

**THE EAGLE**  
St. John's Newsletter  
February 2, 2020


**FROM OUR PASTOR....**

Monday night I attended the Annual Meeting for our Lutheran Care Center in Altamont, and I was impressed – by the facility, the staff, and the message. I hope the blue newsletter in today's bulletin helps us to get to know the LCC even better.

Part of the message given by the staff that night was on the blessings and burdens that we Boomers are for a place like the LCC. Baby Boomers have grown accustomed to having things their way – to eat when they want, to have their own space, to do what they want. I know. I'm a Baby Boomer. Not all of that is bad, but much of it makes living together in community much more difficult. Boomers (and, well, ALL of us) need to remember that we live best when we live in fellowship with others. *It's not all about me.*

Pastor Rensner and I discussed after the meeting that the same sense of individualism is harmful in our life as the Church. We live much better when we're thinking about the community of the Church, and not just about what we personally want. *What does God desire? What's good for fellow members of the Body of Christ, including the next generation? Lord, how shall we then live?*

Thank God for the LCC and for the fellowship of His Church, communities of love and sacrifice!



P.S. Today we celebrate the retirement of Kathy Stremming in our 11:30am luncheon. However, she has agreed to continue helping us until we have the new Office Assistant in place and ready. Thanks, Kathy!

**OUR ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK**

Worship .....	380
Adult Bible Class.....	21
Lifelight .....	10
Confirmation Classes.....	13
Sunday School.....	33

Thank you for supporting God's work through St. John's.

Our offering received last weekend:

General Fund: ..... \$9441.50  
Building Fund..... \$60.00

We will soon hire a new Office Assistant for the St. John's Office. Applications and job description are available in the church office. Deadline: February 5. 28 hours per week (Tu-Fr, 8:00-11:30am, 12:30-4:00pm). \$14.00/hr. Excellent skills with people and computers are desired.

**FREE CHURCH DIRECTORIES!**

Although they are dated, you may want a one for a keepsake. Looking forward to a new edition in the future! Pick up a copy from the Welcome Center.

St. John's Altar Guild members have been discussing the use of gluten-free wafers and non-alcoholic wine. We are wanting to gauge the need so that we can meet our members' needs. If you desire to have these available for you or a loved one, please contact Lisa Norton at 821-7033. Once the need has been established, we will provide additional information about how they will be offered during communion.

*God's blessings, Lisa Norton*

## PRAYER LIST

Shawn Bourland, Steven & Kathleen French, 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, John Holland, Lorri Mayberry, Marion Tolch, Ronnie Ziegler, Bob Miller, Evelyn Shumaker, Patsy Latch, Rochel Alwardt, Paulena Romero, Jerry Niccum, Joyce Wenhe, Janet Brinkopf, Julie Scott, Jan Pike, Zack Janis, James Seggelke, Bill Draper, Howard Haake, Lois Schlechte, Carla Bierman, Marlin Alwardt, Pastor Ted Gall, all members of the Armed Forces, for the family of Jean Slifer and thanksgiving for the birth of Caden James, born to Brendan and Brittany Keller, the Baptism of Eden and Marci Probst

### VFW AUXILIARY MEALS FEBRUARY 7 and 21

The VFW Auxiliary is hosting meals to support local food pantries Feb.7 and 21 from 5 to 6:30pm at the Effingham VFW Post, 2304 Veterans Drive in Effingham. The food pantries benefiting include our St. John's pantry!

### SUPER BOWL PARTY!!! ALL AGES WELCOME!!!

#### Sunday February 2 in our gym

Pregame starts at 4:30PM Kick off is at 5:30PM

The Board of Education along with the Board of Trustees would like for you to join them for fellowship and some Super Bowl fun! Please bring a snack to share.

There will be a basket set up for a free will donation to support the Food Pantry.

If you have any questions, contact Brent 217-343-2841 or Jessica 217-690-9268

***Benefit for Jan Pike – March 14, at the Country Haven Event Center, 11am – 1am. Support Jan and her family. Proceeds will go towards offsetting the cost of Jan and a caregiver living in St. Louis for 3 months post-transplant. Check the featured events on the flyer on our bulletin boards!***

Do you have knowledge of how Google Docs, or other online products, can assist us in sharing the internal communication of the congregation? For instance, can we have one portal on our website ([www.stjohnsLCMS.net](http://www.stjohnsLCMS.net)) at which each board or committee could access the agendas and minutes for their work together? If this is in your wheelhouse, send pastor an email or come talk with him. Thanks!

### NEWS FROM THE NEST

- *Mommy and Me Class Enrollment is OPEN! Pick up a form from the main hall bulletin boards! Session runs from February 7 – March 13 from 9-10:30am*
- *2020-21 Eagle's nest preschool enrollment forms are on the bulletin board! Take one to share with a family member, friend or neighbor!*
- *LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK was a huge success. Thanks to all!*

### Parents of 6, 7 and 8<sup>th</sup> graders,

Please help fill in the services where we still need an acolyte. You'll find the sign up sheet on the main fall bulletin board.

**CALENDAR-----FEBRUARY 2-9, 2020**

SUNDAY	2	8 & 10:30AM	WORSHIP
		9:15AM	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
		11:30AM	Kathy Stremming's Retirement
		4:30PM	SUPERBOWL PARTY
MONDAY	3	5:00PM	BOARD OF TRUSTEES
		5:30PM	CHOIR
<i>PRESCHOOL CLASSES – M-F 8:30-11:30AM -- FIELD TRIP MONDAY AND TUESDAY!</i>			
TUESDAY	4	9:00AM	PASTOR CONFERENCE, STRASBURG
		6:30PM	BUILDING COMMITTEE
		7:00PM	LYDIA GUILD
WEDNESDAY	5	1:00PM	STAFF MEETING & DEVOTIONS
		6:00PM	BELLS
THURSDAY	6	1:30PM	ADULT CATECHISM BIBLE STUDY
FRIDAY	7		<i>PASTOR'S SABBATH</i>
		9:30 – 10:00AM	<i>MOMMY AND ME CLASS</i>
SATURDAY	8	8:00AM	PRAISE BAND PRACTICE
		8:00AM	MEN'S BIBLE STUDY
		9:30AM	E.A.S.T.E.R. CLASS
		5:30 PM	WORSHIP W H/C
SUNDAY	9	8:00& 10:30 AM	WORSHIP W H/C
		9:15AM	CHRISTIAN ED
		1:00 – 3:00PM	MOTHER/SON GAME DAY

**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

- 2/2 Wade Bloemer, Brody Brown, Howard Janis
- 2/3 Todd Martin, Rachael Pennington
- 2/4 Alyson Followell, Mikayla Hanks

**ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**

- 2/2/02 Brad & Brenda Osborne
- 2/3/93 Jim & Vicky Keith

**PASTOR GALL'S ADDRESS:**

**Well wishes can be sent to:  
St. John's Hospital  
800 East Carpenter St.  
Springfield, IL 62769**

**FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR FEBRUARY**  
*Chili Peanut Butter*

**Lent** begins this month! Ash Wednesday is February 26, and our Services will be at 12:15 and 6:30PM

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT**

**February 2 – Presentation of our Lord & Purification of Mary/Candlemas**

**Luke 2:24 – "... and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.' "**

Throughout the Old and New Testaments, God gives us the pattern of proportional giving. If you look at Leviticus 12, you'll see that the sacrifice for purification is either a lamb or this pair of birds if the family had no means to buy a lamb. God calls us to give in proportion to how He has blessed us, and, of course, Jesus sets the pattern by giving not only a portion but His all.

## YOUTH SPONSORED HAPPENINGS

### **MOTHER/SON GAME DAY SUNDAY, FEB. 9<sup>TH</sup> 1 – 3PM / SUPERHERO THEME!**

Games & food Admission \$5 per kid *Signup on the bulletin board TODAY!*

**Come dressed as your favorite super hero duo or choose casual attire!**

### **FATHER/DAUGHTER DANCE SUNDAY, FEB. 16<sup>TH</sup> 1 – 3PM / UNICORN THEME!**

Games & food Admission \$5 per kid *Signup on bulletin board by February 9<sup>th</sup>*

**Dress up clothes not required. Daddy and daughters can choose!**

### **FOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH – FEBRUARY 16, DINNER AT BURDICK'S - 5PM**

### **ALL AGES PICKLEBALL - FEBRUARY 23 – MARCH 29 FROM 1-4 PM**

- No gym activities on March 22 – See Bowling event below!

### **ASH WEDNESDAY SOUP LUNCHEON & SUPPER FEBRUARY 26**

- Lunch served from 11:30 – 12:15 and 12:45 – 1:30
- Supper is 5:00-6:15pm

### **LOCK-IN –FRIDAY, MARCH 6 & 7 - ARRIVAL 8:00PM – 7:00AM DEPARTURE**

- Everyone arrives by 8:30pm and once locked in **NO LEAVING** until 7am
- Activities and food thru the night - Breakfast in the morning
- Can bring a friend, Signup on bulletin board--*Permission slips required*

### **FAMILY BOWLING @ SILVER DOLLAR LANES FOR ALL AGES**

#### **SUNDAY, MARCH 22 - 2 – 4PM**

- No lane or shoe cost to our congregation
- Snacks provided - Drinks can be purchased at the bowling alley

### **BINGO! BASKET RAFFLE! SPAGETTI SUPPER, SUNDAY, MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup>**

#### **5:00pm Spaghetti Supper / 6:00 – 7:30pm Bingo & Silent Auction**

- Baskets will be displayed in the gym starting Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> for those attending church that evening and will stay on display until Sunday evening. Winners will be announced at the conclusion of Bingo
- Tickets must be purchased in advanced: \$8 for adults, \$4 for ages 3-12, Free for kids 2 and under. If you must purchase a ticket at the door: \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids
- Everyone is invited to contribute a basket for the silent auction by dropping them off at the church by Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> (Remember Easter will be 2 weeks from this date and everyone enjoys an Easter basket!)

### **EASTER BREAKFAST APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup> 7:00 – 10:15AM**

### **VBS – JUNE 15 – 18<sup>TH</sup> 6:00 – 8:00PM**

### **LARRY BRANDT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS** Watch for dates to apply

**In an effort to save heat in the Education Building, please close the doors to all classrooms after Sunday sessions. Thank you!**

**WE ARE GROWING! Our St. John's Prayer Partner ministry is now 39 Prayer Partners strong. We welcome YOU!**

...Prayer requests from members of our congregation are received and Prayer Partners are then notified by phone, by text or by email of the prayer request. Prayer Partners then pause and pray. It's that simple. If you'd like to become a **St. John's Prayer Partner**, either phone or text Julie Scott at 343.3047 or email [stjprayerpartners@gmail.com](mailto:stjprayerpartners@gmail.com)

### **This Week for Sunday School**

**LESSON 10** The Sermon on the Mount is the topic for this week's lesson, "Mountain Message." Jesus reminds His listeners not to worry about things they cannot control. The birds of the air and the flowers of the field serve as examples of God's continuing care for His creation. Likewise, we have no need for worry or anxiousness, because God provides and cares for us.

We pray for the men and women of our **Armed Forces**, including:

- Bob and Karla Flach's oldest grandson, **Paul Smith**, who is being deployed. He is a member of 1st squadron 17th Calvary division, 82nd combat aviation brigade at Fort Bragg.
- Dennis and Nitelle Lading have an extended family member, **Sam Kehoe**, Captain with 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne in Fort Bragg
- Son of Melissa & Jeff Vail & grandson of Marty Vail, Specialist **Nathan Vail** (Army)
- **Aaron Smith**, husband of Blair, (Keller), son-in-law of Rick & Dana Keller, serving in Qatar
- **Baileigh Longwell**, daughter of John Longwell, stationed at Naval Submarine Base, Bangor, Kitsap Peninsula, WA
- **Jason Mette**, husband of Megan (Latch) Mette, Navy deep sea diver

*If you know if other members our Armed Forces for whom we can be praying, please send the relevant information to the Church Office via phone, email or written note. Thank you.*

### **LIFE NOTES**

#### **for February 2 – Epiphany IV**

God has chosen weak and lowly so that no human being need boast (1 Corinthians 1:27-29). This is the power of Christ and His cross, that God gave His Firstborn for our transgressions so we don't have to (Micah 6:7). And since He has made children and saints of such as us, may no one prevent Him from performing as mightily for our unborn neighbors or elderly ones, and may nothing hinder us from advocating and celebrating it!



Next Sunday we will celebrate the mission and ministry of Lutheran Hour Ministries!  
Do you listen to The Lutheran Hour?

## **TRINITY HOPE NEWSLETTER**

"Because I live, you also will live." John 14:19

At 4:45 PM on January 12, 2010 a strong earthquake struck below the mountains on the Southern coast of Haiti; bringing destruction from Port-auPrince to the city of Leogand several miles to the west. There were an estimated 350,000 lives lost and more injured; and the majority of the survivors were left homeless. A person from my home congregation asked me "What do people do at such time when they don't have Jesus?" We who have peace know that we are saved because of what Jesus Christ did for us on the cross; but what about the lost that died clinging to the lies of the vodou priest. What did the unbelievers do without a Savior to help them? Haiti claims to be over 80% Christian but you need to factor in that an estimated 65% of the county actively practices vodou. You cannot serve the Lord and the devil too.

In the days following the quake, stories began to make the news of Christians singing hymns of thanksgiving to their Triune God and praying out loud in the dark streets in the evenings. Faith, their faith, was alive in the camps where they had found refuge. Their faith was encouraging others to give thanks for their life as they had more work to accomplish for their Heavenly Father. The vodou priests had no reply for the strong earthquake; the power of the Triune God silenced their efforts to bring people to continue to fear their evil spirits. Their 'religion' could only bring additional fear, pain and suffering and could not bring any comfort for the vodou followers; all the priests could do was to watch as their followers limped through this tragedy.

Our Triune God has done so much for His children as they grieve, give thanks, survive and as they rebuild. There are clear differences between Christianity and vodou; we clearly see and understand that we need a Savior and the vodou followers always need another daily 'miracle' from the vodou priest; for a price. We need a Savior who will rescue us from our pains and problems; who will forgive us for our sins. In the Person of Jesus, our loving Father has given us such a Savior. In Jesus we have forgiveness of our sins and the promise that there is a world where there are no tragedies like Haiti has seen; we have a mansion prepared for us in Heaven. This message is being taught to the children attending Christian schools in Haiti.

Your prayers and generous donations to Trinity HOPE are helping these children to take the message to the lost throughout the neighborhoods in Haiti. Let it be our prayer that the people of Haiti may be brought to this Savior who can help them in this life and bring them to the next; you know the place where there is no darkness and no tears.

*Written by Joy Brinkmeyer*