

# THE EAGLE

## St. John's Newsletter

### May 9, 2021

From Our Pastor ...

Happy? We're not completely happy this Mother's Day. No, we're discouraged because motherhood is in decline. The rate of births in our nation has dropped for the sixth year in a row, and we're now below replacement levels. More people die than are born. I realize there are many reasons for it all, but here's truly good news: We can do something about it. We can encourage and defend natural marriage. We can encourage and defend children. We can turn this around. And we must.

Happy? Yes, we are. And better. We're joyful. Our joy is partly flowing from the goodness of moms, mothering, dads, and fathering. And the very, very good problem of occasionally hearing children interrupt our worship services. Keep them coming. Welcome them warmly. Let's work toward the goal of a bustling, boisterous sanctuary filled with music, silence, bodies, and infant voices.

Happy Mother's Day, moms and grandmas. Your calling is precious and powerful. You shape the world. We thank God for you!



**"Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth! I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done." (Psalm 78:1-4)**

### E.A.S.T.E.R.

Class resumes next Saturday, May 15. Praise God! This wonderful ministry for special-needs neighbors has been going on for 45 years! We'll be hosting them again from 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the gym. If you are interested in being a helper, I urge you to reach out to Joanne Garbe (217-739-2269).

### Ministerial Recruitment Convocation



Rev. Dale Meyer will be the keynote speaker and preacher for our Ministerial Recruitment Convocation in two weeks here at St. John's! He served as International Lutheran Hour Speaker and then as President of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Why come hear him? He will help us see how we can help raise up the next generation of pastors and church workers in the Lord's harvest fields! Go to our website ([www.stjohnsLCMS.net](http://www.stjohnsLCMS.net)). Click "The Harvest Is Plentiful!" Then register for this great event! 3:00-6:00 p.m. May 23, right here at our church. As an added bonus, you'll have fellowship with people from throughout our Circuit and District.

### Armed Forces Sunday



will be May 23, and our guest preacher will be Pastor Craig Muehler, Director of Ministry to the Armed Forces for the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. He will also speak at our Convocation for Ministerial Recruitment that afternoon.

## LCMS Stewardship Thought

1 John 5:3 – “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.” God’s commandments are not burdensome. That’s only true for Christians precisely because we know that we are not saved by our keeping of the Law. We are saved by grace. Therefore, we are set free by grace to walk in newness of life, to grow in faithfulness, and to rejoice in the Law of the Lord. The love of God is that we keep His commandments.

## LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

“Little though you can see it now, God intends to do wonderful things with you. If He is taking it slowly, that’s no surprise; He did it the first time, too. Nothing the devil can do will stop the Lord from finishing His work in you. After all, He has already laid down His life to make you His own.”

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

## This Week’s Sunday School Lesson

2 Kings 17:6-20, 24-29

Today, we will study “Enduring Exile.” Despite constant warnings, the Israelites continue in their idolatry. Because of this, God allows the king of Assyria to capture the Israelites and carry them into exile. The king resettles Samaria with other peoples, who bring with them their own false gods. When wild lions begin killing these immigrants, the king sends for an Israelite priest, hoping to appease God. But the people continued to sacrifice to idols—confusing the worship of the Lord with worshiping false gods. This is the beginning of the Samaritans.

## Food Distribution

Tuesday, May 11 from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

## May Pantry Donation

Ritz Crackers & Peanut Butter

## Prayer List

Janet Brinkopf, Gloria Fortkamp, Ruth Holland, Doug Wendte, Debbie Barr, Dick Hulskotter, Dean Wetherell, Brian Wenthe, Shirley Cheadle, Deb Meyers, Doris Hammer, Craig Wolff, Bob Miller, Cassie Power, Brett Kull, Rose Boggs, Mike McWhortor, Evelyn Shumaker.

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, May 2 .....	326
Online Worship Views .....	112
Sunday School Pre-K-HS .....	42
Adult Sunday School Class.....	21
LifeLight.....	8

### Our Offerings Last Week

General Fund, May 2 .....	\$7,591
Online General Fund.....	\$1,580
<b>Total General Fund Offering .....</b>	<b>\$9,171</b>
<b>Building Fund .....</b>	<b>\$560</b>

## 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.

## VBS Decorating

The next decorating meeting for VBS will be Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

### Help Grow Our Library!

May 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).



Lucas Stortzum of Effingham and Lauren Hamilton of Springdale, AR, both of Greensboro, NC, were united in marriage on Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at the Botanical Gardens in Fayetteville, AR with Pastor Steve Evan, St. Luke Lutheran Church, Fort Smith AR officiating the ceremony. Lucas is the son of Brenda & Doug Wendling and Curtis & Christy Stortzum.



### Baby Bottle Project



We are once again participating in the Family Life Pregnancy Center Baby Bottle Project. Be sure to pick up your Baby Bottles today, and return them on Father's Day, Sunday, June 20.

### Prayer Shawl

Will meet Tuesday, May 11 at 1:00 p.m.



### CILCA SMILES!

We will take a group photo of all the St. John's children and parents who will attend Camp CILCA. Photo will be taken Sunday, May 23 at 9:00am in the sanctuary. Thanks!

### High School Youth Event



Their faces haven't been blurred to protect them ... it just isn't a good photo. But the high school youth who resumed our monthly gatherings at the Burdicks' last Sunday had a good time with food, games, and Bible Study! We'll meet again Sunday, June 6 at 6:00pm.

### Sunday School News

Our Sunday School is blessed with great leaders! Emily Lotz has served as Superintendent with great distinction and dedication for many years. We're glad she can get a respite soon, as Kiley Bohnhoff steps into that role. Thank you, both!

### Adult Bible Study

Join me & others for Sunday morning Bible Study in the Trinity Rooms at 9:15 a.m. Next week, May 16 I'll be teaching a special lesson focused upon "**shepherding our strays.**" I, and our elders, need you – the active sheep of the Lord's fold – to help encourage and reach the inactive members of the congregation. Pastor Burdick

# CALENDAR-----May 9, 2021 – May 16, 2021

Sunday	9		Happy Mother's Day
		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
Last Week of Preschool			
Monday	10	5:00 p.m.	Board of Stewardship
		5:30 p.m.	Choir
		6:00 p.m.	VBS Decorating Meeting
		6:15 p.m.	Board of Education
Tuesday	11	9:30 a.m.	Pastor Joint Circuit Conf/Faith, Shumway
		1:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
		3:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Food Pantry Distribution
		5:15 p.m.	Board of Social Ministry
Wednesday	12		Preschool Country Fair Day
		1:00 p.m.	Office Staff Devotion/Meeting
		7:00 p.m.	Adult Catechism
Thursday	13		Preschool Country Fair Day
		6:30 p.m.	Board of Elders
Friday	14		Pastor Sabbath
		10:00 a.m.	Mrs. Esker's 4 yr. old Graduation
Saturday	15	8:00 a.m.	Praise Band Practice
		9:30 – 11:00 a.m.	E.A.S.T.E.R.
		5:30 p.m.	Worship Service
Sunday	16	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

### Birthdays This Week

5/09 David Wells & Kelsey Boerngen  
 5/11 Avery Westjohn, Gregory Seggelke,  
 Henrietta Poe, & Jacob Flach  
 5/12 Matt Gordon & Nancy Ohnesorge  
 5/14 Chase Smith  
 5/15 Adam Devall & Valerie Wright

### Anniversaries

5/10/01 Don & Christa Tieffel  
 5/10/75 Mike & Sandra Mietzner  
 5/11/19 Brandon & Candra Kronewitter  
 5/11/85 Gayland & Shawn Bourland  
 5/12/66 John & Marla Jackson  
 5/13/95 Steve & Jill Wendling  
 5/15/20 Nikki & Richard Vahling  
 5/15/10 Clayton & Katie Hinton  
 5/15/99 Mike & Amanda Brummer