

THE EAGLE

St. John's Newsletter

January 3, 2021

From Our Pastor...

One of our college students at WIU stopped using the term "Christian" to describe herself – using, instead, the words "Christ follower." While I haven't followed her in that small detail, I am exceedingly glad that she's still following Christ, and I understand what she was trying to emphasize. To be a Christian is to follow Jesus Christ. It is a pledge of faithfulness to God.

Beginning the year 2021 this weekend, it's my prayer and intention that we, St. John's Lutheran Church of Effingham, will walk into the new year with courage and joy to be faithful. Faithful Christians. That's fairly easy to say, but it will surely be hard to do.

Lord, help us. Help us to be faithful.

When our hearts lure us to the path of ease, may we be faithful. When the pressures of family and friends lure us to compromise truth, may we be faithful. When the enemies of God and His Church expect us to follow them, may we lead them with love and faithfulness to God. Faithfulness will be our quest.

*"Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend **faithfulness.**"* (Psalm 37:3)

Lord, help us. Thank you, because we know You will!



"Following Jesus is hardly a matter of being nice. Neither should Christians concede the least credence to the notion that the world has even the slightest authority to define for them what it looks like to follow Christ. Jesus has done that for us; and being nice doesn't seem to have been a high priority...Christians causing offense...then, is to be expected...What matters is what God thinks; and the question that needs to be asked...is not whether the world thinks we are nice, but whether those who claim to follow Christ are actually following Him." –

Dr. Joel Biermann (Concordia Journal; Fall 2020)

In 2020 we read through Luther's Small Catechism in our worship Services. In 2021, we will read through the latter half of the Bible in our homes, beginning with Isaiah. It's not too late to dive into our two-year Bible reading journey, using "Today's Light." Over 50 households are beginning this week! See the ordering instructions on the bulletin board in the main hallway. Ask the office staff if you have questions.



Wednesday is the Day of Epiphany! *Let us pray:* O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles.

Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Offering Envelopes

Please be sure to pick up your 2021 offering envelopes. They are on a table in the Fellowship Hall. Be careful to maintain your distance while doing so. Thank you!

LCMS Stewardship Thought

1 Kings 3:4 – “And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.” Now that’s a big sacrifice! But, of course, Solomon offered sacrifices in proportion to his wealth. The Lord had blessed him greatly, so his sacrifices were correspondingly large. Jesus also praised the widow’s mite, a small amount of money, but a great sacrifice in proportion to her means.

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

“God is not just our God or the God of just our people or just our nation or our congregation or our denomination or our demographic category or our tribe or our ethnicity or our language. There is no justice if it’s just about just us. No, God is the God of all time and all space and all people. In Christ, all things hang together. Step into your new year with this fresh recognition that the Holy Spirit wants to fill every nook and cranny of your life until you overflow with God’s everlasting love for everybody.”

Pastor John Nunes on The Lutheran Hour – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org

This Week’s Sunday School Lesson

Numbers 13:1-2, 25-14:24

Moses chooses one man from each of the twelve tribes and sends them to spy on the land God has promised. The spies report a land of great plenty but occupied by mighty, fearsome people. Despite Caleb and Joshua’s pleas to seize the land promised to them, the people rebel. Moses pleads for mercy, and God promises to care for His people. At the same time, He condemns the Israelites to forty years of wandering in the wilderness. Of all the adults, only Joshua and Caleb will live to enter the Promised Land.

Your Response to the Gospel

Our Attendance Last Week

In Person Attendance

Christmas Eve.....	368
Christmas Eve Online Viewers	162
Christmas Day.....	66
Christmas Day Online Viewers	139
Sunday, Dec. 27.....	173
Online Worship Views.....	149
Sunday School Pre-K-HS.....	-0-
Adult Sunday School Class.....	-0-

Our Offerings Last Week

General Fund	\$21,087.00
Online General Fund.....	\$1,850.00
Total General Fund Offering	\$22,927.00

Building Fund.....\$70.00

Prayer List

Vi Kirchoff, Anna Mae Gibson, Bob & Pat Eckhart, Irene Esch, Bob Miller, Ruth Gall, David Winter, Cassie Power, Brett Kull, Karen Dall, Delores Miller, Marlene Walker, Gerald Pruemer, Rose Boggs, Tim Mueller, Craig Wolff, Mike McWhortor, Mary Wolfmeyer, Bertie Powell, Zach Fritcher, Evelyn Shumaker, and Janet Brinkopf.

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

Church Library

Check out the Church Library. It’s almost finished, and now includes a tv which streams the worship Service in the same way that the Atrium tv does. The Library can be an excellent place for a parent to take a child who needs some extra care temporarily during worship (remember: we love having infants and children in worship ... that’s the only way we learn to worship!). The Library is located at the South end of the 5th Floor.



Chatelain and Baja Schools

We already help feed the children a daily meal in these two schools. We want to provide each child a **Bible in their own language** so they can be fed truth and grace in Jesus for their soul! **Our Evangelism Board is seeking to raise \$2,700.** Your donations will be matched by another donor to meet the complete project cost of \$5,400. Praise God! To make a special donation to this project you may write your check to "St. John's Lutheran" with a memo for Trinity Hope BIBLES. Thank you.

Altamont Lutheran Care Center

The Executive Board of Directors Meeting was held December 28, 2020. Details of the meeting are on the bulletin board.

PLEASE HELP US

The counting teams & office staff would greatly appreciate your help! We would so appreciate it if you would please start putting the amount of your offering on the outside of the envelope.

Thank you so much!

Consider this

*"When you get to your wit's end,
you'll find that God dwells there."*

Also this:

Lent begins next month (February 17)!

Wow!

Stephen Ministries

We're glad to announce that we will relaunch our Stephen Ministries at St. John's this year! Janet Martins begins her Bridge Training Course this week to be our Stephen Ministries Leader. Pray for her. Thank you, Janet! Watch for news later this Spring as we take the next steps in again having a full Stephen Ministry in our congregation and community.

Help Needed

Lydia Guild is looking for additional women or men to be added to our funeral call list for desert donation and/or a few hours of time to help during the luncheon. Contact Brenda Wendling (217-240-6963) if you can help.

Thank You

to all of our congregational Officers and Board members (elected and appointed). Your servant-leadership is important and appreciated.

Annual Pro-Life Breakfast

When: Sun, Jan. 10th from 7 AM-12:30 PM

Where: Teutopolis Banquet Hall
(Formerly known as the KC Hall)
210 S. Pearl

What: Drive-thru breakfast
Whole Hog Sausage & Eggs.
Free Will Offering

Questions, text Susan at 217-663-2084

This is the primary fundraiser for Effingham Area Right to Life. If you are unable to attend, please consider sending a donation to: P. O. Box 861
Effingham, IL 62401

Thank you for your support for all life!
For more information, please see the flier on the bulletin board

Thank You

Thank you for the many expressions of love and Christmas cheer that we have received. All of them, including the anonymous ones, are wonderful! We know that our church family appreciates pastoral ministry, and we appreciate you.

Thank you and Merry Christmas! –
Pastor and Gloria Fortkamp,
Pastor and Kathy Burdick

CALENDAR-----Jan 3, 2021 – Jan. 10,2021

Sunday	3	8:00 & 10:30 AM	Worship Services
		9:15 AM	Sunday School
		10:00 AM	Worship Service/Mediacom Channel 81
<i>Preschool—Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday</i>			
Monday	4		Pastor's Devotion on Facebook
		4:30 PM	Board of Trustees
Tuesday	5	6:30 PM	Building Committee
Wednesday	6		Pastor's Devotion on Facebook
		1:00 PM	Office Staff Devotion/Meeting
		5:00 PM	Confirmation Class
Thursday	7	6:30 PM	Adult Bible Study
Friday	8		Pastor's Sabbath
Saturday	9	8:00 AM	Praise Band Practice
		9:00 AM	Undecorate the Church
		4:00 & 5:30 PM	Worship Services w/HC
Sunday	10	8:00 & 10:30 AM	Worship Services w/HC
		9:15 AM	Sunday School
		10:00 AM	Worship Service/Mediacom Channel 81

Birthdays This Week

- 01/03 Sandy Devall
- 01/04 Kay Boerngen
- 01/05 Cathy Bloemer & Christopher Bahrns
- 01/06 Jeremy Fritch
- 01/07 Dale Walls, Dawson Wyckoff, & Teri Schaefer
- 01/08 Charity Ozenkoski, Jack Watson, Kateleigh Zeigler, Saray Wyckoff, & Tate Niebrugge
- 01/09 Jessica Fritch, Madison Budde, & Marilyn Schaefer

January Food Pantry Donation

Chunky Beef Soup/Fruit Cocktail

Next Food Distribution

Tuesday, January 12 from 3-4 PM

Upcoming Meetings

Church Council

Tuesday, January 19 at 7:00pm.

Voters Meeting

Tuesday, January 26 at 7:00pm

For Sale

The church is selling the big black printer which is in the Conference Room. If you know a church, organization, or small business who needs one, please contact Dave Budde.

Undecorating

We will be undecorating the church Saturday, January 9 at 9 AM. Any and all help would be greatly appreciated!