

THE EAGLE

St. John's Weekly Newsletter December 1, 2024

Response to the Gospel Our Attendance Last Week

Sunday November 24.....	356
Sunday School	42
Adult Bible Classes	48
LifeLight	15

Our Offerings

General Fund	\$15,372.72
Online Offering	\$2,884.55
Total Gen. Fund Offering	\$18,257.27

Renovation of Sanctuary Begins

January 19 will be our last Sunday in the Sanctuary before the refurbishment begins. Pews will be dismantled and shipped on January 20th. Worship after that will take place in the Fellowship Hall until the work is complete. Thanks be to God that we have ample space to continue all our ministry activities, including the central gathering: God's Service to us.

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

"Do you ever doubt the love of God? Perhaps you are just 'looking for love in all the wrong places,' if you'll pardon the expression. Don't look to your own feelings and emotions which can change with the wind, but look to Bethlehem and the manger. See God's love in this that His only begotten Son was sent to be humbled and to die for you. Understand that at Christmas 'God so loved the world that He gave ...'"

Daily Devotion, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes, Michigan - A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Advent Midweek Services

Wednesdays: Dec 4, 11, 18

12:15pm & 6:30pm

The Nativity: Songs of God and Men

Haiti Hunger Fight Thank You

The Board of Evangelism would like to thank all who came to the Breakfast for the Haiti Hunger Fight Nov. 17. We praise God for the good news about the schools we sponsor and that God has protected them from the gangs who are terrorizing the country. We ask you all to keep this program in your prayers. We raised a little over \$8,000.00 which will now be doubled.

Parent Poll

Starting in January 2025, St. John's will be organizing a monthly program for parents to gather together and discuss the joys and challenges of being a parent in today's world. Before we set a time and date for this gathering, we would like to gather your input to ensure that the program meets your needs as best as possible. This survey will close on December 15th.



SCAN ME

Lydia Guild Christmas Party Dec. 3rd at 6:00 p.m.

at the Burdick's home 717 S. First St. All Women of the church are invited. Members please bring your red stocking and an appetizer or dessert to share.

Christmas Cards

Check out the greeting card cabinet in the main hallway. More cards have been added as well as Christmas cards. You may designate a LYF student to receive the profit.

Quilting for Lutheran World Relief

Will be taking a break for the Holidays and will resume in January. Call Jane Tolch at (217) 690-5171 if you have any questions.

Youth Corner Upcoming Events

Advent Soup Meals

Wed., Dec 4
Lunch 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
12:45 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Dinner 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
7:15 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.

Menu: Chili, Vegetable, & Potato Soups
Hot Dogs, Veggies & Pie

6th – 8th Grade Please Bring a Pie

High School Caroling

Will be Sunday, Dec. 15. Meet at the church at 3:00 p.m. We will have dinner at Pizza Man afterwards.

NYG Info. Meeting – Dec. 18th

All NYG Parents and Youth will gather after the Advent service on Dec. 18th. At this meeting we will discuss the schedule of activities which lead up to the event in July. Once again we expect that all NYG Parents and Students attend this meeting.

Cookie Walk

The Cookie Walk will be held on Saturday, Dec. 21st & Sunday, Dec. 22nd

Drop off cookies on Friday Dec. 20th during office hours and Saturday Dec. 21st from 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.

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

Cemetery Clean-Up

The St. John's Lutheran Church Cemetery will be cleaned up December 9th. Flowers or decorations should be removed before the 9th if you want to save them.

LifeLight Class

Starts on Jan. 5

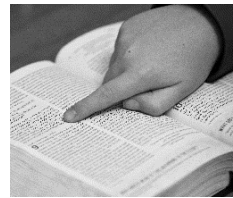
Sign-up sheet is on the Bulletin Board

"This Week's Sunday School Lesson"

Lesson 1

Today, we begin a new unit with "A Welcome Truth." Jesus and His disciples visit the home of sisters Mary and Martha. Mary sits at the Lord's feet to hear His words. Martha, busy with meal preparations, asks Jesus to tell Mary to help. Instead, Jesus gently tells Martha that Mary has chosen the more important thing.

Get Ready For Sunday



Many people have asked if we could offer a midweek Bible Study, and we believe the new Church Year is a great time to begin it. Wednesdays, 9:00-10:00am in the Trinity Room, beginning December 4, we will offer a study of the upcoming readings for Sunday worship. Bring your Bible or use one that's here at Church. All are welcome ... including your unchurched friends. Come, study God's Word. Get ready for Sunday! – Pastor Burdick & Pastor Dille.

Angel Tree

It's time to once again collect toys for FISH. Bring new, unwrapped toys to the Atrium. Collection is ending on December 8th!

Stewardship Moment

Luke 19:31 – "If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.'" Consider the faithfulness of that man who owned the donkey and colt. All he needed to hear was, "The Lord has need of it," and he willingly gave. The Lord has given each of us various callings in life (in our homes, in the church and in the communities we live in). In each calling we have good work to do, which comes from the Lord's hand. The Lord has need of us in each calling. How is He calling you to generous giving in each of your vocations?

Retailers have had their Christmas displays up since before Reformation Sunday. The kids have made their list and checked it twice, or three times or more. It won't be long before the tree will start shedding its needles, the stockings emptied, the gifts unwrapped, toys broken, and the too small or out of style clothes returned. Before we know it, the annual celebration of Christmas will be over.

But for the children of God, we know that the gift of Christmas doesn't ever end. Week in and week out, the Lord continues to shower His gifts on us. Every time the Lord gathers us to His house, and we are led to kneel at His table, the gift of forgiveness is repeatedly granted to us. It is nothing we deserve. It comes to us freely!

The fourth stanza of the stewardship hymn, "Forgive Us Lord for Shallow Thankfulness" (LSB 788) highlights both this gift and our response.

"Teach us, O Lord, true thankfulness divine, that gives as Christ gave, never counting cost..."

To learn thankfulness is necessary. The parents of young children are well-versed in the fact that they must teach their children thankfulness. It does not come naturally. The spiritual genetics inherited from our parents allow us to think that the world revolves around us. When we receive something, there is an inward desire to think that we in some way deserve it.

But there is no way that we deserve anything we get from our Lord. We need that ongoing lesson from God Himself. Thankfulness toward God is worked in us by the Holy Spirit. God's Word works this thanksgiving in us. We need this weekly reminder that Jesus didn't consider "equality with God a thing to be grasped, ***but emptied Himself***" for us, to the point of death on a cross (Phil. 2:6). He didn't bat an eye. He paid the price! Our life of stewardship is one of daily and weekly thanksgiving inspired by the Lord Himself.

"...That knows no barrier of "yours" and "mine," assured that only what's withheld is lost."

Because Jesus gave us everything and more, there can be no ownership. The child at Christmas is quick to claim that the newly gifted toy is "mine!" But as Psalm 24:1 asserts, "**The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.**" There isn't anything in creation that is *ours*. When we cling to and claim ownership of anything in creation, we are losing out on the continual gifts with which the Lord desires to shower upon us. Closed hands cannot receive anything new. We cling to the old and dead and miss the new thing that the Lord desires to do in and for us.

We are led to repent of the "yours" and "mine" and remove the lie that we have any ownership. In this we have the promise that God will continue to give to us. Not just at Christmas, but every Sunday at the altar at St. John's Lutheran Church. *(adapted from Stewardship @ lcms.org)*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Furkell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, decorative flourish at the end.

CALENDAR-----December 1 – December 7, 2024

Sunday	1	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Worship Service w/HC - Bells
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
<i>Preschool -- Monday – Friday 8:00 – 11:30 a.m. (Unless otherwise noted)</i>			
Monday	2		Pastor Dille’s Sabbath
		5:15 p.m.	Choir Practice
Tuesday	3	5:30 p.m.	Board of Trustees
		6:00 p.m.	Lydia Guild Christmas Party
Wednesday	4	8:50 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
		9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Bible Study - Trinity Room
		11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	LYF Soup
		12:15 p.m.	Advent Service
		12:45 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	LYF Soup
		1:00 p.m.	Office Staff Devotions/Meeting
		4:45 p.m.	Bell Choir Practice
		5:00 p.m.	Confirmation
		5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	LYF Soup
		6:30 p.m.	Advent Service
		7:15 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.	LYF Soup
Thursday	5	8:50 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
Friday	6		Pastor Burdick’s Sabbath
Saturday	7	8:00 a.m.	Praise Band
		8:00 a.m.	Men’s Bible Study
		8:00 a.m.	Women’s Bible Study
		9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.	E.A.S.T.E.R.
		5:30 p.m.	Worship Service w/HC

Birthdays This Week

- 12/2 Alvin Siebert, Britt Wendling, Elliot Miller, Jeff Flach
- 12/3 Melinda Dahnke
- 12/4 Alexander Gordon, Eden Wendling, Hali Frailey, Kathy Burdick, Kimberly Brummer
- 12/7 Kierra Mueller, Logan Sanders, Marcella Kennedy

Anniversaries This Week

- 12/3/2011 Brian & Synda Overbeck
- 12/5/2020 Matt & Jaclyn Wohltman

Prayer List

Sara Bernhard, Bryce Backhus, Kyle Lewis, Dwight Klepzig, Carol Budde, Cobert Mueller, Kay Boerngen, and Anna Mae Gibson.

