



'Christ's Family Reaching Out In Love'



SCARS

Some years ago on a hot summer day in South Florida a little boy decided to go for a swim in the old swimming hole behind his house. In a hurry to dive into the cool water, he ran out the back door, leaving behind shoes, socks, and shirt as he went. He flew into the water, not realizing that as he swam toward the middle of the lake, an alligator was swimming toward the shore.

His mother – in the house was looking out the window – saw the two as they got closer and closer together. In utter fear, she ran toward the water, yelling to her son as loudly as she could. Hearing her voice, the little boy became alarmed and made a U-turn to swim to his mother. It was too late. Just as he reached her, the alligator reached him. From the dock, the mother grabbed her little boy by the arms just as the alligator snatched his legs. That began an incredible tug-of-war between the two. The alligator was much stronger than the mother, but the mother was much too passionate to let go.

A farmer happened to drive by, heard her screams, raced from his truck, took aim and shot the alligator. Remarkably, after weeks and weeks in the hospital, the little boy survived. His legs were extremely scarred by the vicious attack of the animal. And, on his arms, were deep scratches where his mother's fingernails dug into his flesh in her effort to hang on to the son she loved.

The newspaper reporter who interviewed the boy after the trauma, asked if he would show him his scars. The boy lifted his pant legs. And then, with obvious pride, he said to the reporter, "But look at my arms, I have great scars on my arms, too. I have them because my Mom wouldn't let go."

You and I can identify with that little boy. We have scars, too. No, not from an alligator, or anything quite so dramatic. But, the scars of a painful past. Some of those scars are unsightly and have caused us deep regret. But, some wounds, my friends, are because God has refused to let go. In the midst of your struggle, He's been there holding on to you.

The Scripture teaches that God loves you. If you have Christ in your life, you have become a child of God. He wants to protect you and provide for you in every way. But sometimes we foolishly wade into dangerous situations. The swimming hole of life is filled with peril - and we forget that the enemy is waiting to attack. That's when the tug-of-war begins, and if you have the scars of His love on your arms be very, very grateful. He did not . . . and will not, let you go.

(Our Lord says) "can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have not compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraven you on the palms of my hands, I hold you ever before me." (Isa. 49:15-16)

Together with you in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Jeff G. Gavin



We hope you will come and join us on **Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM** for our **ADULT Sunday Bible Class** in the lower level of the school building . . . ***open question forum.***

Please join us for our **Mid-Week Bible Class** on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM in the lower level of the school building.

PASTOR . . . has resumed taking Fridays as his "Day Off". Even though he may sometimes be in his office, he is scheduling no work; so Please do not Visit him, or Phone him on Fridays. If there is a true Emergency, call him on his Cell: (630) 776-2382. Thank you.

ALTAR FLOWERS . . . ALTAR FLOWERS CAN COST AS LITTLE AS \$20.

If you would like to donate flowers for the altar, (*or confirm your "standing order"*) please contact please call the **CHURCH OFFICE** at **(847) 593-7670** or email Pastor at jeffgavin@sbcglobal.net **NO LATER THAN NOON ON THE PRIOR TUESDAY!**



Please Note: When you donate flowers for our worship services, you are welcome to bring the flowers home after the 10:30 service.



I would like to thank the many fine St. John family members who remembered my recent birthday with their kind wishes, cards and remembrances. Thank You.

Pastor Jeff

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Along with "Birthday Greetings", we also wish a "Happy Anniversary" to those couples who were married during each month by printing their marriage date.

If you are unsure if we might have a record of your wedding date . . . please contact the church office (847-593-7670, ext 1) with this information. We would like to include all of our married couples and wish to them . . . ***"Happy Anniversary"***:

George & Domnica Lungu	May 9
Jukka & Jane Kallio	May 9
Joe & Cathy Schubkegel	May 10
Larry Sr. & Kristi Brockie	May 20
Dwayne & Alice Mueller	May 25
Joshua & Charissa Zeuli	May 25
Jonathan & Marsha Ruff	May 30

THANK YOU

To Joe Schubkegel and all who assisted him with set-up, the Easter Breakfast, and take down following it.

It was great to have an Easter Breakfast again! It would not have happened without Joe. Your generous free-will offering was much appreciated.



VOTERS' MEETING - ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

On **Monday June 1, 2026 - 7:30 PM** at the church we will conduct our yearly: **June Voter's Meeting**. Besides reports, it is at this meeting that we hold elections for Board members and Officers of our congregation.

The Board of Church Properties basically is Joe Schubkegel who has been doing much on his own, but he can't do it all himself. Others have been a great help to Joe when they are able . . . but **your** help is needed.

Please offer your assistance to Joe or please respond positively when asked to help. Thank you.

REMEMBER . . . GOD IS JUST AS INTERESTED IN YOUR "USABILITY" AS YOUR "ABILITY". Allow god to use YOU in service unto Him and His church.

If you would like a prayer for a need for yourself or someone you know . . . please call Pastor at (847-593-7670, ext. 1) and give him your prayer request.



STUDENT HISTORY TOURS OF ST. JOHN CHURCH AND CEMETERY

Your Pastor was asked to again conduct history tours of our church and cemetery for Lions Park and Fairview schools as the culmination to their study of Mount Prospect History.

As of May 1, the two weeks of tours for Lions Park have been completed, but two weeks of tours for Fairview school remain to be conducted.

Some of our own members have expressed interest in attending a tour and any of you are welcome to do so. These tours will be conducted on May 4, 5, 6, 12 & 14. The buses arrive around 9:15 am and the tour lasts about 35-40 minutes. Each tour has between 25-30 students and adults in attendance. And each attendee receives a special booklet of their tour. This is very much enjoyed and appreciated by all in attendance.

THANK OUR LORD . . . and WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

ALEC FOUNTAS . . . Transfer In: from Christ Lutheran, Orland Park, IL.

CHARLES (CHUCK) FRIEDRICH . . . Profession of Faith.

THE O'CONNOR FAMILY . . . Child and Adult Baptism (04/12/2026)
Salem Grace (4 years old)
Ivy Inez (2 years old)
Michael (Father)
Samantha (Mother)

OUR WELCOME PICTURES

Each Sunday you are now welcomed with a slide show of pictures on our large screen monitor. We hope you do look at these pictures; as they are not just random images, but carefully selected images that reveal the theme of the day, and are designed to depict and enhance the spoken content of the day's sermon.



MAY



Kenneth Schoo	May 3
John Limberger Jr.	May 6
Marie Fisher	May 9
Jukka Kallio	May 9
Amber Rainbolt	May 9
Andrew Tertel	May 11
Art Schiemann	May 12
Danny Schimka	May 13

Joe Clesi	May 15
Stephanie Schellin	May 20
Lisa Shorb	May 24
Aiden Lutsch	May 24
Karon Ordower	May 25
Connie Ray	May 29
Cassie Tertel	May 30

If your birthday has not been listed, please contact the Church office for a correction... Thank You!

May God Bless You on Your Birthday