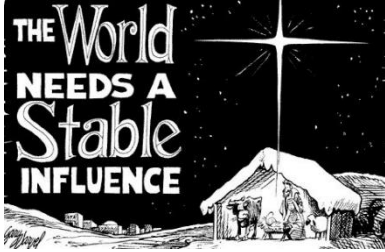


The Advent Eagle
Weekly Newsletter of St. John's
December 19, 2021

From our Pastor:



What does it take to form a stable, Christian life or household? It begins with the choice that worship in church every week will be our absolute priority. Then we add God's Word and prayer throughout the week, in our home. It's not easy, but it is good.

When our kids were young, we had to make Advent devotions a little more interesting (they are normal kids, after all – just as sinful as their parents), so we started making a game out of taking turns blowing out the wreath candles from long distances. Weird and fun! We're still doing it. Kathy started out strong, but I've recently taken the lead. We'll see if it lasts until January 6, Epiphany. The great thing is, everyone "wins" when we gather around God's Word in repentance.

This week, some folks will gather here at church for our Christmas Services for the first time in a l-o-n-g time. Great. We may not recognize them, but let's be ready to welcome them. Sure, we want everyone to be here every weekend. It can begin this week. Pray that it will.

All of the staff of St. John's joins in hoping you have a blessed, stable Christmas!

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.

7th & 8th Grade Confirmation Students

Our 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation students are studying the Apostles' Creed. Last Wednesday they reviewed the two natures of Jesus, and then studied His state of humiliation and His state of exaltation. Both were necessary for our salvation. You knew, didn't you, that Christ's exaltation began with His descent into hell, proclaiming His victory over sin, death, and devil? Jesus is not only the humble Child born to Mary ... He is LORD!

Deepest Sympathies

Mike Wendte died Monday, December 13 at his home. We extend our condolences to his wife, Elaine, and his parents, Howard and Sandra (of St. John's, Louisville). A graveside funeral was held Saturday at the St. Matthew's Lutheran Cemetery, Dieterich.

Know what you believe and why!

Join Pastor Burdick for the Adult Catechism Bible Study series, at 7:00 p.m. Tuesdays, beginning January 4. Interested in joining our congregation? This is the class for learning what LCMS Lutherans believe, teach, and confess. Join us! A sign-up sheet is on the main bulletin board in the Atrium hallway.

Door Offering

Our Concordia Seminary Adopted student, Jaron Melin, will be speaking for our service on Dec. 26. We will be taking up a door offering for Jaron on that day. Please make the checks out to St. John's, and write Jaron's name in the memo line. Thank you!

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

"In carols of Christmas, you'll sometimes hear more than gladness that the Child is born on Christmas. You'll hear of deliverance: 'Born that man no more may die. Born to raise the sons of earth ...' There is much to ponder before, during, and after Christmas. Let the meaning of Christmas fill our hearts with anticipation, wonder, and thanksgiving for many days! For death's days are numbered because of a birth—the birth of the Key of David."

James M. Kushiner, Fellowship of St. James – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org.

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 by Jan. 7th, 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.



Senior Youth Christmas Party

Sr. Youth (8th-12th 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.

60th Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to Topper & Sarah Woelfer, who will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on Mon., Dec. 27. God's Blessings on you both.

Your Response to the Gospel

Our Attendance Last Week

Sunday, December 12385
Sunday School Pre-K-HS.....40
Adult Sunday School Class.....60
Wed., Dec. 15 Advent Services129

Our Offerings Last Week

General Fund, Dec. 12.....\$15,306.78
Online General Fund.....\$1,595.33
Total Gen. Fund Offering.....\$16,902.33
Building Fund.....\$162.40

YOUNG & OLD...Save The Date

Jan 23, 2022

TEAM PUZZLE RACE

With a Mexican meal!

Start forming your team of 4 NOW!

You will be putting together a 500-piece puzzle—the race is on!

More information to come!

Don't have a full team, let us know.

Call Committee

We will meet on Monday, January 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the Trinity Room. Members of the committee are:

Jeff Weis

Dave Worman

Todd Martin

Sandy Wieneke

Holly Bray

Ray Hartman

Dan Jansen

Sandy Bernhardt

 **Special Services** 

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.

New Year's Eve

6:30 p.m.

New Year's Day

9:00 a.m.

Sign-Up is NOT Needed

Oak Street Property Update

The final papers were signed on Monday, Dec. 13. The final purchase price & closing costs were \$144,250.

Library Notes

I go straighten the library, on the 5th floor, each week & I'm happy that each week there is evidence children & adults have used this space. Enjoy this blessing!

Kathy Burdick

Extra! Extra! Read All About It

Lydia Guild has extra pecans. If you would like to purchase some, please contact Marilyn (217-821-0508), Treva (217-343-3300), or Kathy Burdick (309-255-8343

Prayer List

Linda Nolan, Beverly Koester, Zach Fritcher, Kay Woodland, Chad Nelson, Doris Hammer, Tim Mueller, Gloria Fortkamp, Cassie Power, Mike McWhortor, Evelyn Shumaker, David Tieffel, Roberta Jenkins, & the family of Mike Wendte.

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

Welcome home, Paul Smith!

Stewardship Thought

Advent IV

Luke 1:45 – “And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.” The Lord always fulfills what He promises. We can be certain of that, and He has proven it over and over again. This faith in the Lord's own faithfulness is what gives us the courage to follow the Lord's commands in the face of the world's anger and resistance. Mary's faith also gave her the courage to carry on in her seemingly embarrassed circumstances.

We Are Blessed.

I want to extend a special thank you to all of the musicians in our worship services. The choirs, ringers, band members, soloists, organists – and the audio/visual techs who support behind the scenes – bring glory to God and the Good News to worshipers. Thank you all. – Pastor Burdick

Thank you to all of the youth who serve as acolytes in our worship services. Please continue to arrive at least 20 minutes before the Service.

Ramsey Plus

“Financial Peace University”



Scan this QR and you can take advantage of our congregation's membership in “Ramsey Plus.” It can bless your household tremendously. And are you interested in an IN-PERSON class of “Financial Peace University”? Complete the small insert in the bulletin this week to let the Stewardship Board know.

CALENDAR-----December 19, 2021 – December 26, 2021

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'
<i>No Preschool...Christmas Break</i>			
Monday	20	12 Noon	Board of Evangelism
		5:30 p.m.	Choir
Tuesday	21		
Wednesday	22	11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Office Staff Extended Luncheon & Meeting
		5:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class
		5:30 p.m.	Bells Practice
Thursday	23		
Friday	24		Christmas Eve/Office Will Be Closed All Day
		4:00 p.m.	Worship Service w/HC Bells Will Play
		6:30 p.m.	Worship Service w/HC Choir Will Sing
		11:00 p.m.	Worship Service w/HC
Saturday	25		Christmas Day
		9:00 a.m.	Worship Service w/HC
Sunday	26	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service w/HC Traditional Service Jaron Melin Will Be Preaching Door Offering will be taken for Jaron.

Birthdays This Week

12/19 Nic Koester & Shawn Bourland
 12/20 Ryan Mayberry
 12/21 Gary Fortkamp, John Mellendorf,
 Joyce Marxman, & Leo Wyckoff
 12/22 Carol Lading & Wilma Krueger
 12/23 Anne Stine, Patrick Romero,
 Travis Barr, & Renee Kremer
 12/24 Carla Bierman, Emmeline Flach,
 Gary Norris, & Tommy Quance

Anniversaries This Week

12/21/96 Phil & Shannon Stuemke
 12/21/13 Aaron & Blair Smith
 12/22/06 Robert & Joanna Davies

December Pantry Donation

Canned or boxed foods of the donor's choice