

THE EAGLE

St. John's Weekly Newsletter June 2, 2024

June still seems to be the most popular month for weddings. I'm going to take that stat as an opportunity to write something about natural marriage every Sunday this month in The Eagle. I'm also mindful that a minority of people have hijacked the month of June for pride in things which neither come from God nor from nature. Yet this isn't principally about what we're against (we must say so, sometimes), but what



we are for. We are for the good gift of marriage, the union of one man and one woman for as long as they both shall live. That's natural marriage.

When I work with couples to prepare for their wedding and marriage, we spend a lot

of time studying the words in the wedding ceremony. We read Bible passages from Genesis, Ephesians, and Matthew. We discuss the vows and prayers. Here's one of the prayers we often use:

"O God, our dwelling place in all generations, look with favor upon the homes of our land. Embrace husbands and wives, parents and children, in the arms of Your love, and grant that each, in reverence for Christ, fulfill the duties You have given. Bless our homes that they may ever be a shelter for the defenseless, a fortress for the tempted, a resting place for the weary, and a foretaste of our eternal home with You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."

Those are great images:

"shelter...fortress...resting place...foretaste."
It's a prayer that the married couple will allow God to make their new home together a blessing for them and for those who are not married. Marriage isn't for everybody, after all.

Where marriage is given, it's not just for the husband and the wife, it's for the benefit of their neighbors – their potential children, their friends, and the culture. Maybe I should restate that sentence

above – Marriage according to God's design is for the care of everybody, even while not every person is supposed to be married.

That's all for now. Oh! I'm also mindful that by the end of June we'll have another called pastor writing notes in the Eagle. Pastor Dille and I will work out a schedule for that. We're thrilled that he will be installed on June 16. He and Katie moved into the parsonage on Thursday, and will be back in Effingham late next week. May the prayer above be a prayer for their marriage and their new home, too.

Exploration of a possible Lutheran High School in Effingham County continues through the work of a steering committee. Laura Galvan and Pastor Burdick serve on that committee. A consultant from our Synod's "Genesis Project" will be in the area July 1-2 to help us conduct interest surveys as part of our feasibility study. We pray, "Thy will be done."

Volunteer Needed

We are needing a Volunteer to fill pews card and sharpen pencils on a weekly basis. If you are interested, please contact the church office.

We rejoice with Carol and Dick Hulskotter. This Thursday, June 6, will be their 65th Wedding Anniversary! Let's shower them with cards and joy. Their address: 907 N. Oceola, Effingham, IL. 62401. Congratulations!

Our Vacation Bible School theme includes a "carnival" atmosphere. For worship next weekend and for the four nights of lessons in God's Word, the sanctuary will – hopefully – resemble a carnival tent, with the focus being on JESUS, who gives us joy.

Response to the Gospel
Our Attendance Last Week

Sunday May 26..... 397
Adult Bible Study..... 42

Our Offerings

General Fund..... \$7,011.17
Online Offering..... \$3,370.46
Total Gen. Fund Offering \$10,381.63



Last Sunday we had a great Rite of Blessing for the new cross at St. John's Cemetery. The weather cooperated, a large crowd worshiped, and the "Christ Is Risen!" cross was dedicated for the glory of God. Thanks to all personal donors, and the St. John's Endowment Fund (the interest of which was used to bridge the gap of funding). The Cemetery Committee also wishes to thank Laura Janis who helped us make the dream a reality. *Alvin Siebert, Dave Althoff, Judy Ziegler, Dave Budde, Dale Schagemann, Joe Budde, Pastor Burdick.*

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

"So, what are we as Christians to do in a culture that rejects God's gift of marriage, sex within its bounds, and children? Repent. Turn from your sin. Receive Jesus' forgiveness. And do not forget to pray. Pray for all marriages and all families, that the Lord who makes two into one flesh would richly bless them with His love, joy, and mercy." *Rev. Matthew Wietfeldt, Concordia Theological Seminary – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*



VBS Needs Volunteers:

Set up: Fri., June 7th at 9am til ?. If you can help later call one of us to see if we are still working. (Maybe even working on Sat. June 8th)
Take down: Fri., June 14th at 9am til ?.

Sunday School

Enduring Faith makes it easier to teach the Word of God. Volunteer to teach a summer Sunday School lesson. Reach out to SS Superintendent Kiley Bohnhoff NOW to get scheduled for a summer lesson. Email her at kbohnhoff@hotmail.com

Vacation Bible School will be June 10-13, 6-8pm. The church will be decorated for worship Services the weekend before VBS, instead of after. The sanctuary will hopefully look like a carnival tent, where **Jesus gives us joy**. Joy is much better than happiness, isn't it? Even more important than the fabulous decorations that will greet the kids, the learning of God's Word will give them joy. Here are the four lessons we all will be teaching, *along with our daily memory verses:*

1. Jesus Heals a Man Lowered through a Roof (**Mark 2:1–12**) Jesus heals me! *O Lord my God, I cried to You for help, and You have healed me. Psalm 30:2*
2. Jesus Feeds Five Thousand (**Matthew 14:13–21**) Jesus cares for me! *God will supply every need. Philippians 4:19*
3. Jesus Dies and Rises Again (**Luke 23:32–49; Matthew 28:1–10**) Jesus saves me! *Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved. Acts 16:31*
4. Jesus on the Road to Emmaus (**Luke 24:13–35**) Jesus' love fills me with joy. *Rejoice in the Lord always! Philippians 4:4*

Pastor Dille will be installed on June 16 at 4:00pm, and will lead Services (and preach) on June 22-23.

Stewardship Moment

2 Corinthians 4:7– "But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us." The chief treasure we have is our faith, our connection to Jesus and all the blessings He bestows upon us: forgiveness of sins, the Holy Spirit, new desires to follow Him, spiritual growth into His image, etc. St. Paul says we have these treasures in jars of clay, meaning that of ourselves, we are still weak, stumbling and powerless. The treasure is not us, but what the Lord has graciously given us. We are vessels for His blessings. But a treasure hoarded is a treasure wasted. How is the Lord calling you to share these and all the treasures He has given you?

EVERY ONE HIS WITNESS

LUTHERAN EVANGELISM



Sign up if interested ... in the **Adult Catechism Bible Study**.

Mondays at 6:30pm for five consecutive weeks we will dive into God's Word on questions such as...

- What is the Sabbath?
- Did God create all things in six real days?
- Why did Jesus descend to hell?
- What does my neighbor need me to do for them?
- Does Baptism save, or dedicate?
- To whom should we *not* pray?
- Is Communion a *representative* or a *real* presence?
- What's the joy in life?
- *And many more questions of the Bible and of life.*

We meet in the Trinity Room at St. John's. Video snippets begin each class to get us discussing. You won't be asked to read aloud or be forced to answer a question. The 2017 edition of Luther's Small Catechism is our text (\$16). Participants might be reviewing their longtime faith in the Lutheran Church, or may be taking the class before deciding to join our congregation.

Mondays – June 17 & 24, July 1, 8, 15 -- 6:30-8:30pm! All are welcome. Sign up on the main hall bulletin board and bring a friend! Questions? Speak with Pastor Burdick (309-255-5580 or mike.burdick@stjohnsLCMS.net).

Food Pantry

Our next distribution will be
Tues., June. 11th from 3-4.

Donations needed for June are peanut
butter, 4 pk pudding cup, sloppy
joe/manwich & fruit.

"This Weeks Sunday School Lesson"

Lesson 6

The account of Isaiah serves as today's lesson, "Promising Prophet." In an amazing vision of the Lord in glory upon His throne in heaven, God asks Isaiah, "Whom shall I send?" Isaiah responds, "Here I am! Send me." (Isaiah 6:8). Isaiah's prophecies extend beyond the destruction and captivity of Judah to the extensive details concerning the coming of the Messiah and His sacrifice for the salvation of His people.

Immediately following Pastor Dille's Installation on Sunday, June 16 at 4:00pm there will be a catered meal in the fellowship hall. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet on the main bulletin board if you will be attending. There is no charge for the meal.

Save the Dates

Rummage Sale: August 1st-August 3rd

Drop off dates & times:

Sun., July 28th from noon – 1pm

Mon., July 29th from noon – 6pm

Tues., July 30th from 4pm – 6pm

Golf Outing Sat., Sept. 14th



Gift Card Shower

To welcome the Dilles to St John's, Effingham, the board of Social Ministry is hosting a gift card shower. Bring cards to give to the Dilles to the welcome dinner after Pastor Dilles installation on June 16. Cards can be dropped off in the church office if you will not be able to attend in person.

Prayer List

The family of Sherry Pruemmer, who died in Christ May 29; Dennis Johnson, Michael Habing, Bert Pruitt, Eileen Wall, Sara Bernhard, Catherine Zumwalt, Judy Latta, Cobert Mueller, John Romero, & Rev. Gail Heimgartner.

Sunday	2	8:00 a.m.	Worship Services w/HC
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:30 a.m.	Worship Service w/HC
Monday	3	4:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Committee
		6:15 p.m.	Board of Education
Tuesday	4	2:45 p.m.	Lydia Guild Social
		5:30 p.m.	Board of Trustees
Wednesday	5	1:00 p.m.	Office Staff Meeting
		6:30 p.m.	Board of Elders
Thursday	6		
Friday	7		Pastor Burdick's Sabbath
		9:00 a.m.	VBS Set Up
Saturday	8	8:00 a.m.	Praise Band Practice
		5:30 p.m.	Worship Service w/HC

Birthdays This Week

- 6/2 Chris Niebrugge, Florence Genoust, Jake Niebrugge, & Rick Kohnert
- 6/3 Kara Hoedebecke, & Ryan Budde
- 6/4 Jonathan Summers, & Randy Harris
- 6/5 David Wall, Erick Whitaker, Kelsi Haller, & Todd Anderson
- 6/6 Ainsley Jeffries, Alivia Wahl, Richard Ohnesorge, & Timothy Keitel
- 6/7 Becca Lading, & David Budde
- 6/8 Amy Kohnert

Anniversaries This Week

- 6/2/1973 David & Linda Wells
- 6/3/2016 Blake & Laura Bahrns
- 6/3/2017 Andrew & Carissa Snow
- 6/5/1955 Voris & Arnetia Osborn
- 6/6/1981 Jeff & Pam Baker
- 6/6/2020 Russell & Jill Higgs
- 6/6/1959 Dick & Carol Hulskotter
- 6/6/1992 Greg & Kara Koester
- 6/6/1987 Scott & Joyce Marxman
- 6/7/2008 Ryan & Kelsey Baker
- 6/8/2001 Mike & Betty Carter



I met Pastor David Dunlop this week, pastor of our congregations in Clinton and Chestnut. In addition to his two congregations, he serves precious people in Lincoln, IL. He serves the Correctional Institutions there. **Prisons.** He told me about the women there who are hungry for God's Word, eager to hear Law and Gospel, about sin and forgiveness. It made me very thankful for his weekly ministry there. And it made me glad that St. John's members are helping whenever we contribute to the Atrium offering box labeled "**Dollar For Missions.**" Keep giving. Your dollars are adding up, and broken people are hearing what Jesus has done for them. – Pastor Burdick