

THE EAGLE

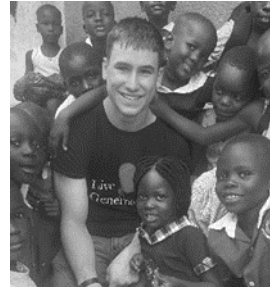
St. John's Weekly Newsletter February 26, 2023

Ready to Answer Tough Questions

One of our dear members asked me for some help in answering a question posed at a funeral. The question: "How do you deal with a death like this?" While he wished he had something more to say, he spoke the truth when he had replied, "well, you keep your faith in God." What's really good about this situation, though, is that our member was interested in being ready for the next time someone asked about death, life, sin, or faith. Here are four resources:

- 1) Continue to grow through worship. In every Service, we gain Biblical answers to life's hard questions. Listen for them. Then practice using them.
- 2) Go to the pamphlet carousel in the Atrium. There are tracts for numerous questions, from death to debt, porn to parenting.
- 3) Use your Catechism. It has practical and Biblical questions and answers baked into it.
- 4) Participate in Sunday Bible Study in the fellowship hall, and submit a question to get answered – in writing or out loud. I'll try to answer from Scripture.

I'm so glad our member wants more training in answering tough questions. This demonstrates faith in God and love for the neighbor. Speaking of that, have you taken a proposed "Mission Statement" copy from the main bulletin board? Between now and the April Voters Assembly, we're all invited to ponder and discuss this revision of our Mission Statement: St. John's Lutheran Church will "Proclaim the Christ – Grow the Family – Love the Neighbor." Does that summarize our mission? Keep asking. God has answers. In Christ,



Faith Lutheran Church of Shumway sent a mission team of 10 individuals to Uganda Africa February 1-12. The team conducted VBS and constructed playground equipment at the Kamuli Lutheran Nursery and Primary school. Members of the team included our St. John's members, LeeAnn and Jon (pictured) Perry. Members of the team will present a report of their activity at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, February 26 at Faith Lutheran church. St John's members and friends are invited to attend.

The Rite of Confirmation

This will be held on May 7th in our 10:30 a.m. Service. Pray for our confirmation students to be faithful!

Dollars for Missions

Check out the "Dollars for Missions" offering box in the atrium! Thank you for partnering with the Board of Evangelism & Central Illinois District in focusing on local missions. We are asking each member to contribute an additional \$1 per week from now through the end of the year. We look forward to updating you on how these dollars are being used in the District.



Exodus

LET MY PEOPLE GO

Midweek Lenten Services on Wednesdays at
12:15 and 6:30pm.

Prayer List

Judy Joergens, Thad Genaust, Jim Feldhake, Rich Brillhart, Richard Ohnesorge, Dave Ragan, Sara Bernhard, Justin Traub, Marlene Haake, Heather Davis, Tatum Garcia, Shirley Cheadle, & Dan Chambers.

7-12th Grade Youth

Gather at the Burdicks' Sun., Feb. 26th, 4 p.m.- 6 p.m. Bible Study, fellowship, & food!

Fun Events for the WHOLE Congregation

Rhodes Fish Fry

Friday, March 3

Tickets are on sale now!

Adults \$14/Children (4-12) \$10/Under 4 free.

Potato Bar and/or Trivia Night for ALL

Sunday, March 19th

Potato Bar Served from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Free Will Donation

Then, if you want, stick around...

Trivia begins at 1:30 p.m.

Cost: Adults \$10

Children under 12 \$5

Sign-up by March 5th on the bulletin board.

If you have any questions about any of these events, please contact:

Carolyn Wendte (217-821-6541)

Domer Ohnesorge (217-821-3300)

Your Response to the Gospel

Our Attendance Last Week

Sunday, February 19	395
Sunday School.....	47
Adult Sunday School.....	45
LifeLight	N/A
Ash Wednesday Services	237

Our Offerings February 19, 2023

General Fund	\$9,483.61
Online Offering.....	\$2,339.11
Total Gen. Fund Offering.....	\$11,822.72

Stewardship Moment

Matthew 4:7 – “Jesus said to him, ‘Again it is written...’” Jesus defeats Satan in our place, not by using His power as God, but by His perfect obedience in His perfect humanity. Jesus defeats Satan not by miracles, but by quoting the Scriptures and living according to them. This should cause us great joy for two reasons. First, we see Jesus win the victory for us. Second, here Jesus shows us how to stand in that victory: on the Word of God alone.

Greeting Cards

We have added a lot of cards to the cabinet. There are also boxes on the top shelf to purchase single cards for 50¢ each. Easter, confirmation, Mother’s Day, graduation, birthday, anniversary, wedding, thank you, & service appreciation. Check them out.

Preschool Registration for 2023/2024

Preschool Registration for members of St. John’s is now open. You may pick up a registration form on the bulletin board or stop by the office. If you have any questions, please contact Carrie in the office.

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

“Going to be with the Lord is not meant to be an escape from the responsibilities and good works God has prepared in advance for us to do!”

Barbara Lane Geistfeld, D.V.M., Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Food Pantry Updates

Our Next Food Distribution is:

Tues., February 28 from 3 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Items Needed for March:

Peanut Butter, Oatmeal, Pasta Sauce, Tuna and/or Hamburger Helper.

Any monetary donations

Make check payable to:

St. John’s Food Pantry

People Assisted in February

173 people were served through our pantry.

Would you like to tour our Food Pantry

Contact the office & arrangements will be made. We are always happy to show how St. John’s Mission is helping our community. Thank you for all you do.

Patsy Latch

Important Youth Updates

Dam Run

This will be held Sat., April 1.
There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.
You must sign up by March 19th.

If you have any questions, please contact:
Carolyn Wendte (217-821-6541) OR
Domer Ohnesorge (217-821-3300)

This Week's Sunday School Lesson

Matthew 6:25-34

The Sermon on the Mount is the topic for this week's lesson, "Mountain Message." Jesus reminds His listeners not to worry about things they cannot control. The birds of the air and the flowers of the field serve as examples of God's continuing care for His creation. Likewise, we have no need for worry or anxiousness, because God provides and cares for us.

Online Giving

Just a reminder that you can give your Lent Offering online. "Special Services" is the online option.

If you haven't signed up yet to give online, it is quick & easy. Simply go to <https://stjohnslcms.net/> Click on the "Online Giving" tab. Then click on "Contribute" and follow the directions.

Portals of Prayer

It is time to sign up for your Portals of Prayer subscriptions. Here are the prices for this year.

Regular Size "Direct Mail" \$12.00

Digest Size "Direct Mail" \$17.50

Large Print "Direct Mail" \$20.50

Money for the subscriptions can be put in the designated offering envelopes. If you do not use envelopes, please indicate it on the memo line of your check, and place in the offering plate. You can also drop your check by the office. The deadline to order is March 13th.



Easter Lilies

Time to order your Easter Lilies. This year they are 6" for \$12 each. Please contact the church office by **Wed., March 1** to place your order.

Thank You!

Thank you for all the care & concern shown to me recently. I appreciated all the cards & phone calls. I am thankful to be doing better & back to serving my Lord at St. John's. Thank you also for all the pretty anniversary cards. We appreciate your friendship.

Sincerely, Pastor & Gloria Fortkamp

Trinity Lutheran School in Stewardson

Open House

Sun., Mar. 5th from 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. See the flyer on the bulletin board for details.

Camp CILCA Upcoming Events

You are invited to a **FREE** Pancake Dinner at Camp CILCA on Saturday, March 4 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. This is a "THANK YOU" to all those who have prayed for, volunteered for, and donated money to Camp CILCA. Please come and enjoy a lunch among friends in thanksgiving to our God.

Men, Camp CILCA needs you! The Act Like Men Woodcutters Retreat is March 10-11. Cutting trees, splitting wood, fellowship with other men, good food, and time in God's Word are all great ways to grow your soul. You do not have to be skilled in using a chainsaw, hammer, or tractor to come to this event. Strong backs and eager hands are just as helpful. The suggested donation for overnight is **\$25** (*\$10 for Saturday only*). To register, contact the camp office at 217-487-7497 or email director@cilca.org. ***Please let us know you are coming so we can prepare the meals.***

Women's Breakfast & Bible Study

Sat., Mar. 4, at 8 a.m. at Niemerg's.

All women are welcome! Questions, contact:

Renee Kremer—217-821-3142

Lutheran Witness

Renewal & New subscriptions will be in a couple of months.

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study at Niemerg's

Sat., Mar. 4, at 8 a.m. All men are welcome!

Questions? Contact:

Gayland Bourland—217-343-4366

CALENDAR-----February 26 – March 5, 2023

Sunday	26	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Worship Service HC
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		4:00 p.m.	Youth at Pastor Burdicks'
		4:30 p.m.	Uganda Trip Presentation (Shumway)
Preschool Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.			
Monday	27	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
		6:30 p.m.	Board of Early Childhood
		12:30 p.m.	Lutheran Care Board
Tuesday	28	10 a.m.	Living with Grief #1/St. John's, Effingham
		3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Food Pantry Distribution
		4:00 p.m.	Adult Catechism
Wednesday	1	10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Quilting
		12:15 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.	Lent Service
		1:00 p.m.	Office Devotions & Staff Meeting
		5:00 p.m.	Catechism
		5:15 p.m.	Bell Practice
Thursday	2		
Friday	3		Pastor's Sabbath
		4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Youth Country Rhodes Fish Fry
Saturday	4	8:00 a.m.	Praise Band Practice
		8:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast at Niemerg's
		8:00 a.m.	Women's Bible Study & Breakfast at Niemerg's
		9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	E. A. S. T. E. R.
		5:30 p.m.	Worship Service
Sunday	5	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Worship Service
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School

Birthday's This Week

- 02/26 Cory Wahl & Jerry Starner
- 02/27 Blake Marxmann & Jeffrey Keitel
- 02/28 Ashlyn Hanks, Heather St. John,
Karen Tarrant, Lora Giesler, &
Wade Wenthe
- 03/01 Baylor Devall, Blaine Flach, &
Don Latch
- 03/03 Jackson Hagerstrom, Ursula Polzin,
Karen Stevenson, & Sarah Womack
- 03/04 Ethel Stuckemeyer, Terry Long,
Jaxxon Green, & Kennedy Bailey

Anniversary's This Week

- 02/26/65 Jerry & Vernabelle Lankford
- 03/01/60 Robert & Anita Backhus
- 03/02/96 Michael & Joyce Curry
- 03/02/02 Sean & Cherilla Junge

Last Call For Pecans

You have until Sunday, March 5th to get your pecans. They are \$10.00 a bag.