

THE EAGLE

St. John's Newsletter

April 25, 2021

It's Time For Church



You often call me “pastor,” which we rightly think means something like “shepherd.” We reserve the title “Good Shepherd” for Jesus, for He’s ultimately the Lord of His flock, and He’s the only one who is good – truly, always, purely, and powerfully GOOD.

Shepherds often have *sheepdogs* – trained and attentive helpers who keep their focus on The Shepherd and the sheep. Maybe that’s what we should mean when we call a man “pastor.” Sheepdog.

May 23rd we’re hosting the Convocation on Ministerial Recruitment of sheepdogs (wink). Some of you told me this week that I should verbally and repeatedly invite you to watch the video we created for convocation promotion. This screenshot to the right shows one of our youth starring in the beginning of it. To watch it, go to our church website, scroll down a bit, click “The Harvest Is Plentiful,” and click this wonderful YouTube video. I hope it encourages YOU to register for the Convocation. You may not be a future sheepdog, but we need you to help recruit them!



A blessed “Good Shepherd Sunday,” fellow members of the flock. I’m glad we’re together in His all-sufficient pastures!

Sheepdog Burdick

WORSHIP UPDATE

Thankful for the progress we’ve made, the Elders have decided to make these changes in our worship...

- Return to three Services each weekend, ceasing the 4:00 p.m. Saturday Service. Beginning **May 1**, worship will be at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday.
- The Bibles, hymnals, attendance/communion cards, & pencils are back in the pews that we’re using. Ushers won’t hand out cards. Please complete your card at your pew, and deposit it in the box after Service.

We are continuing...

- To encourage use of the electronic sign-up sheets, and have added 20 spots to each Service now that we’re using every-other pew.
- To print the entire Service in the bulletin.
- To use every-other pew.
- To use our Communion distribution system.
- To receive the Offering in the boxes at the doors.
- To monitor statistics and make adjustments as needed.



High School Youth:

Our monthly gatherings are resuming! Gather for supper, fun, and Bible Study at 4:30pm Sunday, May 2 at Kathy & Pastor Burdick’s house, 717 South 1st St. Weather permitting, we’ll be outside. It’s great that the Sunday morning Bible class has grown a lot in the past year. Let’s grow our LYF gatherings, too! See you in church -- and May 2nd at the Burdicks’! Can’t make it in May? We’ll meet again in June.

Altar Guild

Will meet Tues., April 27, at 5:00 p.m.

LCMS Stewardship Thought

John 10:14 – “I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.” What does it mean to know the Lord? It starts with being known by the Lord. He claims us as His own and calls us by name. Then, once we are His, we learn to know Him. In knowing Him, we learn to imitate Him. That is how the Christian life of good works and generosity grows from the Lord’s grace.

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

“Death is the one thing no Christian has to do on his or her own. Jesus has already been through suffering and death before us. He knows the way through death and the way back to life, too. Our friends and family cannot go with us—but Jesus can. He will never let go of our hands. And He will bring us back to life with Him because He has promised, and He will never lie.”

Dr. Kari Vo, Lutheran Hour Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org



Tanner and Ashley (Wendt) Veach were united in marriage on May 2, 2020 -- in a very small wedding, due to the pandemic. Now this week they will mark their 1st Anniversary with a full wedding celebration service here at St. John’s on Saturday, May 1 at 1:00pm. As we said last year, congratulations! Marriage according to God’s design is a blessing for husbands, wives, children and our culture. God bless you!

This Week’s Sunday School Lesson

2 Kings 5:1-16

In today’s lesson, “Healing Waters,” Syrian commander Naaman travels to see the prophet Elisha, hoping to find a cure for his leprosy. Taking along letters of introduction from the king of Syria, silver and gold, and new clothing, Naaman travels first to the king of Israel. Fearing reprisal from the Syrians, the king sends Naaman away. Naaman is directed to Elisha’s house, where a messenger tells him to go wash in the Jordan seven times. Despite his initial resistance, Naaman washes, and his flesh is transformed like that of a little child.

The midweek Adult Catechism Class started last week, with 19 people enrolled to review the Catechism or to consider new membership. Thanks, Lord!

Drivers Needed

The Elders are needing volunteer drivers to assist with picking up those who need a ride to church on Sundays. If you can help, please contact: Keith Knight (217-821-6719)

Deepest Sympathies

Our thoughts and prayers go to the family of Phyllis “Joyce” Schaefer. Joyce passed away Saturday, April 17. Visitation and funeral for Joyce were held Wednesday, April 21 at St. John’s, with burial in Woodlawn Mausoleum.

Prayer List

Gerard Bierman (Carle Hospital), Dean Wetherell, Brian Wenthe (Carle Hospital), Ken Longwell, Shirley Cheadle, Deb Meyers, Becky Janis, Doris Hammer, Joyce Schaefer, Gloria Fortkamp, Craig Wolff, Dwight Klepzig, Bob Miller, Cassie Power, Brett Kull, Rose Boggs, Mike McWhortor, Bertie Powell, Zach Fritcher, Evelyn Shumaker, Janet Brinkopf, Audrey Garbe for her 90th birthday today & the family of Phyllis “Joyce” Schaefer.

Members of the Armed Forces, including Dylan Koester, 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

Your Response to the Gospel

Our Attendance Last Week

In Person Attendance

Sunday, April 18.....	322
Online Worship Views.....	114
Sunday School Pre-K-HS	32
Adult Sunday School Class.....	9
LifeLight	8

Our Offerings Last Week

General Fund, April 18.....	\$6,090
Online General Fund.....	\$3,417
Total General Fund Offering	\$9,507
Building Fund.....	\$85

March General Fund Summary

Deposits.....	\$74,047.24
Expenses	\$158,713.82
Closing Balance	\$89,247.53

Larry Brandt Memorial Scholarship Applications

The Board of Youth established this scholarship fund to support St. John's students as they pursue a post-secondary education. Applicants must be enrolled in or attending an accredited college or university pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree.

You can find the information you need online at our website: stjohnslcms.net and on the bulletin board.

The deadline to apply is Monday, April 26

Farewell Open House

There will be a farewell open house for Pastor Rensner today at 2 p.m. at Faith Lutheran in Shumway, Sunday, April 25. Our congregation is invited.

Announcement from Braille

Thank you to everyone who donated plastic grocery bags. However, we **do not** need any more.

90th Birthday

Audrey Garbe will be celebrating her 90th birthday on April 25th. Her family is planning a card shower for her, and you can send her cards or notes with a memory in it to share with her to:

Audrey Garbe
Villas of Holly Brook
904 W. Evergreen Ave. Apt 14
Effingham, IL 62401

Pastor Burdick will offer a review session for our monthly ***Today's Light*** Bible readings. Monday, May 3 at 4:00pm or 5:30pm, come take a look back at Daniel, Hosea, Joel and Amos. In the Trinity Room.

Food Pantry Distribution

Tuesday, April 27 from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

May Pantry Donation

Ritz Crackers & Peanut Butter

Quarterly Voters Assembly

Tuesday, April 27, 7:00 p.m.

Golden Eagles Meet Again!

We are happy to be able to resume our monthly meals with precautions for your health! Please sign up on the main hall bulletin board so we can plan for you! The menu for April 29th includes: Baked ham, hash brown casserole, carrots, relish tray, and followed by dessert. We hope to see you Thursday, April 29th at noon!

Lydia Guild LMWL Mission

We are taking Orphan Grain Train donations for Health Kits, School Kits, & Pill Bottles until May 2nd for our mission projects for LWML Central IL District 75th Anniversary. Our donations will be sent to those in need all over the world. Along with your prayers & donations for the LWML, we can help families in need & teach them about Jesus through our mission work. You can see the list of needed items at the display. You may place donations in the boxes designated for the specific items.

VBS Supplies

We need your help! The VBS committee is in need of items to help in decorating the church. The theme is Rainforest Explorers so we are looking for jungle type items:

Artificial ferns, palm trees, vines, flowers
Stuffed/plastic: snakes, turtles, exotic birds, & jungle type monkeys

Other materials: Cardboard, toilet paper rolls, burlap & brown packing paper.

If you donate an item you need returned to you, PLEASE put your name on the item & we will do our best to return it.

Help Grow Our Library!

The next two Sundays (May 2nd & 9th) there will be an opportunity to support the children & youth library. Ammon Probst & Kathy Burdick will be available at a table during coffee hour where you can choose books to sponsor from a list! If you are not able to stop by at that time you can call:

Ammon (309-255-2898)

or

Kathy (309-255-8343).

CALENDAR-----April 25, 2021 – May 2, 2021

Sunday	25	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Worship Services, w/HC
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:00 a.m.	Worship Service/Mediacom Channel 81
<i>Preschool—Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday</i>			
Monday	26	5:30 p.m.	Choir
		6:30 p.m.	Board of Early Childhood
Tuesday	27	3:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Food Pantry Distribution
		5:00 p.m.	Altar Guild
		7:00 p.m.	Voters Meeting
Wednesday	28	1:00 p.m.	Office Staff Devotion/Meeting
		7:00 p.m.	Adult Catechism
Thursday	29	12 Noon	Golden Eagles
Friday	30		Pastor Sabbath
		6:00 p.m.	Veach Rehearsal
Saturday	1	8:00 a.m.	Praise Band Practice
		1:00 p.m.	Veach Marriage Celebration
		5:30 p.m.	Worship Services
Sunday	2	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Worship Services
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:00 a.m.	Worship Service/Mediacom Channel 81
		4:30 p.m.	High School Youth at the Burdick's

Birthdays This Week

- 4/25 Adia Jennings, Audrey Garbe, Claire Niebrugge, Corbyn Boone, & Julie Vahling
- 4/27 Baileigh Longwell, Judy Wendling, & Oliver Boone
- 4/28 Jerry Lindsey, Leigha Weber, & Westen Royse
- 4/29 Shirley Wittenberg
- 4/30 Breannah Westjohn & Karla Flach
- 5/01 Brandon Wendling & Marla Jackson

Anniversaries

- 4/25/81 Neal & Sarah Mellendorf
- 4/28/01 Todd & Marisa Szeluga
- 4/29/72 Dick & Pauline Kinkelaar
- 4/29/95 Eric & Penny Hanks
- 4/29/06 Lance & Jacque Dixon



We have a wonderful Sunday School Ministry with children and adults studying the same lessons from age three and up. Pre-K through 5th Grade classes meet in the Education Building. Next Sunday, May 2, those youngest grades will begin meeting in the classrooms upstairs in the Ed Building. The upstairs rooms have recently been painted, cleaned and decorated. Next Sunday, May 2, you're welcome to go over and take a look, either before 9:30am or after 10:15am. See the tunnel, too, which displays some artwork by the children! Take a look. Lift up a prayer for our Sunday School.