



**THE EAGLE**  
St. John's Newsletter  
December 1, 2019

**From Our Pastor**

In our kitchen there's a chalkboard filled with tally marks, part of our Advent tradition. You see, when Nate, Ammon, Ben and Abby were all young, we had a hard time getting them to stay engaged for the Advent devotions around the wreath. *Pastor-families are no different than others.* Thus, we started making a competition out of extinguishing the wreath's candles. It worked. And it was fun. The tally marks showed who the winner was when we got to Epiphany, January 6.



Truth is, we all won, for, when a household (of one or of many) slows down to read Scripture and pray, a real victory is gained. I hope you will win in that way starting today, the first day of Advent. Get out your Advent wreath (or make/buy one), light a new candle each Sunday, and read God's Holy Word every day. You will not regret it.

If you have a hard time getting kids to engage, make a competition out of it. Kathy, Ammon, Troy, or I would be glad to tell you how we competed. Regardless, slowing down and having an Advent devotion will be a winner! Beholding the Christ Child,

*Pastor Furdial*

P.S. After Epiphany, check to see if Kathy beat me again this year.

**OUR ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK**

Worship .....	383
Sunday school .....	36
Adult Bible class .....	29
Confirmation Classes.....	12

**FROM THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP**

Thank you for supporting God's work through St. John's. Our offering received last weekend:

General Fund: \$10,367.  
Building Fund: \$40.00

**TOPIC FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY**  
**Children & Adults**

In our Christian education time this week, we study the account of Daniel in "A Trap and a Release." Daniel's promotion to a high leadership role in Babylon causes political jealousy among other leaders. King Darius decrees that everyone must worship only him, but Daniel remains faithful to the one true God, praying three times daily. The king condemns Daniel to the lions' den, but God's angel shuts the lions' mouths so Daniel remains unharmed. Discuss how God protects His people from danger today.

**Parents:** thanks for encouraging and enabling your children to be part of our "Behold The Child" Youth Christmas Service on December 14 at 5:30PM! We'd like to have every available child assist in some way.

## **PECANS - PECANS - PECANS**

There are for sale, while supplies last. They are \$10.25 for halves and \$10.00 for small and medium pieces.

## **OFFICE STAFF DEVOTIONS & MEETING**

The office staff has meetings and devotions each Wednesday at 1:00 pm. If there are any prayer requests, please let the church office know so we can add them to the prayer list.



## **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** Saturday December 14 at 5:30

Practice - Sun., Dec. 1 & Dec. 8  
1-3 p.m.

## **YOUTH CHRISTMAS CAROLING & PIZZA PARTY**

Will be after program practice on Dec. 8. from 3-6 Have your student wear a Christmas shirt or any red or green attire! If your child requires a car seat, we ask that you provide your own transportation.

## **BURDICK & FORTKAMP OPEN HOUSES**

They would like to invite you to each of their new homes in Effingham  
December 1 from 1-4 PM  
Burdicks: 717 S First Street  
Fortkamps: 1009 W Evergreen Ave.

## **LYDIA GUILD CHRISTMAS PARTY/MEETING**

Tuesday, December 3 at 6:00pm  
Bring your favorite finger food to share for the Party!

## **"DAY OF GIVING FOR CRISIS NURSERY"**

WCIA-TV is hosting a Day of Giving on Tuesday, Dec. 3 from 6 to 7p.m. at St. Anthony's Health Center to benefit the three crisis nurseries in IL including ours in Effingham. There will be a truck for loading donations and volunteers & staff will be on hand to help. They especially need diapers size 3-6; pull-ups; infant formula; individual snacks; baby wipes; and Clorox wipes.

## **HOMEFIRES**

Will begin in Jan., discussing "Unshakable Hope" by Max Lucado. Sign-up sheet is on the main hall bulletin board. Orientation is December 8<sup>th</sup> following the Sunday 10:30 service.

## **LIFELIGHT**

The first class will begin January 19 discussing the "Life of David". Orientation is Jan 12. Sign-up sheet is on the main hall bulletin board.



December 14 & 15  
before and after each service.  
Look forward to seeing you.

## **NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH?**

If you know of anyone that needs a ride to church, contact the church office, and we can furnish you one!

## **SHOP OUR SCRIP TABLE IN THE ATRIUM**

Gift cards are always the right size and color! The newest list of retailers came out on Nov. 24. You can place orders with us for these cards. Order early for your Christmas giving!

## THE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

Is still closed due to remodeling!

## DECEMBER FOOD PANTRY

Is in need of applesauce and Chunky Beef Soup.

## EATING PIE THIS WEEK?

The Eagle's Nest Preschool could use your used/clean aluminum pie pans!



## FUNDS RAISED FROM OUR HAITI HUNGER FIGHT EVENT

From the raffle \$275, Art \$192, Wine \$220, and one time donations \$1711. Donations made 11/17 as part of recurring commitments \$540. If all parties fulfill their commitments for the next year the total raised at this event would be \$6738. A great success!

## "TREE OF LIFE" TIN ART RAFFLE

Congratulations to Sherry Downey from Benton, KY. Thanks to everyone who participated, you provided over 4,800 meals to the children in Haiti Mesi.

## CHRISTMAS CHILD BOXES

71 boxes were delivered to the collection point. Thanks to ALL.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you like bulletin boards? We are looking for help changing out the church bulletin boards. Do you receive the Effingham Daily News? We could use some help with our "congregation in the news" for the bulletin board. Would you be willing to mail out our Cradle Roll Packs? Contact the church office. We can't wait to hear from you!

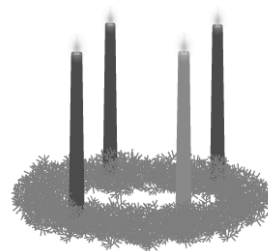
## PRAYER LIST

Shawn Bourland, Steven & Kathleen French, Craig Lindvahl, Deborah Wallin, Gerard Bierman, Tim Mueller, Joye Bushue, Austin Miller, Esta Johnson, Alan Phelps, Roselle McClure, Greg Lankford, Zach Fritcher, Lori Spears, Gerald Pontious, Voris Osborn, Lois Kyle, Joyce Schaefer, Craig Wolff, Nick Miller, Rochel Alwardt, John Holland, Lorri Mayberry, Marion Tolch, Ronnie Ziegler, Onda Wendte, Dave Wall, Vivian Kinkelaar, Erna Niccum, Jerry Niccum, Dianne Doty, Carolyn Reynolds, Ruth Buening, Julie Scott, Linda Button, Carter Frailey, & Cindy Myers.



I'm eager to walk with you through our first Advent and Christmas together. Our theme will be "**Behold The Child**" for our Advent Midweek Services (12:15 & 6:30pm Wednesdays),

Children's Christmas Program (5:30pm Dec 14), and Christmas Services. Please also take a devotion booklet home and use it from December 1 – January 6. Share a booklet with an unchurched friend, and invite them to behold Jesus with you! Observe Advent. Wait for Christmas. Behold The Child! -- Pastor Burdick



**CALENDAR**

**December 1-7, 2019**

SUNDAY	1	7:30 – 9:30 AM	FIRST SUNDAY BREAKFAST (Braille)
		8 & 10:30 AM	WORSHIP
		9:15 AM	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
		1-3 PM	CHILDRENS PROGRAM PRACTICE
		1-4 PM	BURDICK/FORTKAMP OPEN HOUSE
<i>PRESCHOOL CLASSES - MONDAY THRU FRIDAY 8:30 – 11:30 AM</i>			
MONDAY	2	5:00 PM	BD OF TRUSTEES
		5:30 PM	CHOIR
		6:30 PM	BD OF EARLY CHILDHOOD
TUESDAY	3	6:00 PM	LYDIA GUILD CHRISTMAS PARTY/MEETING
		6:30 PM	BUILDING COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY	4	12:15 & 6:30 PM	ADVENT SERVICE
		1:00 PM	STAFF DEVOTION
		7:30 PM	BELL CHOIR
FRIDAY	6		<i>PASTOR'S SABBATH</i>
SATURDAY	7	8:00 AM	WOMEN'S BIBLE MINISTRY-NIEMERGS
		9:30 AM	E.A.S.T.E.R CLASS
		5:30 PM	WORSHIP W/HC
SUNDAY DEC.	8	8 & 10:30AM	WORSHIP W/HC
		9:15 AM	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
		1-3 PM	CHILDRENS PROGRAM PRACTICE
		3-6 PM	YOUTH CHRISTMAS CAROLING & PIZZA PARTY

**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

- 12/2 Jeff Flach, Elliot Miller, Alvin Siebert & Britt Wendling
- 12/4 Kimberly Brummer, Alexander Gordon, Hali Schlechte, Eden Wendling & Kathy Burdick
- 12/7 Marcella Kennedy, Seth Russell, & Logan Sanders

**LIVE NATIVITY!**

On Saturday Dec. 21 from 6-8pm, we'll be having a live nativity! We need characters, carolers, a sheep and bales of straw. We're hoping to have enough people to work shorter shifts in case of bad weather. If you would like to help or have props, please sign up on the main hall bulletin board or call (or text) Donetta Ohnesorge (821-3300), Carolyn Wendte (821-6541), or Cathy Norris (821- 3656).

