th:** Isaiah 49:1-7
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42a
- January 26th:** Isaiah 9:1-4
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-25

THANK YOU

We received many gifts, cards, and trays of Christmas cookies and we would like to thank everyone for your kindness to us this Christmas season. -Pastor, Noël, Joseph, Nolan, & Adam

CHURCH RECIEPE

Cinnamon Streusel Cake

From Joyce Hogan

1 pkg. yellow cake mix
1 pkg. Vanilla instant pudding mix
2 Tbsp. Crisco oil
1 1/3 c. water
2 eggs
Streusel Topping:
½ c. flour
½ c. brown sugar
2 tsp. cinnamon
2 Tbsp. Butter

Blend cake mix, pudding mix, oil, water and eggs; beat 2 minutes. Spread ¾ of batter in greased 9x13 pan.

Streusel Topping: Combine ingredients. Sprinkle 2/3 cup mixture over batter in a pan. Spread remaining batter over Streusel. Top with reserved Streusel. Bake for 40 to 50 minutes at 375 degrees.

Glaze: Blend powdered sugar, milk, butter and vanilla. Drizzle over warm cake.

CHILDREN'S LETTERS TO GOD

Dear God, Did you mean for giraffe to look like that or was it an accident. Norma

Dear God, Thank you for the baby brother but what I prayed for was a puppy. Joyce

Dear God- Please put another Holiday between Christmas and Easter. There is nothing good in there now. Ginny

Dear God, I keep waiting for Spring but it never come yet. Don't forget. Mark

*Taken from *Children's Letters to God* by Stuart Hample and Eric Marshall.

TALK RADIO FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

You can listen to teachings on subjects like: The Christmas Hymn "Where Shepherds Lately Kneled," Galatians 4:4-6: In the Fullness of Time, Bach's Christmas Oratorio, The Promises of God and more.

Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen at your convenience at

www.issuesetc.org.

Issues, Etc.



Christ-Centered Cross-
Focused Talk Radio

RIDDLE ME THIS

Answers to last month's riddles.

1. Move hitherward the entire assembly of those who are loyal to their belief *O Come All Ye Faithful*
2. Listen, the celestial messengers produce their harmonious sounds. *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*
3. Nocturnal timespan of unbroken quietness. *Silent Night*
4. An emotion excited by the acquisition or expectation of good given to the terrestrial sphere. *Joy to the World*
5. Exalted heavenly beings to whom harkened. *Angels We Have Heard on High*
6. Twelve o'clock on a clement night witnessed it's arrival. *It Came upon a Midnight Clear*
7. The Christmas preceding all others. *The First Noel*
8. Small municipality in Judea southeast of Jerusalem. *O Little Town of Bethlehem*
9. Omnipotent supreme being who elicits respite to ecstatic distinguished males. *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*
10. Tranquility upon the terrestrial sphere. *Peace on Earth*
11. In awe of the nocturnal timespan characterized by religiosity. *O Holy Night*
12. In a distant location, the existence of an improvised unit of newborn children's slumber furniture. *Away in a Manger*
13. Proceed forth, declaring upon a specific geological alpine formation. *Go Tell It on the Mountain*
14. Jovial yuletide desired for the second person singular from the plural us. *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*

ABOUT THE SERVICE

Each month in the newsletter there will be a short explanation of an item from the Service.

Creed

Jesus says, "whoever confesses me before men, I will also confess him before my Father in Heaven." (Matthew 10). With these words, our Lord indicates that it is of the nature of the Christian faith to confess him.

The "ecumenical" creeds – Nicene, Apostles' and Athanasian – all confess rightly the Holy Trinity. The Apostles' and Nicene Creed each have 3

sections: We confess belief in God: 1) The Father, 2) The Son and 3) The Holy Spirit.

The Nicene Creed has been historically confessed at the celebration of the Lord's Supper, the Apostle's Creed at Holy Baptism, and the Athanasian Creed on Trinity Sunday. In each creed, we state our common beliefs as members of the Christian church.

Prayers

1 Timothy 2:1 reminds us of the importance of prayer. Our Lord promises to hear and answer our prayers as Jesus has gained us access to the Father by His death and resurrection. Our words of prayer are "answering speech". We first listen to what our Lord says to us in Holy Scripture and then speak back to Him in prayer using the words that He has first spoken to us. The "Prayer of the Church" takes place at the end of the Service of the Word for this reason. The Prayer includes petitions, or requests, for various needs of the congregation. We also offer thanksgiving and praise when appropriate. The Prayer concludes with the Amen of the faithful, that is, "Amen. Yes, it shall be so!"



LETTER FROM VICAR ALEX LANGE

Dear members of St. Jakobi,

It is hard to believe that I have served as a husband for Rachel and as a vicar at St. John's for three months. Where has the time gone!? It seems like only yesterday when I was a single guy living in the seminary dorms. Now, I am serving in two noble vocations.... And it is wonderful!

I have a lot to be thankful for this year. I am thankful that I have such a helpful supervising pastor. Rev. Umbarger has been great about giving me the space I need to be myself, and yet, giving me the guidance I need to become even better. So far I have only preached once a month (every fourth Sunday of the month). Once December hits,

my sermon quota will skyrocket. If you are interested in hearing or reading my sermons, you can find them on <http://www.stjohnsem.org/>. Besides preaching, I have also been teaching the 5th grade Confirmation class and a couple of Bible studies. I have visited all of the shut-ins and many of the other members as well.

Pastor says that I am doing very well with worship and that my ministry to individuals in their homes has become very popular. It is really good to hear that I am doing well. Nevertheless, it is apparent to me that I have a lot more to learn. I am looking forward to my fourth year of seminary. I am hoping that it will give me the opportunity to ask important questions and get feedback on vicarage as a whole.

Rachel is enjoying her time here in East Moline. She has been doing her student teaching at two nearby schools—John Deere Middle School and United Township High School. I can tell that she enjoys teaching art. After December, Rachel will graduate. She might substitute teach the rest of the year, but that depends on the state requirements and the need for substitutes in our area.

I think that marrying Rachel before vicarage was a good idea. Both Rachel and I began out internships knowing no one. It is wonderful coming home to someone you know after working all day with strangers and acquaintances. Of course, the longer we are here, the more friends we have. Nevertheless, being married made the transition from being strangers to part of the community less difficult.

I hope you are well and that you have a great Thanksgiving. Thank you again for supporting us with your gifts and prayers. Rachel and I are truly thankful for you!

In Christ,
Vicar Alexander Lange

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

1 - Jordan Opperman
4 - Tony Szucs
4 - Marjorie McGahan
4 - Arvin Bahr
5 - Riley Tuma
5 - Elmer Ackermann
5 - Samantha Tonn
6 - Colton Peters
7 - Stephanie Hoffman
8 - Lori (Steve) Buettner
8 - Doug Gast
9 - William Grab
9 - Kaci Wendorff
11 - Heidi Teetzen
11 - Geraldine Gueths
13 - Randy Opperman
15 - Adam Kleinschmidt
16 - Jayden West
16 - Phyllis Habeck
17 - Isaiah McDowell
17 - Emily Jo Hanke
18 - Layla Sperberg
21 - Gage Skalitzky
22 - Shawn Stueck
22 - Debbie Schroeder
24 - Kelsie Buettner
24 - Jamie Popp
26 - Bill Teetzen
26 - Khloe Wendorff
27 - Marsha Opperman
27 - Benjamin Sperberg
30 - Donna Ward
30 - Kurt Zuleger
31 - Miranda Montoure
31 - Kaitlin Phillips-Grassl

A BIRTHDAY PRAYER

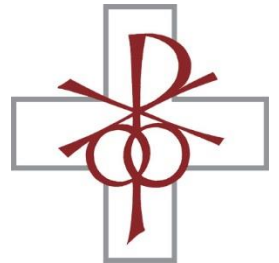
Heavenly Father, our times are in Your hands. Look with favor on name as he/she celebrates his/her birthday. Grant that he/she may continue to grow in wisdom and grace. Strengthen his/her trust in Your goodness and bless him/her with Your abiding love all the days of his/her life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES:

10, 1954 - Charles & Shirley Glock
20, 1973- Gary & Sally Felckowski
28, 2006 - Chad & Lori Wendorff
29, 1984 - Carl & Martha Gebert

AN ANNIVERSARY OF MARRIAGE PRAYER

O Lord Jesus, Your mercies are new every morning. We thank You for another year of married life together for name and name. Open their hearts always to receive more of Your love that their love for each other may never grow weary but deepen and grow through every joy and sorrow shared; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Contact the Church Office if you find anything in need of correction to the Birthdays and Anniversaries.

January 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 New Year's Day	2	3	4 6:30 Service Acolyte: Gunner Hein
5 9:00 Service (HC) Baptism of Reegan Clark 10:30 Ed. Hour Acolyte: Alec Raddant	6 6:15 Choir Practice 7:00 Altar Guild	7	8 1:00 Ladies Bible Study 3:30 Catechism 6:30 Bible Study	9 1:00 Bible Study	10 6:30 Fellowship @ Studio Lounge	11 8:00 Men's Breakfast 6:30 Service (HC) Baptism of Anna Laabs Acolyte: Taylor Johnson
12 <i>Installation of Officers</i> 9:00 Service Baptism of Connor Buenning 10:30 Ed. Hour Acolyte: Hunter Hawkinson	13 9:30-5:00 Volunteers-Thrift Shop 6:15 Choir Practice 7:00 Council Mtg	14	15 3:30 Catechism 6:30 Bible Study	16 1:00 Bible Study	17	18 6:30 Service Acolyte: Alex Owen
19 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Ed. Hour Acolyte: Garrett Wendorff	20 6:15 Choir Practice	21 2-9pm Directory Pictures	22 2-9pm Directory Pictures 3:30 Catechism 6:30 Bible Study	23 1:00 Bible Study 2-9pm Directory Pictures	24 2-9pm Directory Pictures	25 9-4pm Directory Pictures 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Tristan Szucs
26 9:00 Service Quarterly meeting after service Acolyte: Payten Thompson	27 6:15 Choir Practice	28	29 3:30 Catechism 6:30 Bible Study	30 1:00 Bible Study	31	

For weather related cancellations listen to WTCH AM960 or check www.stjakobi.org or www.facebook.com/lcmsjakobi.

St. Jakobi Lutheran Church

W 8089 County Rd. A
Shawano, WI 54166
715-524-4347
www.stjakobi.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

“We Preach Christ Crucified”



Church Services:

Saturday at 6:30pm and Sunday at 9:00am

Bible Study:

Wednesday at 6:30pm, Thursday at 1:00pm, and Sunday at 10:30am.

Sunday School:

Sunday at 10:30am

