

# THE EAGLE

St. John's Weekly Newsletter December 15, 2024



He was justified in assuming that she had been unfaithful to him, giving herself to another man. Joseph knew that he could rightly divorce Mary and have her publicly shamed. But he had a strange Christmas gift to give her: "unwilling to put her to shame, he resolved to divorce her quietly." (Matthew 1) The gift was the desire to spare her the shame she deserved. What a good man Joseph was! Of course, God is good, too, and He revealed that there was no need for a divorce. God announced the perfection of His plan for the world's redemption – to cover humanity's shame with the blood and righteousness of Mary's Son. It's the great gift of Christmas.

Please add this to your Christmas gift-giving: invite someone who doesn't have a church to come hear the Good News at St. John's. Bring them to Bible Study Wednesday morning at 9:00am. Or Wednesday's Advent Service. Or the adult Catechism Bible Study that begins in late January. Or visit them and witness to the Christmas hope that is in you. It will be the greatest gift you'll give this Christmas: sharing the Father's plan to cover human shame with His Son's sacrifice. And all who believe will be ... justified.

At Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, we support two students: Peter Ross, currently serving his vicarage in Montana and Ron Zuccaro, a first year student. See their letters to us on the hall bulletin board. Pray for their pastoral formation.

**Don't forget the Lutheran Care Campaign!!**



Which Christmas Service(s) will you attend? All three Christmas **Eve** Services (4:00, 6:30, and 9:00) are the same, except that the special musical anthem in each is unique. 4:00pm is likely to be crowded. 6:30 & 9:00 will have plenty of room, and plenty of God's Word. In all three Services will be using the offering plates (not the offering boxes at doors) to collect offerings and our attendance/prayer cards. Our Christmas **Day** Service (9:00am) will begin with a procession and culminate with the proclamation, "Joy to the World, the Lord is Come!"

## You're the WELCOME Center

Please be intentional about reaching out and greeting people you know and especially those you don't know. "If we've met, I've forgotten your name," is one way to do it. Greet everyone. We don't have a Welcome Center Desk right now. You're it, and you're sufficient.

When we pastors go out visiting our homebound members, we hear many people expressing their deep gratitude for the visiting ministry of the church. Thank you to every person who is out there making visits in homes and care facilities. We also hear how special the cards made by the Sunday School students were. Your love is appreciated more than you know. -PB

## 2025 Offering Envelopes

Stop in the gym to pick up your envelopes. Your # has most likely changed. Make sure you don't use your new envelopes till 2025.

## Installation of Officers and Boards

will be in all Services the weekend of January 5. Thanks to all who serve!

**Response to the Gospel**  
**Our Attendance Last Week**

Sunday December 8..... 375  
Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> Advent Service..... 148  
Adult Bible Classes ..... 40

**Our Offerings**

Advent ..... \$676.00  
General Fund ..... \$7,688.00  
Online Offering ..... \$4,899.55  
**Total Gen. Fund Offering      \$13,263.55**

**LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life**

“Who is going to be king? Christ or Herod? Christ or I? Every day we make dozens of decisions which either acknowledge Christ’s lordship or which assert our own. The star of the Magi reminds the Christian that he has a gracious King to whom he can, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, submit his will and live. By His word Christ desires to reign in our hearts through faith!”

Rev. Darren Green, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

**49th annual Pro-Life Breakfast**

The Breakfast will be held on Sunday, January 19th from 7:00am - Noon at the Teutopolis Banquet Hall. Free will donation accepted for breakfast, which includes whole hog sausage, eggs, and a variety of home baked breads, along with juice, milk, and water. Volunteers are needed. Please text Susan at 217.663.2084 to sign up for a shift. Donations of breads, rolls, donut holes, & muffins are needed, and can be dropped off on Saturday, January 18 from 12 - 4pm at the Teutopolis Banquet Hall. This is the primary fundraiser for Effingham Area Right to Life. If you’re unable to attend the breakfast, please consider sending a donation to P.O. Box 861, Effingham IL 62401. Learn more by visiting “EffinghamAreaRightToLife” on Facebook.

**Anniversaries This Week**

12/16/1978    Richard & Sandra Devall  
12/21/2013    Aaron & Blair Smith  
12/21/1996    Phil & Shannon Stuemke

**Youth Corner Upcoming Events**

**Advent Soup Meals**

Wed., Dec 18

Lunch 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.  
12:45 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

**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. 18<sup>th</sup>**

All NYG Parents and Youth will gather after the Advent service on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>. 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. 21<sup>st</sup> & Sunday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>

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

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

**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.

**CILCA 2025 Celebration**

Parents: check out the insert in this week’s bulletin announcing the special rates for Camp CILCA next year. Coupled with our congregation’s support for member children, you can participate at Camp CILCA for free. Register soon! It will fill up. Thanks be to God!

### Stewardship Moment

***Philippians 4:5-6 – “The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”*** Wouldn't you like to be free from worry and anxiety? Isn't it worry and anxiety that often keep us from living the generous life God has called us to? St. Paul contrasts anxiety with prayer, supplication and thanksgiving in making our requests known to God. In other words, when you are tempted to anxiety and worry, pray to the Lord with a thankful heart and pour out your supplications before Him.

### LifeLight Class

Starts on Jan. 5

Sign-up sheet is on the Bulletin Board

### 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 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Get Ready For Sunday

Wednesdays, 9:00-10:00am in the Trinity Room, we 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.

### Prayer List

Anna Mae Gibson, Maddox Burger, Sara Bernhard, Carol Budde, Dwight Klepzig, Cobert Mueller, Bryce Backhus, Ann Young, Roger Miller, and Kay Boerngen

### Golden Eagle's Dinner

The Golden Eagles dinner will be on Thursday, December 19, at 12 noon. The meal is being catered by Niemerg's. The meal will include ham & chicken, twice baked potato casserole, green bean casserole, baby carrots, noodles, seven layer salad, rolls & butter & desserts. Our program this month will be presented by Nancy Johnson. The cost for the meal is \$10.00 per person. Everyone is welcome to attend. We ask that you please sign the name of each person who'll be attending on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the atrium. If you're planning to attend you **MUST sign up this weekend.** The caterer needs the number to prepare for by Tuesday.

### Advent Midweek Services

Wednesdays: Dec 18

12:15pm & 6:30pm

***The Nativity: Songs of God and Men***

### Christmas at St. John's

Sunday School Christmas Program:  
Sunday, Dec 22 10:30am

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

Christmas Day Service w/HC: 9:00am

First Sunday of Christmas w/HC:  
Saturday, Dec 28 5:30pm  
Single Service Sunday, Dec 29 9:00am

New Year's Eve Service w/HC:  
(Pastor Koschmann preaching)  
Tuesday, Dec. 31 6:30pm

***Come, Let Us Adore Him!***

**CALENDAR-----December 15 – December 21, 2024**

Sunday	15	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Worship Service w/HC
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		1:00 p.m.	Board of Youth
		3:00 p.m.	LYF Caroling
<i>Preschool - Monday - Wednesday 8:00 - 11:30 a.m. &amp; Christmas Vacation Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> – Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup></i>			
Monday	16		Pastor Dille's Sabbath
		8:50 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
		10:30 a.m.	Preschool Jesus Birthday Party
		12:00 p.m.	Board of Evangelism
		1:00 p.m.	Cemetery Meeting
		5:15 p.m.	Choir Practice
Tuesday	17	8:50 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
		10:30 a.m.	Preschool Jesus Birthday Party
		11:30 a.m.	Office/Preschool Staff Christmas Party
Wednesday	18	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
		6:30 p.m.	Advent Service
		7:30 p.m.	NYG Meeting
Thursday	19	12:00 p.m.	Golden Eagles
Friday	20		Pastor Burdick's Sabbath
			Drop Off Cookies During Office Hours
Saturday	21	9:00 a.m. – 10 a.m.	Cookie Drop Off
		9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.	E.A.S.T.E.R.
		4:30 p.m.	Cookie Walk
		5:30 p.m.	Worship Service w/HC
		6:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.	Cookie Walk

**Birthdays This Week**

12/15 Kris Wernsing  
 12/16 Arnetia Osborn, Cathy Mellendorf  
 12/17 Brenda Wendling, Gary White,  
 Jack Miller, Jonathan Marxmann,  
 Shirley Morse

12/18 Debra McClure, Jake Wendling  
 12/19 Nic Koester  
 12/20 Ryan Mayberry  
 12/21 Gary Fortkamp, John Mellendorf,  
 Joyce Marxman, Katey Devall,  
 Leo Wyckoff