

THE EAGLE

St. John's Weekly Newsletter December 29, 2024

Merry Christmas!



Thanks be to God for the Sunday School Service last week!

Response to the Gospel Our Attendance Last Week

Sunday December 22.....	469
Christmas Eve Service	590
Christmas Day Service.....	78

Our Offerings

General Fund	\$17,680.85
Advent	\$768.00
Online Offering	\$3,494.55
Total Gen. Fund Offering	\$21,943.40

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

"We long to hear those words from the master, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! Come! Share your master's happiness!' Someday you will hear them as He welcomes you into eternal dwellings. But for now, there is much to do for Jesus. So, as you go to live for Him, let those words echo in your mind and spur you on to be faithful and fruitful servants in His kingdom." Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

New Year's Eve
Holy Communion Service
6:30pm - Dec. 31
Pastor Koschmann preacher

Youth Corner Upcoming Events

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!!

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.



Fresh off the Christmas season and the retail frenzy that accompanies it, January brings a shot of frigid air. This is not a meteorological statement. The cold-frontal blast that hits us is the full force of credit card spending that fueled the retail frenzy. The bills for the gifts, the parties, the food and the travel have now come due. The credit card makes things convenient, but it also requires more discipline than many can muster. When the bills come in January for December's celebration, it really puts a damper on things.

Congregations often make the same mistake in stewardship. We often charge forward in doing what we always do or starting new endeavors without counting the cost. But at the end of the month, or the end of year, when the bill comes due, the red ink on the congregational balance sheet smacks the people in the face like a stiff north wind in January. We hunker down. We circle the wagons. We start to panic. The work of the Gospel suffers.

The fifth verse of *"Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness"* (LSB 788) addresses this January situation. The words penned by William Watkins Reid are very needful for us to hear as we start a new year, while dealing with the bills of past efforts and expense.

"Forgive us, Lord for feast that knows not fast ..." This hits us hard, doesn't it? We love when the money is flowing, the parties are going, and things are getting bigger and better. But there is a time in life, and most especially in our spiritual disciplines, that we need to fast. The purpose of a fast is to step back, lay something aside for a time, and replace it with meditation on Scripture and prayer. This is designed to keep us from turning something that may well be good into an idol that separates us from the God who loves us in Christ.

"For joy in things that meanwhile starve the soul ..." In "The Parable of the Sower," we hear Jesus talk about how the worries and cares of life choke out the growth of the seed of the Word that was planted. We know how this happens in our lives. Professional and youth sports do this. Materialism does this. Travel and leisure and do this. There is a list of things that we enjoy that *starve the soul*.

But it also happens in our congregations. When corporate stewardship is not managed in a responsible way, it can and does destroy individual stewardship. Is it good individual stewardship to support a ministry that doesn't take its corporate responsibility seriously?

"For walls and wars that hide your mercies vast and blur our vision of the Kingdom goal." This is the ultimate end of the idolatry of failed stewardship. We build walls between believers within the church and hamper those who are outside from coming to the Light of Life that is Jesus. The wars we fight over money and its impact on ministry do the same. It eventually blurs our vision of what we are here to do: share the Good News of Jesus. When the wintry blast of January hits us in this fashion, we are called to repent.

When the Holy Spirit uses the cold front of the call to repentance, we meet the God who forgives and restores. That is what He does for individual and corporate stewards. When the bills hit, they call us back to Jesus. He is the One who indeed forgives us our shallow thankfulness and leads us into the bounty of His mercy yet again. (LCMS.org Stewardship)

Prayer List

Anna Mae Gibson, Sara Bernhard, Carol Budde, Bryce Backhus, Allen Birch, Roger Miller, and Kay Boerngen

LifeLight Class

Starts on Jan. 5

Sign-up sheet is on the Bulletin Board

Don't forget the Lutheran Care Campaign!!

Stewardship Moment

Luke 2:38 – “And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.” Notice here how giving thanks to God leads to good works (speaking about Jesus, in this case). Thankfulness towards God for all He has done for us is the foundation of a Christian life lived in godliness. For if we know all that the Lord has done for us, how can we not strive to honor Him with what we think, say and do?

Following the death of Kale Mueller, we remind our members and friends of the Biblical and helpful resource called “*I Will Grieve For The Suicide*.” This free PDF book is available on our website (www.stjohnsLCMS.net) under “resources.”

49th annual Pro-Life Breakfast

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

Adult Bible Classes

Are not held December 29, but will resume on January 5th!

Adult Catechism Bible Study

This series of classes digs into God's Word and The Small Catechism to explore the foundations of the Christian faith. Over the course of ten weeks, we use Scripture, video, and study-at-home to answer questions such as, “Why do people die? What is meant by ‘resurrection?’ How do God's *Law* and *Gospel* work together? Is atonement possible? Is Baptism necessary ... and does it save a person?” And about 100 more questions are considered. This is the class for you if you want to review the Lutheran faith, or if you are interested in joining our church family in the Missouri Synod Lutheran Church. We meet **Tuesdays 5:45-6:45pm from January 21 to March 25**. Sign up on the hall bulletin board if interested. All are welcome.

Our Sympathy

We extend our condolences to Ervin & Brooke Mueller and family at the death of their son, Kale. Memorials in Kale's honor may be given to St. John's Lutheran LYF or WSS Sportsbackers.

We extend our condolences to Kay Klepzig as well as Derron, Danny, and Debbie, after the death of Dwight. His funeral was Saturday, December 28 at 10:30am here at St. John's. Memorials may be given to St. John's Lutheran. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

We extend our condolences to Kathy Mueller and family at the death of her husband, Cobert. The Memorial Service for Cobert Mueller will at 1:00pm Saturday, January 11, 2025, here at church.

Alleluia. Christ is Risen!

CALENDAR-----December 29, 2024 – January 4, 2025

Sunday	29	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service w/HC
<i>Preschool - Christmas Vacation Dec. 18th – Jan. 3rd</i>			
Monday	30		Pastor Dille's Sabbath
Tuesday	31	6:30 p.m.	New Year's Eve Service w/HC
Wednesday	1		New Year's Day Office Closed
Thursday	2		
Friday	3		Pastor Burdick's Sabbath
Saturday	4	8:00 a.m.	Praise Band
		8:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
		8:00 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
			Installation of Officers – All Services
		5:30 p.m.	Worship Service w/HC - Bells

Birthdays This Week

- 12/29 Andrew Knight, Angie Heuerman,
Clayton Gregory, Phillip Knight,
Tyler Devall, Zachary Pruemer
- 1/1 Carla Fox
- 1/2 Faith Kinkelaar, Jacqueline Wiseman,
Vicki Cook, Zoey Boone
- 1/3 Sandra Devall
- 1/4 Kay Boerngen, Luke Mottashed,
Ryan Engel

*Merry
Christmas*

Flower Chart

The 2025 chart has been posted. Please sign up if you would like to donate flowers for the altar.

Poinsettias

You may take your poinsettias home after the January 5th service.