

THE EAGLE

St. John's Newsletter

January 31, 2021

From Our Pastor ...

“*Metanarrative.*” It’s a big word, and I almost never use it! It’s defined this way: “an overarching account or interpretation of events and circumstances that provides a pattern or structure for people’s beliefs and gives meaning to their experiences.” I’m not sure I understand all of that definition. I usually summarize it this way: the metanarrative is the BIG story that gives meaning to my life’s little story.



Why all this in my Eagle note this week? Well, many of our households just completed reading Isaiah, using *Today's Light*. And all of our confirmation students just completed a unit in Old Testament summary. And you know what? We didn't understand every bit of what we read. It was huge and overwhelming sometimes. But it was important. It was the metanarrative that gives meaning to our lives' little story. Creation. Fall. Promise. Abraham. Faith. Law. Gospel. Failure. Mercy. Forgiveness. God's story gives meaning to our lives.

One person has said that the metanarrative is like the blueprint of a grand building. The plumbers don't install pipes that go nowhere. They

have purpose. The Old and New Testaments of the Bible are the blueprints. Our work – as plumbers and parents, students and shopkeepers, patients and caregivers – has meaning because of the work of the Triune God.

This Monday some of you will come to church for an hour-long discussion with me of what we read in Isaiah (4:00 pm or 5:30 pm). I won't be able to explain every detail; I will discuss how it fits together with the BIG picture. Jeremiah will be our next book, and I doubt you'll find it any easier. But keep going! More and more we will see that our lives have tremendous meaning in the shadow of the cross of Jesus Christ our Savior. Even Jeremiah will have something to say about that. Don't lose heart!



Pastor Furbelle

Special Door Offering

We will be doing a Door Offering this weekend, Jan 30/31, for the St. Louis Seminary food bank, as they are currently not accepting donations of food. Cash may be given. Checks should be made out to St. John's, and memo Seminary food bank.

LifeLight Class

We will be starting a new study on the Parables. The Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. The deadline to sign up is Sunday, Feb. 7. Our 1st week will be Sunday, Feb. 14.

LCMS Stewardship Thought

Mark 1:22 – “And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.” Authority is a word we are sometimes afraid of and don’t like to hear. But that’s just our sinful flesh talking. Jesus’ authority is something we need. We need him to show us what to believe and how to live, for Jesus’ authority is always connected to his love.

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

On the March for Life: “We’ve shown up to celebrate and safeguard each one from the unborn to the elderly and everywhere in between ... We’re leaning in to bring joy to the desperate and hope to the endangered. We’re reaching out to take community and opportunity even amid adversity. We’re marching forth to give courage and compassion. We’ve united today not simply to leave a sordid past behind but to leap ahead into a splendid future.”

Pastor Michael Salemink, Executive Director of Mission and Ministry, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Today’s Light and Isaiah...

Quite a few people who are walking through the Bible readings in “Today’s Light” have asked if there will be some opportunity to discuss them together. On Monday, February 1, I invite you to join me in a brief overview of what we read in the month of January: Isaiah! I will give a brief summary of the book of Isaiah and will do my best to answer some of your questions about it. Come to the Trinity Rooms upstairs at either 4:00-5:00pm or 5:30-6:30pm, Monday February 1.

Pastor Burdick

This Week’s Sunday School Lesson

Judges 16:4-31

Today, we will study “The Weakened Judge.” God grants Samson great strength to defeat the enemies of God’s people. Seeking to overcome Samson, the Philistines bribe Delilah to find the source of Samson’s strength. Samson deceives Delilah each time she tries to uncover the secret, but he finally reveals the key to his power. Shorn and blinded by the Philistines, Samson is brought to entertain thousands of revelers at the feast to Dagon. Identifying the house’s supporting pillars, Samson prays, and God grants him power to bring down the temple, killing everyone.

Your Response to the Gospel

Our Attendance Last Week

In Person Attendance

Sunday, January 24.....	332
Online Worship Views.....	187
Sunday School Pre-K-JR.....	33
Adult Sunday School Class	13

Our Offerings Last Week

January 24, General Fund	\$7,445
Online General Fund	\$1,985
Total General Fund Offering	\$9,430
Building Fund.....	\$50

St. John’s Prayer Partner Ministry

We are growing our ministry, which is now 50 Prayer Partners strong. We welcome YOU! Prayer requests from members of our congregation are received and Prayer Partners are then notified by phone, text, or email of the prayer request. Prayer Partners then pause and pray. It’s that simple. If you would like to become a St. John’s Prayer Partner, or you have a prayer request, you can either phone or text: Julie Scott at 217-343-3047

or email: stjprayerpartners@gmail.com

Youth Events

Youth Quake 2021

ATTENTION ALL St. JOHN'S YOUTH
(grades 6th-12th)

Date: Sat. Feb. 27

Place: St. John's Lutheran Church
Effingham

Time: 11:00 am – 5 pm

Best of all—IT'S FREE!

More news to come on how to register.

Ash Wednesday Meals

Wednesday, Feb. 17th

Luncheon—11 am-12:15 pm

Supper Meals—5 pm-6:30 pm

(Possible Dine In, Grab & Go, &
Drive Through

VBS

June 14-17—SAVE THE DATE!

February Food Pantry Donation

Chicken Noodle Soup/Canned Peaches

Prayer List

Paul Wendling Cindy Meyers, Gerard Bierman, Earline Jutkins, Danny Reynolds, Deb Meyers, Vi Kirchoff, Bob & Pat Eckhart, Irene Esch, Bob Miller, David Winter, Cassie Power, Brett Kull, Delores Miller, Rose Boggs, 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

Thank You!

The Board of Social Ministry wishes to thank St. John's members for your generous donations to our food pantry, Operations Christmas Child, and the FISH Catholic Charities Christmas Store.

Stephen Ministry



The Logo for Stephen Ministry and what it represents.

The broken person on the left symbolizes all of us—we are all broken people.

The whole person on the right represents how only through the cross of Jesus can we be made whole.

There are three members involved in this process:

1. The Care Receiver, the person who is hurting or facing fears, adversity, or changes in his or her life.
2. The Care Giver, the Stephen Minister who walks with the care receiver on his or her journey toward healing.
3. The Cure Giver—God and only God who provides the cure and makes the care receiver whole again.

We currently have two care givers: Karla Flach and Rosemary Seggelka. We are in need of male and female care givers. 10 is a good number to start. The first of March we will be available for care receivers. Anyone seeking information or help can call

Janet Martins--217-868-9576.

Card Shower

A card shower is planned for Ruth Terhune. She will be 100 years young on Feb. 6th. Cards may be sent to:

Ruth Terhune
2705 S. Park St.
Effingham, IL 62401

CALENDAR-----Jan 31, 2021 – Feb. 7, 2021

Sunday	31	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 - Friday</i>			
Monday	1		Pastor's Devotion on Facebook
		4:00 PM	Isaiah Review
		4:30 PM	Board of Trustees
		5:30 PM	Isaiah Review
Tuesday	2	9:00 AM	Circuit Pastor's Mtg. at Stewardson
		7:00 PM	Lydia Build
Wednesday	3		Pastor's Devotion on Facebook
		1:00 PM	Office Staff Devotion/Meeting
		5:00 PM	Confirmation Class
Thursday	4		
Friday	5		Pastor's Sabbath
Saturday	6	8:00 AM	Praise Band Practice
		4:00 & 5:30 PM	Worship Services
Sunday	7	8:00 & 10:30 AM	Worship Services
		9:15 AM	Sunday School
		10:00 AM	Worship Service/Mediacom Channel 81

Birthdays This Week

- 1/31 Kathy Stremming
- 2/01 Emily Lotz & Larissa Jones
- 2/02 Brody Brown, Howard Janis, & Wade Bloemer
- 2/03 Rachael Pennington & Todd Martin
- 2/04 Alyson Followell & Mikayla Hanks
- 2/06 Christopher Holland, Jane Probst, Jennifer Marxman, Jessica Miller & Ruth Terhune

Anniversaries

- 2/02/02 Bradley & Brenda Osborne
- 2/03/93 Jim & Vicky Keith
- 2/06/10 Greg & Jill Keitel

Have you signed up for "Email Updates" from our congregation? At our website (www.stjohnsLCMS.net), scroll down to "Email Updates" and sign up! Make sure you follow the directions and "verify" your signup. You'll receive the Eagle newsletter and the Sunday bulletin in an email each week, which is especially helpful for those who cannot yet be with us in-person. If you know someone who needs some assistance in using technology to access our electronic worship resources, please give them a hand.