

The Advent Eagle
Weekly Newsletter of St. John's
December 5, 2021

From our Pastor:

For nearly a year now, numerous households in our congregation have been using the "Today's Light" Journal in order to read through the Bible in a two-year program. It's been very enriching. We started in Isaiah and will finish Revelation on December 31, since we stepped into the "Today's Light" stream midway through the Bible. On January 1, 2022 we'll be reading Genesis 1:1, and at the close of next year we'll wrap up with Song of Solomon. Know what that means? This is a great time to begin again ... or it's a great time to order "Today's Light" for the first time, beginning with the first quarter of '22. Call Concordia Publishing House at 1-800-325-3040. Kathy and I are glad we did.

Monday, December 6, at 4:30 p.m. we'll have our monthly review session of the Today's Light readings, focusing on our November experience in Hebrews, James, First & Second Peter.

December usually bursts with activities for all of us. That's why it's all the more important to carve out time for daily devotions. In our house, we're finding the evening readings in "Child of Promise" around our Advent Wreath to be helpful. I regret to admit that -- presently -- Kathy is winning at the wreath candle game. Grrrr.

A blessed Advent!



Happy 155th Anniversary, St. John's!

On December 10, 1866 the Constitution of St. John's Lutheran Church was established. Thank God for the shoulders on which we stand – members and pastors who confessed the faith in courage and purity, and passed the mission of St. John's down to us.

Welcome

Today in our 10:30 a.m. Service we welcome Andrew Snow by adult confirmation. He's been a longtime worshiper with us, beside his wife Carissa and their sons, JD and Decker. Welcome, Andrew!

We are scheduling a new member welcome for some time in January for all who have joined us recently by transfer, affirmation of faith, or confirmation.

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.

Lutheran Care Center Benefit Breakfast

The Board of Social Ministry will be serving breakfast in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 12 to benefit the Lutheran Care Center.



Midweek Advent Services

Wednesdays, December 8 & 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

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

“When we have eyes of faith, eyes that recognize these delights are gifts from God, then we realize that what we’re missing, what we should be longing for, what we cannot live without, isn’t Amazon or Starbucks or McDonalds. It’s Him. And when we have Him, every other gift makes sense. Every other gift falls into its proper place.”

Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life for Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Prayer List

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

Wed., Nov. 24, Pre-Thanksgiving	108
Thurs., Nov. 25, Thanksgiving Day	53
Sunday, November 28	360
Sunday School Pre-K-HS	41
Adult Sunday School Class	40
LifeLight Class	14
Wed., Dec. 1 Advent Services	143

Our Offerings Last Week

General Fund, Nov. 28	\$12,171.25
Online General Fund	\$2,534.25
Total Gen. Fund Offering	\$14,005.50
Building Fund.....	\$115.00

Door Offering

Lutheran Care Center..... \$1,757.00

Poinsettias

Poinsettias orders are due no later than 10 a.m.
Monday, Dec. 6.

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!

Deepest Sympathy

Goes out to Al Siebert at the passing of his cousin, Carl Becker. Please keep the family in your prayers.

December Pantry Donation

Canned or boxed foods of the donor’s choice

Youth Corner

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

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.

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.

Deepest Sympathy

To the family of Rose Boggs. Rose passed away Thurs., Nov. 25 & her services were held Monday, Nov. 29. Please keep Levi & her family in your prayers.

Pecans Are Here

They've arrived & you can pick yours up today in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank You

Doris & Jim Gartner wish to thank all those who sent us cards and verbal congratulations for Doris' birthday and our anniversary. We had a truly joyful Thanksgiving weekend, thanks to you!

Stewardship Thought

Advent II

Luke 3:4 – “As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” ’ ” God makes long-range plans: Isaiah lived more than 700 years before St. John the Baptist preached by the Jordan River. Obviously, God sees farther into the future than we do! That's yet another reason to trust Him when it comes to how He tells us to live our lives. He knows what's coming, and we don't.

Deepest Sympathy

Go out to Greg and Dave Habbe at the passing of their dad, Warren Habbe. Warren passed away Sun., Nov. 28. Private family graveside services with military rites were held. Please keep the Habbes in your prayers.

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.

Christmas with the Chosen

We would like to invite anyone interested in joining us to view “Christmas with The Chosen: The Messengers” **today, Sun, Dec. 5th** for the 4:30 p.m. 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.

Annual Effingham County Christmas Day Dinner

The Effingham County FISH Organization is sponsoring the Annual Free Effingham County Christmas Day Dinner on Sat., Dec. 25, 2021. Due to the ongoing virus, there will be NO CONGEGATE MEAL. All meals will be delivered or available for curbside pickup. Meal delivery will take place between 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon. Curbside pickup will be available at Cornerstone Christian Church, 3600 South Banker, Effingham, IL between 11:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon.

This event is free & open to all Effingham County Residents & their families; however, donations are always greatly appreciated & may be sent to: FISH, P. O. Box 473, Effingham, IL 62401.

To reserve Home Delivered Meals & Curbside Pickup, please call Senior Services—Senior Center (217-347-5569) by noon on Dec. 22, 2021. Residents receiving delivered meals will need to have a cooler or space available for the volunteers to put the meals.

Volunteers are needed to help package & deliver meals. We will start cutting cakes & packaging meals at 9:00 a.m. Cornerstone Christian Church, 3600 South Banker, Effingham is where all the FUN!! takes place. To volunteer, please call Susan Elke at 217-868-5913.

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.

CALENDAR-----December 5, 2021 – December 12, 2021

Sunday	5		FISH Angel Tree Ends Today
		8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Worship Services/Bells will be playing
		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	6	4:30 p.m.	Today's Light Review
		5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Tuesday	7	9:00 a.m.	Pastor Conference/St. Paul-Wheeler
		4:00 p.m.	Board of Trustees
		6:00 p.m.	Lydia Guild at Burdicks'
Wednesday	8	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
		1:00 p.m.	Office Staff Devotion/Meeting
		5:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class
		5:30 p.m.	Bells Practice
Thursday	9	6:30 p.m.	Board of Elders
Friday	10		Pastor Sabbath
Saturday	11	8:00 a.m.	Praise Band Practice
		5:30 p.m.	Worship Service w/HC
		6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Live Nativity
Sunday	12	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Worship Services w/HC
		9:00 a.m.	Benefit Breakfast for Lutheran Care Center
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:00 a.m.	Worship Service/Mediacom Channel 81
		3:30 p.m.	Sunday School Christmas Program Practice
		4:30 p.m.	Youth Caroling

Birthdays This Week

- 12/07 Logan Sanders, Marcella Kennedy, & Seth Russell
- 12/08 Debbie Barr, Judy Meislahn, & Todd Nelson
- 12/10 Abby Barr & Chloe Martin
- 12/11 Jill Higgs, Joel Wolfe, & Kiersten Baker

Annual German Christmas Service

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

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.

Anniversaries This Week

- 12/08/90 Ron & Kathy Stumpf
- 12/09/88 Bob & Janet Hecht
- 12/11/71 Lesley & Norma Miller