

THE EAGLE

St. John's Weekly Newsletter April 3, 2022

From our Pastor:

"I'm having trouble with Numbers," they said. I couldn't see the capital "N" as they spoke to me, of course. I thought they were telling me that math was the problem. "The names, the tribes, the laws – they're hard to understand!" Ah! ... they were talking about the Book of Numbers, which many in our church family just completed. And, I agree. Like some other Old Testament books, Numbers was difficult. Deuteronomy will be, too, in places.

We don't expunge the difficult things in life. We press on. We read Deuteronomy, because it's the story of God shaping His beloved people into the chosen nation He desires. We also allow ourselves to feel the difficult things of life – grief, regret, depression, confusion – for in the valleys those pains create, we see more clearly how utterly dependent we are on the faithful God who chose us. We press on.

Gwen is baptized today, a high school senior about to embark on new adventures as a disciple of Jesus. Adults join the church by confirmation and affirmation today, defined first and foremost by what Jesus has done for them. Stephen Ministers are commissioned into service today, equipped to listen and love in order that folks walking through valleys can press on. One of the uniting factors in all these is the challenge of trouble. "I'm having trouble with Numbers," is a metaphor for acknowledging that things are often hard and good at the same time.

I'm glad you're reading this, dear members and friends of St. John's, for it indicates that we're walking together as disciples of Jesus. Don't avoid the hard stuff in life, or you'll miss out on gems from God. Like this,

from Numbers: **"The Lord bless you and keep you, The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you, The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace."** (Numbers 6:24-26)



"Witnesses to Christ"

Midweek of Lent 5: April 6th

Pontius Pilate, John 19:1–16

Maundy Thursday: April 14th

Judas Iscariot, John 13:21–30

Good Friday: April 15th

John, the Gospel Writer, John 19:25–37

The Resurrection of Our Lord: April 17th

Mary Magdalene, John 20:1–18

Services will be held Sunday only
6:00 a.m., 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Welcome, New Members!

E.A.S.T.E.R Class

E.A.S.T.E.R. Class will be on April 9th at 9:30 a.m. and they are in need of extra helpers. The craft for the class that day requires one-on-one assistance. Can you come help our special needs neighbors? For more information about E.A.S.T.E.R., speak with Pastor Fortkamp, Donna Whetherall, or Pastor Burdick.

Bring a Friend to Sunday School

Sunday, April 10th is designated as bring a friend to Sunday School day. Who will you bring?

Greeting Cards

The cabinet has been restocked! Check it out. There are a few single cards and they sell for 50¢.

LYF Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 17th, 7-10 a.m.

Dine-in or carry-out

Ham, sausage links, biscuits & gravy, scrambled eggs, fruit salad, assorted pastries, milk, orange juice, & coffee.

Free Will Donation

Your Response to the Gospel

Our Attendance Last Week

Sunday, March 27	376
Sunday School	32
Adult Sunday School	35
LifeLight Sunday School.....	11
Lenten Services.....	133

Our Offerings March 27th

General Fund	\$6,813.75
Online General Fund	\$2,648.79
Total Gen. Fund Offering	\$9,462.54
Building Fund	\$150.00

Lost & Found Basket

Are you missing something? Check the lost & found basket on the pew in the Narthex.

This Week's Sunday School Lesson

Acts 10

"A Centurion Converts" is the title for this week's lesson. A faithful and generous centurion named Cornelius has a vision of God's angel telling him to bring Peter to Caesarea. In Joppa, Peter sees a vision of a sheet descending from the sky, filled with all kinds of animals. The instruction to "kill and eat" confuses Peter, since many of the animals on the sheet are considered unclean. The Spirit tells Peter to go to Caesarea. At Cornelius's home, the Holy Spirit descends on the Gentiles as Peter preaches the Gospel to them. Peter commands the Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

"You and I are God's workmanship as well. In and of ourselves we have nothing to offer God. But He gave us His Son, eternal life, forgiveness of sins, as well as the grace to serve Him. By God's tender-mercies we are qualified to serve Him now and forevermore!"

Daily Devotion, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes, Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Prayer List

Dana Keller, Marcella Wolf, Derek Sanders, Roger Ohnesorge, Vicki Manford, Shirley Cheadle, John Romero, Shawn Bourland, Owen Phelps, Dan Chambers, Susie Austin, Tim Mueller, Chad Nelson, Doris Hammer, and the family of Lois Schlechte.

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

Food Drive for

Concordia Seminary Food Bank

The Social Ministry Board is currently taking food items for the Seminary Food Bank from now until Sunday, April 10th. You can drop your donations off in the Atrium.

Rural King Church Week

Rural King is hosting Church Week! It will be **April 7-20, 2022**. When you make a qualifying purchase, 10% of you total will be donated to our food pantry. You can submit your receipt on their website: www.ruralking.com/churchweek, or bring them by the office & we will be happy to do it for you. May 6th is the deadline to submit them..

Our Deepest Sympathy

Please keep the family of Lois Schlechte in your prayers. She passed away Sunday, March 27th. Services were held Fri., Apr. 1 here at St. John's. Memorials may be made to St. John's Youth Ministry or St. John's Lydia Guild. Please keep Warren, Cathy, Mike, and the family in your prayers.

Larry Brandt Memorial Scholarship

Applications are being accepted Wed., Mar. 23rd to April 25th. The Board of Youth established this scholarship to support St. John's students as they pursue a post-secondary education. Applicants must be enrolled in or attending an accredited college or university pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree. Pick up the form & details from the main hall bulletin board or online at our website. **APRIL 25, 2022 IS THE DEADLINE.**

Stewardship Thought

Luke 20:16 – “He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others.’ When they heard this, they said, ‘Surely not!’” The crowds were shocked at Jesus’ parable because they took the grace of God for granted. They never thought that God would actually take “the vineyard” away from them. But we only have access to God by faith. And we can drive faith and the Holy Spirit away. That is the warning of the parable. The Lord has graciously given us His Kingdom. Let us not take it for granted but instead respond with humble thanksgiving!

Quilts for Lutheran World Relief Update

To date we have completed 52 quilts.

Thanks to all the willing hearts and hands who have helped with this project so far. Without volunteers, the ministries at St. John's would not happen. Your willingness is appreciated. God bless each of you.

Please note the schedule for working on the quilts is changing. Beginning April 13th, we will be meeting on Wednesday afternoons in the multi-purpose room at 12:30 p.m. Please join us.

Trinity Hope Update

Be sure to check out the information and pictures on the bulletin board on the Chatelain school in Haiti.

Youth Corner

Larry Brandt Scholarship

Applications will be taken
March 23rd to April 25th.

LYF Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 17th

We will also need help cutting up the fruit
on Sat., April 16th Time TBA.

Senior Graduation Service

May 15th at the 10:30 a.m. service.

Farewell Dinner

This will be May 15th after the 10:30 a.m.
service. This meal is for graduating
seniors and their parents.

V.B.S.

“By God’s Monumental Grace”

June 13-16

From 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

We will soon be starting to work on this.
Watch the Newsletter for upcoming details!

LCMS Foundation

TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

Fear of death should not be a deterrent to putting together an estate gift plan. There are many things that cause us to fear. But death itself has been defeated by Jesus and His resurrection. “All who live and believe in Him will never die.” Applying our faith, we can get after the plans that direct faithful use of God’s gifts after He has called us home. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you remain resurrection focused. Contact Scott Radden, Gift planning Counselor, at (618) 977-4049 or Scott.Radden@lfn.org.

VBS Wish List

Cardboard boxes, any shape or size
Green pool noodles
Big chunks of Styrofoam
Stuffed Animals, such as
Coyotes, lizards, rabbits
(If you donate these,
please put your name on it)

CALENDAR-----April 3, 2022 – April 10, 2022

Sunday	3	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Worship Service Commission Stephen Ministry during 8 a.m. Service
		9:00 a.m.	New Member Welcome
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:00 a.m.	Worship Service/Mediacom Channel 81
		7:00 p.m.	Confirmation Banner Meeting
<i>Preschool Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.</i>			
Monday	4	4:30 p.m.	Today's Light Review
		5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Tuesday	5	9:00 a.m.	Pastor Conference St. John's, Dieterich
		5:30 p.m.	Board of Trustees
		7:00 p.m.	Lydia Guild
Wednesday	6	8:50 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
		12:15 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.	Lenten Services
		1:00 p.m.	Quilt Tying
		1:00 p.m.	Office Staff Devotions/Meeting
		5:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class
		5:30 p.m.	Bell Practice
Thursday	7	8:50 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
		6:30 p.m.	Board of Elders
Friday	8		Pastor's Sabbath
Saturday	9	8:00 a.m.	Praise Band Practice
		9:30 a.m.	E.A.S.T.E.R. Class
		5:30 p.m.	Worship Service w/HC
Sunday	10		Palm Sunday
		8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Worship Service w/HC
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:00 a.m.	Worship Service/Mediacom Channel 81

Birthdays This Week

04/03 Hunter Stewart & Ruth Bray
 04/04 Amy Wetzels, Karen Grupe, &
 Tina Richter
 04/05 Graham Ziegler & Marsha Klussman
 04/06 Jeff Stremming & Joey Walls
 04/07 Blakelee Willenborg, Earline Jutkins,
 Elijah Wendling
 04/08 Cheryl Pruemer, Meghan Wahl, &
 Taylor Kuhns

04/09 Eileen Hartman, Molly Wallin,
 Nancy Johnson, Ron Giesler, &
 Steve Rubin

Anniversaries This Week

04/04/09 Jacob & Stacy Nelson
 04/05/64 Roger & Nancy Ohnesorge
 04/07/89 Don & Ruth Rhodes
 04/08/67 Mike & Sharon Field