

THE EAGLE

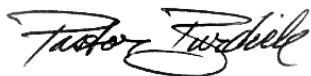
St. John's Weekly Newsletter December 31, 2023

Merry Christmas, dear church family. These twelve days of Christmas are a time for great celebration. And life!

Lutherans For Life recently posted:
“Christmas – and a new year – offers opportunity for the joys of looking forward. Simeon and Anna exemplify and inspire faith that finds strength and celebration in anticipating. The Heavenly Father who escorted us thus far will also usher us ever onward. Neighbors facing surprise pregnancies or suffering terminal diagnoses need to know. For their sake, please do not keep silent (Psalm 62:1)!” I couldn't agree more. Find your voice in support of life from womb to tomb, and let it be winsomely heard.

Life in 2024 here at St. John's will be largely unchanged – same doctrine, same mission, same hope, same Head of the Church ... the Lord Christ. Lord willing, there will be an additional pastor serving with us. The paperwork has been submitted to our District and Synod for the purpose of calling an Associate Pastor from one of the seminaries. We will see what the Lord has in store.

The Burdicks and the Fortkamps together thank you for every expression of love and “Merry Christmas” in this holy season. I love working with Pastor Fortkamp, and together we love our congregation. Thank you for all your encouragement and support. Merry Christmas!



Man Up!

32 men are studying the book Man Up! On January 7 at 7:00pm, we gather in the fellowship hall to discuss chapters 3 & 4. We have more books, and it's not too late to join. Contact Pastor Burdick, Greg Perry, Adam Bohnhoff, Jon Becker, or Isaac Galvan if you want to purchase the \$13 book. It's challenging and Christ-centered.

Christmas at St. John's

First Sunday of Christmas (Dec 30-31)
5:30pm Saturday & 9:00am Sunday

New Year's Eve Service
(Pastor Koschmann preaching)
5:30pm Sunday, December 31

Come, Let Us Adore Him!

Installation of Officers

Will be at each service on January 6 & 7th

2024 Offering Envelopes

We still have several offering envelopes on the table in the gym. Please pick them up as soon as possible.

Your # has most likely changed.

Poinsettias

You may take your poinsettias home after the New Years Eve service.

Undecorating the Church

We will be taking down the Christmas decorations on Saturday, Jan. 6th at 9am. All help would be greatly appreciated.

Response to the Gospel
Our Attendance Last Week

Dec.20 th Advent Service	61
Sunday School Christmas Program	239
Christmas Eve 4:00pm	311
Christmas Eve 6:30pm	117
Christmas Eve 9:00pm	101
Christmas Day	71

Our Offerings

General Fund	\$21,736.26
Online Offering	<u>\$3,656.73</u>
Total Gen. Fund Offering	\$25,392.99
Total Building Fund.....	\$50.00

Prayer List

Katie Buzek, Colbert Mueller, Linda Kuhn, Kathy Wall, Cindy Myers, Cherilla Junge, Meredith Roderick, Rick Thompson, Fred Brillhart, Sara Bernhard, & Heather Davis. The family of Frieda Simmons.

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

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

“While it is true that we need to be good stewards of God’s earthly gifts, it is sinful to think that we are in full control of preserving this world. It is sinful to fret about the destruction of this world before the Last Day. This world will not run out of natural resources. We will not be wiped out by climate change, a worldwide pandemic, or a meteor shower if and when those things happen. God says that as long as this earth endures—until Judgment Day—seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease. God is in control. God will protect, provide, and preserve this world. Trust in God and see His grace and mercy, especially when sin affects this world. Trust that He gives you what you don’t deserve and more than you could imagine.” Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

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. ***Come learn more of God’s grace and truth!***

Stewardship Moment

Luke 2:21 – “And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.” The name of Jesus means “the Lord saves.” There is no better way to end or begin a year than with the sweet comfort of the name of Jesus. He saves us. He loves us. He desires to bless us. That assurance is the basis for all we do in our Christian lives, including our stewardship of His financial blessings.

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.

Food Pantry Donations for January

Canned fruit, Canned Sloppy Joe’s, Fruit & Cereal Bars, Soup, & Pasta

Contribution Statements

We will be emailing contribution statements to everyone that we have an email address for. Please be watching for an email from “Auto Mail” in your inbox towards the end of January. If we do not have your email address, we will send your contribution statement in the mail. If you do not wish to receive yours by email, you will need to let the office know by: Monday, January 8th.

Youth Corner Upcoming Events

Pickleball Dates

Thurs., Jan. 18th, 6:00pm – 7:30pm

Thurs., Jan. 25th, 6:00pm – 7:30pm

Insurance Waivers must be signed.

Those 12 & under must be accompanied by an adult

Ash Wednesday Soup Meals

Wednesday, February 14

We will be serving for Lunch & Dinner

Rhodes Fish Fry

Friday, February 23

Easter Breakfast

Sunday, March 31st.

VBS

Will be June 10 – 13 next year.

Questions, please contact

Carolyn Wendte (217-821-6541)

Domer Ohnesorge (217-821-3300)

Thank You

To those who donated, helped, and supported the LYF with their Advent Soup Meals and the Cookie Walk. They were both a big success.

Attention All Boards

Your reports are due in the church office for the Council meeting by Wed., Jan. 10th

Upcoming Meetings

Council Meeting

Tues., Jan 16 at 7:00pm

Voters Assembly Meeting

Tues., Jan. 23 at 7:00pm

Thank You

To all my St. John's friends who have remembered me with Christmas cards. God's blessings to all. *Irene Esch*

ST. JOHN'S MISSION:

Proclaim the Christ.

Grow the family.

Love the neighbor.

Proclaim the Christ.

- Within the Church, we proclaim the Christ in our worship Services and educational offerings. Founded upon the Bible and Luther's Small Catechism, we give our members Christ's Word of Law and Gospel, so they have comfort in Him.
- As the Church, we reach out to unbelievers with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We share God's Word, because it alone has the power to bring someone to faith.

Grow the Family.

- As we have the opportunity, we get married and raise up children in the Christian faith. We teach the next generation the truth and grace of God.
- We believe that fellow members of St. John's Lutheran Church comprise the household of faith, our church family. We care for one another and we invite people to join the church family.

Love the Neighbor.

- We begin with our closest neighbors: our families. In concentric circles outward, we put Christian love into word and deed.
- As we have opportunity, we provide some of the necessities of life to those in our community and world -- food, shelter, help, and friendship – with the love of Jesus.

CALENDAR-----December 31 – January 7, 2024

Sunday	31	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
		5:30 p.m.	New Year's Eve Worship Service w/HC Pastor Michael Koschmann
<i>No Preschool</i>			
Monday	1		NO New Year's Day Worship Service
			Office Closed
Tuesday	2	9:00 a.m.	Circuit Pastor Conference (Pana)
Wednesday	3	1:00 p.m.	Office Staff Meeting
		5:00 p.m.	Confirmation
		5:15 p.m.	Bell Practice
Thursday	4		
Friday	5		Pastor's Sabbath
Saturday	6	8:00 a.m.	Praise Band Practice
		8:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study at Niemerg's
		8:00 a.m.	Women's Bible Study at Niemerg's
		9:00 a.m.	Undecorating the Church
		5:30 p.m.	Worship Service w/HC – Bell Choir Installation of Officers
Sunday	7	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Worship Service w/HC – Bell Choir Installation of Officers
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	LYF Game Night
		7:00 p.m.	Man Up

Birthdays This Week

- 1/1 Carla Fox
- 1/2 Faith Kinkelaar, Jacqueline Wiseman,
Vicki Cook, & Zoey Boone
- 1/3 Sandra Devall
- 1/4 Kay Boerngen & Luke Mottashed
- 1/5 Cathy Bloemer & Christopher Bahrns
- 1/6 Jeremy Fritch & Windy Westfall

