

# The Advent Eagle

Weekly Newsletter of St. John's  
December 12, 2021

## From our Pastor:



Our Advent Wreaths are getting brighter, with three candles burning and more preparations being made for the Child of Promise – preparations like music in the church, decorations in our homes, and more prayer in our schedules. This is the Advent Sunday marked by “Joy.”

When did you realize that joy is better than happiness? Was it when a loved one died in confident faith in God? You weren't happy, of course. But you had joy – joy that she had feasted recently at Communion, and that in Christ she was ready for the Lord's feast in heaven. Joy remains in all circumstances, but happiness doesn't.

I must say that I was happy last week to find just the right gift for a unique circumstance ... I found it in our Atrium, displayed in the carousel of Lutheran Hour Ministries pamphlets given years ago by our Stephen Ministry. Check it out. You may find just the right reading material for you or a loved one.

I'm eager to hear the Sunday School children present the Christmas story “Jubilee” next Sunday. I'll love the 5:30 & 8:00 Services, too, which will be in our usual format. The 10:30 Service will be with the kids presenting the Gospel of Christmas. Many thanks to all the teachers and other helpers working hard on it. And, kids: thank you.

Some other items that heightened my joy this week: 1) hearing that Hayden Renser now has her visa and will soon leave for the Czech Republic as a missionary, 2) seeing what good work is done by our Cradle Roll (coordinated by Jane Tolch), helping parents of little children

teach the faith at home through excellent materials, and 3) overhearing that some siblings were going up to the children's library last Sunday to check out books. We really have some great things going on by God's grace.

Rejoice!

### Thank You Notes

We keep receiving thank you notes and cards from our Seminarians at Concordia, St. Louis. They appreciate your donations to the Seminary Food Bank, and the support for their tuition.

### 2022 Offering Envelopes

Stop in the gym to pick up your envelopes today. There is a sign-up sheet if you wish to start using them, and don't currently have a number.

### Serving Opportunity

Serve our special needs neighbors through our E.A.S.T.E.R. class. Learn more Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.!



### 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 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade youth need to bring 12 dozen ( 144 cookies)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.

**Food Pantry News**  
**Next Food Distribution**

Tues., Dec. 14 from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**December Pantry Donation**

Canned or boxed foods of the donor's choice

**Special Request**

The food pantry is in desperate need of plastic shopping bags

**LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life**

“The birth of Christ is the ultimate solution to the loneliness that began in the Garden of Eden. Jesus came because God cares about lonely people, and so should we. Find opportunities to give lonely people gifts—not merely physical items, but the gift of your time, presence, and encouragement. May the glorious Gospel that is preached to you in the birth of Jesus be the gospel that you preach to yourself and your family this month.”

Paul David Tripp, pastor, author, conference speaker – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

**Prayer List**

Linda Nolan, Beverly Koester, Norma Wendling, Greg Habbe, Zach Fritcher, Kay Woodland, Chad Nelson, Doris Hammer, Tim Mueller, Gloria Fortkamp, Cassie Power, Mike McWhortor, Evelyn Shumaker, David Tieffel, Roberta Jenkins, and the families of Warren Habbe, Carl Becker, & Rose Boggs.

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, December 5 .....	368
Sunday School Pre-K-HS .....	33
Adult Sunday School Class .....	41
LifeLight Class .....	16
Wed., Dec. 8 Advent Services .....	112

**Our Offerings Last Week**

General Fund, Dec. 5 .....	\$11,621.95
Online General Fund .....	\$4,462.21
<b>Total Gen. Fund Offering .....</b>	<b>\$16,084.16</b>
<b>Building Fund.....</b>	<b>\$275.00</b>

**November General Fund Summary**

Deposits.....	\$70,551.70
Expenditures .....	\$61,359.52
Closing Balance.....	\$137,003.25

**Senior Youth Christmas Party**

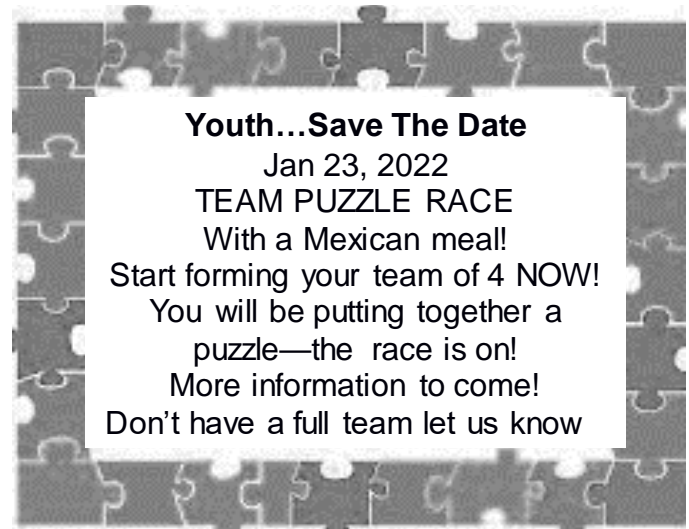
Sr. Youth (8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) Christmas Party and Bible Study at the Burdicks' house: Sunday, December 19, 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Get your white elephant gift wrapped up ... and be ready for some stealing. Ha.

**Rural King Church Week**

Rural King is having their Church Week from Dec. 9-24. To be eligible, receipts must be dated Dec. 9-24 and submitted to the website, [www.RuralKing.com](http://www.RuralKing.com) by Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022. When the event has ended, 10% of each valid & qualifying Rural King receipt total will be donated to our Food Pantry. You can also bring your receipts by the office, & we will be happy to enter them for you.

**Youth Corner**  
**Christmas Caroling**

We will go caroling on Sun., Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> 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.



**Kassie Stanfield**

Sun., Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> we will hear an update from Kassie at 9:15 a.m. in the gym. Come hear about her mercy work with Neema Village in Tanzania!

**Thank You**

A big thank you to all for your prayers. God's blessings on you all. Norma Wendling

## **Stewardship Thought**

### **Advent III**

Philippians 4:5-6 – “The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” Wouldn’t you like to be free from worry and anxiety? Isn’t it worry and anxiety that often keep us from living the generous life God has called us to? St. Paul contrasts anxiety with prayer, supplication, and thanksgiving in making our requests known to God. In other words, when you are tempted to anxiety and worry, pray to the Lord with a thankful heart and pour out your supplications before Him

### **Faith Lutheran Church in Shumway**

We will be hosting a Christmas Open House on Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> 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 & then plan to attend the Christmas Cantata at 7:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Stewardson.

### **Pictures**

Photos taken by Waymo’s for the upcoming directory are available in the church office during office hours, and after each worship service in the gym. Thank you.

### **Christmas Without Cancer Trivia Night**

Will be held Fri., Dec. 17 at Immanuel Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. Check the flyer on the bulletin board for details.

### **Thank You**

Thank you so much to all the people who recently provided meals for us the past two months during my chemo & radiation treatments. We appreciate your thoughtfulness, kindness, & generosity. You have certainly been a blessing to us.

Gloria Fortkamp

### **Annual German Christmas Service**

Sun., Dec. 19 at 4:00 p.m. in Terre Haute.  
See the flyer on the bulletin board for details.

## **Greeting Cards**

We have a large selection for all occasions in the card cabinet. They are less than \$5 a box, & students receive a small profit to use for LYF activities.

There are some cards for you to buy as singles, which are only 50 cents each.



### **Special Services**



#### **Midweek Advent Services**

Wednesday, December 15  
12:15 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

#### **Christmas Eve Services**

4:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m., & 11:00 p.m.

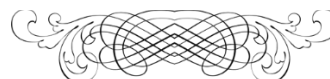
#### **Christmas Day Service**

9:00 a.m.

#### **December 26 & January 2**

We will hold ONE Sunday Service at 9:00 a.m.

#### **Sign-Up is NOT Needed**



### **Birthdays This Week**

- 12/12 Adam Wendling, Brandon Willis, Eden Probst, Kaleb Hartman, Mallory Dixon, Marcia Probst, & Marlin Alwardt
- 12/13 Julie Sudkamp, Kellie Siebert, & Kim Niebrugge
- 12/14 Bob Flach & Randy Miller
- 12/15 Kris Wernsing
- 12/16 Arnetia Osborn & Cathy Mellendorf
- 12/17 Brenda Wendling, Jack Miller, Jonathan Marxmann, & Shirley Morse
- 12/18 Debra McClure & Jake Wendling

### **Anniversaries This Week**

- 12/16/78 Richard & Sandra Devall
- 12/18/60 Eldon & Judy Joergens



**CALENDAR-----December 12, 2021 – December 19, 2021**

Sunday	12	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Worship Services w/HC
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School/Kassie Stanfield Presentation
		10:00 a.m.	Worship Service/Mediacom Channel 81
		3:30 p.m.	Sunday School Christmas Program Practice
		4:30 p.m.	Youth Caroling
<i>Preschool Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.</i>			
Monday	13	5:00 p.m.	Board of Stewardship
		5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
		6:15 p.m.	Board of Christian Education
Tuesday	14	1:00 p.m.	Prayer shawl
		3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Food Pantry Distribution
		5:30 p.m.	Board of Social Ministry at Joe's
Wednesday	15	10:30 a.m.	Preschool Christmas Program
		11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Stephen Ministry Office Hours
		12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Stephen Class
		3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Stephen Ministry Office Hours
		12:15 p.m. & 6:30	Advent Services
		1:00 p.m.	Office Staff Devotion/Meeting
		5:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class
		5:30 p.m.	Bells Practice
Thursday	16	10:30 a.m.	Preschool Christmas Program
Friday	17		No Preschool/Christmas Break
			Pastor Sabbath
Saturday		9 a.m. – 10 a.m.	Cookie Drop Off
		9:30 a.m.	E.A.S.T.E.R.
		4:30 p.m.	Cookie Walk
		5:30 p.m.	Worship Service
Sunday	19	7:00 a.m.	Cookie Walk
		8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Worship Services Children's Christmas Program at the 10:30 a.m. Service
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:00 a.m.	Worship Service/Mediacom Channel 81
		4:00 p.m.	Senior Youth at Burdicks'



**Children's Christmas Program**

Sunday, Dec. 19 at the  
10:30 a.m. Service