

# THE EAGLE

St. John's Weekly Newsletter August 28, 2022

There was a moment during a Service last weekend when I thought I had lost control. A great number of kids came forward for the Children's Sermon. "Herding cats" is a metaphor that seemed applicable. Were they listening? Understanding? No, not all of it, but who does? They were there, with you, learning the Enduring Faith on the way to the Enduring Feast. I may not have had total control, but we were there together – saints from only weeks old to age 90 – hearing again that God in His infinite wisdom (control) sent forth Jesus to redeem. I hear that 62 children were gathered for Sunday School, plus 45 adults in Bible class. Thank You, Jesus, for all these learners.

On Tuesday evening we hosted the Lutheran Laymen's League Rally, during which Britt Odemba shared the work God is doing through the LCMS Project 24 in Kenya. The needs are large, and these boarding schools and mission outposts in East Africa are brimming with God's all-sufficient truth and love. It reminds us that the need is great in Haiti, too, and that's why we support Trinity Hope with prayer and finances.

Throughout this week Dave Althoff and others have done a great job of reorganizing the fellowship hall and others areas so that the hall is ready for larger crowds in Bible class and for more recreation when it's transformed into a gym. Thanks to all who are helping with this.

In two weeks, our Circuit Visitor, Pastor Stephen Rutherford, will make his official Visitation with us. These visits are expected by our Synod and District, and are designed to be encouraging, affirming and helpful for all of us. Pastor Rutherford will attend Sunday Services and Bible class, and then will be available to dialogue with you and our leaders about our life together as pastor and members. See the description of this September 11 visit

on the hall bulletin board, and be here to talk with him.

I wonder if the Apostle Paul felt out of control as he wrote his letter to the Ephesians from prison. He certainly didn't feel that God was out of control, and he encouraged the Ephesians to live in humble faith toward God and love for one another as he wrote, ***"I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup>with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."*** (Eph 4:1-3). That's the way we walk, too.

Under His control and in His love,



Between now and September 25, we hope every household will complete one of the "Lutheran High Surveys" you find in today's bulletin. In the future, there will be more on the Welcome Center. Fold and return them to the offering plate by Sep 25. Thank you.

## **E.A.S.T.E.R.**

Joan Garbe has been leading the E.A.S.T.E.R. Class for 47 years! She is now looking for someone to take over leading this wonderful ministry. If you, or someone you know, would be interested, please contact:  
Joan (217-254-2261).

## **Celebration**

Be sure to sign up for Pastor Fortkamp's celebration as soon as possible to allow a close count for the caterer. Thank you!

## Prayer List

Heather Davis, Howard "Butch" Bahrens, Becky Fielitz, Justin Traub, Tatum Garcia, Shirley Cheadle, Doris Hammer, John Romero, Owen Phelps, Dan Chambers, & Chad Nelson,

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

### Your Response to the Gospel

#### Our Attendance Last Week

Sunday August 21..... 373  
Sunday School..... 62  
Adult Sunday School..... 47

#### Our Offerings August 21, 2022

General Fund..... \$7,755.00  
Online General Fund..... \$2,281.00  
**Total Gen. Fund Offering..... \$10,036.00**

#### July 2022 General Fund Summary

Deposits..... \$46,192.54  
Expenditures..... \$192,171.50  
Ending Balance..... \$79,684.48

### LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

"So, pray, dear army of God, for the courage to seize opportunities to speak of God's saving glory and the peace it brings! So, pray, dear army of God, for those God has sent, in His name and ours, to herald that message where we cannot go! So, pray, dear army of God, that God would ... equip the next generation of faithful witnesses to add their voices to the chorus."

Rev. Dr. Rich Gurgel, president of Martin Luther College – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

### Men's Breakfast/Bible Study

Our next meeting will be Sat., Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> at Niemerg's. See you at 8 a.m. Questions, contact Gayland Bourland (217-343-4366).

### Women's Breakfast/Bible Study

Our next meeting will be Sat., Sept. 3 at Niemerg's. See you at 8 a.m. Questions, contact Renee Kremer (217-821-3142).

### Living with Grief Support Group

Our next meeting will be Tues., Sept. 27 from 10 – 11 a.m. here at St. John's. We will be studying Chapter 4.

## This Week's Sunday School Lesson

### Genesis 3

Today, we will study "The Fall and a Promise." The slithery serpent caused Eve to doubt God's Word with one simple question: "Did God actually say . . .?" (Genesis 3:1). Seeking to gain wisdom, Eve and Adam rebel against their Creator. Suddenly aware of their condition before God, they vainly attempt to hide their sinful exposure. With sin comes punishment that is just; yet our heavenly Father does not leave humankind without hope. Instead, He promises One who will come to rescue His people from the jaws of death and Satan. As a family, discuss the importance of God's promise of the Savior.

### Vanco Updates

For those utilizing Vanco online giving, there are 2 ways to change your donation amount:

1. Delete the current transaction and completely add a new one.
2. Call the church office and they can change the amount given each week/month for you in the church system. With this option, the office will ask you to come in and sign a simple form saying that you give them authority to change your online giving amount.

Thank you! The Stewardship Board

The Lutherans For Life National Conference will be October 21-22, 2022 in Rock Island, IL. That's close! Let's go!

[www.LutheransForLife.org/conference](http://www.LutheransForLife.org/conference)

### LifeLight

We are beginning a new study on Exodus Part 1. Materials will be distributed on Sunday, Sept. 4, & we will do the first lesson on Sunday, Sept. 11. Please sign up on the bulletin board. If you have any questions, contact Karla Flach.

### Adult Catechism Class

The next Adult Catechism Bible Study begins Tues., Sept. 27. Ten classes, 7:00.-8:00 p.m., all digging into the Bible, using Luther's Small Catechism. For review or for joining our church, you're welcome!

### Thank You

St. John's Church family, thank you so much for the visits, cards, phone calls, food, memorials, and most of all for your prayers. The family of Larry Milleville.

### Greater Effingham Area Fellowship of Christian Athletes

FCA Representative, Kyle Stortzum, will be doing a presentation during the Sunday School hour on Sept. 25. Join us in in the Fellowship Hall to hear al the latest local FCA updates! ~~Board of Evangelism~~

### Sponsor a Cart or Hole

The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Larry Brandt Golf Outing is quickly approaching. If you would like to sponsor a cart or hole at the event, it is:

\$25 for a Cart  
\$50 for a Hole

Carolyn and/or the Youth Board Members will be set up in the Fellowship Hall after services through Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>. Questions, contact Carolyn Wendte (217-821-6541).

### Confirmation

Confirmation ministry for youth in grades 6, 7, and 8 begins with the Parent-and-Student meeting on Wednesday, August 31 at 5:00 p.m. The first day of classes is Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.!

### Food Pantry Donations for September "Your Choice"

We are seeing an increase in attendance, so we will gratefully accept **ANY** donation you wish to give. Please leave items in the brown box by the elevator. Please place all perishable items in the kitchen refrigerator and mark them "Food Pantry".

Also, if anyone ever has any questions or would like to visit the Pantry area, get in touch and we will be happy to give you a tour. (Weekdays or Sundays between services. Thank you so much for your continued support financially & also with material items. Thank you so much! ~~Patsy Latch~~

### Youth Corner Upcoming Events

#### Cruise Night

Cruise night will be Saturday, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>

#### Larry Brandt Golf Outing

1:00 p.m., Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>

#### NYG Presentation

Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>

Fellowship Hall at Noon

Light lunch will be served.

Please sign up on the bulletin board.

#### Hayride & Weiner Roast

4:00 p.m., Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>

At the home of Jim & Kathy Schroeder

### Stewardship Moment

Luke 14:11 – "For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: that's called humility. The Lord is God and we are not. With that in mind, how could we not seek to follow His Word in all aspects of life? He knows what He is talking about and we don't. If you believe that, then striking out on a path of faithfulness in the realm of stewardship is a lot easier: it just makes sense.

### Make a Joyful Noise!

The choir will resume rehearsals on Sept. 12 at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary balcony. Studies show that choral singing reduces stress, improves mood, and inspires awe. Singing even has benefits for physical health such as improved breathing & posture, and reduced muscle tension. Boost your mood and enhance our worship services with the choir. No prior experience required. Come join us! See you on Sept. 12!

~~Directors Holly & Dennis~~

### Lutheran Care Center Update

They will not be holding their dinner/auction again this year. They will proceed with another year of the Care Campaign.

**CALENDAR-----August 28, 2022 – September 4, 2022**

Sunday	28	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
		11:30 a.m.	Acolyte Training
Monday	29	7:00 p.m.	Preschool Parent Meeting
Tuesday	30		
Wednesday	31	1:00 p.m.	Staff Devotions/Meeting
		5:00 p.m.	6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation Parent/Student Meeting
Thursday	1	Noon	Golden Eagles
Friday	2		Pastor's Sabbath
Saturday	3	8:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
		8:00 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
		8:00 a.m.	Praise Band Practice
		5:30 p.m.	Worship
Sunday	4	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Worship Service
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:00a.m.	Worship Service/Mediacom Channel 81
		11:45 a.m.	Pastor Fortkamp's Anniversary Lunch
		1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	Open House Cake Reception for Pastor Fortkamp

**Birthdays This Week**

- 8/28 Abby Marxman, Adam Wendt, & Paul Smith  
 8/29 Amy Fread & Lillian Harstine  
 8/30 Annika Koester, Brandon Wallin, Camille Zeigler, Danny Klepzig, Mark Holland, Norma Miller, Rebecca Belcher & Rick Gregory  
 8/31 Greg Brown & Tristan Devall  
 9/01 Deb Gregory & Lyle Tolch  
 9/02 Atticus Jennings, Brayden Kuhns, Isaac Galvan, Nicholas Lechman, & Sherrie Stremming  
 9/03 Mallory Weber

**Camp CILCA Updates**  
**G.R. I. T. Run**

Oct. 1, and cost is \$30 for adults & \$10 for children 17 and under. Register at [www.cilca.org/grit-run](http://www.cilca.org/grit-run)

**Anniversaries This Week**

- 8/28/81 Dale & Donna Walls  
 8/29/09 Douglas & Kristin Jackson  
 8/30/80 Fred & Ruth Bray  
 8/31/85 Mike & Debbie Womack  
 9/01/84 John & Perrie Richards  
 9/02/01 Justin & Britt Wendling  
 9/02/17 Luke & Jessica Mottashed  
 9/03/16 Luke & Melissa Goldstein

**Camp CILCA Updates**  
**Chicken Fry & Auction**

Sun, Sept. 4 from 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
 Adult tickets are \$10.  
 Fresh fried chicken, coleslaw, mashed potatoes, drinks, & dessert.  
 Live auction begins at 12:30 p.m. in the airconditioned Dining Hall.  
 Trading Post & beach will be open for a full day of food & fun!