

THE EAGLE

St. John's Weekly Newsletter December 22, 2024

Peace. That's the word of the day. It's almost Christmas. In fact, we're only 3 or 4 days from Christmas. So, what does it mean to have peace in this fallen world? Does it just mean the second Advent candle as we sit here and wait until Christmas to light the Christ candle? Is peace simply that brief satisfaction you get when you give someone the perfect present? Yes, when we give presents at Christmas it often does bring us joy that leads to a moment of peace, but the next day things go back to normal. So, what does peace mean to us in a world that is often so fallen and chaotic? Why does it even matter? Why is it so important that we end each church service with the promise that God gives us His peace? In today's service, we're going to go on a quest for peace.

I want to use this opportunity to share some words from Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German Lutheran pastor who stood against the Nazi Party during WWII and lost his life because of it. This quote comes from a letter Bonhoeffer wrote to his best friend. It was sent on July 21, 1944 — less than a year before he was killed. Here's the quote:

"I'm still discovering right up to this moment, that it is only by living completely in this world that one learns to have faith. One must completely abandon any attempt to make something of oneself... By this worldliness — I mean living unreservedly in life's duties, problems, successes and failures, experiences and perplexities. In so doing we throw ourselves completely into the arms of God, taking seriously, not our own sufferings, but those of God in the world — watching with Christ in Gethsemane. That I think is faith; ... and

that is how one becomes a man and a Christian."

Bonhoeffer's point has everything to do with peace. Peace comes by faith and faith comes by waving the white flag of our ambitions. Peace comes from looking to worldly Christ's suffering and resurrection in the midst of our own suffering. True peace comes from knowing and receiving the eternal promise of forgiveness and salvation. I pray that in the chaos of this season, you find a way to cling to the peace that comes only from Jesus!

May God's Peace be with you,

Pastor Dille

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.

Installation of Officers

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

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.

LifeLight Class

Starts on Jan. 5

Sign-up sheet is on the Bulletin Board

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

Sunday December 15.....	362
Dec. 18 th Advent Service.....	140
Adult Bible Classes	49

Our Offerings

Advent	\$705.00
General Fund	\$5,899.50
Online Offering	<u>\$2,598.55</u>
Total Gen. Fund Offering	\$9,203.05

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

“Merry Christmas! And may the certainty of God’s love for you in Jesus Christ give you strength, comfort, and confidence this day to face whatever comes tomorrow. For, nothing can overpower the persevering power and blessing of Christmas.” Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

49th annual Pro-Life Breakfast

Sunday, January 19th from 7:00am - Noon at the Teutopolis Banquet Hall. Please see Bulletin Board for details

**Watch for Lutheran Hour Ministries’
Float during the 2025 Rose Parade**



The 136th Tournament of Roses Parade will be held on Jan. 1, 2025, in Pasadena, California, under the theme of “Best Day Ever.”

Youth Corner Upcoming Events

Cookie Walk



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

LYF

We will kickstart a new year of LYF on January 8. We invite and encourage all 6th-8th graders to attend from 6-7:15 pm.

High Schoolers

Calling all High Schoolers! We will start meeting monthly in the New Year. Keep an eye out for the date and time of our first meeting.

Next NYG Info. Meeting – Jan. 19th 7p.m.

Please be sure to attend!

Puzzle Night – Jan. 26th



Puzzles will start at 2:30 p.m. We will be having a Mexican meal at 5 p.m. Tickets will on sale right after the New Year! Come and Enjoy the Fun!!

Coming Soon!

Soup Cook Off and Dessert Bake Off.



Details to come soon!!

Greeting Cards

Check out the greeting card cabinet in the main hallway. You may designate a LYF student to receive the profit.

Stewardship Moment

Luke 1:45 – “And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

The Lord always fulfills what He promises. We can be certain of that, and He has proven it over and over again. This faith in the Lord's own faithfulness is what gives us the courage to follow the Lord's commands in the face of the world's anger and resistance, just as it gave Mary the courage to carry on in her seemingly embarrassed circumstances.

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! We will not meet this week or next week. – Pastor Burdick & Pastor Dille.

Prayer List

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

Visits

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

Adopt a Student

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.

Christmas at St. John's

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

Christmas Day Service w/HC: 9:00am

First Sunday of Christmas:
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!

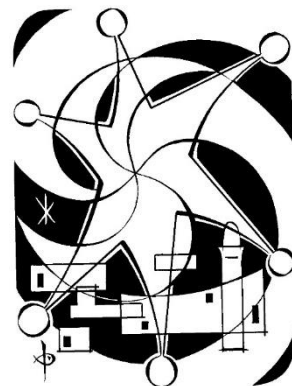
Don't forget the Lutheran Care Campaign!!

Our Sympathy

We extend our condolences to Ervin & Brooke Mueller and family at the death of their son, Kale. Kale's funeral will be at 10:00am here at St. John's on Monday, December 23, with burial in the Stewardson Cemetery immediately following. Visitation is Sunday from 3-7pm at Stew-Stras School.

We extend our condolences to Kathy Mueller and family at the death of her husband, Cobert. A Memorial Service will be held in January.

Alleluia. Christ is Risen!



CALENDAR-----December 22 – December 28, 2024

Sunday	22	7:15 a.m.	Cookie Walk
		8:00 a.m.	Worship Service w/HC
		10:30 a.m.	Sunday School Christmas Program
		11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Cookie Walk
<i>Preschool - Christmas Vacation Dec. 18th – Jan. 3rd</i>			
Monday	23	10:00 a.m.	Kale Mueller's Funeral
Tuesday	24		Office Closes at Noon
		4:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service w/HC – Choir
		6:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service w/HC - Bells
		9:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service w/HC
Wednesday	25		Office Closed
		9:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Service w/HC
Thursday	26		Pastor Burdick's & Pastor Dille's Vacation
Friday	27		Pastor Burdick's Sabbath
			Pastor Dille's Vacation
Saturday	28	5:30 p.m.	Worship Service

Birthdays This Week

- 12/22 Carol Lading, Connelly Beccue
- 12/23 Anne Stine, Patrick Romero,
Renee Kremer
- 12/24 Carla Bierman, Emmeline Flach,
Gary Norris, Tommy Quance
- 12/26 Clifford Traub, Gene Koebele,
Mitchell Haller, Shannon Stuemke
- 12/27 Douglas Jackson, Dylan Kuhns,
Kathy Mueller
- 12/28 Dannie Braun

Adult Bible Classes are not held December 22, but will resume on January 5th!

Thank you, Sunday School Teachers!
For all you do! You are Greatly Appreciated!!

Anniversaries This Week

- 12/22/2006 Robert & Joanna Davies
- 12/27/1975 Rev. Earl & Liz Brown
- 12/27/1961 Topper & Sarah Woelfer
- 12/28/2019 Jonathan & Sherrie Stremming

*Merry
Christmas*