

# THE EAGLE

Weekly Newsletter of St. John's February 6, 2022

## From our Pastor:

*Here's Part 2 of 3, adapting an article that Pastor Wright – and others – shared recently. It was titled “10 Things I Wish People Knew About Ministry...”*

4. I wish people would stop obsessing over the style of music. Many times, we make this an issue of newer vs. older music, but that argument misses the point. Rather, it is an issue of good vs. poor music. There's older music that is good, and older music that is poor. There is also newer music that is good, and newer music that is poor. The wise worship leader will be able to tell the difference, and the mature church member will be able to participate in a style that is faithful to the church's ministry, despite his or her personal preference.

It is probably helpful for church members to think about what constitutes a good worship song. Here are some criteria I follow:

- It is singable. The average person should be able to learn it after hearing it a few times. I admit that some of our hymns are hard to learn.
- It is theologically sound. The song should reflect good Lutheran biblical theology. Jesus is at the center of the meaning. Works righteousness is nowhere present. It speaks through both the law and the gospel (if you do not know what this is, see me soon.) It tells us we should expect God to communicate with us through Scripture, not through our emotions, intuition, mother nature, or to expect immediate revelations from God apart from the Bible. If it sings about love, it should be primarily speaking about God's love for sinners, not our love for God, which is at best lukewarm most of the time.
- It is playable. Church musicians should be able to play and lead the song with excellence.
- It is understandable. The message of the song should be clear and unambiguous.

5. I wish you knew how much we need your help. You can pretty much assume that in any given church about 10% of the people do about 90% of the work. It takes a small army of volunteers to make things happen each week. Many people come to church and do not think about how the sound is operated, the communion is prepared, the offering is counted, the video is streamed, the music is selected, or any of a hundred other large and small tasks get done. When you give your time, even just an hour or two a week to help us, it makes a tremendous difference ... and not just for a week or a year-it makes a difference for eternity.

6. I wish you would come to me personally (and privately) when you have a complaint. Don't write an anonymous letter. Don't talk to someone else about the issue. Don't air your grievance on social media. Please, come to me personally if you are unhappy about something I have done (or haven't done). If you do not have the love and courage to speak to someone personally about a complaint, how can a correction be made? In addition, plan to be part of the solution. This is not an attempt to cover over my (our) problems, but if we are not going to follow Jesus' teaching about how to deal with conflict (Matthew 18:15 ff), we are adding to the problem. I try hard not to be a problem, but I know I fail, and I try to be approachable.

7. I wish more people would trust God with their money. Any time I teach about stewardship, it is an uphill battle because many believe “the church only talks about money.” It is not all about money, but it is quite high on the priority list of teaching topics. The reason is because money touches every aspect of your life. There is a spiritual component to money that we cannot dismiss. When you trust God with your money and use it according to His principles, strange (and very good!) things happen.

*(Continued)*

I wish more people would take that step of faith and experience the blessings God has in store for them. Toward that goal, the Ramsey+ suite of tools we have made available to you are a great blessing.

That is Part 2. The final three points will be shared next weekend. Thanks to those who commented after last week's list. We are the Body of Christ, and the Lord is accomplishing His purpose for and through us. In His love,



**Your Response to the Gospel**  
**Our Attendance Last Week**

Sunday, January 30 .....	340
Sunday School.....	37
Adult Sunday School .....	30
LifeLight Sunday School .....	9

**Prayer List**

Don & Judy Ealy, Susie Austin, Tim Mueller, Irene Esch, Geraldine Grieves, John Holland, Ruth Holland, Katie Buzek, Linda Nolan, Beverly Koester, Zach Fritcher, Chad Nelson, Doris Hammer, David Tieffel, Irvin Wendte, Ken Burdick, and the family of Dan Mueller.

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

**Next Food Pantry Distribution**

Tues., Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

**February Food Pantry Donation**

Crackers, Hamburger Helper,  
Individual fruit cups.

**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.

**Deepest Sympathy**

To the family of Dan Mueller, who died unexpectedly on Friday, Jan. 28. He was the son of Doris and the late Earl Mueller.

**Stewardship Thought**

Luke 5:5 – “And Simon answered, ‘Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.’” In Peter’s words there are both exasperation and trust. He’s tired. He tried his best and failed. But he is still ready to trust God’s Word – and act on it. Our stewardship is also a matter of trusting God’s Word and acting on it.

**LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life**

“Say, ‘Congratulations and thanks be to God!’ Pregnancy is never a sin, and motherhood, even amid afflictions, is always a blessing. Our Lord has honored her with this holy vocation. She and her baby belong to Him from this time forth and forevermore!”

Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

**Social Ministry Reminder**

\$5 Vouchers to Save A Lot are available in the office. These can easily be given to someone in need. Thanks to Save-A- Lot!

**This Week’s Sunday School Lesson**

Matthew 21:11-11; Psalm 24:7-10

“The King Arrives” serves as the theme for this week’s lesson. Following Jesus’ unusual directions, two disciples bring a donkey and her young colt to transport Jesus into Jerusalem. Throwing their cloaks upon the colt, they proceed into the city. There, the crowds spread their cloaks on the road and cut palm branches to line the way as they shout, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” (Matthew 21:9).

**Contribution Statements**

All statements have gone out. This year, if we had your email, your statement was emailed. If you have not checked your emails, they went out Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. 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, they were mailed on Thursday, January 27.

**St. Peter Lutheran**  
**Annual Sausage Supper**

This event will not be held this year due to Covid. However, we will be selling sausage and ribs. To order, please call one of the following:

John Lotz--618-553-5585

Tim Brauer—618-267-6228

David Schaal—618-292-3732

St. Peter Lutheran Church—618-349-8321

(After 12 p.m.)

Nathan Murphree—636-544-4274

Please text only

Orders will be taken until February 15<sup>th</sup>.

Order pick-up date & exact price has not been set yet. You will be notified when sausage is ready later.

**Thank you**

To the volunteers who painted the basement hall in the Education Room this week. All supplies were provided through a Thrivent Action Team Grant. Thanks be to God!

*And thanks to all who shoveled the snow!*

**Joy in the Gift of Exaltation**

You have given us wisdom,

O Giver God;

You have taken from us our trust

in the solid durability of wealth.

You have stripped us down to beggarhood.

But what a fine lot of beggars we are:

beggars on horseback,

riding high,

riding toward Your eternal city,

with spurs that jingle hope,

and accoutrements that rattle confidence,

riding on horses whose hoofbeats

hammer out our exaltation on the road.

O Giver, O Captain,

O King of all us beggars-kings,

Yours is the glory

forever and forever.

*- Martin Franzmann. Pray For Joy (1971)*

**Prayer Shawl**

The Prayer Shawl group will be meeting on Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

**Youth Corner**

**Trivia Night Fundraiser**

Will be held at Immanuel, Altamont Parish Hall

Fri., Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>,

Sponsored by the LCMS Gathering youth

Doors open at 6:30

Trivia begins at 7 p.m.

Cost is \$10 per participant

(Max of 10 people in a group)

Come with a group or by yourself

Just text Sara Ruding--618-704-8510

**It is 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 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. It will be held here at St. John's, Eff.



**in all  
things**

**LCMS National Youth Gathering**

July 2022

**SOS Teams**

Our SOS Teams had their meeting postponed to this Thursday, Feb 10, at 6:00 p.m. The Elders Meeting will follow at 7:00 p.m.

**Visitation Teams**

Some of our wonderful older members are finding it more difficult to get out of their homes or may have moved to assisted living or nursing homes. St. John's visiting team takes turns meeting with them once a month-wherever they live-to share Jesus & have some Christian fellowship with those unable to regularly be in church. Would you or someone you care about enjoy a monthly visit from a St. John's visiting member? Please call or text Dana Keller at (217) 246-5373 to be included...we'd be happy to add you to our list!!

**CALENDAR-----February 6, 2022 – February 13, 2022**

Sunday	6	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Worship Service The Bell Choir will be playing
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		9:15 a.m.	Financial Peace University Class
		10:00 a.m.	Worship Service/Mediacom Channel 81
<i>Preschool Monday– Friday 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.</i>			
Monday	7	4:30 p.m.	Today's Light
		5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
		6:30 p.m.	Call Committee
Tuesday	8	1:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
		3:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Food Pantry Distribution
		5:15 p.m.	Board of Social Ministry
		7:00 p.m.	Adult Catechism
Wednesday	9	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 Practice
Thursday	10	6:00 p.m.	Shepherding Our Strays Teams
		7:00 p.m.	Board of Elders
Friday	11		Pastor's Sabbath
		7:00 p.m.	Trivia Night at Immanuel in Altamont
Saturday	12	8:00 a.m.	Praise Band
		5:30 p.m.	Worship Service w/HC
Sunday	13	7:30 - 9:00 a.m.	Lutheran Care Benefit Breakfast
		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

**Birthdays This Week**

02/06 Christopher Holland, Jane Probst,  
Jennifer Marxman, & Jessica Miller  
02/07 Randy Esch & Richard Albin  
02/08 Adam Bohnhoff, Calli Fritcher, &  
Carli Fritcher  
02/09 Ashley Veach, Kimberly Tarran, &  
Nitelle Lading  
02/11 Jonathan McDevitt, Kathy Schroeder,  
& Rick Keller  
01/12 Fred Bray

**Anniversaries This Week**

02/06/10 Greg & Jill Keitel  
02/09/74 Mike & Karla Johnson  
02/09/80 David & Donna Budde  
02/10/78 Gary & Rebecca Hewing