



# First Christian Church of Effingham

Issue 294 July 18 2023 In God's hands

Martín Reyes-Lead Minister  
217.317.3800  
pastormartinfcc@gmail.com

Cleone Bloemker-Secretary  
217.342.6797  
fceffingham@gmail.com  
Website: www.fceffingham.com

## Mark Your Calendar

**Tuesday, July 25th** Young @ Heart meets @ 9:00 a.m. the church for snack, prayer & fellowship Hall

**Tuesdays Online Prayer Time** Starts @ noon on the First Christian Church Effingham Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/FCCEffingham> and You Tube [First Christian Church of Effingham - YouTube](#)

**Wednesday, July 26th** W.O.W. for youth and young adults starts at 5:30 p.m. with a light supper and bible study to follow

**Sunday, August 6th** Bring the Calvary Baptist Food Pantry items of pasta and Spaghetti, cereal or your choice to the fellowship hall.

**Sunday, August 6th** Snacks for Family Life Center can be brought.



## Serving & Giving

### Serving In July

**Communion Table** : July 23rd–John Donathan; July 30th–Don Millman

#### 7/9/2023 Attendance & Giving

**Total: \$2,825.13**

**includes Faith Promise & Online Giving**

Attendance: Sunday – 69  
Sunday School – 9  
Summer WOW (07/5) – 23  
Property Ministries: \$40.00

Initial Offering: \$7.00

**Faith Promise 2022/2023: \$52.00**

#### 7/16/2023 Attendance & Giving

**Total: \$1,631.88**

**includes Faith Promise & Online Giving**

Attendance: Sunday – 49  
Sunday School – 9  
Summer WOW (07/12) – 23  
Property Ministry: \$40.00

**Faith Promise 2022/2023: \$50.00**

## Prayer List

**Special Needs:** tornado victims in Illinois and Indiana, Ukraine & Russia Standoff, Church leadership, Nancy Harper (A-Fib), Dennis Bushue (Hand surgery 7/31/2023; 8/14/2023), Linda Richey (Pre-leukemia), Lisa Lipcamon (wound on foot), Jerry Scoggins (hospice), Vicki Maxwell (hysterectomy 7/10/2023), Joni Millman (knee injury), Kelsey Baker (mastectomy 7/5/2023), Glen Higgs (liver cancer), Joy Fathauer (New medicine), Tommy Gant (3 brain bleeds & other injuries), Lorrie Sutter (surgery 7/18/2023, Chelsea Wakefield (Post Operative Syndrome),

**Missions:** Faith Promise 2022/2023, Oblong Children's Christian Home; Project Bible Runners

**Pray For These Family:** Matthew McKinney Family, Wayne Greenwood Family, Louis Esker Family



## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

To help members of our church family better know each other

### Jon Zerkel

**Born:** January 27, 1968, at Richland County Hospital in Olney, IL. This is also where I grew up, graduating from East Richland High School in 1986. (In those days, there were \*two\* high schools in Richland County . . . East Richland and West Richland, but today there is only one Richland County High School.)

**Parents:** Ray Zerkel (still lives in Olney) & Elfrieda Zerkel (went to be with Jesus in January of 2019.)

I have three siblings, all brothers. Paul (wife Dawn,) is my older brother and he lives north of Springfield, IL. My two younger brothers, Loren (wife Melissa) and Lynn (wife Michelle) are twins. They both live in Olney.

My parents were life-long members of the Lutheran Church, and they served Jesus faithfully there for many years . . . So I don't really remember a time when church attendance was not a part of my life, or when I had the "AHA! I need Jesus in my life!" moment. Jane Ann once shared an interesting conversation she had at a Bible study several years ago in regards to this. There were two individuals having a conversation, and each of them were somewhat envious of the other person. One person had been raised in the church by Christian parents and had known about Jesus all of her life. The other person was raised in a single-parent home and did not have the opportunity to learn about Jesus until much later in life. The person who had known Jesus all of her life said, "I wish I could have experienced that powerful, incredible feeling of that AHA moment where I just knew it was the Holy Spirit calling me by name." The other person who learned about Jesus later in life said, "I wish I could have experienced the stability, and the love of Jesus that you knew about all of your life, SO MUCH earlier in my life." The point is . . . WE ALL NEED JESUS.

I attended Concordia University in River forest, IL (a western suburb of Chicago) and graduated with a degree in Elementary and Secondary Education in 1990. After teaching full-time for one year, and then spending a number of years substitute teaching in the mid-late 1990s, I decided a career in education was not for me. I worked for the Effingham Post Office as a rural mail carrier for nearly 22 years (from April of 2000-January of 2022.) I am currently employed as a shift leader at the Effingham Walgreen's. Looking back now at the various jobs I have had during my career, I'm reminded of one of my favorite bits of wisdom . . . "If you want to hear God laugh . . . tell Him your plans!" (James 4:14-15)

Jane Ann and I first met one another at Bliss Park, and I believe the year was 2003. In the early 2000s there was a non-denominational Christian singles group in Effingham County called SCO, which stood for Singles Christian Outreach. SCO was having a Memorial day cookout at Bliss Park, which I heard about by reading an article in the Effingham Daily News. At the time, I lived only two blocks away from Bliss Park, so I decided to check it out just for fun, but not really expecting to meet my future spouse. Jane Ann and I were both \*former\* teachers, and we both seemed to really enjoy telling corny jokes, and I thought she was really cute . . . The rest, as they say, is history.

When we first met, I was attending the Lutheran Church, and Jane was splitting her time between First Christian (where she was leading a more contemporary Saturday evening worship service) and Christ's Church. During the year or so that we were dating, we attended services together at all three locations (St. John's in Effingham, First Christian, and Christ's Church.) I think that Jane Ann felt that St. John's Lutheran Church was a little too traditional for her to feel comfortable worshipping there . . . So we decided to attend First Christian Church together, and were married here in July of 2005.

Sadly, a few years after we were married, SCO sort of disbanded. Perhaps someone in our church family might be called to try and re-establish a ministry for Christian singles in our community?



**Young @ Heart**  
**9:00 A.M.**  
Tuesday, July 25th  
For Coffee, Prayer & Fellowship



## Youth & Young Adults



**Wednesday, July 26th**

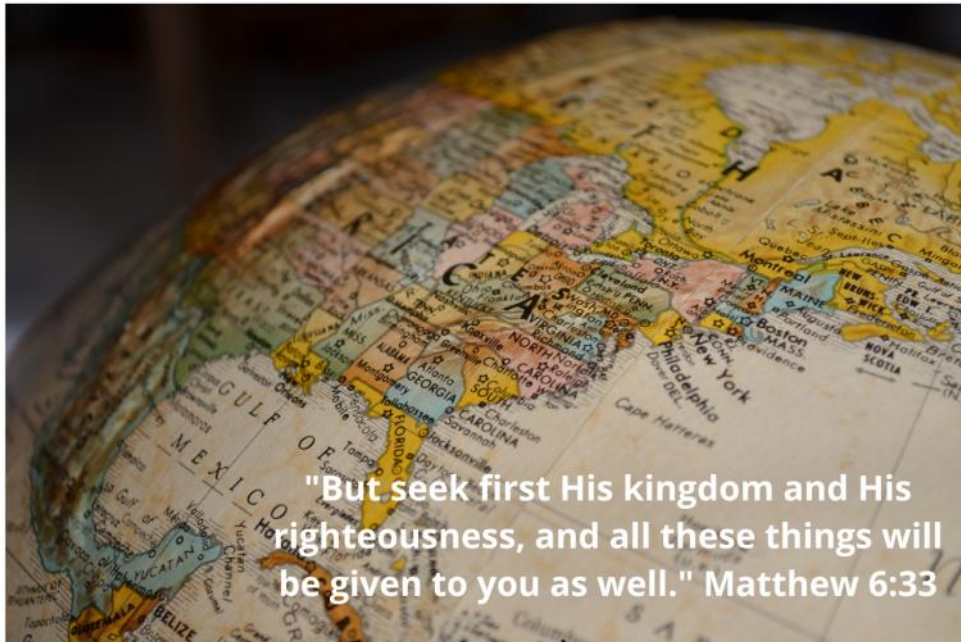
**W.O.W. WEDNESDAY**

**5:30 P.M. To**  
**7:30 P.M. Bible Study**





# Faith Promise 2022/2023



"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33

Promises Made: \$31,084.00

Received: \$29,769.00



## August Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 4-Justine Reyes BD
- 7-Delaine & Sandi Donaldson WA
- 7-Martin & Justine Reyes WA
- 9-Brad Arney BD
- 10-Adam Wolke BD
- 10-Paige Wolke BD
- 18-Nolan Depoister BD
- 25-Martin & Astrid Zubiate WA
- 25-George Shouse BD
- 27-George & Marcie Shouse WA
- 29-Zachariah Reyes BD
- 31-RaeAnn Smith BD





# Calvary Baptist Food Pantry

*Sunday, August 6th*

Cereal Or Your Choice

Pasta & Spaghetti Sauce



## Bring Snacks For Family Life Center Classes

Please, Bring To Church By August 6th

The following is a list of types of snacks that are welcome. (I put brand names for examples. However, generic works great!)

### INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED:

- Snack cakes (Similar to Little Debbie's, Hostess, etc.)
- Chips
- Trail Mix
- Fruit Cups (Pears, Peaches, Mandarin Oranges,
- Fruit Cocktail, Mango)
- Crackers (Cheez-It, Party Mix, Goldfish, etc.)
- Wrapped hard candy
- Candy bars (small snack/bite-size – Similar to the ones at Halloween time/Hershey Kisses)
- water bottles, juice boxes







**First Christian church  
901 N. Henrietta  
Effingham, IL 62401  
SERVICE REQUESTED**

**901 N. Henrietta St.  
Effingham, IL 62401**

**Sunday Times**  
9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
9:40 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. Fellowship Time  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

**Tuesday Morning**  
9:00 a.m. Young @ Heart Coffee & Prayer Time

**Wednesday Evening**  
5:30 p.m. Bible Study & Worship Time