

THE EAGLE

St. John's Newsletter

February 28, 2021

From Our Pastor ...

Each Wednesday afternoon our staff gathers for a meeting, beginning with a devotion. I appreciate that some members send me notes asking us to remember you and your concerns in our prayers. Pastor Fortkamp, Sandy, Deania, Sarah, and I are glad to intercede for you – and we need and appreciate your prayers for us. Mutually, let's keep it up! We recently added another routine to our staff meetings: at the end, someone is assigned to bring one or two jokes to the conference table. This week we heard of the bulletin blooper that was written as "The youth choir has disbanded for the summer, with great thanksgiving." *Ouch*. Be careful how you say things. On a related note (see what I did there?), I'm hoping that soon our voice and bell choirs will be able to resume. There will be great thanksgiving. Will you prayerfully consider helping?

It's no joke that there are increasing challenges ahead for us as Christians. I'm deeply concerned about what the so-called



federal Equality Act could mean for us who hold to natural marriage. You've called me to preach and teach faithfully, and by God's grace I will. We're committed to it, together. But there is the real possibility that what we teach faithfully could be branded illegal. We may suffer. We won't lose heart, and we won't stop loving our neighbors. We'll keep singing of God's mercies and strength. In all seasons. With great thanksgiving!

"Be faithful to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life." Rev. 2:10

We Need Your Help

When you come into the church and ring the doorbell, please state your name. With masks, hoods, caps, & lighting, we are having problems recognizing faces. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Sarah & Deania

Jeremiah Review Session

Pastor Burdick will offer a review of our February "Today's Light" readings on Monday, March 1. Like the previous one, you may attend at either 4:00pm or 5:30pm in the Trinity Room. You do not have to sign up. God bless your journey through the Scriptures

Special Announcement

Next weekend we will not hold our 4:00 pm Service on Saturday, March 6, following the LLL Convention. Once the Convention ends at about 3:00pm, we want to have ample time to disinfect the building. Please use our online signups at www.stjohnsLCMS.net, signing up for either the 5:30pm, 8:00am, or 10:30am Service. Thank you for understanding. The 4:00pm Service will return on March 13.

Do You Have Beautiful Feet?

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God Reigns". Isaiah 52:7 Delivering our worship services to those in assisted living & nursing homes will bring the good news to them. Would you consider helping?

Volunteers pick up envelopes containing DVD copies of St. John's weekend service & worship folder from the church office & drop them off at several facilities around town. (During Covid lockdown, some may prefer to have the packets mailed.)

If you would be willing, please contact Kathy Stremming (217-254-9360). Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

LCMS Stewardship Thought

Mark 8:32 – "And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him." Anytime we sin we are acting like Peter: thinking we know better than the Lord. But as Jesus says, such acts stem from Satan. So, let us repent: let us trust our Lord Jesus & follow Him. For certainly He has earned our trust with His gracious sacrifice for us.

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

"Christians are to show no partiality whatsoever. My brother in Christ who happens to have more melanin than I have in the paper-thin upper level of our skin—while all the skin below the paper is the same—is not of a different race than I. So-called 'race' is not even skin deep! That's mere upper-skin coloring, not race. Varying levels of mere melanin indicate that we're all coffee beans—some are blonde roast, some are medium or dark or espresso roast, but we're all coffee, we're all colored people."

James M. Kushiner, The Fellowship of St. James – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

This Week's Sunday School Lesson

I Samuel 18:1-9; 20:18-42

Today, we will study "The Faith-Full Friends." The Bible tells us David & Jonathan were such close friends that "the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David" (1 Samuel 18:1). Saul's insane jealousy of David tests their friendship to the limit. David & Jonathan establish a plan to alert David if Saul continues to seek his life. Sadly, Saul's anger remains unchecked. Jonathan, faithful to God's will, warns David to flee from the king.

Your Response to the Gospel

Our Attendance Last Week

In Person Attendance

Sunday, February 21.....	312
Online Worship Views.....	137
Sunday School Pre-K-HS.....	43
Adult Sunday School Class.....	
LifeLight.....	10
Lenten Services, February 24.....	120

Our Offerings Last Week

February 21 General Fund.....	\$7,652
Online General Fund.....	\$2,812
Total General Fund Offering	\$10,464
Building Fund.....	\$25.00

St. John's Children's Library

Great news! Our Children's Library is up & running! Come take a look at the renovated Children's Library. There are plans for acquiring new books & upgrading our materials. Information about how you can help us with this project will be coming. Watch for it! Please feel free to use the check-out system and enjoy! If you have any questions, please contact:

Ammon Probst (309) 255-2898 OR
Kathy Burdick (309) 255-8343

The Campbell Soup Labels

The label program has ended & we will no longer be collecting labels. Thank you to all who have contributed in the past. Brenda J Wendling

Youth Events

VBS

June 14-17—SAVE THE DATE!

District & Synodical Convention

The congregations of the LCMS overwhelmingly approved of delaying the District and Synodical Convention by one year each. Our CID Convention will be held in 2022.

Prayer List

Dwight Klepzig, Lilly Wright, Rich Worman, Dick Hulskotter, Gerard Bierman, Bob Miller, David Winter, Cassie Power, Brett Kull, Delores Miller, Rose Boggs, Tim Mueller, Craig Wolff, Mike McWhortor, 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

LCMS Life Conference

LCMS Life Ministry will host its first-ever virtual life conference March 19-20, under the "Making Disciples: Valuing Life". Registration is open now at www.lcms-life.org.

Join us!

- Be equipped to speak up for the sanctity of life within your community & our society.
- Gain ideas on how to care for all human life.
- Interact with fellow Lutherans on Life Ministry topics.
- Be part of the LCMS Life Ministry community

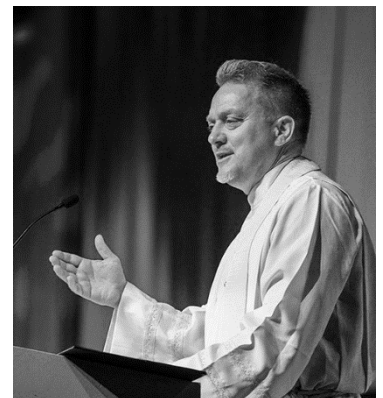
Dozens of experts in Life Ministry will present throughout the conference with Multiple video presentations available for immediate, on-demand viewing, as soon as you login. Engage in live Question & Answer sessions with experts in Life Ministry



Rev. Dr. Greg Seltz will be our guest preacher here at St. John's March 6-7, 2021. After presenting at the District LLL

Convention on Saturday, he has agreed to stay to bring us the Word of God in our 5:30pm Saturday and 8:00 & 10:30am Sunday Services. He will also speak and answer questions during the Bible Class at 9:15am Sunday.

Pastor Seltz was previously the Speaker of The Lutheran Hour, and now is privileged to serve as Executive Director of our Synod's Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty. The Center provides input, education, advice, advocacy, and resources in the areas of life, marriage and religious liberty and seeks to engage in discussions in Washington, D.C., to establish partnerships and resources in our nation's Capital for the sake of our churches, schools, universities, and seminaries.



Dr. Seltz recently wrote: There is a "battle" going on in our culture. We may not have started it, but it is clearly directed at us. It is being waged against the biblical proclamation of the truth. The battle is being brought to anyone who does not adhere to secular, naturalistic, mechanistic, non-theistic values. For more information, please see <https://www.LCRLFreedom.org>

Hearing Assistance

With the new sound system, we have new hearing assistance devices available in the Atrium. Please ask an usher for help.

CALENDAR-----Feb. 28, 2021 – Mar. 7, 2021

Sunday	28	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 & 5:30 PM	Jeremiah Review
		4:30 PM	Board of Trustees
Tuesday	2	9:00	Pastor Conference at Grace Dieterich
		7:00 PM	Lydia Guild
Wednesday	3		Pastor's Devotion on Facebook
		12:15 PM & 6:30 PM	Lenten Services
		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
		8:00 AM – 3:00 PM	LLL District Convention Here
		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

- 2/28 Ashlyn Hanks, Heather St. John,
Karen Tarrant, Lora Giesler, &
Wade Wenthe
- 3/01 Blaine Flach & Don Latch
- 3/03 Jackson Hagerstrom,
Sarah Womack, & Ursula Polzin
- 3/04 Jaxxon Green, Karen Stevenson,
Kennedy Bailey, Terry Long, &
Thurl Burton, Jr.
- 3/05 Gage Wernsing, Pam Higgs,
Kade Pennington, &
Paul Whitehair

Anniversaries

- 3/02/96 Michael & Joyce Curry
- 3/02/02 Sean & Cherilla Junge
- 3/06/99 Brian & Dawn Koester

The Board of Social Ministry

The Board of Social Ministry has scrip cards available in the fellowship hall after services and in the office until the cards on hand are gone. No more cards will be purchased. \$5.00 Sav-A-Lot vouchers will continue to be provided after services and in the office.

March Food Pantry Donation

Canned Chicken & Wide Noodles