

THE EAGLE

St. John's Weekly Newsletter September 4, 2022

"Follow me." Those aren't the exact words Jesus uses in our Gospel reading this week, but they are the essence of them. "Come after me," He says, and then He gives us God's honest truth that following Him comes with baggage. The baggage of crosses.

Jesus took the cross that saves you. Now,



as you follow Him, you can expect that crosses will be laid upon you that burden and bless you. One might

be ridicule for Christian fidelity. Another might be the discomfort that comes with being a faithful nurse, trucker, or teacher. Crosses will empty you of confidence in yourself and will drive you to keep your confidence in God. That's what Jesus means when He says, "Follow me."

Today we celebrate what God has done through Pastor Fortkamp over the years. Listen to him and you'll likely hear about how he never thought he could serve as a pastor. But Gary listened to God, and took up the cross of pastoral ministry. More than 56 years later, he's still serving. I know he's the longest-serving pastor I've known, and I pray I can imitate him in some small ways. I'm certain that one of the reasons he's such a blessing to us is through the love and help he receives through his dear wife, Gloria. She's a gift to us, too. Thank you, Gloria!

"Follow me." That's imbedded into our Confirmation Ministry on Wednesdays. In 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade we teach God's

children His teaching, helping them follow Jesus. We had a good start to Confirmation this week, with almost every household in attendance at orientation. Will you join me in praying for the Confirmation households? We have 29 youth enrolled. They, and their parents, need your prayer support and encouragement to follow faithfully.

Following Christ,

2023 Board & Officer Nominations Meeting

Will be held Tuesday, Sept. 20th at 7:00 p.m.

Church Pictorials

We still have several pictorial directories available for sale. They are \$15 & you can pick one up in the office.

Between now and September 25, we hope every household will complete one of the "Lutheran High Surveys" you find on the Welcome Center. Fold and return them to the offering plate by Sep 25. Thank you.

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~~

Prayer List

Marcella Wolf, Vera Huey, Marlene Haake, Heather Davis, Howard "Butch" Bahrns, 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 28 354
Sunday School 55
Adult Sunday School 49

Our Offerings August 28, 2022

General Fund \$8,080.62
Online General Fund \$2,777.33
Total Gen. Fund Offering \$10,857.95
Building Fund \$80.00

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

"We all belong, first and foremost, to God. His creative and redemptive acts bring value and meaning to our lives. Because we belong to Him, He provides all we need. Our lives also belong to each other, and because we are connected through the body of Christ, we are not alone. We are necessary to each other as we serve through our vocations."

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

LifeLight

Will meet in the downstairs Conference Room. Karla Flach will be handing out books today.

Annual Church Picnic

The Annual All Church picnic will be held on Sunday, Sept. 25th at Ballard Nature Center. The fun will begin at 11:30 a.m. Please sign up on the bulletin board so we know how many to prepare for. Thank you and we hope to see everyone there.

This Week's Sunday School Lesson

Genesis 6:11-22; 7:11-24; 8:13-22

Widespread sin and corruption filled the earth, but "Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord" (Genesis 6:8). In today's lesson, "A New Beginning," students will learn how, following God's command, Noah and his family begin constructing a massive ark, with provisions for an extended journey. At the Lord's direction, each animal kind boards the ark, along with Noah and his family. The fountains of the deep open and rain falls for forty days, swallowing up every living thing. Through the flood, God keeps Noah's family safe and lands them on a mountain. Discuss the sign of the promise God gives us: the rainbow.

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

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

Youth

Cruise night is Sept. 10th!

Sign-up on the bulletin board to work.

Thank You!

I sincerely wish to thank all who remembered me on my 96th birthday with cards and visits. God's richest blessings to all! ~~Irene Esch.

Lydia Guild

We will meet Tues., Sept. 6th at 7:00 p.m.

**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 all the latest local FCA updates! ~~Board of Evangelism~~

Sponsor a Cart or Hole

The 20th 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. 4th. Questions, contact Carolyn Wendte (217-821-6541).

**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".

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).

Birthdays This Week

- 9/04 Justin Norris & Kristin Hippchen
- 9/05 Gale Budde, Jayla Stuckey,
Joe Gibbons, Alan Phelps, Kirby
Tolch, & Tim Casteel
- 9/06 Beulah Ziegler, Jon Perry &
Sarah Woelfer
- 9/07 Brian Koester, Haley Ebbert, &
Hank Sipe
- 9/08 Sarah Riordan
- 9/09 Mike Pilcher
- 9/10 Alyene Bahrns, John Wieder &
Joe Wilhelms

Youth Corner Upcoming Events

Cruise Night

Cruise night will be Saturday, Sept. 10th
Sign-up on the bulletin board to work

Larry Brandt Golf Outing

1:00 p.m., Saturday, September 17th

NYG Presentation

Sunday, September 18th

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 16th

At the home of Jim & Kathy Schroeder

Stewardship Moment

Luke 14:33 – "So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple." None of what we have is ours. It all belongs to God. That is the foundation of Christian stewardship. What we have been given is to be used for God's purposes according to our callings in home, Church, and society. As we learn to leave generously in these callings, we renounce our ownership of our wealth. It's not "ours," it's His. God owns everything, and we manage for the furtherance of His goals.

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.

Bell Choir

Have you ever thought about joining the bell choir? Now is the time. The ability to read music is desired, but not required. Questions or want individual training, call Linda Marxmann 217-821-4851, or just come to practice on Wednesdays, at 5:30 p.m.



CALENDAR-----September 4, 2022 – September 11, 2022

Sunday	4	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Worship Service
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:00 a.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
<i>Preschool Friday 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.</i>			
Monday	5		Office will be closed for Labor Day
Tuesday	6	9:00 a.m.	Pastor Conference, Grace in Dieterich
		4:30 p.m.	Today's Light
		5:30 p.m.	Board of Trustees
		7:00 p.m.	Lydia Guild
Wednesday	7	8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Preschool Parent & Child Orientation
		1:00 p.m.	Staff Devotions/Meeting
		5:00 p.m.	Confirmation
		5:30 p.m.	Bell Rehearsal
Thursday	8	8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Preschool Parent & Child Orientation
		4:45 p.m.	Stephen Ministry
		6:00 p.m.	Call Committee
		7:00 p.m.	Board of Elders
Friday	9		Pastor's Sabbath
Saturday	10	8:00 a.m.	Praise Band Practice
		3:00 p.m.	Cruise Night
		5:30 p.m.	Worship w/HC
Sunday	11	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
		7:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Circuit Pastor Visit

Anniversaries This Week

9/04/04 Jonathan & Erica Marxmann
 9/04/20 Angie & Josh Heuerman
 9/05/81 Curt & Lori Meseke
 9/05/92 Brian & Jill Haake
 9/05/92 Joe & Carol Budde
 9/05/09 Tom & Larissa Jones
 9/06/75 David & Debby Storm
 9/06/80 Dennis & Lana Rubin

90/6/81 Randy & Cindy Esch
 9/06/03 Ryan & Sarah Wyckoff
 9/07/63 Leroy & Carolyn Campton
 9/07/91 David & Kathy Wall
 9/07/19 Mr. & Mrs. Mitchell Wohltman
 90/9/53 Billy & Florence Genoust
 9/09/11 Troy & Ammon Probst
 9/10/11 Brad & Laura Jeffries