



St JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

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SEPTEMBER 2025 - MESSENGER

Noah's Ark

A few weeks ago, Angela, Mark, Kaia and I went to the Ark Encounter in Williamstown, Kentucky. We had just celebrated Ella's wedding a couple days before, and thought that while we were in the area, we would stop and see this attraction that we had heard so much about. It did not disappoint!

Nestled in the hills of northern Kentucky, the Ark is the creation of Answers in Genesis, a Christian ministry grounded in the Word of God and dedicated to the teaching that God created the world and universe in six literal days. To help fulfill this mission, the ministry opened the Creation Museum in 2007 and nineteen years later launched the Ark Exhibit.

You won't find anything quite like it anywhere else. Based on the measurements that God gave to Noah in Genesis 6, the creators built a life-size version of what they think the ark may have looked like. It measures 510 feet in length. That's more than 1 and-a-half football fields! It's 85 feet wide and 51 feet high. Inside, one also finds three levels, or decks just as the Bible describes it. The Scriptures, however, don't give many more details as to what the ship was like inside and out, so the builders make it clear that what you see is purely how things may have been. What is clear from the Noah account, however, is that it was a space large enough to house the 8 members of Noah's family and a few of every kind of land animal on the face of the earth.

Sometimes people scoff at the idea that the ark could have accommodated so many creatures. After all, in the world today there are an estimated 6.5 million species of land animals. How could

so many creatures ever find room in the ark, even as large as it was? What the biblical text points out, though, is that these were not species of animals, but kinds. That means, for example, that there would have been two of the dog kind (not two of each of the 450 dog breeds we have in the world today), two of the cat kind and so on. God had put into the DNA of these animals the many possible variations of characteristics and traits that we see in animal life nowadays. The many species we have on earth today, in other words, would have descended from the much smaller number of animal kinds that were spared on the ark.

And God really did spare them. For as we see in the Book of Genesis, there was no way for them to survive outside of the ark, because the flood was world-wide. And what's fascinating about this, is that we see this not just in the Scriptures, but in archaeology. All around the planet, you find evidence of a global flood, particularly in the fossil record. Because of the sinfulness of the world, God wiped the surface of the earth clean and started over with Noah and his family and the animals onboard.

But the account of the ark is more than just a description of some ancient catastrophic event. It's also a picture of an even greater salvation story. For human beings to this day have been guilty of sinning against the Lord, and because of that sin, we all have deserved His divine judgement. But God in His love provided an escape, an ark, and that "ark" is the Church, the head of which, is Jesus. God in His grace saves you and me from the destruction that would otherwise overwhelm us.

I hope you have a chance to visit the Ark Encounter, if you haven't seen it already. Perhaps we could go as a group sometime! It is an

integral part of human history and picture of how the Lord has loved us through His Son Jesus Christ.

Knowing Christ and making Him known,

Pastor Chris

ST. JOHN'S STAFF:

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Appointed Communion Assistants: Dave Bader, Doug Foelsch, Jim MacMaster

Church Office Deadlines:

For the weekly Sunday bulletin Wednesdays @ Noon.

(Mondays @ Noon if it is a holiday week)

For the Monthly Messenger the deadline is the 15th of every month.

For Church Council meetings: the Wednesday before the Sunday meeting date. Email:
stjohnhamlin@outlook.com

Check out our website for Daily Inspiration, Sunday Messages, Worship Bulletins & Monthly Newsletter: stjohnhamlin.org

Due to Pastor's busy schedule, if you make an appointment with him in passing, please confirm the appointment with MaryAnn in the Office. Thank you!

Thrivent members: The Mission Committee would appreciate your help. If you'd like to write a grant to fund shopping for an upcoming outreach in Rochester, please see Marilyn Rowell (585-278-4993) or any committee member. You have two opportunities per year to write grants and they're easy to do online or by phone! Thanks.

Worship News for September

The Sundays after Pentecost continue through September.

September 14th is also Holy Cross Day, a day when we remember how that cross is His triumph in the work of our redemption.

Donations for the Fall Festival / Rummage Sale.

Donations are still being taken for the Fall Festival Rummage Sale. IF you bring something down PLEASE put it in the designated rooms. *The south side parking lot door will be unlocked on Saturdays 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM & Sundays, 7:30 AM - 2:00 PM for your convenience.* We are planning on serving food again this year so, could use any Thrivent grants to defray cost of supplies. If you have questions, please contact Tracey Unterborn 301-0716 or Diane Grimm 964-2861.

From the 150th Committee:

We still have some sweatshirts, t- shirts and mugs available for sale. They are set up in the middle meeting room. Sweatshirts are \$20, t- shirts and mugs are \$10 each. Thank you!

Prayer Shawl Ministry - If you have a friend or relative who is going through a "tough time" and would appreciate a prayer shawl, please call the church office or Cherie Rockow at 964-3179 or Cindy Smith 964-3772. If you would like to join us in this ministry, patterns and yarn are available. Call Cherie or Cindy for information.

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September 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day ROBERT KELSO	2 RON GOLTERMANN DAVID ROSE	3 JENNIFER BARBER	4 CHRISS ANDREWS	5 BRIAN ZUGEHOER	6 EUNICE BAASE
7 VJ SCHARPING II	8 EMILY DONN	9	10 GREG LADUE CORBIN LEVERENZ	11 Patriot Day	12	13
14 LINDA MARSHALL NANCY MASON JOE PARKER	15	16 CLAYTON LEVERENZ PAT SUHR	17 LUKE RATH KARA LESSORD	18	19	20
21	22 Start of Fall (Autumnal Equinox)	23	24	25 LORI LESSORD	26 JONATHAN MARRIOTT JILL SCHARPING	27
28 LILLIAN MEYER	29	30 DANIEL LEVERENZ				

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September 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day FACILITY CLOSED	2 8:30 AM PRAYER GROUP 9:45 AM BIBLE STUDY 6:00 PM GYM RESERVED 6:45 PM BELLS MTG.	3 6:00 PM GYM RESERVED 7:00 PM ZOOM BIBLE STUDY	4 6:00 PM GYM RESERVED	5 6:00 PM GYM RESERVED	6
7 8:30 AM / 11:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICES 9:45 AM SS, ADULT BIBLE CLASS 9:45 AM TRUSTEES MTG.	8 9:00 AM FINANCE 6:00 PM GYM RESERVED 6:30 PM DORCAS MEETING	9 8:30 AM PRAYER GROUP 9:45 AM BIBLE STUDY 6:00 PM GYM RESERVED 6:45 PM BELLS	10 10:00 AM QUILTERS / MTG. RM. 6:00 PM GYM RESERVED 7:00 PM ZOOM BIBLE STUDY	11 Patriot Day 1:00 PM BOOK CLUB 6:00 PM GYM RESERVED	12 6:00 PM GYM RESERVED	13
14 8:30 AM / 11:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICES 9:45 AM SS, ADULT BIBLE CLASS	15 6:00 PM GYM RESERVED	16 8:30 AM PRAYER GROUP 9:45 AM BIBLE STUDY 6:00 PM GYM RESERVED 6:45 PM BELLS	17 6:00 PM GYM RESERVED 7:00 PM ZOOM BIBLE STUDY	18 6:00 PM GYM RESERVED 6:30 PM MISSION MTG.	19 6:00 PM GYM RESERVED	20
21 8:30 AM / 11:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICES 9:45 AM SS, ADULT BIBLE CLASS	22 Start of Fall (Autumnal Equinox) 9:00 AM FINANCE 6:00 PM GYM RESERVED	23 8:30 AM PRAYER GROUP 9:45 AM BIBLE STUDY 6:00 PM GYM RESERVED 6:45 PM BELLS	24 10:00 AM QUILTERS / MTG. RM. 6:00 PM GYM RESERVED 7:00 PM ZOOM BIBLE STUDY	25 1:00 PM BOOK CLUB 6:00 PM GYM RESERVED	26 6:00 PM GYM RESERVED	27 1:00 PM MISSION OUTREACH / ROCHESTER
28 8:30 AM / 11:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICES 9:45 AM SS, ADULT BIBLE CLASS	29 6:00 PM GYM RESERVED	30 8:30 AM PRAYER GROUP 9:45 AM BIBLE STUDY 6:00 PM GYM RESERVED 6:45 PM BELLS	Brockport-Hamlin Jr Blue Devils Cheerleaders is the group using the gym M-F at 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM for the month of September.			