

The Advent Eagle

Weekly Newsletter of St. John's
November 28, 2021

From our Pastor:

Pastor Lessing gave me a thoughtful start to this holy Advent season, based upon Isaiah 1:1...

“The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.”

In Isaiah's day, kings were a mixed bag. King Uzziah – while succeeding militarily – at one point insisted on offering incense, a duty reserved for priests. He ended up dying under divine judgment (2 Chronicles 26:16-23). King Jotham did well in seeking advice from Isaiah and other prophets, and was known for building High and Upper Gate of the Temple of Jerusalem and built cities castles, and towers. King Ahaz didn't respond in faith to enemy nations attacking him – when told to ask for a sign from God, he refused (Isaiah 7:12). King Hezekiah stands out as the best of Judah's monarchs during Isaiah's ministry, yet he shows Babylonian envoys state treasures and then nonchalantly shrugs off divine retribution.

A “mixed bag,” indeed! There is a better King on the horizon! His name is Jesus.



Jesus comes to do what no king could ever do – deliver God's free and forever forgiveness. What does that mean? We don't have to live in the past, rehash the past, or be bound to the past. We only need to wait upon the Lord. We don't need more effort, more work, or more sweat and blood. The sweat and blood have been poured out, by Jesus, on the cross, for us.

“This Advent, King Jesus, help me to wait upon You daily, counting Your forgiving love as the greatest gift. Amen.”

Pastor Lessing

December 12th we will hear an update from Kassie Stanfield at 9:15am in the gym. Come hear about her mercy work with Neema Village in Tanzania!

Christmas with the Chosen

We would like to invite anyone interested in joining us to view “Christmas with The Chosen: The Messengers” on Sunday, December 5th at the 4:30 showing at Mattoon AMC theater. Tickets are \$12.50 per person (child, adult, senior) and can be purchased online at. Please contact Jamie & Emily Lotz with any questions.

Lutheran Care Door Offering

We will be taking a door offering for Lutheran Care at our services on the 27th & 28th. Please make checks payable to **Lutheran Care.**

Faith Lutheran Church in Shumway

We will be hosting a Christmas Open House on Dec. 12th from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Church on Route 33 west of Shumway. A collection of over 50 nativity sets from around the world will be on display. Refreshments will be served.

Come enjoy the Christmas fellowship at Faith and then plan to attend the Christmas Cantata at 7:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Stewardson.

Pickup your Advent Devotional, “Child of Promise,” and dust off your wreath. Today is the kickoff of Advent!



First Sunday of Advent

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

“Creation is preaching a message about its Creator. He is wise. Kind. Brilliant. Powerful. Limitless. Combine those qualities with His reckless love for us found on the cross, and you have a God who can strengthen trembling hearts and weak knees. You have a Creator worth worshipping.”

Rev. Mike Novotny, Time of Grace –A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Prayer List

Zach Fritcher, Kay Woodland, Chad Nelson, Doris Hammer, David Winter, Tim Mueller, Lynn Winter, Sonia Hyde, Carl Becker, Gloria Fortkamp, Cassie Power, Rose Boggs, Mike McWhortor, Evelyn Shumaker, Shawn Bourland, David Tieffel, & Roberta Jenkins.

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.

Your Response to the Gospel
Our Attendance Last Week

Sunday, November 21	362
Sunday School Pre-K-HS	36
Adult Sunday School Class	38
LifeLight Class	16

Our Offerings Last Week

General Fund, Nov. 21	\$7,159.10
Online General Fund	\$2,610.00
Total Gen. Fund Offering	\$9,769.10
Building Fund.....	\$45.00

Poinsettias

It is time to purchase your poinsettias for Christmas. This year, they are \$18 for a 10” plant. Please place your order by calling the church office by Sun., Dec 5th.

E.A.S.T.E.R. Christmas

We are looking for people to volunteer to be part of our Christmas program, which will be Sat., Dec. 4th, at 9:30 a.m. We need 5-6 volunteers to act as angels to push wheel chairs. Please contact Joan Garbe (217-254-2261) if you have any questions.

This Week’s Sunday School Lesson

Luke 15

This week’s lesson is “Lost-and-Found Wonders.” Jesus shares three parables demonstrating our heavenly Father’s concern for the lost. The shepherd leaves the ninety-nine sheep to seek one that was lost. A woman sweeps the house to find one of ten silver coins. In the parable of the lost son, a young man squanders his inheritance, ending up in squalor. Determined to plead for his father’s mercy and beg to return as a servant, the son instead receives a celebration. Angered at his father’s welcome for the prodigal, the older son confronts his father. The father’s gentle response reassures the young man of the father’s everlasting love and care.



“Are you submitting a photo of me?”

Help us during the Advent Season

Our Advent theme is: Child of Promise. We would like to display a childhood picture of any member who would provide one of themselves or a family member (birth to 3 years old).

*Please don’t give an original that you want back.

*Write your name on the back.

*Put them in the envelope on the bulletin board outside the church office.

We will display them in the Fellowship Hall.

Come. See. Enjoy.

Angel Tree

New, unwrapped toys for the FISH Christmas Store will be accepted in the Atrium beginning Nov.13th - Dec 5th.

Anniversary Prayers

For Jim & Becky Bailey as they celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Friday, Nov. 26th. God’s blessings on their special day and the years ahead.!

December Pantry Donation

Canned or boxed foods of the donor’s choice

Youth Corner

Advent Soup Lunch & Dinner

Dec. 1st

11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. & 12:45-1:15 p.m.

5:30-6:30 p.m. & 7:15-7:45 p.m.

Youth (6th-12th grades), please bring a dessert, & put your name on it, & drop it off in the church kitchen on Nov. 30th by 4 p.m. If you can work the soup supper, please let us know.

Live Nativity Scene-

Dec. 11th, 6–8p.m.

Sign up now on the bulletin board.

Christmas Cookie Walk

Cookie Drop Off

Dec. 18, 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Cookie Walk

Dec. 18, 4:30 p.m.

Dec. 19, 7:00 a.m.

Also, all 6th - 12th grade youth need to bring 12 dozen of a variety of Christmas cookies for the cookie walk. If you can help work this event, there will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. You will get credited in your account for the cookies & working. You will be receiving a text that will be asking if you will be bringing these things as well as helping.

Christmas Caroling

We are planning on going Christmas caroling on Sun., Dec. 12th around 4:30 p.m. (after the program practice). We are asking for parent drivers & chaperones to help with this event. This is for all the youth of St. John's. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you and your child(ren) will be singing.

Greeting Cards Update

We have added lots of cards to the Card Cabinet—Christmas, sympathy, get well, thinking of you, & birthday. They are less than \$5 a box, & students receive a small profit to use for LYF activities

There is a box of service appreciation, & wedding for you to buy single cards, which are only 50 cents each.

LCMS Stewardship Thought

Luke 19:31 – “If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you shall say this: ‘The Lord has need of it.’” Consider the faithfulness of that man who owned the donkey and colt. All he needed to hear was, “The Lord has need of it.” Then he gave willingly. The Lord has given each of us various callings in life – in our homes, in the Church, and in the communities in which we live. In each calling we have good work to do which comes from the Lord’s hand. The Lord has need of us in each calling. How is He calling you to generous giving in each of your vocations?

LCMSFoundation
TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

In a complex world, each of us need trusty advisers to lead us to proper decisions and actions. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor does not see you as a task, but as a brother or sister in Christ, with whom to grow in relationship so that the goals woven into the fabric of your soul can be expressed in plans that will be implemented someday, as you seek to honor God. The peace and joy of a godly plan builds confidence that you have prepared well. Contact Scott Radden, Gift Planning Counselor at (618) 977-4049 or Scott.Radden@lfnf.org for more information.

Offering Envelopes

It's time to start thinking about your offerings for next year. If you have an envelope number already, we are so happy you are using it. If you don't have one & would like to use them next year, we would love to assign you a number. However, if you are giving online through Vanco, which is so simple & easy, & wish to release your envelope number, or you no longer wish to use your offering envelopes, please let the office know by

Monday, November. 29th.

Pecan Update

Due to slow ripening & our current transportation issues, our pecans will not be arriving until after Tues., Nov 30. We are so sorry for any inconveniences this may be causing you.

CALENDAR-----November 28, 2021 – December 5, 2021

Sunday	28	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Worship Services w/HC Lutheran Care Door Offering
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:00 a.m.	Worship Service/Mediacom Channel 81
<i>Preschool Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.</i>			
Monday	29	11:45 a.m.	Cricut Workshop
		5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
		6:30 p.m.	Board of Early Childhood
Tuesday	30		
Wednesday	1	11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Stephen Ministry Office Hours Stephen Class Stephen Ministry Office Hours
		12:15 p.m. & 6:30	Advent Services
		11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. 12:45 p.m. – 1:15 P.M.	LYF Soup Luncheon
		1:00 p.m.	Office Staff Devotion/Meeting
		5:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class
		5:30 p.m.	Bells Practice
		5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. 7:15 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.	LYF Soup Supper
Thursday	2	7:00 p.m.	Shepherding Our Strays Teams
Friday	3		Pastor Sabbath
Saturday	4	8:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
		8:00 a.m.	Praise Band Practice
		9:30 a.m.	E.A.S.T.E.R. Christmas Program
		5:30 p.m.	Worship Service /Bells
Sunday	5	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Worship Services/Bells
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:00 a.m.	Worship Service/Mediacom Channel 81
			Fish Angel Tree Donations Ends

Birthdays This Week

11/29 Dean Wetherell & Stephanie Sams
 11/30 Austin Miller, Ava Wernsing, Bob Kohnert,
 David Worman, Emersyn Jeffries, &
 Nancy Wendt
 12/02 Alvin Siebert, Britt Wendling, Elliot Miller, &
 Jeff Flach
 12/04 Alexander Gordon, Eden Wendling,
 Hali Schlechte, Kathy Burdick, &
 Kimberly Brummer

Anniversaries This Week

11/28/54 Dr. James & Doris Gartner
 11/28/87 David & Rebecca Ragan
 11/29/80 George & Valena Soltwedel

Annual German Christmas Service

This annual event will be held on Sunday, December 19 at 4:00 p.m. in Terre Haute. For details, please see the red flyer on the bulletin board.