



## THE REPORTER

*I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner  
worthy of the calling to which you have been called,  
with all humility and gentleness, with patience,  
bearing with one another in love,  
eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.  
(Ephesians 4:1-3)*

As our country celebrates Independence Day this month, we also remember the desire of the thirteen colonies to be united with one another. They wanted to create one new country on the American continent. Their biggest fear, especially in the Federalist Papers, was that a number of countries would emerge, and America would look just like Europe.

So also, in the Church, we seek unity with one another. That unity shows itself in the calling to which each of us has been called. Each communicant member of the congregation has made the same vows before God and the congregation in Confirmation, a Profession of Faith, or even the reception by transfer from another congregation. We have all made the vows to strive for the unity of the congregation “in the bond of peace.”

However, unity is not always an easy thing to maintain. Two hundred forty-eight years after the Declaration of Independence was signed, the now fifty United States seem to be anything but united as one state’s laws are the exact opposite of the neighboring state. Yet, we still call ourselves the United States because we are united in the Spirit of America.

Christian unity is something so much more difficult to pin down because it has nothing to do with us. Paul reminds us that the basis of our unity is “humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love.” These four virtues do not come naturally to us poor, miserable sinners. Yet, God calls us to use them all in our interactions with each other.

God calls us to this “unity of the Spirit” because it reflects the unity that resides in the Trinity. God calls us to conduct ourselves in a way that reflects Him. God humbled Himself to become man to save us. He treats us with gentleness, knowing that our sinful natures are frail. He is patient, knowing that we sometimes have to learn our lessons the hard way.

His love covers us as we struggle and stumble in our attempts to remain united. Our sins separate us from each other. His forgiveness brings us back together. As we continue to walk in His way, let us strive to show the humility, gentleness, patience and love that He shows us every day.

In Christ,

Rev. Doug Minton

**Men's Bible Breakfast**

We will meet Saturday, July 13 at 8am. We are finishing our six-month study of Psalms of Divine Wisdom. This month, we will look at Psalm 139:1-11. Doug B. is our host this month. Every man of the congregation is welcome.

**Focus on the Family Inserts**

Each month, the Focus on the Family insert is available. Thank you to Kenda Morts for donating the inserts this month. Grab your copy from the narthex.

**Vacation Bible School**

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all those that helped with VBS this year! Thank you to all those that donated items for our snack time. Each day, we had about 40 kids. During our weeklong Jungle Journey we learned the Seven C's of History – Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, the Cross, and Consummation. We also learned how this events shaped out world and that we can always trust God's promises that we read in the Bible.

**VBS Mission Project**

Our mission project this year was for Children's Hunger Fund. Each day we met children all around the world that didn't have enough to eat for various reasons. The kids brought in coins each day to provide meals to others. With the help of the congregation last week, we were able to send \$535 to CHF, which will provide 2140 meals! Thank you for helping our VBS kids!

**First Wednesday Fellowship Meal**

We will have our Wednesday Fellowship meal July 3rd at 6pm. This month we will have tacos. We will play a few rounds of Bingo – will you get a good prize or a funny prize?! Bring a friend to join in the fun.

**Pastor on Sharper Iron**

Sharper Iron is a daily Bible Study on [kfuo.org](http://kfuo.org). Pastor will be on with host Rev. Timothy Appel on Thursday, July 4 discussing Haggai 1. Tune in and learn more about this forgotten book of the bible. Listen live or on demand at [kfuo.org/sharperiron](http://kfuo.org/sharperiron).

**Quarterly Church Council and Annual Meeting**

Thursday, July 18 - Church Council meeting at 7:00pm

Sunday, July 21 - Annual Meeting following service.

Please put this on your calendar now so you can attend and be involved in the decisions of your church.

**Eastern Illinois Foodbank Foodmobile**

The Foodmobile will be in Milford Thursday, July 18 from 1:30 – 2pm at Town and Country. If you plan to attend one of the following distributions, we encourage you to visit [www.eifclient.com](http://www.eifclient.com) to pre-register. Please note, pre-registering is not required and does not reserve a spot in line. Those attending should bring boxes, bags, or carts to transport food.

DHS MAXIMUM MONTHLY GROSS INCOME FOR RECEIPT OF USDA COMMODITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 (JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024)										
Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Monthly Income	\$3,645	\$4,930	\$6,215	\$7,500	\$8,785	\$10,070	\$11,355	\$12,640	\$13,925	\$15,210
For households with more than 10 persons, add \$1,285 for each additional person up to 300% FPL										

**Podcast of the Month**

Our podcast for July is **Thy Strong Word** podcast from KFYO. Pastor has appeared numerous times on this podcast. It is a Bible study with Rev. Phil Booe from St. John Lutheran Church, Luverne, MN. A study of the Gospel of Luke began on June 17.

**Wrestling with Theology Schedule**

**Confessional Corner** – July 22 – Scottish Reformation

**Digging Deeper**

- July 4 – Heard of You (Colossians 1:1-8)
- July 11 – Filled with Knowledge (Colossians 1:9-14)
- July 18 – Image of the Invisible God (Colossians 1:15-20)
- July 25 – Reconciled by Death (Colossians 1:21-2:5)



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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)  
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