

THE EAGLE

St. John's Newsletter

November 29, 2020

The advent wreath in our home is out of its box. The playing field is prepared. The annual "advent wreath game" in our home involves reading God's Word first, then the competition for who can blow out the candles from a long distance. It's silly, and it's wonderful. God's Word for us this Advent and Christmas is going to be delivered by use of *Portals of Prayer*. Then on January 1 we'll begin using *"Today's Light."* Maybe that's the way it will be for you, too. It's my hope and prayer that you will slow down and observe Advent, including home devotions and an advent wreath that increases your peace in Christ in this busy season. Enjoy the journey!

I feel like many of us spend time thanking people for their patience as we deal with the social distancing requirements, including here at church. Thank you to everyone who has started to sign up for our worship services. We know that Christmas Eve is going to be very different, and perhaps you've seen that the first two services are already full on our online sign-up sheets. We are working on a plan to make our overflow in the gym a lovely and effective place of worship, too. We will let you know if that increases our capacity significantly. Thank you for your patience!



The Facebook live noon devotions I've been posting are going to change a little bit this week. On Mondays I'll do a hymn devotion similar to what's been going on all year. On Wednesdays I'm going to post a video that looks toward the coming Sunday's lessons, not using a hymn, but emphasizing a message designed to help our non-churched friends think about life and the need for the church in their life. If you find it helpful, I would suggest you personally share it with a non-churched friend in order that it would spark a conversation about Jesus and His love.

Our Sunday school teachers and students are preparing a modified Christmas program for the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Small groups of students will assist with each of the four services December 19 and 20. I'm looking forward to it.

The Old Testament reading today includes this wonderful message of law and Gospel. **"But now, O Lord, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You are our potter; we are all the work of Your hand."** (Isaiah 64:8) It is good to be in His hand! A blessed new year,

Fraser Fuschell



Angel Tree Toy Drive

The deadline for the Angel Tree for the FISH Christmas Store will be **Dec. 6th**. You can put your unwrapped gifts around the Christmas tree in the Atrium. Thank you!

Christmas Eve

Thurs., Dec. 24th 4 PM
6:30 PM, & 11 PM
w/Holy Communion

Christmas Day

Fri., Dec. 25th 9 AM, w/Holy Communion

Sat., Dec. 26, NO Worship Services

Sun, Dec 27th 8 AM, w/Holy Communion

Sun., Dec 27th 10:30 AM
w/Holy Communion

Advent Midweek Services:

Wednesdays, December 2, 9, and 16.
12:15 PM & 6:30 PM

Our Response to the Gospel

Our Attendance Last Week

In Person Attendance	232
Online Worship Views	176
Sunday School Pre-K-HS.....	35
LifeLight Class	9
Adult Sunday School Class.....	--

Our Offerings Last Week

General Fund.....	\$5,149.25
Thanksgiving Offering	\$30.00
Online General Fund.....	\$2,967.00
Total General Fund Offering	\$8,146.25

Trinity Hope Offering **\$3,182**

LCMS Stewardship Thought

1 Corinthians 1:9 – “God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” The faithfulness of God is our great comfort. He has made promises to us, and He will keep them. He is kind and loving toward us, and He will not break faith with us. This gives us the confidence to step out in faith, to leave fear behind. When it comes to following the Lord’s commandments for our daily lives, we know His will is best for us because our God is faithful.

This Week’s Sunday School Lesson

Lesson 14 Exodus 17: 1-7

In today’s “Waterworks” lesson, we learn about how God provided water from the rock. Having moved their camp from the wilderness of Sin to Rephidim, the Israelites face a new challenge—no water. Despite His daily food supply, the people doubt God’s ability to provide water for them and their livestock. Moses cries out the Lord, who instructs him to strike the rock with his staff. Moses does so and water pours out, providing all that the people need.

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

“This Thanksgiving, let’s remember exactly what God has bought for us with the blood of His Son—not just anything, but everything that matters: Pardon from sin and release from guilt. Peace with God and a home in heaven. We come empty-handed to this banquet of blessings. No marshmallow-topped side dish of good works can earn us a place at this buffet. We have nothing to offer God in exchange, yet ‘[t]he LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy’ (Psalm 126:3).” Sarah Habban, *Time of*

Prayer List

Ruth Gall, David Winter, Cassie Power, Brett Kull, Kenneth Longwell, Florence Genaust, Marlene Bushue, Karen Dall, Delores Miller, Rev. Dr. Wayne Hoffman, Marlene Walker, Dwight Kelpzig, Gerald Pruemer, Rose Boggs, John Romero, Tim Mueller, Craig Wolff, Mike McWhortor, Mary Wolfmeyer, Bertie Powell, Zach Fritcher, Evelyn Shumaker, and Janet Brinkopf.

Members of the Armed Forces, including Paul Smith, Nathan Vail, Baileigh Longwell, Jason Mette, Gabriel Walker, Johnathon Schuette, Henry Bielenberg; and all first responders of our community and nation

Poinsettias

It is time to purchase your poinsettias for Christmas. This year, they are \$14.99 for an 8" plant. Please place your order by calling the church office by December 13th.

Thank you!

Thanks to all who helped with the church decorating!

December Food Pantry Donation

Brownie Mix & Spaghetti Sauce

Thank you!

Thanks for the non-perishable food items for the Concordia Seminary Food Bank.

Youth Board events are BACK!!!

Cookies—Pre-order cookies. Fill out the insert in the bulletin or call Cathy Norris 217-821-3656 or Christine Niebrugge 217-663-0719 to place your order. Cost is \$6/dz. **Order by Dec. 6th** and pick up and pay for your order at the Dec. 19th or 20th church services.

Grab-n-Go Advent Meal Dec. 2nd. We will serve 1 hour before each service and 30 min. after each service. Menu is Chili & Vegetable Soup, Hot Dog, Chocolate Chip Bar & Water. Free will donation. NO SIT DOWN DINING.

Live Christmas Nativity Scene – Dec. 12th from 6 – 8 pm. If you wish to participate, sign-up on the bulletin board in the hallway. We are still in need of a camel, sheep, and/or mule.

Thank you!

Many thanks to everyone who has been working on the new audiovisual system. Not all of the kinks are worked out yet, but many are, and soon we will be able to stream our services live on YouTube and Facebook. DVDs will still be sent to our shut-ins and the service will be broadcast on Mediacom channel 81 at 10:00 AM on Sundays.

Lydia Guild

Lydia Guild will meet on Tues., Dec 1 at 6:00 pm to complete year end items. Please bring your "Red Stocking" mission projects, mites for our missed meetings, if you have not already turned them into the church office or to Marilyn. **NO** refreshments will be served.

CALENDAR-----Nov 29 – Dec 6, 2020

Sunday	29	8:00 & 10:30 AM	Worship Services
		9:15 AM	Sunday School
		10:00 AM	Worship Service/Mediacom Channel 81
			5 th Sunday Food Pantry Offering
<i>Preschool Classes – Monday, Tues., Wed, Thurs., & Friday 8:30 – 11:30 AM</i>			
Monday	30	12:00 PM	Pastor's Devotion on Facebook
Tuesday	1	9:00 AM	Pastor Conference, Shelbyville
		6:00 PM	Lydia Guild
Wednesday	2	12:00 PM	Pastor's Devo on Facebook
		12:15 PM & 6:30 PM	Advent Service
		1:00 PM	Office Staff Devotion/Meeting
			Grab-n-Go, 1 hr. before & 30 min. after service
		5:00 PM	Confirmation Class
Thursday	3	6:30 PM	Catechism Class
Friday	4		Pastor's Sabbath
Saturday	5	8:00 AM	Praise Band Practice
		4:00 PM & 5:30 PM	Worship Service
Sunday	6		CID Campus Ministry Appeal
		8:00 & 10:30 AM	Worship Services
		9:15 AM	Sunday School & LifeLight
		10:00 AM	Worship Service/Mediacom Channel 81
			Cookie Orders are Due

Birthdays This Week

- 11/29 Dean Wetherell & Stephanie Sams
- 11/30 Austin Miller, Ava Wernsing, Bob Kohnert, David Worman, Emersyn Jeffries & Nancy Wendt
- 12/02 Jeffrey Flach, Elliott Miller, Alvin Siebert, & Britt Wendling
- 120/4 Kimberly Brummer, Kathy Burdick, Alexander Gordon, Hali Schlechte, & Eden Wendling
- 12/05 Dylan Hartman

Anniversaries This Week

- 11/29/80 George & Valena Soltwedel



First Sunday of Advent