

THE EAGLE

St. John's Weekly Newsletter December 11, 2022

Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, teaches those who follow Him that worrying about the necessities of life is idolatry: worshipping a false god. Worry and anxiety show what we care



about. Our anxiety reveals what we love and what we're devoted to. It reveals what we trust in.

This is why our Lord begins this section with an overarching principle: "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will

be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money" (Matt. 6:24).

But you say: "I must eat and drink. I must have clothing to wear and have a home in which to dwell." Yes, all these things you need. And Jesus says that your Father in heaven will ensure that you have them. He demonstrates this with a simple argument: your Father in heaven feeds the birds of the air, who neither sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns. He clothes the lilies of the field, who neither toil nor spin but are arrayed more luxuriously than Solomon in all his glory. If, then, your Father in heaven feeds the birds, if He clothes the lilies, how will He not also feed and clothe you, when you are worth more than they are? (Matt 6:25–33).

Do you know that you are worth more than them? You are worth infinitely more. You are worth the price of the eternal Son of God. Did the Son of God come down from heaven and become a lily? Did he descend and take on the form of a bird? No! He came down from heaven and became a man: flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone (Gen. 2:23). He is one of us, our brother. And what did He do when He became flesh to dwell among us? He gave His holy, precious blood, through His innocent suffering and death, that you might be His own and live under Him in His kingdom forever.

God became man in Christ Jesus. He lived the life we failed to live, and He died the death we deserved. He was raised again on the third day overcoming sin and death ... for us. He was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification. So, if your Father in heaven has given His Son to die for us in order that we might live with Him eternally, how will He not also give us all things to support this body and life?

To be anxious about the necessities of life, to devote yourself to food and clothing, to find security in them, is to serve another god. It is to deny that you will live forever because Jesus, the Son of God, is risen from the dead and lives and reigns for all eternity. It is to believe that the God who created you, redeemed you by the death and resurrection of His Son and sanctified you by His Spirit, will not keep His promise to sustain you in this life.

Jesus says, "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness" (Matt. 6:33). God's kingdom is His rule among us. His rule among us comes when our Father in heaven gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His Holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity. This is what we ask God to do for us in the prayer that Jesus taught us.

Your Father in heaven knows what you need — food and clothing, house and home — and He promises to give it to you. Chief of the things you need is His grace and mercy in His Son, Jesus Christ. So, seek after that. And those who seek will find. And all the necessities of life, our Lord says, will be added to you.

(LCMS Stewardship ministry)

Children's Christmas Program Practice

This Sunday, Dec. 11 at 2 pm

Prayer List

Janice Mellendorf, Justin Traub, Marcella Wolf, Irene Esch, Chad Nelson, Nacho Castillo, John Lin, Richard Ohnesorge, Vera Huey, Marlene Haake, Heather Davis, Tatum Garcia, Shirley Cheadle, Doris Hammer & Dan Chambers.

All Members of the Armed Forces: Ben Sams, Ryan Budde, Bryce Ikemire, and all first responders of our community and nation.

Your Response to the Gospel Our Attendance Last Week

Advent Service 12:15 pm (Nov. 30)	76
Advent Service 6:30pm (Nov. 30)	71
Sunday Dec 4	348
Adult Sunday School	49

Our Offerings Dec 4, 2022

General Fund	\$
Total Gen. Fund Offering	\$
Building Fund Offering	\$

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

“As sure as Christmas will come again on December 25, our Lord will come again. As we look forward to the Last Day, let’s dress for the occasion, putting on godliness and repentance. Let’s celebrate everything He did the first time He came to assure us of our home of righteousness. Let’s be spiritually awake and alert for His coming again, knowing that we will enjoy God’s perfect paradise, our eternal home.”

Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

LifeLight Study-Exodus Part 2

We will be continuing our study of Exodus beginning sometime in January. If you would like to join us for Exodus Part 2, please sign up on the bulletin board by Dec. 18th

Stewardship Moment

Isaiah 35:4 – “Say to those who have an anxious heart, ‘Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.’” The return of our Lord at the Last Day is a cause of joy and anticipation for us believers. We know our Lord and His love, and we look forward to His Second Advent. Indeed, how we live our lives here and now flows from our certain hope of resurrection and eternal life.

Annual Effingham County Free Christmas Day Dinner

The Christmas Day Dinner will be on Sun., Dec. 25. There will **not** be a Congregate Meal. All meals will be delivered or available for curbside pickup at the Effingham Event Center. The meals are free & open to all Effingham County Residents and their families. Donations are always appreciated & may be sent to: FISH, P. O. Box 473, Effingham, IL 62401. To reserve your meals, please call the Senior Services Senior Center at 217-347-5569 by noon, Thurs., Dec. 22. Volunteers are needed to help package & deliver meals.

See the flyer on the bulletin board for details.

The Lutheran Care Center “Care Campaign” needs you!

The 2022 Care Campaign receives donations to complete projects on our campus to better serve the needs of our residents and children. LCC is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Therefore, your donation is 100% tax deductible. **We thank you for helping our mission grow!** Send your gift to LCC Care Campaign 702 W. Cumberland Rd Altamont, IL 62411

Youth Corner Upcoming Events

Live Nativity

Saturday, Dec. 10th from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Participants be at the church by 5:30 p.m.

Cookie drop off

Fri., Dec. 16th during office hours
Sat., Dec. 17, 9 - 10 a.m.
students 6th grade to High School are asked
to bring at least 6 dozen cookies.
Sign-up on the bulletin board for your shift.

Cookie Walk

Sat. Dec. 17, Before & After Service
Sunday, Dec. 18, Before & After Services

Bingo/Game Night

Jan. 15th at 3:00pm

Food Pantry Donations for December

Sugar, Granola Bars, Peanut Butter,
& Crackers

The “Lost & Found” Basket

Is in the Coat Room across from the offices.
Are you missing earrings, glasses, or small
toys? They might be there.

Offering Envelopes & Catechisms

- For all households that use offering envelopes, your catechism is inside your 2023 envelope box. They are on the tables in the fellowship hall.
- For those households that don't use envelopes because they now use our electronic giving portal, your catechism can be picked up on the same tables in the fellowship hall. Please check off your name on the list.

New Member Welcome

In the 8:00 a.m. Service Sun., Dec.18, we'll welcome our newest members by Confirmation, Affirmation of Faith, and Transfer. Immediately following the Service there will be a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

Sunday School Teachers are BLESSINGS!

These dear members of St. John's bring the Good News about Jesus to our youth and adults in Sunday School:

Phil & Shannon Stuemke
Meghan Wahl
Carrie Brown
Tabitha Bailey
Sarah Wyckoff
Chris Niebrugge
Jeff Weis
Ammon & Troy Probst
Ashley Jansen
Kiley Bohnhoff
Amanda Rieman
Karla Flach
Thank you!

Birthdays This Week

- 12/11 Andrew Snow, Jill Higgs
Joel Wolfe & Kiersten Baker
12/12 Adam Wendling, Brandon Willis,
Eden Probst, Marcia Probst,
Kaleb Hartman, Mallory Dixon,
& Marlin Alwardt
12/13 Julie Sudkamp, Kellie Siebert,
& Kim Niebrugge
12/14 Bob Flach & Randy Miller
12/15 Kris Wernsing
12/16 Arnetia Osborn & Cathy Mellendorf
12/17 Brenda Wendling, Jack Miller,
Jonathan Marxmann,
& Shirley Morse
12/18 Debra McClure & Jake Wendling

Anniversaries This Week

- 12/11/71 Lesley & Norma Miller
12/16/78 Richard & Sandra Devall

CALENDAR-----December 11, 2022 – December 18, 2022

Sunday	11	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Worship Service w/HC
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		2 p.m.	Children's Christmas Program Practice
<i>Preschool Monday & Tuesday-- 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.</i>			
Monday	12	8:50 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
		10:45 a.m.	Preschool "Jesus Birthday Party"
		5:00 p.m.	Bd of Stewardship
		5:30 p.m.	Bd of Trustees
		5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Tuesday	13	8:50 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
		10:45 a.m.	Preschool "Jesus Birthday Party"
		1:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
		3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Food Pantry
		5:15 p.m.	Bd of Social Ministry at TGI Fridays
		7:00 p.m.	Adult Catechism
Wednesday	14	9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Back to Bethlehem
		12:15 p.m.	Advent Service
		1:00 p.m.	Staff Devotions/Meeting
		5:00 p.m.	Confirmation
		5:00 p.m.	Bd of Education
		5:30 p.m.	Bell Practice
		6:30 p.m.	Advent Service
Thursday	15	9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Back to Bethlehem
		5:00 p.m.	Board of Youth
Friday	16		Pastor Sabbath
		Office Hours	Cookie Drop Off
Saturday	17	9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Cookie Drop Off
		9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	E.A.S.T.E.R.
		Before & After Service	Cookie Walk
		5:30 p.m.	Worship Service
Sunday	18	Before & After Services	Cookie Walk
		8:00 a.m.	Worship Service-with Choir singing
		9:00 a.m.	New Member Welcome
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:30 a.m.	Children's Christmas Program
		4:00 p.m.	Youth at Burdicks'