

The Eagle Newsletter

Weekly Newsletter of St. John's
January 30, 2022

From our Pastor:

Dear Body of Christ:

Like Pastor Wright did recently, I'm modifying and passing along an essay I received. I hope it's helpful for us all!

Ten Things I Wish Church Members Knew About Ministry. This is from a pastor's perspective (unknown who the author was).

1. I wish everyone in our church would help visitors feel welcome. I realize that on Sunday mornings you like to talk to your friends. If it feels like a family reunion, it's because it is! But imagine the first time you walk into a new place. You want to feel welcomed (not smothered) and accepted (not ignored).

Unfortunately, that's how many church visitors and newer members feel when we don't intentionally try to welcome them in our services. You did a great job of welcoming new members last Sunday. Thank you! Can you take a few minutes to spot new people and say hello? It could mean the difference between someone returning, or walking out the door and never coming back. How about one Sunday a month you look for someone you don't know, introduce yourself, and offer to take them out to lunch? That would go a long way to making St. John's an even friendlier church and a place where friends are made.

2. I wish more parents took responsibility for spiritual leadership in their homes. Many parents seem to believe that it's the job of the church to educate their children about spiritual matters. While the church certainly plays an important role, the parents have the primary responsibility for their children's spiritual welfare. (See Deuteronomy 6 & Ephesians 6.)

Fathers, you play an especially important role as the leaders at home. You set the spiritual temperature for your family. Will you rise to the challenge?

3. I wish more men would rise to the challenge of servant-leadership. Men have become strangely passive in our culture. Fewer and fewer men are rising up as good, strong, godly leaders in their homes, businesses, communities, and churches.

To the younger men, I say: There is a cultural expectation that adolescence now extends into your 20s, and that you need to take that decade to shrug off as much real responsibility as possible as you "find yourself." Nope. You don't need to go find yourself, you need to lose yourself by living in Christ, serving others and doing work that matters.

To the men in midlife I say: This is a busy time in your life. Most are deep into your families and careers, and have little time for other things, but we need your expertise, your sacrifice, your leadership in the church. Don't put God on the back burner. Make Him top priority for the sake of your family, the church, and your legacy.

To the older men, I say: Church has changed a lot in your lifetime. It's easy to be frustrated, I realize, but please don't be a passive observer. We need your experience and your wisdom. We need you to mentor younger men. You're not finished making a difference!

To the men who are involved, to the men who pray and lead, to the men who serve with humility, I say this: A very sincere thank you.

There will be more next week. More that encourages, more that challenges, and more that helps us live as the Body of Christ under Jesus' love.

In Him,



Sr. Youth

Will meet at the Burdicks' on Sunday, January 30 at 4:00 p.m.

Updated Health Measures

The Elders wish to share these updated measures for public health: 1) For collection of the attendance and prayer cards, you may place them in the offering boxes OR hand them to an usher after the sermon, 2) Those distributing the host at Communion use sanitizer after each table, and 3) Pews have been taped for more distance at the front, on both sides.

Camp CILCA

Check out the info on the bulletin insert from Camp CILCA. The Woodcutters' Retreat is at the end of February, and the summer camps are just four months away. Go to: www.CILCA.org for more details.

Your Response to the Gospel
Our Attendance Last Week

Sunday, January 23..... 381
Sunday School.....34
Adult Sunday School44

Our Offerings Last Week

General Fund, Jan. 23.....\$10,274.75
Online General Fund Jan. 23 \$3,319.30
Total Gen. Fund Offering \$13,594.05

Prayer List

Susie Austin, Tim Mueller, Irene Esch, Geraldine Grieves, Earlene Jutkins, John Holland, Ruth Holland, Katie Buzek, Linda Nolan, Beverly Koester, Zach Fritcher, Chad Nelson, Doris Hammer, and David Tieffel.

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

UPDATE for New Life Light Study

Orientation for Genesis Part 1 will be held Sun., Jan. 30 at 9:15 a.m. in the Conference Room

Sunday School Building Work Day

Kiley Bohnhoff & Kathy Burdick will be having a work day in the Sunday School building on Monday, Jan. 31st, starting at 8:30 a.m. until _____. We will be painting.

Stewardship Thought

Luke 4:34 – “Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy One of God.” The demon that Jesus drives out knows who He is. But knowing that Jesus is the Holy One of God will not save the demon from hell. Knowledge is not faith. To know something is not the same thing as trusting someone. Faith is trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation. Mere knowledge of the facts does not give life. Trusting in the living God is how we receive life. Knowledge doesn't necessarily lead anywhere, but a living faith in the Lord Jesus leads to a life built on Him and walking in His footsteps.

For three Sundays in February, our Sunday adult Bible class will study the letter to the Colossians, then we'll go back to the Lessons in “Enduring Faith.” Colossians is a timely epistle!

LCMS Foundation

TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

We want to keep our estate plans as simple as possible. Some family situations are complex. So, also, are the financial affairs of some. Complex situations call for complex plans. But if your situation is not complex, your family has no special needs and you don't own a business, your estate plan, and the gift plan within it can also be relatively simple. In the end, you need to be able to understand the plan you put together. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can begin helping you to learn about the matters pertinent to your situation so that you are prepared to make confident decisions with your attorney and financial planner to execute your plan. Contact Scott Radden at (618) 977-4049 or Scott.Radden@LFND.org for more information.

It's a Lock-In

Pastor Rutherford (St. John's, Louisville) is organizing a “Effingham-Shelby Circuit Confirmation Lock In” for Sunday night, Feb. 20. Information is posted on the main bulletin board in the hall. This is for our 6th – 8th grade students. It will be held here at St. John's, Eff.

February Food Pantry Donation

Crackers, Hamburger Helper, Individual fruit cups.

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

“Because of Christ’s life, death, and resurrection, our Father now holds His hand out to each and every human being: perfect inclusion, perfection belonging—no exceptions! You are chosen! You are a branch who has received the Life of the Vine!”

Marie MacPherson, author – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Social Ministry Reminder

\$5 Vouchers to Save A Lot are available in the office.

Thank You!

The Youth Board would like to thank everyone who supported the puzzle event and meal. It was nice to come together for fellowship & food. Bragging rights go out to the following teams:

1st Place

Adam, Kiley, Avery, Jenna Bohnoff

2nd Place

Ruth Bray, Holly Bray, Treva Brandt,
Dana Keller

3^{rs} Place

Fred Bray, Marty Vail, Eileen Walls,
Curt Meseke

This Week’s Sunday School Lesson

John 12: 1-8

This week, we study “The Passion Prediction.” In the week before His crucifixion, Jesus goes to dinner in Bethany, the hometown of Lazarus, whom He had just raised from the dead. Martha serves as Jesus and Lazarus recline at table. Meanwhile, Mary anoints Jesus’ feet with expensive ointment while wiping them with her hair, preparing Him for burial. When Judas voices his objections, Jesus tells him to leave her alone and points to His upcoming death

Trivia Night Fundraiser

Will be held at Immanuel, Altamont Parish Hall on Fri., Feb. 11th, by the LCMS Gathering youth. Doors open at 6:30, trivia begins at 7 p.m. & the cost is \$10 per participant. Max of 10 people in a group. Come with a group or by yourself. A \$2 per person discount will be given to those who sign up on or before Feb. 1st. Just text Sara Ruding (618-704-8510).

Men of St. John’s Breakfast & Bible Study

Join us at Niemerg’s Restaurant on Sat., Feb. 5th at 8 a.m. Questions...Call Gayland Bourland (217-343-4366).

Update from Hayden Rensner

Greetings!

I pray that you are all doing well and staying safe and healthy.

I have now been in the Czech Republic for 6 weeks, so I thought I would give a quick update! I arrived a few days before Christmas and I was able to spend Christmas Day and New Years with fellow missionaries.

I have started to step into some of my roles and responsibilities. I am currently tutoring 8 students online. Seven of the men are associated with the Riga Academy and the other student is the Lutheran Bishop of Spain. Two of the men are from Africa, three are from Pakistan, one is from Slovakia, and one is from Belgium. I am learning so much from the men and I have had a great experience with them so far. I can’t wait to tell you all about them when I am with you in person again.

I have also been having meetings with local pastors and church leaders. Starting in February I will be serving three different congregations in various capacities.

Your congregation remains in my prayers! As always, thank you so much for your ongoing support that allows me to serve in this capacity!

I look forward to staying in touch with all of you!

May God continue to bless you and keep you in His care,

Hayden

Note: I no longer have access to my United States phone number. If you would like to contact me you can message my Czech number on WhatsApp. My Czech number is +420 731 679 308. You can also email me at hayden.rensner@lcms.org

Lutheran Care Center Breakfast

The Board of Social Ministry will be providing breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 13 from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall to benefit the Lutheran Care Center as they were not able to have their fundraising banquet in Nov. 2021.

CALENDAR-----January 30, 2022 – February 6, 2022

Sunday	30	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Worship Service w/HC
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		9:15 a.m.	Financial Peace University Class
		10:00 a.m.	Worship Service/Mediacom Channel 81
		4:00 p.m.	Sr. Youth at Burdicks;
<i>Preschool Monday– Friday 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.</i>			
Monday	31	8:30 a.m.	Paint Education Building
		5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Tuesday	1	9:00 a.m.	Circuit Pastor’s Mtg.-Shelbyville
		7:00 p.m.	Adult Catechism
		7:00 p.m.	Lydia Guild
Wednesday	2	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
		1:00 p.m.	Office Staff Devotions & Meeting
		5:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class
		5:30 p.m.	Bell Choir
Thursday	3	7:00 p.m.	Shepherd Our Strays Teams
Friday	4		Pastor’s Sabbath
Saturday	5	8:00 a.m.	Praise Band
		8:00 a.m.	Men’s Bible Study
		5:30 p.m.	Worship Service
Sunday	6	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Worship Service
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		9:15 a.m.	Financial Peace University Class
		10:00 a.m.	Worship Service/Mediacom Channel 81

Birthdays This Week

- 01/30 Darcie Buening
- 01/31 Kathy Stremming
- 02/01 Emily Lotz & Larissa Jones
- 02/02 Brody Brown, Howard Janis, & Wade Bloemer
- 02/03 Rachael Pennington & Todd Martin
- 02/04 Alyson Followell & Mikayla Hanks

Anniversary’s This Week

- 02/02/02 Brad & Brenda Osborne
- 02/03/93 Jim & Vicky Keith

Contribution Statements

All statements have gone out. This year, if we had your email, your statement was emailed. If you haven’t checked your emails, they went out Tuesday, January 25th. It will say it is from “Automated” and the subject will say “St. John’s Lutheran Church Contribution Statement”. If you have any questions or need help with retrieving yours, please call the church office and we will be glad to help you.

If we did not have an email for you, yours were mailed Thursday, Jan. 27.