

THE EAGLE

St. John's Weekly Newsletter December 8, 2024

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Phil. 1:2) That is how today’s Epistle lesson begins. That’s the way that Paul greets the church in Philippi as he writes to them the letter that we now call Philippians. It’s interesting to me that he begins with the word grace (and ends Philippians with it too! See Phil. 4:23). Even though it is not explicitly defined by Paul in his letter to the Philippians, Paul does dive into his definition of grace in both Romans 5 and Titus 3. Here’s what he says about grace in Titus 3:3-7:

“For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,”

Paul defines grace as the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior. So, why does Paul like to use this in the greetings and closings of his letters? He wants his readers and hearers to know the goodness of God’s love from the start. He wants them to embrace that God saves them out of His goodness and loving kindness, not because of what they do. Paul’s words are admirable.

Outside of saying grace when Pastor Burdick or I start our sermons, we don’t use the word grace like Paul does very often. Perhaps we should do so more often. The easiest way to do this would be in prayer. We pray that God would show His grace (goodness and loving kindness) on our brothers and sisters in Christ, on our family

members, and even on unbelievers we know or who are simply members of the community around us.

Pray with me,

Gracious Lord, you promise to show your grace on your people. You took us from our foolish disobedience and showered us with your grace—your goodness and loving kindness. You saved us. We pray that by your mercy and through your Word and your people, you would bring more people to know and receive your grace. Help us to reflect your grace in our actions and to greet our neighbors with your grace. In our Savior’s name, Amen.

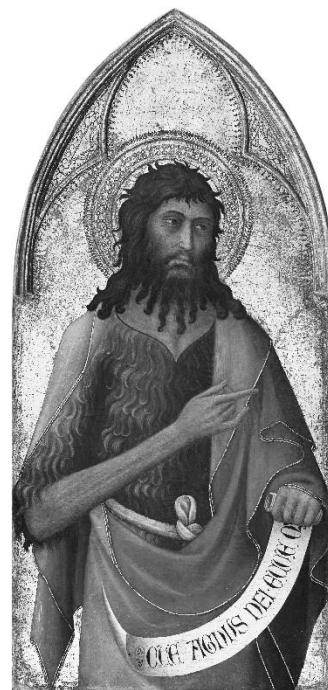
In God’s grace,

Pastor Dille

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

This Sunday we will be talking about John the Baptist. The one who prepared the way in for the Lord. This painting, originally painted around the year 1325 depicts John the Baptist. Notice His scraggly hair and camel hyde for clothes. Then, notice the scroll. In latin the scroll reads, “*ECCE AGNUS DEI. ECCE Q.*” which is the beginning of John 1:29 “Behold the Lamb of God, who takes

away the sin of the world.” That was John the Baptist’s message. A message we repeat today as we wait for the Lord to come again. Come soon Lord Jesus!



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

Thanksgiving Eve	103
Thanksgiving Day	64
Sunday December 1	402
Dec. 4 th Advent Service	145
Sunday School	40
Adult Bible Classes	50

Our Offerings

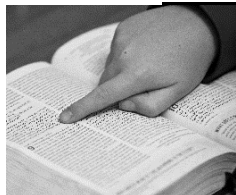
Thanksgiving	\$1,592.00
General Fund	\$6,964.16
Online Offering	\$4,847.04
Total Gen. Fund Offering	\$13,403.20

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

“If heaven had been our home, would we have wanted to enter a world of grief and pain, of evil and death? Yet enter it Jesus did to give us His home to be ours forever. So, He loved us in undeserved grace. And so will we sing in the heavenly Jerusalem a refrain like that of our choirs: Hail, thou ever blessed morn, Hail redemption’s happy dawn, Sing through all Jerusalem: ‘Christ is born in Bethlehem.’ Alleluia.”

Richard Gurgel, President, Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

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, 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.

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.

Youth Corner Upcoming Events

Advent Soup Meals

Wed., Dec 11

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

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

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.

Prayer List

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

“This Week’s Sunday School Lesson”

Lesson 2

This week’s lesson is “Lost-and-Found Wonders.” Jesus shares three parables demonstrating our heavenly Father’s concern for the lost. The shepherd leaves the ninety-nine sheep to seek one that was lost. A woman sweeps the house to find one of ten silver coins. In the parable of the lost son, a young man squanders his inheritance, ending up in squalor. Determined to plead for his father’s mercy and beg to return as a servant, the son instead receives a celebration. Angered at his father’s welcome for the prodigal, the older son confronts his father. The father’s gentle response reassures the young man of the father’s everlasting love and care.

Stewardship Moment

Luke 3:4 – “As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” God makes long-range plans: Isaiah lived more than seven hundred years before St. John the Baptist preached by the Jordan River. Obviously, God sees farther into the future than we do! That’s yet another reason to trust Him when it comes to how He tells us to live our lives: He knows what’s coming and we don’t.

LifeLight Class

Starts on Jan. 5

Sign-up sheet is on the Bulletin Board

German Christmas Vespers

Annual German Christmas Vespers (Weihnachtsvesper) will be held in Terre Haute Sunday, December 15th at 4:00pm
See bulletin board for details.

Remember

The Church Library has excellent resources for kids and adults. South end of the 5th Floor!



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.

Advent Midweek Services

Wednesdays: Dec 11 and 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 8 – December 14, 2024

Sunday	8	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Worship Service w/HC
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
<i>Preschool -- Monday – Friday 8:00 – 11:30 a.m. (Unless otherwise noted)</i>			
Monday	9		Pastor Dille’s Sabbath
		5:00 p.m.	Board of Stewardship
		5:15 p.m.	Choir Practice
Tuesday	10	1:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
		3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Food Pantry
		5:15 p.m.	Board of Social Ministry
Wednesday	11	8:50 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
		9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Bible Study – Trinity Room
		10:00 a.m.	Stephen Ministry
		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/Preschool Staff Christmas Party
		4:45 p.m.	Bell Choir Practice
		5:00 p.m.	Confirmation
		6:30 p.m.	Advent Service
Thursday	12	8:50 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
		6:30 p.m.	Board of Elders
Friday	13		Pastor Burdick’s Sabbath
Saturday	14	8:00 a.m.	Praise Band
		5:30 p.m.	Worship Service w/HC

Birthdays This Week

- 12/08 Debbie Barr, Jackson Dasenbrock, Judy Meislahn, Todd Nelson
- 12/10 Abby Barr, Chloe Martin, Lisa Sigg
- 12/11 Andrew Snow, Jill Higgs, Joel Wolfe, Kiersten Baker
- 12/12 Brandon Willis, Eden Probst, Kaleb Hartman, Mallory Dixon, Marcia Probst, Marlin Alwardt
- 12/13 Julie Sudkamp, Kellie Siebert, Kim Niebrugge
- 12/14 Bob Flach, Debbie Koester, Randy Miller

Anniversaries This Week

- 12/11/1971 Lesley & Norma Miller

