

THE EAGLE

St. John's Weekly Newsletter December 18, 2022

It is a joy to receive new members into our church family today. Some come to us by transfer from a previous congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Some come back into the LCMS by affirmation of faith. Still others come by confirmation, standing up and confessing in the Rite of Confirmation that what they learned in our adult confirmation Bible study series is their personal faith, too. The adult catechism class we just completed this week was a wonderful group – a mixture of longtime members and first-time learners of the Lutheran Church. They asked great questions.

Our Jr. Confirmation students (7th & 8th Grade) are wrapping up their study of the Ten Commandments. In addition to asking and answering the questions from the Catechism, they ask me questions through our classroom "Ask The Pastor" box. I have included a few of their recent questions deeper in the Eagle today.

Those same youth wrote personal notes in Christmas cards for residents of Lutheran Care Center in class this week, including this (unprompted by me, but influenced, I'm sure, by good parenting): "Jesus came to pay a debt He did not owe, because we owed a debt we could not pay." Those cards will be encouraging to the neighbors at LCC! Finally, when I was visiting some of our shutins last week I saw one of the handmade cards made by our Sunday School students. It was taped on the door of our senior citizen member, out in the hallway for all residents, visitors, and staff members to see. Praise God for two witnesses: the student who made it, and the resident who displayed it!

All of the anecdotes above are witnesses to the truth that Jesus Christ is the light of the world and the foundation of our congregation. To all our questions, God's Word provides the answer (well, except the "ask the pastor" question that queried, "do you hunt?"). What do you believe? You believe that Jesus Christ is the light of the world – the light no darkness can overcome. That's why you're here, in our church family.

In His Light,

Signature



Warm and Welcoming

In the coming week, we'll have numerous guests at St. John's, as well as some members who haven't been in church for a long time. Let's greet them warmly. A good way to break the ice is to say to those you don't yet know, *"If we have met, I've forgotten your name. Can you help me?"* Tell them your name, let them get to know you. You're seeking to build an inviting bridge across which the Word of God can draw them into closer fellowship with Christ and His Church. Some folks will not want you to shake hands, but they will want you to welcome them warmly. Let's be ready for that!

Special Holiday Office Hours

Friday, Dec. 23 8 a.m. – Noon

Closed all day Monday, Dec. 26

Friday, Dec. 30 Regular Office Hours

8 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Closed all day Monday, Jan. 2, 2023

Prayer List

Heather Harbour, Janice Mellendorf, Justin Traub, Marcella Wolf, 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 p.m. (Dec. 7)	57
Advent Service 6:30 p.m. (Dec. 7)	69
Sunday Dec 11	364
Adult Sunday School	36

Our Offerings Dec 11, 2022

General Fund	\$24,457.00
Online Offering	\$1,447.61
Total Gen. Fund Offering	\$25,904.61

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

“Unlike Christmas ornaments, each baby is a unique life never to be replicated in all of history. Each life brutally snuffed out by abortion will leave the world a lesser place for it.”

Bradley Mattes, president of Life Issues Institute – 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

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.

Contribution Statements

We will be emailing contribution statements to everyone that we have an email for. Please be watching for an email from “Auto Mail” in your inbox towards the end of January. If we do not have an email, we will send you one in the mail. If you do not wish to receive yours by email, you will need to let the office know by: Monday, January, 9th.

Stewardship Moment

Matthew 1:21 – “She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” What our good works could never do, Jesus has done: He has saved us from our sins, paid our debt, set us free. How can we not give thanks to Him with lives of generosity and godliness? What God’s Law could not do — truly motivate us to truly good works — Jesus’ love has done!

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

Food Pantry Donations for December

Sugar, Granola Bars, Peanut Butter, & Crackers

Youth Corner Upcoming Events

Cookie Walk

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

Bingo/Game Night

Jan. 15th at 3:00pm

Call Committee

The next Call Committee meeting will be held on Monday, January 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the Trinity Room. Members of this committee are:

Fred Bray, Chair
Jerry Lindsey
Sandy Wieneke
Holly Bray
Ray Hartman
Dan Jansen
Sandy Bernhard

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.



Meals on Wheels is in need of volunteers to deliver meals to shut-ins. If you would be willing to volunteer one day a week from 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. it would be greatly appreciated! Please call 217-347-2851 to get started right away, delivering meals. You would keep the same people and route every week.

St. Peter's Lutheran Men's Club

Sausage Supper

Will be held on Sun., Feb. 12, 2023 with serving beginning at 5 p.m. in the St. Peter's Lutheran School Gym. Carry Outs will be available.

Menu

Sausage, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes,
& all the fixings

Pre-Orders for Sausage and Ribs
must be called in by *Friday, Jan. 13, 2023*
To order, please call one of the following:

John Lotz—618-553-5585
Tim Brauer—618-267-6229
David Schael—618-292-3732
St. Peter's Lutheran Church
618-349-8321 (after Noon)



LSC Question 371. How are we to examine ourselves before receiving the Sacrament?

We are to examine ourselves in light of God's Word to see whether

- A. We are aware of our sins and sorry for them. (Psalm 38:18, 2 Corinthians 7:10-11)
- B. We believe in our Savior Jesus Christ and His words in the sacrament. (Luke 22:19-20)
- C. We intend, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to live as forgiven sinners resisting the devil, saying "no" to sinful desires, and walking in the newness of life. (Ephesians 4:22-24, Romans 6:11-14)

Jr. Confirmation Classes will resume on Wednesday, January 4 at 5:00pm. Moms and dads: Christmas break is a good time to review Luther's Small Catechism section on the Ten Commandments. You do a lot of powerful teaching!

CALENDAR-----December 18, 2022 – December 25, 2022

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’
No Preschool—Christmas Break			
Monday	19	Noon	Board of Evangelism
		5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Tuesday	20	10:00 a.m.	Living With Grief #7
Wednesday	21	1:00 p.m.	Staff Devotions/Meeting
		5:30 p.m.	Bell Practice
Thursday	22		
Friday	23		Office Closes at Noon
Saturday	24	4:00 p.m.	Worship Service w/HC
		6:30 p.m.	Worship Service w/HC
		9:00 p.m.	Worship Service w/HC
Sunday	25	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service w/HC
			No Sunday School

Birthdays This Week

- 12/18 Debra McClure & Jake Wendling
- 12/19 Nic Koester
- 12/20 Ryan Mayberry
- 12/21 Gary Fortkamp, John Mellendorf, Joyce Marxman, Katey Devall, & Leo Wyckoff
- 12/22 Carol Lading
- 12/23 Anne Stine, Patrick Romero, Renee Kremer, & Travis Barr
- 12/24 Carla Bierman, Emmeline Flach, Gary Norris, & Tommy Quance

Anniversaries This Week

- 12/21/96 Phil & Shannon Stuemke
- 12/21/13 Aaron & Blair Smith
- 12/22/06 Robert & Joanna Davies

Support our Missionaries and Missions

Please Continue to Pray for Hayden Rensner, serving in Czech Republic, and for our feeding programs through [Trinity Hope](#) in Haiti. The needs are great. We’re blessed to support the way that God is meeting the needs of people through these missions.

“Ask the Pastor”

Box submissions from Confirmation Students

Is it a sin to make an adoption plan for a baby that’s not wanted by the parent(s)?

If a man and a woman live together in a college apartment or in a case where one loses their home, is it a sin?

Do you think it’s okay that we have carpet crosses at different spots on the floor of our church, because people can step on them?

Is it a sin to choose something or someone based on a biased opinion?

Great questions, aren’t they? Pastor answers these questions at the beginning of class, based on the truth of God’s Word. Great discussions follow.