

# The Banner

BY PASTOR JOHN MOCHEL



Since I served as a “youth guy” at a Lutheran Church in Mahomet, Illinois some 40 years ago, I have been working in some aspect of Christian ministry. I have enjoyed working with middle schoolers, high schoolers, college students, young adults, older adults, interns, and pastors. It has been a great blessing. In addition to all this, Nancy and I have raised four kids who now are mostly-functional adults, which is really all that any of us can claim to be.

Through all of this, I have found that so many people live life plagued by worries, fears, regrets, anger, guilt, grief, pain, disappointment, resentment, and unforgiveness. These burdens can paralyze us. Life can be

brutal and can leave us bruised and beaten.

Nancy and I have a word of encouragement that we often speak to one another when life is particularly daunting, “Every moment is a new beginning,

every day a new day.” I suppose that this really is derived from the teachings of Jesus.

How is it that Jesus wants us to live?

*“For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?*

*“Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life?*

*“And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith!*

*“Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’ For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

*“So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own” (Matthew 6:25-34).*

And how is it that Jesus wants us to live every moment of every day?

*At that time Jesus said, “I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and*

(Continued on pg. 2)

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*intelligent and have revealed them to infants. Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.*

*"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light"*

(Matthew 11:25-30).

Have you ever noticed how children live when they are under the loving care of their parents? Yes, they have moments. There are those times when they are consumed by worry, fear, anger.

While camping on the morning of July 6, my three-year-old granddaughter was tired and decided she was sick of walking. She threw herself to the ground and began weeping just 100 steps from the car. She wanted to be carried. There are times for me when I feel just that way.

There she was, on the grass, making a puddle. But then mommy showed up with a drink and a snack. She happily jumped up and ran the 100 steps and all misery was forgotten.

Children, who know that they are loved and safe, live in the moment. They don't really worry about the next moment. They do not wallow in past misery. They let mom and dad carry their burdens, prepare for the future, pay the bills, and provide the meals. I will often tell little Lucy, "If you just trust Grampa and be obedient, we are going to have a

great day, adventure, fun, and snacks included."

God is our heavenly Father, even more reliable and trustworthy than Grampy John. We are His children. To be His means to trust Him like children. Trusting Him means being willing to give Him our worries,

“ He already has  
your **tomorrow**.  
Enjoy the **today**  
that He gives you.”

fears, regrets, anger, guilt, grief, pain, disappointment, resentment, and unforgiveness. We are to come to Him and lay our unmet expectations at His feet, often, maybe many times a day. We are to leave our past behind us, experience His love and forgiveness, trust Him, and live in obedient joy as we go forward. Any moment is the right moment to do this.

You may need to confess sin. You may need to forgive someone. You may need to give to Jesus your unmet expectations. We sure have a lot of those. You may need to give him your hurts and sadness. But when you do, the rest of your life with Jesus will open before you, life with Jesus who bears your burdens, under your sovereign Father's care. He will give to you all that you need.

In that moment you realize that you do not need to fix everything, or anything. You do not need to solve every problem. You do not need to secure your future. Your Father in heaven does all those things. You just need to live every moment trusting Him, obeying Him, joyfully living in His care. He already has your tomorrow. Enjoy the today that He gives you.†



At a college reunion, a group of successful alumni--now doctors, lawyers, business owners--decided to visit their old professor. They chatted about their careers and families, but soon the conversation shifted to life's pressures, stress, and constant chasing after more.

After listening for a while, the professor smiled and said, "Hold on a minute. I'll go make us some coffee."

He came back with a large pot and a tray full of cups--none of them matching. Some were fine porcelain, others were plain ceramic, a few were chipped glass mugs, and one even looked like it came from a diner.

As everyone reached for a cup, the professor watched in silence. Once they all had coffee in hand, he said:

"Notice what just happened. Most of you instinctively reached for the nicest cups--leaving behind the simpler ones. It's normal to want the best for ourselves, but that's often where the stress begins."

He gestured toward the cups.

"The cup doesn't make the coffee taste any better. What you really wanted was the coffee. But you still focused on the cup."

Then he paused.

"Life is the coffee. Your job, your house, your income, your status--those are just cups. They help contain life, but they don't define it. And the trouble is, the more we focus on the cup, the more we miss out on the coffee."

He smiled. "Remember, happy people don't always have the best of everything. But they know how to make the best of what they have."†

--From the Platte Enterprise





Chaperones arrived at Hidden Acres on pick up day, ready to jump out of the van and stretch their legs. But instead, they froze, realizing they had happened upon a holy moment. Right outside of their van, was a huddle of young boys with their camp counselors. One counselor was explaining something to the group and gestured upwards to the bell they were gathered around, then they bowed their heads. After praying, the counselor looked at one boy in particular and smiled. The boy grinned wide,

reached up and pulled the rope wholeheartedly. Cheers went out from the huddle as the Salvation Bell rang out! In the van, a chaperone broke the silence with a whispered "That's what it's all about."

This summer, we sent 47 campers to Hidden Acres through the North Star scholarship program. Those campers heard The Gospel and had the opportunity to respond to salvation through Jesus. The power of our church to accomplish this, relied on each one's willingness to work together. Every egg cracked to make a welcoming breakfast for camper's families, every warm greeting, every prayer prayed, every piece of luggage loaded ~ it all mattered for this opportunity. Thank you. Please continue to pray for these campers. A high schooler on the way home from camp said, "I want to live my life more before I make a decision about God. But I will read my Bible to learn more about Him." †



**BROOKLYN**

**Men's Leadership Training**

**AUGUST 9, 2025**

**We're hosting another Leadership Training for Men on the morning of Saturday, August 9th.**

Join us from **9:00 AM to noon**, with lunch provided afterward.

**Be sure to sign up in the foyer to reserve your spot.**



<i>sunday</i>	<i>monday</i>	<i>tuesday</i>	<i>wednesday</i>	<i>thursday</i>	<i>friday</i>	<i>saturday</i>
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 9a SS 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship, Communion  6p Evening Study	<b>4</b>  6:30p Pathways 7p Dig Deeper	<b>5</b>  6:30p T&T Gals	<b>6</b> 12p Community Study	<b>7</b> 9:30a Women's Study  7:30p Men's Dis- cipleship	<b>8</b> 9a Board of Elders Meeting	<b>9</b> 9a-1p Brook- lyn Leadership Training & Lunch
<b>10</b> 9a SS 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship  6p Evening Study	<b>11</b>  6:30p Pathways 7p Dig Deeper	<b>12</b> 9a-2p DTS Pas- tor's Meeting	<b>13</b> 12p Community Study	<b>14</b> 9:30a Women's Study  7:30p Men's Dis- cipleship	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<i>Pastor &amp; Nancy on Vacation</i>						
<b>17</b> 9a SS 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship	<b>18</b>  6:30p Pathways 7p Dig Deeper	<b>19</b>  6:30p T&T Gals	<b>20</b> 12p Community Study  6:30p AIC MS & HS Youth	<b>21</b> 9:30a Women's Study 9:45a Bethesda Service 7:30p Men's Dis- cipleship	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9a SS 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship 12p SS Picnic	<b>25</b>  6:30p Pathways 7p Dig Deeper	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  6:30p AIC MS & HS Youth	<b>28</b> 9:30a Women's Study  7:30p Men's Dis- cipleship	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<i>Pastor &amp; Nancy on Vacation</i>						
<b>31</b> 9a SS 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>				

<b>Happy Birthday:</b>			<b>Happy Anniversary:</b>		
1 Ashlynn Rozeboom	14 Jerrold Wynia	30 Wesley Gordon	3 Nash & Sarah Wergin		
5 Jackie Krebs	15 Hannah Fahlberg	31 Kate Erickson	3 Jerrold & Rhonda Wynia		
5 Stacy Sims	16 Doreen Fahlberg	31 Caleb Wynia	6 Ben & Sabreena Snook		
9 Brian Fahlberg	16 Reid Jensen		14 Dan & Jill Paulson		
10 Doug Adams	15 Jack DeLay		31 Pastor & Nancy Mochel		
11 Lewis VanHofwegen	28 Eli Wergin				
11 Nick VanHofwegen	29 Emmett Bird				



# MINISTRY AND WORSHIP

## August 3

AM | John 8:31-47, Communion  
Theme | "The Truth Will Make You Free"  
PM | Evening Study, Concise Theology

## August 10

AM | John 8:48-59  
Theme | "Before Abraham Was, I Am"  
PM | Evening Study, Concise Theology

## August 17

AM | Guest speaker  
Theme | TBD  
PM | No evening study

## August 24

AM | John 9:1-23  
Theme | Healing the Man Born Blind I  
PM | No evening Study

## August 31

AM | Guest Speaker, Labor Day  
Theme | TBD  
PM | No evening study



# MINISTRY INVOLVEMENT

Date	Greeters	Nursery	Children's Church	Music/Missions	Scripture Reader
8/3	A Sveeggen	Michelle DeLay Sydney DeLay	Colleen Buss Ethan Bovill	Communion	Dan Paulson
8/10	R/M Jensen	Stacy Sims Clara Sims	Audrey Stake Andrew Bovill	Abby Wergin	Rhonda Wynia
8/17	D/M Nelson	Jackie Krebs Abby Wergin	Julie Saugstad Elsie Bovill	Open	Arlyn Abrams
8/24	K Erickson	Nancy Swanstrom Grace Paulson	B VanHofwegen Bethany Hoffman	Missions Moment	Ted Lewis
8/31	M/K Bovill	Hannah Bird Audrey Bird	Nancy Mochel Sara Hoffman	Steve VanHofwegen	Eric Adam
9/7	C/S Carnes	Jen Gordon Lewie Gordon	Connie Pierce Anna Kelderman	Open	Caleb Wynia
9/14	T/H Lewis	Karla Bovill Issac Bovill	Colleen Buss Abby Wergin	Missions Moment	Dan Erickson
9/21	J/C Pierce	Nancy Mochel Annalisa Stake	Audrey Stake Sydney DeLay	Tavin Lewis	Jeremy Saugstad
9/28	D/J Paulson	Michelle DeLay Selah Stake	Julie Saugstad Payden Hoffman	Open	Robin Leikvold

**August Worship Leader:** John Fahlberg

**Keyboard:** Doreen Fahlberg

**Ushers:** Clif Carnes, Reid Jensen,  
Andy German, Ron Swanson

**September Worship Leader:** Pete Fahlberg

**Keyboard:** Connie Twedt

**Ushers:** Karl Leikvold, Dan Paulson,  
Mark Bovill, Dave Nelson



