

THE CHRISTMAS EAGLE NEWSLETTER

We sometimes ask children, "what did you get for Christmas?" Wouldn't it be wonderful if they answered, "grace and truth!" I really don't mind if they tell us about the books, clothes, or toys that they receive. I hope, though, that you and I realize that we are children of God only through the Incarnation (coming into flesh) of Jesus, and that our Christmas gifts are grace and peace in Him. That's what our Christmas Day Gospel reading says, and that's what we believe. It's a joy to celebrate the Nativity with you. Merry Christmas!



Thank you to our office staff, custodians, musicians, ushers, altar guild, elders, trustees, acolytes, A-V techs, and all other special volunteers who have labored in Christian love throughout Advent and Christmas here at St. John's!

The Sunday School Christmas Service was wonderful on December 18. Thank you, children! If you haven't already, find the video of it on our YouTube channel (St. John's Lutheran Church, Effingham). To God be the glory for the work the youth and teachers put into the worship!

Are you interested in joining our congregation through adult confirmation? Are you a longtime Lutheran who would like to review Luther's Small Catechism? Our next series of 10 sessions in the Adult Catechism Class runs from January 31 to April 4, 2023, and classes are held from 4:00-5:00pm here at St. John's. If interested, sign-up on the main bulletin board in the Atrium Hallway, or email pastor at mike.burdick@stjohnsLCMS.net.

Are you about to make a new year's resolution? The finest one you can make for your spiritual health is to be here at St. John's for Service every single week (except when you're ill)! "*O, Come, Let Us Adore Him!*"

Our church households will be reading Luther's Small Catechism daily from January 1 to February 20. If you would like to receive a free copy with the schedule, pick up one at our Welcome Center in the Atrium.

Many in our congregation will finish the two-year "Today's Light" journey through the entire Bible this week. Our final review session will be Tuesday, January 3, at 4:00pm (offices are closed January 2).

The Church Calendar is always available on our website: www.stjohnsLCMS.net (you can sign up for weekly email updates at the top of that page, too).

Christmas Day Service w/Holy Communion	9:00am
<i>Office Closed all day Monday, Dec. 26</i>	
New Year's Eve Service w/Holy Communion	5:30pm
New Year's Day Service w/Holy Communion	9:00am
<i>Office Closed all day Monday, Jan. 2</i>	