

THE EAGLE

St. John's Newsletter

December 13, 2020

Service Sign-Up

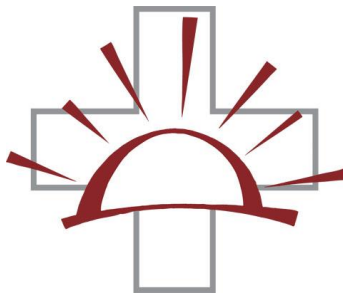
Be sure to sign up for your Christmas Services, and **ALL** services. You can sign up online, or by calling the office.

Offering Envelopes

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

These are "gray and latter days." There is a lot packed into that little phrase. The days are "gray" because the weather makes them look that way, and the culture blurs the facts of life so that truth and falsehood seem indistinguishable to so many people. And the days are "latter" because they are the last days of the year 2020 (yeah!) and because we live with the assurance that someday Christ is going to come back in judgment and in glory (yeah!). Gray and latter days.

Lots of folks are putting on the very best face they can these days (Christmas cards testify), but there is no denying that this has been a difficult year -- not only because of Covid, put on account of the struggles that are a part of any year: taking care of one another, burying one another, missing one another, and knowing that many people do not know that Jesus Christ is The Light in the gray and in the dark.



I have been fortunate to participate in a three-retreat program through an LCMS support ministry called "Doxology." The leaders of Doxology often publicize this verse from hymn # 834:

O Spirit, who didst once restore
Thy Church that it might be again
The bringer of good news to men,
Breathe on Thy cloven Church once more,
That in these gray and latter days
There may be those whose life is praise,
Each life a high doxology
To Father, Son, and unto Thee.

Praise God! Because of the hope of Jesus Christ within you and me, our lives are high doxologies to the Triune God! Even if the remaining two weeks of the year contain more burdens than 2020 has already brought, our lives are high doxologies, because the circumstances of the year are not the measure of our worth or our hope. Jesus Christ is. It's in that confidence that we say to each other "a blessed 2020 and a blessed new year." Easter completes the joy of Christmas. With Jesus -- born, crucified, buried, and resurrected -- these are good days. Encourage one another with that truth!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pastor Fuschell".

Concordia Seminary Students

We support two pastoral ministry students at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. See the new letters and pictures from Vicar Jeron Melon and Vincent Otto on the "In the News" bulletin board,

Additional Seating for Christmas Eve

Our additional sanctuary for Christmas Eve worship will be in the fellowship hall. With the video, audio, and decorations we are glad it will allow us to increase the worship attendance!

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:

Wednesday, December 16.
12:15 PM & 6:30 PM

Our Response to the Gospel

Our Attendance Last Week

In Person Attendance	254
Online Worship Views.....	203
Sunday School Pre-K-HS.....	35
Adult Sunday School Class.....	14
Advent Services.....	98

Our Offerings Last Week

General Fund.....	\$9,037
Advent	\$797
Online General Fund.....	\$3,640.00
Total General Fund Offering .	\$13,474
Building Fund.....	\$130

November General Fund Summary

Deposits	\$44,660.33
Expenses.....	\$53,143.81
Closing Balance	\$146,916.46

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.

LCMS Stewardship Thought

1 Thessalonians 5:18 – “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” Christians express their thanks to God in many ways: in prayer, in giving to the Lord’s work, in acts of service to others, and in faithful living in their daily callings. Everything we do to honor God in our lives is a means of returning thanks for the Lord’s many gifts to us.

This Week’s Sunday School Lesson

Lesson 2 Exodus 25:1-19; 40:1-8, 34-38 Today, we will study “A Tent for God.” Moses begins the process of building a portable house (called a tabernacle) for the Lord by gathering offerings from the Israelites. God provides detailed instruction for the creation of the ark of the covenant as well as the other fixtures of the tabernacle. When the tabernacle is finally assembled, the glory of the Lord descends on the tabernacle in the form of a cloud. As long as the presence remains, the people remain in that place.

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

“Will you be without loved ones this holiday season? Will you be struggling with illness or discouragement? Will you feel the pressure to make the holiday season great? You are not alone. You are not on your own. Read John 10, a great chapter about a Good Shepherd. Listen to His voice comfort and strengthen you.” *Rev. John Boeder, Martin Luther College – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org*

Thank You!

The Youth Board would like to thank everyone who supported our Advent Soup Supper. We appreciate it so much!

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

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.

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



Lydia Guild Red Christmas Stocking

Our mission project will need to be turned in by Sun., Dec. 13th. Please drop your stockings off with change in it at the Welcome Center in the large Mite box or give it to the office. Put your name on it so we can get it back to you. We will do the project again next year.

BIBLES **for the children of our**



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.

Poinsettias

It is time to purchase your poinsettias for Christmas. This year, they are \$15.00 for an 8" plant. Please place your order by calling the church office by December 13th.

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.

CALENDAR-----Dec. 13 – Dec. 20, 2020

Sunday	13	8:00 & 10:30 AM	Worship Services w/HC
		9:15 AM	Sunday School
		10:00 AM	Worship Service/Mediacom Channel 81
			Poinsettia Orders Are Due Today
<i>Preschool Classes – Monday, Tues., Wed, Thurs., & Friday 8:30 – 11:30 AM</i>			
Monday	14	12:00 PM	Pastor's Devotion on Facebook
		5:00 PM	Board of Stewardship
Tuesday	15	6:00 PM	Board of Youth
Wednesday	16	10:00 AM	Pastor's Devotion on Facebook
		12:15 PM & 6:30 PM	Advent Service
		1:00 PM	Office Staff Devotion/Meeting
		5:00 PM	Confirmation Class
Thursday	17	6:30 PM	Catechism Class
Friday	18		Pastor's Sabbath
Saturday	19	8:00 AM	Praise Band Practice
		4:00 PM & 5:30 PM	Worship Services/Children's Program
			Youth Cookie Pick-up
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

Birthdays This Week

- 12/13 Julie Sudkamp, Kellie Siebert, & Kim Niebrugge
- 12/14 Bob Flach & Randy Miller
- 12/15 Kris Wernsing
- 12/16 Arnetia Osborn & Cathy Mellendorf
- 12/17 Brenda Wendling, Jack Miller, Jonathan Marxmann, & Shirley Morse
- 12/18 Debra McClure & Jake Wendling
- 12/19 Nic Koester & Shawn Bourland

Anniversaries This Week

- 12/16/72 Neil & Phyllis Rohlfling
- 12/16/78 Richard & Sandra Devall
- 12/18/60 Eldon & Judy Joergens

December Food Pantry Donation
Brownie Mix & Spaghetti Sauce