

THE EAGLE

St. John's Newsletter

December 27, 2020

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!

From Our Pastor...

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.”
(Galatians 4:4-5)

Redemption and adoption are God's profound Christmas gifts to His people. Thank Him every day! I'm also mindful of the gifts of God's people – how you are a gift to our ministry together here at St. John's. I sat down and started writing a list of the people who work together to keep our congregational ministry going, and it was both encouraging and overwhelming. I am afraid I will miss some of the tasks and groups, but here's who came to mind: ushers, officers, custodians, vocalists, Lydia Guild, Communion assistants, preschool teachers, office secretaries, computer tech support, bookkeeper, organists, band members, trustees, food pantry servers, offering counters, Sunday School teachers, Prayer Partners, DVD carriers to shutins, bulletin boards, Altar Guild, bulletin stuffers, visitors to our members, pastors, audio-visual techs, and more. I apologize to you whom I have missed. I thank God for all of you – redeemed and adopted – sons and daughters in Christ. By God's grace, it's been a good year together. We are blessed. Merry Christmas!



2021 Installation

Next weekend, January 2- 3, we will install and bless the 2021 Officers and Board Members of St. John's, whether you are a new Board member, or continuing to serve. *This can take place in any of our four Services, so you choose.* So that the whole congregation is aware of what responsibilities and support are given to our elected and appointed leaders, part of the Rite of Installation is printed in today's Eagle. Thank you to everyone who serves, and to all who are prayerfully supporting them!

LCMS Stewardship Thought

Luke 2:39 – “And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord...” The Law of God is good. Of course, it always shows us our sins, but that is good, too! We need to be driven back to the forgiveness of Christ. And the Law also shows us the truly blessed way to live. As Mary and Joseph found their joy in a Godly life, so should we see the Law as a guide for Christian living and the roadmap for saying thank you to the Lord for all His grace and mercy to us.

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

“The slaughter of the innocents continues in our time ... done not out of anger, but because the arrival of these little ones is deemed inconvenient or too expensive or sometimes simply because they are not the ‘right’ sex. We, like Rachel, weep over our lost children. But mourning their loss does not mean that we do not fight to end this assault on the sanctity of life. The holy birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, which has transformed the world for the good in so many ways, gives us hope that abortion, too, can be ended.”

Steven Mosher, Population Research Institute – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org

Deepest Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers go to the family of Greg Lankford. Greg passed away Wednesday, Dec. 23.

Deepest Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers go to the family of Ilda Wendling. Ilda passed away Tuesday, Dec. 22.

Your Response to the Gospel

Our Attendance Last Week

In Person Attendance	312
Online Worship Views	453
Sunday School Pre-K-HS.....	45
Adult Sunday School Class	16

Our Offerings Last Week

General Fund	\$9,929.15
Online General Fund	\$2,727.00
Advent	\$481.00
Total General Fund Offering	\$13,137.15

Building Fund **\$75.00**

Prayer List

Irene Esch, Bob Miller, Don Tieffel, Ruth Gall, David Winter, Cassie Power, Brett Kull, Karen Dall, Delores Miller, 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 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.

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

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!

January 2/3 Rite of Installation of Congregational Servant-Leaders:

To all: “Beloved in the Lord, Holy Scripture admonishes us that “all things should be done decently and in order.”

To that end, the constitution and bylaws of this congregation establish various offices to which men and women are elected and appointed to serve. ...The apostle Peter writes in his first epistle: “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

To those being installed: You have been chosen to fill specific offices and positions of responsibility at St. John’s. You are to work with the pastors that our life together in Christ may be orderly and pleasing in His sight. You are to see that the services of God’s house are held at the proper times, that the Word of God is purely preached and taught according to the Lutheran Confessions, that the Sacraments of Christ are administered according to His institution, that provision is made for the Christian instruction of young and old, that the erring are admonished, and that discipline is maintained. You are to see that the temporal affairs of the congregation are properly administered and that proper support is provided for the workers of this congregation. You are to assist in caring for the poor and the sick, in cultivating harmony among the members, in promoting the general welfare of the congregation, and in furthering the kingdom of Christ here and throughout the world. While holiness of life and obedience to Christ are expected of all members of the congregation, it is especially important that you, as office-

bearers in His Church, show yourselves, by word and example, to be faithful to Him in service and Christian devotion. In the presence of God and of this congregation, I therefore ask you: Do you accept the office(s) entrusted to you, and do you promise faithfully to carry out your duties, trusting in the Lord and conforming yourself to His Word in accordance with the faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church? If so, then answer: *I do*.

To the whole congregation: Beloved in the Lord, you have heard the promises of faithfulness spoken by these men and women whom you have selected to serve as servant-leaders of our congregation. Do you promise to support them in their work, to remember them in your prayers, and to work with them to the best of the abilities that God has given you, so that He may be glorified and His work be done in our midst? If so, then answer: *We do!* Then we pray for us all!

Today’s Light

We begin our journey through the Bible this Friday, January 1, with the reading of Isaiah chapters 1 & 2. We have over 40 households walking together through “Today’s Light.”

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!

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-----Dec. 27, 2020 – Jan. 3, 2021

Sunday	27	8:00 & 10:30 AM	Worship Services w HC
			No Sunday School
		10:00 AM	Worship Service/Mediacom Channel 81
<i>No Preschool—Christmas Break</i>			
Monday	28		Pastor's Devotion on Facebook
		6:30 PM	Board of Early Childhood via teleconference
Tuesday	29		
Wednesday	30		Pastor's Devotion on Facebook
		1:00 PM	Office Staff Devotion/Meeting
			No Confirmation Class
Thursday	31	6:30 PM	New Year's Eve Worship w/HC
Friday	1		Office Closed
		9:00 AM	New Year's Day Worship w/HC
Saturday	2	8:00 AM	Praise Band Practice
		4:00 & 5:30 PM	Worship Services
Sunday	3	8:00 & 10:30 AM	Worship Services
		9:15 AM	Sunday School
		10:00 AM	Worship Service/Mediacom Channel 81

Birthdays This Week

- 12/27 Dyland Kuhns & Jessica Budde
- 12/28 Dannie Braun &
Finley VanBlaricum
- 12/29 Andrew Knight, Angela Lidy,
Clayton Gregory, Phillip Knight,
Tyler Devall, & Zachary Pruemer
- 01/01 Carla Fox
- 01/02 Faith Flinn, Jacqueline Wiseman,
& Vicki Cook

Anniversaries This Week

- 12/27/75 Rev. Earl & Liz Brown
- 12/28/19 Jonathan & Sherrie Stremming
- 12/29/73 Daniel & Sarah Riordan
- 12/30/66 Chuck & Lorri Mayberry
- 12/31/12 Troy & Lindsay VanBlaricum

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.

January Food Pantry Donation

Chunky Beef Soup/Fruit Cocktail

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.