

THE EAGLE

St. John's Newsletter

January 17, 2021

Today's lead article is lifted from the current "Life Date" issue from Lutheran For Life...

The Invisibility of Loneliness by Mona Fuerstenau

Senator Ben Sasse, at the 2019 Q Ideas conference in Nashville, talked about what he calls a national epidemic of loneliness due to a disconnect from community of place, from community of work place, from friendship.

He describes a connection disconnect, if you will, because of the transient nature of life in America and the digital world, now exacerbated by COVID-19. In a digital world, we don't have to be where we are. We can skim the surface. We can be free from people and things, we can move on, we have permission to disengage.

The epidemic of loneliness and isolation is resulting in increased mental health issues, suicide, feelings of desperation, lack of control or choice, and feeling invisible in our loneliness.

The Church can become a place of belonging for everyone. As much as a person feels invisible in their loneliness, the church has a place for them. Your Church can be a place where each person finds they are indispensable to the body of Christ.

It's all about belonging. Dr. Erik Carter of Vanderbilt University researched this idea of belonging, and he found ten dimensions that people described: *Present. Invited. Welcomed. Known. Accepted. Supported. Cared for. Befriended. Needed. Loved.*

May I suggest ways that three of these dimensions can communicate belonging to those who are lonely.

1. Welcomed: It's not enough that the signs or the mugs or the bulletins say "All are welcome." Each person is approached with a "we are so glad you are here" attitude. Introduce them to others. Invite them to share about themselves. Connect them to someone.
2. Accepted: We are all God's children. Each is a part of the Body of Christ. Our differences are created by the Creator. We have unconditional positive regard for each person. We've been waiting for YOU. You are just what we need!
3. Needed: Recognize each person's worth. Identify their gifts early on. Ask them to take on a role. Let them know they are missed when absent. Authentically communicate that we are incomplete without you. We have gaps and holes in our community that only you can fill.

No special programs are needed, you already know how to do these things. No training required. Maybe some guidance on intentionality. These are universal needs. It's about genuine, authentic relationships.

So, what stops us? To be authentic is to be vulnerable with others—and that may make us fearful. It might be messy, and that makes us uncomfortable. It takes time. Our reminder as we seek to become a place of belonging is 1 Corinthians 12:18: **"But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose."**
For LIFE!

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

1 Corinthians 6:19b-20 – “You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.” God owns everything, including our very selves. We were made to serve Him and glorify Him and will never truly be happy or find our fulfillment until we learn that lesson. Jesus has redeemed us and brought us back into the Kingdom of the Father, and that has set us free to serve Him in joy, generosity, liberty, and faith.

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

“Abortion isn’t something happening in another state or county or city. It is happening right in our backyards. And now we know many [who have had abortions] attend churches regularly and are sitting in our church pews looking for answers. May the Lord provide the answers needed to send a message of hope and forgiveness as well as proclaiming abortion to not be in God’s Will.”

Virginia J. Flo, Minnesota Regional Director & National Conference Director for Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

***Lutheran Schools Week is
January 24-30!***

January Food Pantry Donation

Chunky Beef Soup/Fruit Cocktail

Next Food Distribution

Tuesday, January 26 from 3-4 PM

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.

This Week’s Sunday School Lesson

Joshua 5:13-6:27

“The Downfall Wall” is the title of this week’s lesson. Confident in their wall, the people of Jericho shut themselves up inside the city. Following God’s unusual battle plan, Joshua gathers the priests, trumpets, ark of the covenant, and people. Six days they march once around the city, then seven times on the seventh day, giving a shout at the conclusion of the last circuit. The city walls come tumbling down, and the Israelites wipe out the citizens and livestock while plundering precious metals for the tabernacle. Yet Rahab and her family are spared.

Your Response to the Gospel

Our Attendance Last Week

In Person Attendance

Sunday, January 10	314
Online Worship Views	193
Sunday School Pre-K-HS.....	34
Adult Sunday School Class.....	16

Our Offerings Last Week

January 10, General Fund	\$8,515.60
Online General Fund.....	\$10,035.00
Total General Fund Offering	\$18,550.60

Building Fund..... \$65.00

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, Gerald Pruemer, Rose Boggs, Tim Mueller, Craig Wolff, Mike McWhortor, Mary Wolfmeyer, Bertie Powell, Zach Fritcher, Evelyn Shumaker, 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

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

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 Church(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

LifeLight Class

We will be starting a new study on the Parables. The Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Be watching for a start-up date in the very near future.

Braille

We may be able to open our Braille Center in March. Watch for further announcements. – Marilyn Schaefer

Upcoming Meetings

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

Thank You!

Effingham Area Right to Life would like to thank everyone for attending the annual Pro-Life Breakfast. Our first ever *drive-thru* breakfast was a big success! God bless the numerous wonderful volunteers who make this event happen each year.

Our thanks and God's blessings...
keep praying for **LIFE**.



Our Lenten theme will be
“Return to The Lord,”
beginning Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17.

CALENDAR-----Jan 17, 2021 – Jan. 24, 2021

Sunday	17	8:00 & 10:30 AM	Worship Services
		9:15 AM	Sunday School
		10:00 AM	Worship Service/Mediacom Channel 81
<i>Preschool—Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday</i>			
Monday	18		No Preschool
			Pastor's Devotion on Facebook
		12:00 PM	Board of Evangelism
Tuesday	19	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday	20		Pastor's Devotion on Facebook
		1:00 PM	Office Staff Devotion/Meeting
		3:00 PM	Cemetery Committee
		5:00 PM	Confirmation Class
		6:00 PM	Board of Youth
Thursday	21		
Friday	22		Pastor's Sabbath
Saturday	23	8:00 AM	Praise Band Practice
		4:00 & 5:30 PM	Worship Services w/HC
Sunday	24	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

- 1/17 Dale Schagemann,
Devin Frailey, & Todd Zeigler
- 1/18 Alec Longwell, Hudson Wilson, &
Lindsey Stewart
- 1/19 Keith Knight
- 1/20 Vicky Keith
- 1/21 Nancy Moeller & Rachel Miller
- 1/23 Kenzia Watson, Steven Moeller,
& Tyler Budde

Anniversaries

- 1/17/10 John & Cathy Mellendorf
- 1/22/77 Steven & Nancy Moeller

A Matter of Concern

The Leaders of the congregation are concerned that many are coming to services without signing up. **Please Sign-Up** online for the service you wish to attend. If you are having a problem getting online, Sarah and Deania will be more than happy to assist you through the office. Thank you!

