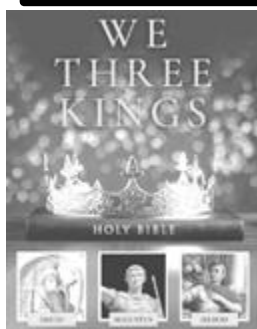


THE EAGLE

St. John's Weekly Newsletter December 10, 2023



Advent Midweek
Services:
December 13, and 20
at 12:15pm or 6:30pm.

Access our daily Advent
devotions at
www.LHM.org/advent

We are preparing to make a change in January, and with a couple of newsletter notes like this I hope to justify the change and instruct you on Christian stewardship. To receive our weekly offerings in Services, we will switch from passing the offering plates to receiving the offering in the boxes at the doors. This is largely because fewer and fewer people use the offering plates. That's not a problem.

Like many of you, Kathy and I believe that passing the offering plate can be a teaching moment for children to see. However, we also know it's not the only way to teach *joyful, firstfruits, sacrificial giving* for the ministry of the Gospel. In fact, talking with children about why and how we decide to give our offering is far more powerful than passing the plate.

So, let's do that. Let us prayerfully decide what percentage of our income will be given back to the Lord. Then, let's give it in the offering boxes at the doors (before or after Service), or give it electronically using our secure portal at www.stjohnsLCMS.net. If we've been given children or grandchildren, let's talk with them about the percentage of our income we give, and how it flows from faith in Jesus, and the responsibility to love our neighbor through the Church.

In worship, we'll still have a brief offering time during which the acolyte will collect attendance/Communion cards, and an usher

will carry forward the offerings that have been received in the North door offering box thus far. As always, joyful, firstfruits, sacrificial offerings will be given in worship and online for the ministry of the Gospel.

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, "He has distributed freely, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever." (2 Cor. 9:7-9)

If you're able, please remember the Lutheran Care Center "Care Campaign" this month. Your donations help support vital special projects for our neighbors there. Details are posted on the main bulletin board in the hall. Thank you.

2024 Offering Envelopes

Stop in the gym to pick up your envelopes.

Advent Soup Lunch

The LYF will have a soup lunch on Wed., Dec. 13 from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and from 12:45 to 1:15 p.m. There will NOT be an evening meal.

Prayer List

Meredith Roderick, Marie Castillo, Dennis Genanst, Lillian Harstine, Janet Ohnesorge, Rick Thompson, Jon Becker, Michael Sole, Becca Lading, Dennis Bushur, Richard Ohnesorge, Sara Bernhard, & Heather Davis.

Men and women of the Armed Forces, including Austin Traub & John Perry.

Response to the Gospel
Our Attendance Last Week

Sunday, December 3 396
Sunday School.....57
Adult Sunday School.....55
Dec. 6th Advent Service 147

Our Offerings

General Fund\$7980.00
Online Offering.....\$4560.78
Total Gen. Fund Offering.....\$12,540.78
Total Building Fund \$74.00

This Week's Sunday School Lesson

Exodus 25:1-19; 40:1-8. 34-38

Lesson 2 The lesson this week is "A Tent for God".

Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal

Full dress rehearsal for the
Children's Christmas program will be
December 10th at 2:00 p.m.

Stewardship Moment

2 Peter 3:11 – "Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness?" All the things of the earth have an expiration date: "Good until the last day." On that day, all these things will be dissolved. The things that seem so important now will simply cease to be. Peter issues this to us as a challenge: Since this is so, what kind of life should we be living? What should your priorities be? On things? Or on the things of God?

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

"You might not be impressive by the world's standards. You might be a third-shift worker, a nameless neighbor, or a sinner who messed up in very public ways. But the angel declared good news for all people, which logically must include you. So, rejoice today! A Savior was born to you!" *Pastor Mike Novotny, Time*

of Grace—A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Food Pantry Items for December

Cold cereal, soup, peanut butter, and oatmeal packets.

What do we believe and why?

The next series of Catechism Bible Study will begin Tuesday, January 30 at 7:00pm. Come review the faith. Come with a friend and introduce them to Jesus and the LCMS. Ten weeks. Grace and Truth!

Cemetery Improvements

The St. John's Cemetery Committee is glad to announce that our congregation has been making many improvements at our Cemetery. The Gateway has been repaired, a flagpole has been installed, and the flag and cemetery are illuminated.

Now we will add the best enhancement: a six-foot granite cross proclaiming "Christ is Risen." Through the interest earned in our congregational endowment fund, we already have \$4,000 of the estimated \$7,000 total cost of the granite cross. We would like you to know about this opportunity to give a special donation to the memorial fund for the cemetery cross. These gifts will be recorded in the Memorial Book located in the church atrium. Anonymous gifts are welcome, too. It is preferable that donations earmarked for the "Cemetery Cross" be received by the end of December.

Our desire is to glorify God and beautify the St. John's Cemetery, where the bodies of our Christian loved ones await the promised day of resurrection. Alleluia!

In Christ,
The Cemetery Committee
*Pastor Burdick, Judy Ziegler, Dave Budde,
Alvin Siebert, Joe Budde, Dale Schagemann,
Dave Althoff*

Christmas Cards

Are for sale in the greeting card cabinet in the hallway.

Youth Corner Upcoming Events

Advent Soup Meal

Wed., Dec 13
Lunch 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
12:45 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Cookie Walk

The Cookie Walk will be held on
Saturday, Dec. 16th & Sunday, Dec. 17th

Drop off cookies on Friday Dec. 15
during office hours and
Saturday Dec. 16 from 9 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Sign Up Work Sheet on bulletin board
Each Student 6-12 grade bring
6 dozen cookies

High School Caroling

Will be Sunday, Dec. 17. Meet at the
church at 3:00 p.m. We will have dinner at
Pizza Man afterwards.

Pickleball

We will be starting in January.

Questions, please contact
Carolyn Wendte (217-821-6541)
Domer Ohnesorge (217-821-3300)

Trinity Hope

Thank you for your continued support of the Trinity Hope feeding program! Our Hunger Fight event, held on Nov. 12, raised \$9,993.25. We qualified for matching funds so the total impact of our event is \$19,986.50. Praise God for His continued blessings on the partnership between St. John's and Trinity Hope.

Containers/Dishes

If you have an item that you brought food in to an event here at church, please pick it up. They are on the top shelf of the coat closet across from the church office.

Annual Effingham County Christmas Day Dinner

The Christmas Day Dinner will be on Mon., Dec. 25. A congregate meal will be held at The Effingham Event Center, with serving starting at 1:30pm. Delivery and curb-side pickup will be available as well. Meal delivery will take place after 1:00 a.m. and Curbside pickup will be available at The Effingham Event Center between 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. This event is free and open to all Effingham County Residents and their families. Donations are always greatly appreciated and may be sent to: FISH, P. O. Box 473, Effingham, IL 62401. To reserve meals for congregate, home delivered and/or curbside pickup, please call the Senior Center at 217-347-5569 by Dec. 21. Volunteers are needed to help package and deliver meals.

See the flyer on the bulletin board for details.

Christmas at St. John's

Sunday School Christmas Program:
Sun, Dec 24 9:00am

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services:
4:00pm, 6:30pm, 9:00pm

Christmas Day Service: 9:00am

Come, Let Us Adore Him!

Birthdays This Week

- 12/11 Andrew Snow, Jill Higgs, Joel Wolfe & Kiersten Baker
- 12/12 Adam Wendling, Brandon Willis, Eden Probst, Kaleb Hartman, Mallory Dixon, Marcia Probst, & 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, Gary White, Jack Miller, Jonathan Marxmann, & Shirley Morse

CALENDAR-----December 10 - 17, 2023

Sunday	10	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Worship Service w/HC
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		9:15 a.m.	Special Voter's Meeting
		2:00 p.m.	Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal
<i>Preschool Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.</i>			
Monday	11	5:00 p.m.	Board of Stewardship
		5:30 p.m.	Choir
		6:15 p.m.	Board of Education
Tuesday	12	1:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl Ministry
		3:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Food Pantry
		6:00 p.m.	Board of Social Ministry
Wednesday	13	11:15 – 12:15 p.m. 12:45 – 1:15 p.m.	LYF Soup
		12:15 p.m.	Advent Service
		1:00 p.m.	Stephen's Ministry
		12:45 p.m.	Preschool & Staff Christmas Lunch
		5:00 p.m.	Confirmation
		5:15 p.m.	Bell Practice
		6:30 p.m.	Advent Service (Choir will sing)
Thursday	14	4:15 p.m.	Call Committee
		6:30 p.m.	Board of Elders
Friday	15		Pastor's Sabbath
		During Office Hours	Youth Cookie Drop Off
Saturday	16	8:00 a.m.	Praise Band Practice
		9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Youth Cookie Drop Off
		9:30 – 11:00 a.m.	E.A.S.T.E.R.
		5:30 p.m.	Worship Service w/HC
		4:30 – 7:00 p.m.	Youth Cookie Walk
Sunday	17	7:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Youth Cookie Walk
		8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Worship Service w/HC
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		3:00 p.m.	High School Christmas Caroling

Anniversaries This Week

12/11/71 Lesley & Norma Miller

12/16/78 Richard & Sandra Devall