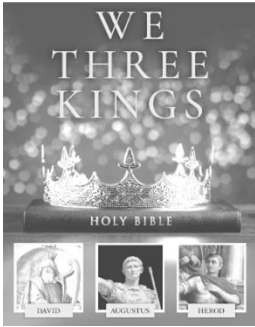


THE EAGLE

St. John's Weekly Newsletter December 3, 2023



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

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

“Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of God’s family — the church — in managing life’s resources for His purposes.” That says a lot. One part of “stewardship” is our financial offerings. Those offerings accomplish a lot, and they say a lot – about our salvation, our faith, our priorities. Offerings are vital. Let them be...

- The fruit of faith in Jesus.
- First-fruits, not leftovers.
- Proportional, a percentage of our income prayerfully determined at the beginning of the year.

“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)

All of the teaching listed above can be included in your church offerings whether you give to the Lord’s work at St. John’s electronically or using envelopes and the offering plates during Services. Keep the teaching at the forefront!

We’re going to make an adjustment in how we collect offerings during Services

beginning in January: Instead of passing the plates within the pews, offerings will be placed in the boxes at the sanctuary doors, whether at the beginning or end of the worship Service. Later in the Service, an usher will bring forward the offerings already collected in the North door box to be placed upon the altar (at the same time, the acolyte will collect attendance and prayer cards). We will teach about this process and re-evaluate it at a later date. Next week I will write a bit more about the Lord’s teaching and our rationale for this change. Until then, give thanks!

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 on the bulletin insert, and are posted on the main bulletin board in the hall. Thank you.

Special Voters Meeting

Special Voters Meeting: Sunday, December 10, at 9:15am in the Fellowship Hall. The Call Committee, having received input from numerous members, recommends that St. John’s seek to call an Associate Pastor from one of the seminaries in Spring 2024. This special voters meeting is solely for the purpose of receiving the voters’ approval to enter into that process. Upon that approval, necessary documents will be prepared for the District and Seminary Placement Offices before Christmas. All voters are urged to participate in this meeting. Thank you.

Next week in The Eagle we’ll share an exciting announcement about improvements at our St. John’s Lutheran Cemetery. Great things are happening there, awaiting the day of resurrection!

Response to the Gospel
Our Attendance Last Week

Thanksgiving Eve	112
Thanksgiving	59
Sunday, November 26.....	371
Sunday School	47
Adult Sunday School	40

Our Offerings

Thanksgiving	\$1,482.00
Sunday, Nov. 26	
General Fund	\$8778.24
Online Offering	\$6477.78
Total Gen. Fund Offering.....	\$16,738.02
Total Building Fund	\$240.00

Cemetery Clean-Up

On December 8 we will be cleaning up the St. John's Lutheran Church Cemetery of old and tattered flowers/decorations. If you want to save yours, please remove them by December 8th.

This Week's Sunday School Lesson

Exodus 31:18-32:35

Lesson 1 The lesson this week is "The Idle Idol." Atop Mount Sinai, Moses receives the Law from God. Meanwhile, the Israelites grow impatient and convince Aaron to create a golden idol. When God sends Moses down from the mountain, Moses sees the people's wanton worship and smashes the stone tablets. The people are punished for their idolatry. Moses returns to Sinai to plead God's mercy for the people.

Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal

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

Prayer List

Lillian Harstine, Janet Ohnesorge, Rick Thompson, Kay Boerngen, 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.

Angel Tree

We are collecting toys for FISH. Bring new, unwrapped toys to the Atrium by this Sunday, December 3rd

Stewardship Moment

1 Corinthians 1:9 – "God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." The faithfulness of God is our great comfort. He has made promises to us, and He will keep them. He is kind and loving toward us and will not break faith with us. This gives us the confidence to step out in faith, to leave fear behind. So, when it comes to following the Lord's commandments for our daily lives, we know His will is best for us because He is faithful.

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

"In view of God's display of love in Advent and Christmas, we gladly unite to praise Him. Christmas brings out that unity as we join with Mary and Joseph and shepherds and angels to glorify our Savior as one united family. For this reason, we pray as Paul did, 'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him.'" *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Food Pantry Items for December

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

Pecans

Sign up on the bulletin board for: Halves, small pieces, & medium pieces. All bags are \$10 each.

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!

Youth Corner Upcoming Events

Advent Soup Meals

Wed., Dec 6
Lunch 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
12:45 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Dinner 4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
7:15 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.

High School Students please bring 1 pie

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.

Christmas Cards

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

Get good information about the Church

- Signup for congregational news from our church website (including the Bulletin and Eagle emailed to you every week) by going to www.stjohnsLCMS.net and clicking "email updates" at the top of the page.
- Signup for our Central Illinois District "Gatepost" newsletter by going to www.cidLCMS.org and entering your email in the blue box on the bottom right under "Newsletter Signup."

Carolers for the Live Nativity

The Live Nativity will be Saturday, Dec. 9th,
from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. If you would be
willing to sing for this, please sign up on the
bulletin board by this Sunday, December 3rd.

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.

Thanks from Jonathan Becker

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: I have
been blessed with time to pause and reflect
on the many gifts of God during this liver
transplant journey. He has aligned many
things in my life and granted me faith to be
still and follow His calling. There are many
things to be thankful for this year, and the
community of believers at St. John's
Lutheran Church is one of them. Your
prayers have been working! Mike and I
continue to have a speedy recovery by the
grace of the ultimate physician, God. Thank
you all for your love, support, cards, and
prayers! My prayer is that Mike's and my
story would bring strength and inspiration to
each one of you. John 15:13 says "Greater
love has no one than this, that he would lay
down his life for his friends." I do not share
this verse to lift myself up, but rather that it
would strengthen your faith and spur you on
to live that faith out in our communities.
Thank you for already doing this by
supporting Mike and me in our time of need.
God Bless. – Jonathan Becker

NOTE: Jon may be able to return home from
NYC very soon! Thus, any correspondence
to him should now be sent to his home
address: 9841 E 1600th Ave

Effingham, IL 62401

CALENDAR-----December 3 - 10, 2023

Sunday	3	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Worship Service w/HC Bells will be Ringing
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		7:00 p.m.	Man Up
<i>Preschool Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.</i>			
Monday	4	5:30 p.m.	Choir
Tuesday	5	9:00 a.m.	Pastor's Circuit Mtg. Robinson
		5:30 p.m.	Board of Trustees
		6:00 p.m.	Lydia Guild Party at Burdicks'
Wednesday	6	11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. 12:45 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	LYF Soup
		12:15 p.m.	Advent Service
		1:00 p.m.	Staff Devotions/Meeting
		4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. 7:15 p.m.-7:45 p.m.	LYF Soup
		5:00 p.m.	Confirmation
		5:15 p.m.	Bell Practice
		6:30 p.m.	Advent Service
Thursday	7		
Friday	8		Pastor's Sabbath
Saturday	9	8:00 a.m.	Praise Band Practice
		5:30 p.m.	Worship Service w/HC
		6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Live Nativity w/Carolers
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 Voters Meeting
		2:00 p.m.	Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal

Birthdays This Week

- 12/4 Alexander Gordon, Eden Wendling, Hali Frailey, Kathy Burdick, & Kimberly Brummer
- 12/7 Logan Sanders, Marcella Kennedy, & Seth Russell
- 12/8 Debbie Barr, Judy Meislahn, & Todd Nelson
- 12/10 Abby Barr, Chloe Martin, & Lisa Sigg

Anniversaries This Week

- 12/5/20 Matt & Jaclyn Wohltman
- 12/8/90 Ron & Kathy Stumpf

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!