

THE EAGLE

St. John's Newsletter

December 20, 2020

Service Sign-Up

Be sure to sign up for **ALL** services. You can sign up online, or by calling the office.

Offering Envelopes

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

My Dear Church Family,

Advent has been good to us, and for us. The extra Services and devotions around the Wreath have helped us focus upon the family tree of Jesus. Today we light the fourth Advent candle and hear the last solo ending with "...til God makes all things right." On Christmas Day we'll all sing "We celebrate with light, for God makes all things right!" In a year that has worn us down more than usual, we're confident that God eventually does make everything right. In His time. He is good, and that makes life good.

Thank you to all of the Sunday School teachers, musicians, parents, board members, and students who have worked hard to prepare for worship this weekend!

Thank you for increasing your use of masks here at church. Keep it up. I appreciate it, and many others do, too.

Christmas Eve will be a grand night of worship and praise. We'll all get to worship, some of us in the Sanctuary and some in the Fellowship Hall. The video and audio system in the Fellowship Hall is large and effective. In the first two Services that night, I will serve Communion in the

Fellowship Hall, and Pastor Fortkamp in the Sanctuary. The size of the 11:00 pm Service will not necessitate use of the Hall. I think we have a good and safe plan, and I thank you for your cooperation.

We have been leaning hard upon all of our usher teams with these extra Services. I thank all of the men and women (and their families!) who have adapted and served so very well. You are blessings to us.

Note that we do not have Services next Saturday, December 26.

Finally, here's one of my favorite hymns for Christmas. It captures the history and the intimacy of the Incarnation of Our Lord. Picture the scene. Worship the Lord:

Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the
angel's word,
I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely
stirred;

But there is room and welcome there for
me,

But there is room and welcome there for
me!

In that unlikely place I find Him as they
said:

Sweet newborn babe, how frail! And in a
manger bed:

A still, small voice to cry one day for me,

A still, small voice to cry one day for me.
(LSB 369)

He must have cried when he was an infant.
He cried out "It is finished" from the cross,
and He exclaimed His resurrection victory
on Easter. For you and your neighbors!



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

New Year's Services

New Year's Eve: 6:30pm Worship

New Year's Day: 9:00am Worship

Pastor Mike Koschmann
will be our guest preacher!

Our Response to the Gospel

Our Attendance Last Week

In Person Attendance.....	292
Online Worship Views	119
Sunday School Pre-K-HS.....	48
Adult Sunday School Class	20
Advent Services	77

Our Offerings Last Week

General Fund	\$9,037.05
Online General Fund	\$1,835
Advent	\$641
Total General Fund Offering	\$11,254.05

Building Fund **\$188.28**

LCMS Stewardship Thought

2 Samuel 7:4 – “But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan. . .” Nathan thought David’s idea was great, so he blessed it with the Lord’s name. But, later that night, the Word of the Lord set him straight. The Word of the Lord must be the basis for what we think, say, and do in God’s Kingdom – not our own desires or whims.

Food Pantry Distribution

Tuesday, December 22, 3-4 PM

December Food Pantry Donation

Brownie Mix & Spaghetti Sauce

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

“As we look forward to Christmas dinner and the celebration of our Savior’s birth, let us remember that Christ’s coming into the world began with an unexpected pregnancy. Mary of Nazareth was unmarried and certainly had reason to be confused and afraid when she was asked to carry the Son of God. But she courageously let God’s plan unfold for her and her Child and brought our Savior into this world, despite her uncertain circumstances.”

*Right to Life of Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life •
www.lutheransforlife.org*

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.

Prayer List

Irene Esch, Ilda Wendling, Audrey Brinker, Carla Fox, Bob Miller, Don Tieffel, Greg Lankford, Ruth Gall, David Winter, Cassie Power, Brett Kull, 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.

Thanksgiving with Eldon & Judy Joergens on their 60th wedding anniversary on Dec. 18.

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

Eagles Nest in the News



The Effingham Dairy Queen knows that our future is with the youth of our community and they recognize

Owen Hackman of

Eagles Nest Pre School as the Nov. Shining Star award winner.

Even during this Covid 19 medical concern our kids need to be encouraged for their good efforts. He was selected by school staff based on preset standards.

Owen is pictured with Brooklyn Baugher of Effingham DQ while wearing her face mask & presenting Owen his monthly plaque in appreciation of a job well done & a certificate for a free meal from DQ .

Thanks to Eagles Nest & Owen's parents for their strong support. When he grows up, Owen wants to be a professional Jeep driver.



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.

Congratulations

Congratulations and Thanksgiving for 60 years of marriage to Eldon & Judy Joergens

FISH Annual Effingham Co.

Christmas Dinner

Effingham Co. FISH Organization is sponsoring the Annual Free Eff. Co. Christmas Day Dinner on Friday, Dec. 25, 2020. Due to COVID, there will **NOT** be a Congregate Meal. All meals will be delivered or available for curbside pickup at The Beecher City Kluthe Center in Beecher City between 11:30 am - 12 pm. Donations & volunteers for the event are appreciated.

For more information, please see the informational flyer on the bulletin board.

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

A 50/50 raffle will also be offered.

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

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.

CALENDAR-----Dec. 20 – Dec. 27, 2020

Sunday	20	8:00 & 10:30 AM	Worship Services /Children's Program
		9:15 AM	Sunday School
		10:00 AM	Worship Service/Mediacom Channel 81
			Youth Cookie Pick-Up
<i>No Preschool—Christmas Break</i>			
Monday	21	12:00 PM	Pastor's Devotion on Facebook
		12:00 PM	Board of Evangelism
Tuesday	22	3-4 PM	Food Pantry
Wednesday	23	10:00 AM	Pastor's Devotion on Facebook
		1:00 PM	Office Staff Devotion/Meeting
			No Confirmation Class
Thursday	24	12:00 PM	Office Closes for Christmas Eve
		4:00 PM	Worship w/HC
		6:30 PM	Worship w/HC
		11:00 PM	Worship w/HC
Friday	25		Office Closed
		9:00 AM	Worship w/HC
Saturday	26	8:00 AM	Praise Band Practice
			No Services
Sunday	27	8:00 & 10:30 AM	Worship Services
			No Sunday School
		10:00 AM	Worship Service/Mediacom Channel 81

Birthdays This Week

- 12/20 Ryan Mayberry
- 12/21 Gary Fortkamp, John Mellendorf,
Joyce Marxman, & Leo Wyckoff
- 12/22 Carol Lading & Wilma Krueger
- 12/23 Anne Stine, Patrick Romero,
Renee Kremer & Travis Barr
- 12/24 Carla Bierman, Emmeline Flach,
Gary Norris, & Tommy Quance
- 12/26 Clifford Traub, Eugene Koebele,
Mitchell Haller, &
Shannon Stuemke

Anniversaries This Week

- 12/21/96 Philip & Shannon Stuemke
- 12/21/13 Aaron & Blair Smith
- 12/22/06 Robert & Joanna Davies
- 12/25/96 Brian & Jill Marxman

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.