

THE EAGLE

St. John's Newsletter
September 12, 2021

A Covid Update

What shall we do about masks? There is an even more important question than that! What shall we do about love for God? We will fear, love, and trust in Him above all things. That's the meaning of the First Commandment, and it means that gathering to receive God's Word and Sacrament will be our chief aim.

When we gather here at St. John's, what shall we do about masks? We will request and recommend that you wear them at all worship Services and indoor activities. We stop short of requiring them for two reasons: a) love is a better motivation than law in this case, and b) enforcing a mandate within the church is problematic. We feel it is prudent to request and recommend that you wear a mask.

In our 5:30 p.m. Service we will continue to use the very careful Communion distribution process of plates on the communion rail.

In all of our Services we'll reserve the front pews on the lectern side for greater distance between worshipers, by spacing people in every other pew. Any worshipers who desire an area with greater distance are recommended to sit there.

Our custodian has used the electrostatic sanitizer in the whole church every week since the pandemic began, and will continue to do so.

Our chief aim is to walk together in love for God. We believe this policy serves all the members of our church family in the best possible way. We know it will not hit all of the points that all of us want. We believe it's a prudent plan, and we thank you for working within it – aiming at faithfulness to the God who has redeemed and sanctified us to be His own.

Pastor Burdick, Elders: Jeff Weis, Howard Janis, Jeff Stremming, Jim Schroeder, Keith Knight, Todd Zeigler, Dave Worman
September 1, 2021

*Note: Our Board of Christian Education has adopted the same policy of recommending and requesting masks during Sunday School.

From Our Pastor

You probably remember where you were twenty years ago when you heard the news of the attacks in New York and Washington. Maybe you remember some of your words. I do. I also remember some of the words from Scripture that comforted college students and members in Macomb as we

GOD IS
our refuge
—AND—
STRENGTH
A VERY PRESENT
help in trouble
THEREFORE
—WE WILL—
not FEAR

gathered for the Prayer Service that evening. Psalm 46: "God is our refuge and strength..." This is always true. Always! Alleluia!

We received a letter this week from one of our seminary students in St. Louis. Jaron and Liz have returned from his vicarage. They thank us for our prayer and financial support, and will schedule a visit to Effingham sometime. God is forming him into a pastor, a tool in the Lord's hands, to speak Law and Gospel, refuge and strength.

Our 8th-12th grade youth meet for Sunday School in the LYF Room downstairs. Many of them are also planning to meet in Houston next summer for the National Youth Gathering, confident that God is the only reliable refuge and strength for their lives. Teach them that truth by your example, please. Let them see you worshipping weekly (not weakly), praying daily, and studying God's Word personally. When the next attack comes on our nation or individual lives – and it will come – we only have one reliable refuge and strength. The Lord of all time. Jesus, the Christ. Therefore, we will not fear. In Him,



Circumstances were such that the 2nd class session of our Thurs "Catechism Bible Study" has not yet been held! That means that you can join the class this Thurs. night at 7:00 p.m. in the Trinity Room. We will study The Ten Commandments (Questions #15-102 in the 2017 edition of Luther's Small Catechism). Come, grow with us! - Pastor B

Prayer Shawl

Our next meeting will be
Thursday, September 16 at 1:00 p.m.

Youth Corner

Golf Outing

Will be Sat, Sept. 18 for our annual Golf Outing.

Hayride & Wiener Roast

Save the date for all members. Oct. 17th. More information to come.

Prayer List

Neil Haake, Reed Newton, Lynn Winter, Sonia Hyde, Carl Becker, Gloria Fortkamp, Brian Wenthe, Doris Hammer, Cassie Power, Rose Boggs, Mike McWhortor, Evelyn Shumaker, Shawn Bourland, David Tieffel, Roberta Jenkins, and for Kirby & Nicole (Pals) Tolch on their marriage, which was Sept. 11.

Members of the Armed Forces, including Dylan Koester, Ryan Budde, Paul Smith, Nathan Vail, Gabriel Walker, Bryce Ikemire, and all first responders of our community and nation.

Our Next Food Distribution

Will be Tues., Sept. 14 from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

September Pantry Donation

Spaghetti Sauce and Pasta Noodles

LCMS Stewardship Thought

Mark 9:24 – “Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, ‘I believe; help my unbelief!’” Haven’t we often felt like this! And notice that Jesus does not throw the man out because of his weakness of faith. He still has pity, and He still blesses the man as His Lord. But neither does Jesus leave people in weakness of faith. He blesses us and calls us to a deeper faith – as He did to the disciples in the boat on the storm-tossed sea. How does our faith grow? By hearing the Word of God. What does our faith lead to as it grows? It leads to a godly life lived in thanksgiving to our Lord.

We Need Your Help

Please make sure that your phone number & email address are correct when you get your picture taken. We want to make sure all info is correct in the new directory.

The SEP-NOV Acolyte schedule has been completed by volunteers signing up the past two weeks, and by Pastor assigning dates to all 6th-8th graders thereafter. It’s posted on the main bulletin board. Thank you for your service.

Confirmation Ministry

All 6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Students will be growing in faith & knowledge in Jesus! Wednesday, **September 15th we will hold a meeting in the Sanctuary at 5:00pm, for all students & at least one parent.** Wed, Sept. 22 will be our first class period, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

LifeLight Class

Sun., Oct. 3, we will have an orientation for our study on Revelation. We will meet in the Conference Room at 9:15 a.m. Be sure to sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board if you wish to join us.

Photos Wanted

If you have any candid shots from the past two years that we might use for the directory, please email traveler@effingham.net or bring photo into the office. Thank you.

This Week’s Sunday School Lesson

Matthew 3; John 1:29-34

“The Pointing Prophet” is the title of this week’s lesson. John the Baptist lives in the wilderness, dressed in camel’s hair & eating locusts & honey. John’s message of repentance & preparation draws people to the banks of the Jordan, where they receive Baptism. As the prophet sent to point out the Messiah, John declares, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29) as Jesus approaches. When John baptizes Jesus in the Jordan, the Spirit descends on Him as the voice of the Father proclaims, “This is My beloved Son” (Matthew 3:17).

LWML Fall Rally

This year’s Rally will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 22nd at St. John’s, Eff. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. with a \$12.00 fee & the Rally will start at 9:00 a.m. If you wish to register ahead of time, text or call Brenda Wendling (217-240-6963) or Shirley Wittenberg (217-347-3428).

This year’s theme is “All Things are Possible with Faith” (Mark 9:23). Guest speaker will be Susan Brunkow, LWML National Vice President of Christian Life. There will be a Bible Study, music, & we will elect a new Secretary/Treasurer, collect In-Gathering items & rejoice in all that God continues to bless us with.

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

“God has taken away your sins. He has changed your heart. He gives you the ability to put yourself last so that you can humbly serve others. That’s greatness & a great life in God’s eyes. That humble serving attitude values & serves every life whether that life is a few cells old or a gene short of worldly greatness.”

Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans for Life • lutheransforlife.org Linda Buxa, Time of Grace – A Life Quote from Lutherans for Life • lutheransforlife.org

Your Response to the Gospel Our Attendance Last Week

In Person Attendance

Sunday, Sept. 5	338
Online Worship Views	75
Sunday School Pre-K-HS	35
Adult Sunday School Class	35

Our Offerings Last Week

General Fund, Sept. 5	\$7,394.36
Online General Fund	\$3,775.00
Total Gen. Fund Offering	\$11,169.36
Building Fund.....	\$90.00

August General Fund Summary

Deposits.....	\$54,588.74
Expenditures	\$39,900.17
Closing Balance.....	\$133,881.21

Time & Talent

The Board of Stewardship has compiled a time & talent survey that we would like all of our **confirmed members** to complete. We will have a table set up in the directory picture area, so while you are waiting to have your pictures taken, we encourage you to please take one of these surveys for each confirmed member of your family. Please fill them out & return them to the completed basket. Or, take them home & return them in the next few weeks. We will also have surveys available at the welcome desk.

For those who are new to St. John’s or those who just want a little more info., we have also compiled a list of organizations and activities available to our members. This list also includes meeting times & contact information.

Thanks.

Coffee Hour Hosts/Hostesses

The Board of Social Ministry are in need of volunteers. Please sign up on the calendar in the kitchen posted on the side of the refrigerator.

Thank You

I want to thank all my church friends who remembered me on my 95th birthday. God’s richest blessings to you all.

In Christian love, Irene Esch

Benefit for Rev. Paul McGhghy

On September 18, Faith Lutheran in Sullivan will host a luncheon benefit for Pastor Paul McGhghy, who faithfully served the Faith Congregation, as well as the Sullivan community for 33 years. The benefit will take place in the Sullivan IGA parking lot from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. The menu will consist of pulled pork sandwiches, hamburgers, & brats. Chips & drinks will also be available. The benefit is to assist Pastor Paul in the purchase of a mobility van, enabling him to travel with his electric wheelchair. All proceeds will go towards the purchase of the van.

Please see Pastor McGhghy’s story, posted on the main bulletin board.

90th Birthday Card Shower

There will be a card shower for Irvin Wendte in celebration of his “90th” Birthday, which is on Wednesday, Sept. 15. Cards may be sent to:

Irvin Wendte
13697 E. 1000th Ave.
Effingham, IL 62401



Family Life Center

26th Annual Fundraising Banquet will be Thurs., Sept. 23, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at the Thelma Keller Convention Ctr.

To host a table or attend, email development@familylifepcc.org or call 217-342-5433.

Life ... It’s Worth Fighting For

Thank You

For the cards, calls, care, & concern for us during the time of Brett Kull’s illness & death. We especially appreciate the prayers on our behalf. Thank you! Brett’s struggles are over Praise the Lord! Pastor Gary & Gloria Fortkamp

CALENDAR-----Sept. 12, 2021 – September 19 2021

Sunday	12	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
		10:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Directory Photos
<i>Preschool Monday---- Friday 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.</i>			
Monday	13	4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Directory Photos
		5:00 p.m.	Board of Stewardship
		6:15 p.m.	Board of Christian Education
Tuesday	14	3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Food Pantry Distribution
		5:15 p.m.	Board of Social Ministry
Wednesday	15	8:50 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
		1:00 p.m.	Office Staff Devotion/Meeting
		5:00 p.m.	Confirmation Meeting
		5:30 p.m.	Bell Choir
		6:00 p.m.	Board of Youth
Thursday	16	8:50 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
		12:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Stephen's Ministry Office Hours
		1:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
		7:00 p.m.	Adult Confirmation
Friday	17		Pastor Sabbath
Saturday	18	8:00 a.m.	Praise Band Practice
			Golf Outing
		Noon – 7:30 p.m.	Directory Photos
		5:30 p.m.	Worship Service
Sunday	19	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
		10:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Directory Photos

Birthdays This Week

- 9/12 Blake Bahrns, Jenna Bohnhoff,
Phillip Wendling, & Ryan Wyckoff
- 9/13 Ann Newton, Coen Westjohn,
David Habbe, & Debbie Sanders
- 9/14 Brent Budde, Dwight Klepzig,
Mackenzie Stuemke & Madison Stuemke
- 9/15 Clayton Hinton & Irvin Wendte
- 9/16 Eileen Wall, Phil Kinkelaar, & Sean March
- 9/17 Lee Hartman & Truman Brown
- 9/18 Fred Richter

Anniversaries This Week

- 9/12/19 Adam & Chelsea Devall
- 9/15/90 Jeff & Melissa Vail
- 9/15/12 Kent & Niki Bishop
- 9/16/78 Donald & Karen Grupe
- 9/18/66 Lyle & Jane Tolch

Preschool is back in session, praise the Lord! The parking lot areas south of the church will be roped off to allow safe passage & play for our students when they are outside. Be cautious. Thank you.