

# THE EAGLE

## St. John's Newsletter

### January 10, 2021

From Our Pastor...

If you're like Kathy and me, you found last week's "Today's Light" daily readings in Isaiah difficult at a few points, but you kept going. The places and people named in Isaiah 9 and 10 are enough to get you bogged down. Keep



going! Our goal isn't to be able to explain every verse of the Bible, but better to understand the whole scope of the Bible – and we're going to arrive at our goal by God's grace.

One of you wrote to me this week, saying that you are grateful for how relevant Isaiah is to our modern day. The prophet lived in days when the culture around him was rotten. You see that right now, I know. Take heart ... the Lord of the Scriptures is the Lord of these days, and he will never waste a challenge such as this. He will accomplish His purpose (Isaiah 55!).

Here at St. John's we're getting ready to host a couple of events that can greatly impact the future of the church and culture.

- On March 6 we will host the Lutheran Laymen's League District Convention from 8:00am-3:00pm. The LLL is also known as "Lutheran Hour Ministries," and the speaker for the day-long Convention will be The International Lutheran Hour Speaker, Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. The LLL is excellent at promoting outreach among us.

- On May 23, Pentecost Sunday, we will host the Effingham-Shelby Circuit Convocation on Ministerial Recruitment from 3:00-6:00pm. Our speaker and preacher will be the former Lutheran Hour Speaker, and President Emeritus of Concordia Seminary, Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer. We'll also have breakout sessions by current and former seminary students, helping us to raise up the next generations of pastors. You'll hear more in coming weeks.

These are tough days for Christians – but haven't they always been? The Word of God, Jesus, is greater than the challenges around us. He is greater than the struggles your household will face this week; plus, He puts Himself in the midst of your household, here at church and there, in your home. Take heart!

In Christ,

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.

### **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!

### **Bad Weather Announcement**

In the event of snow and/or ice, the Jefferson Street entrance will be closed. You may enter the church through the east doors by the bell tower. This safety measure will remain in effect until further notice, BUT only when we have had snow/ice. Thank you for your patience & understanding

### **LCMS Stewardship Thought**

Mark 1:7 – “And (John) preached, saying, ‘After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.’ ” John is right. Jesus is immensely greater than any of us yet behold how He came to serve! That is the upside down, outlandish grace of God. The innocent Jesus takes our sinner’s place. This is the greatest act of giving the world has ever known or will know. The Father gives His Son to die in the place of sinners.

### **LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life**

“The world needs your voice to declare Jesus’ words of eternal life. The world needs your voice to declare God’s value of life in all of its stages. The world needs your voice to declare God’s convictions born of His Word. The world needs your voice to declare that God’s word of forgiveness purchased with the blood of Jesus extends to all of us sinners, including those who have chosen abortion. The world needs your voice!”

Rev. David Eibel, Living Word Lutheran Church, Grapevine, Texas  
– A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

### **Gym Closet Cleanout**

Saturday, January 16, at 9:00am, we will be sorting through the numerous items now in the closet off the gym. If you or your group has items in there, you may want to be present. If you can’t, please communicate with the Trustees what must be kept, and where. Thank you.

### **This Week’s Sunday School Lesson**

Joshua 2

In today’s lesson, “The Unlikely Ally,” the Israelites prepare to enter the Promised Land. Joshua sends two spies to explore Jericho. Rahab, a prostitute, first hides the spies from the authorities, and later she helps them escape out her window in the city wall. Because of her faithfulness, the spies promise to spare Rahab and her family when the Israelites come to occupy the city.

### **Your Response to the Gospel**

#### **Our Attendance Last Week**

In Person Attendance

New Year’s Eve.....	86
New Year’s Day .....	-0-
Sunday, January 3 .....	201
Online Worship Views.....	177
Sunday School Pre-K-HS .....	33
Adult Sunday School Class.....	20

#### **Our Offerings Last Week**

Dec. 31, 2020 General Fund.....	\$2,070
Online General Fund.....	\$1,767
New Year Eve Offering .....	\$1,286
<b>Total General Fund Offering .....</b>	<b>\$5,123</b>
Jan 3, 2021 General Fund .....	\$6,466
Online Offering .....	\$100
<b>Total General Offering .....</b>	<b>\$6,566</b>
<b>Building Fund .....</b>	<b>\$100</b>

### **Stephen Ministries**

We’re glad to announce that we will relaunch our Stephen Ministries at St. John’s this year! Janet Martins continues 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.

### **Prayer List**

Danny Reynolds, Deb Meyers, Vi Kirchoff, Anna Mae Gibson, Bob & Pat Eckhart, Irene Esch, Bob Miller, Ruth Gall, David Winter, Cassie Power, Brett Kull, Delores Miller, Marlene Walker, Gerald Pruemer, Rose Boggs, Tim Mueller, Craig Wolff, Mike McWhortor, Mary Wolfmeyer, Bertie Powell, Zach Fritcher, Evelyn Shumaker, Janet Brinkopf, and Kolton Westjohn, son of Bree & Jacob Westjohn, to be baptized next week. Also, Zoey Boone, newborn daughter of Jill & Haven Boone,

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

### **Thanksgiving**

Prayers of thanksgiving at the birth of Wylie Jane Pruemer, born on January 4. Grandparents are Cheryl & Jerry Pruemer

### **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!

### **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.

### **St. Paul (Blue Point) Men's Club**

They will be holding their annual sausage & pancake supper on Sunday, Jan. 31. It will be a drive through event with pancake & sausage meals, packaged rope, cooked rope, & bulk ground sausage available. Serving begins at 4:00 pm

### **Welcome**

New arrivals in our church family: Congratulations to Jill & Haven Boone at the birth last Sat. of Zoey, who will be baptized next Sunday. Congratulations to Bree & Jacob Westjohn at the birth of Kolton last year, who will be baptized in Feb. Let us pray for the parents of all the children of our congregation, that they will nurture the life in Christ that is bestowed in Baptism!

### **PTL Fun Fair**

This event will be held on Jan. 17th.

It will be Carry Out Meals ONLY!

Pulled pork sandwiches, chips, dessert for \$8.00.

Hot dogs, chips, and dessert for \$5.00

There will be a silent auction.

Food will be served at the St. Peter Lutheran Church in St. Peter beginning at 11:30 am to 2 pm, as well as the silent auction.

There will also be an option to bid on some items on Facebook. Online bidding will start on Saturday. Make sure to "like" St. Peter Facebook page to see items & sneak peaks.

### **Order your Sausage & Ribs**

St. Peter's Lutheran Church in St. Peter will be selling sausage & ribs. Orders will be taken until Jan. 31. Exact pick-up date & price have not been set yet. You will be notified when sausage is ready at a later date.

To place your order, call:

Tim Brauer—618-267-6228

John Lotz—618-553-5585

St. Peters (after 12 PM)—349-8321

### **Pure Germany**

This trip of a life time will begin at Uckermark (Berlin) and go to Bavara (Munich) on Sept. 10-21, 2022. Check out the bulletin board for more information

# CALENDAR-----Jan 10, 2021 – Jan. 17, 2021

Sunday	10	8:00 & 10:30 AM	Worship Services w/HC
		9:15 AM	Sunday School
		10:00 AM	Worship Service/Mediacom Channel 81
<i>Preschool—Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, &amp; Thursday</i>			
Monday	11		Pastor's Devotion on Facebook
		5:00 PM	Board of Stewardship
		6:15 PM	Board of Christian Education
		6:30 PM	Board of Elders
Tuesday	12	1:00 PM	Prayer Shawl
		3-4 PM	Food Pantry Distribution
		5:00 PM	Board of Social Ministry
Wednesday	13		Pastor's Devotion on Facebook
		8:50 AM	Preschool Chapel
		1:00 PM	Office Staff Devotion/Meeting
		5:00 PM	Confirmation Class
Thursday	14	8:50 AM	Preschool Chapel
		6:30 PM	Adult Catechism Study
Friday	15		No Preschool
			Pastor's Sabbath
Saturday	16	8:00 AM	Praise Band Practice
		9:00 AM	Gym Closet Cleaning
		4:00 & 5:30 PM	Worship Services
Sunday	17	8:00 & 10:30 AM	Worship Services
		9:15 AM	Sunday School
		10:00 AM	Worship Service/Mediacom Channel 81

### Birthdays This Week

- 01/10 Ana Lotz, Dana Haarmann,  
Darwin Wohltman, Pat Miller,  
Norbert Brauer, Ruth Gall,  
Tenley Sams, & Zachary Worman
- 01/11 Joanne Schlechte
- 01/12 Brent Bahrns, Carolyn Wendte,  
Kylie Pryor, & Mandy Westjohn
- 01/13 Madisson Marcum
- 01/15 Paula Holland
- 01/16 Dennis Wendling & Kylee Hewing

### Anniversaries

1/14/06 Adam & Kiley Bohnhoff

### Upcoming Meetings

Church Council  
Tuesday, January 19 at 7:00pm.  
Voters Meeting  
Tuesday, January 26 at 7:00pm

### January Food Pantry Donation

Chunky Beef Soup/Fruit Cocktail

### Next Food Distribution

Tuesday, January 12 from 3-4 PM