

THE EAGLE

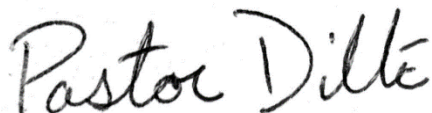
St. John's Weekly Newsletter January 19, 2025

The way that God created each of us is truly amazing. The more scientists discover about the intricacies of our bodies and minds, the more we are pointed to our Creator. For example, did you know that the total number of possible pathways through the brain exceeds 10^{80} , which is greater than the number of protons and neutrons in all of creation? It's incredible to think that there is that much going on in our heads.

What's even more fascinating is the way we are wired. God has designed us to rely on something. He created us to need Him, almost as if there's a space within each of us reserved just for Him. St. Augustine famously wrote, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you." There's a legend that Augustine also said, "There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man, and only God can fill it." God creates His people to lean on Him, and often it's much more than just leaning.

One more thing. Many of us hear the phrase, "God won't give us more than we can handle." This isn't entirely accurate. It only takes two words to correct it: "God won't give us more than we can handle without Him." If the God-shaped vacuum in our hearts is filled with the one true God, we have someone who promises to carry us through. His burden is easy, and His yoke is light. We receive forgiveness so that we can live in eternal perfection. I pray that the vacuum in your heart remains filled with the one true God.

The Lord **is** with you,



Communion

There is a new sign up list for Communion Fill, Prep & Clean-Up. Please check the bulletin board located in the Atrium hallway.

Join Us for Adult Bible Study

Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

LifeLight – 6th Grade Confirmation Room

Sunday School Lesson Overview - Fellowship Hall

Colossians – Trinity Room

Welcome, New Members!

We welcomed many new members last Sunday, and their photos will soon be displayed on the hall bulletin board. We received Rob & Dawn (Mayberry) Hunsaker by Affirmation of Faith, but failed to list them in the Eagle last week. WELCOME!

New Envelope Numbers

Are now in effect! PLEASE throw the old ones out! Also, if you could put your name on the envelope that would help to make sure everything is correct.

Contribution Statements

We will be emailing contribution statements to everyone that we have an email address for. Please be watching for an email from "Auto Mail" in your inbox towards the end of January. If we do not have your email address, we will send your contribution statement in the mail. If you do not wish to receive yours by email, you will need to let the office know by: Monday, January 13th.

Upcoming Meetings

Council Meeting

Tues., Jan 21 at 7:00pm

Voters Assembly Meeting

Tues., Jan. 28 at 7:00pm

Prayer List

Hunter Stewart, Sara Bernhard, Carol Budde, Bryce Backhus, Allen Birch, Roger Miller, Jim Zumbahlen, Florence Genoust, Dave Frailey, and Kay Boerngen

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

Sunday January 12	385
Sunday School.....	46
Adult Bible Classes	61
LifeLight	16

Our Offerings

General Fund.....	\$7,407.10
Online Offering.....	\$3,132.29
Total Gen. Fund Offering	\$10,539.39

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.

We extend our condolences to Kathy Burdick and family at the death of her dad, Claude Barrow.

"This Week's Sunday School Lesson"

Lesson 3

"The Seeing Sign" is the title for this week's lesson. When Jesus encounters a man born blind, His disciples wrongly assume the man's sin or his parents' sin is the cause of the blindness. Jesus corrects their assumption, telling them the man's blindness was so the works of God might be displayed in him. Sight restored, the man and then his parents find themselves before the Pharisees, who try to claim the man was never blind. When the man asserts the truth of his healing, the Pharisees cast him out. Encountering Jesus once again, the man confesses his faith in the Son of Man.

Youth Corner Upcoming Events

LYF Fellowship

We invite and encourage all 6th-8th graders to attend on Wednesday's from 6-7:15 pm.

High Schoolers

Calling all High Schoolers! We will start meeting monthly in February. Our first meeting will be February 2nd from 7 – 8 p.m.

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

Please be sure to attend!

Puzzle Night/Mexican Dinner – Jan. 26th



Time - 2:30 puzzle

Dine at approximately 5:00

Cost: \$12/adult and \$8/child (ages 6-12)
(Anyone may come and eat)

Puzzle Teams will consist of 4 people
We will have 18 - 500 piece puzzles

Sign up: on the church bulletin board or
Call Donetta Ohnesorge (217-821-3300)
Or Carolyn Wendte (217-821-6541)

Tickets are available in the office or
Will be sold before and after church services.

Deadline to Sign up is Jan. 23rd

Coming Soon!

Soup Cook Off and Dessert Bake Off.



Details to come soon!!

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

"No amount of scientific progress can defeat death. No political ruler can promise eternal life. Only Jesus can make and keep that promise. The promise of hope and life is ours to proclaim. It is the promise that a world without hope needs to hear. In Jesus we have hope for the future, the living hope of life in His presence forever." Dr. Carol Geisler

Stewardship Moment

John 2:3 – “When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, ‘They have no wine.’” Behold the faith of Mary: she sees a problem and simply lays it before her Son and Lord: “They have no wine.” She does not offer a proposed solution, she does not demand, she simply states her need and waits for the Lord’s response. She trusts that the Lord is a giver, and she knows that He always provides. May such a faith be ours!

Preschool Registration for 2025/2026

Preschool Registration for members of St. John’s is now open. Visit the website for a registration form, or pick up a registration form on the bulletin board or stop by the office. If you have any questions, please contact Carrie in the church office.

Preschool Open House

St. John’s Eagle’s Nest Preschool is hosting an Open House for all new Students! Please come on Thursday, February 20, 2025. We are welcoming anyone who is interested in our preschool program to stop by and look around at our classrooms and meet our teachers

When the Christmas Decorations were stored last week, we found old items no longer needed. They are stacked by the pool table. Do they belong to your Board? If they do, please mark them and store them. If not claimed, they will go to the Silk Purse. Thank you.

Parent Gathering Invitation

Join us for a Parent Gathering on **Thursday, January 26th from 6:30-7:30 p.m.** Childcare will be provided.

Schedule:

- **6:30-6:50 p.m.:** Introduction to our topic
- **6:50-7:10 p.m.:** Guided discussion
- **7:10-7:30 p.m.:** Reflective dialogue

Our topic: **“What makes children anxious? How can parents help?”** This session will offer valuable insights and strategies to support our children’s well-being.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Golden Eagle's Dinner

Come join us at the Golden Eagles dinner on Thursday, January 30, at 12 noon. This month we are serving the perfect solution for a cold January day - warm Christian fellowship, a hot bowl of homemade soup, sandwiches and desserts. 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.

Our Circuit-wide Confirmation Lock-in will be here February 16 under the theme “I Am Baptized Into Christ.” Students in Confirmation are receiving the flyer and permission slip this week. This has become a great tradition for our Circuit Youth!

Food Pantry Update

Thank you to everyone in the congregation and community for your support in 2024. Your prayers, volunteer hours, and donations, including food, money, Thrivent cards, deep freezer, bookshelf, and two carts, were vital to our Food Pantry's success.

Over the past four years, the number of people we serve has more than doubled:

- 2021: 1,450 people
- 2022: 1,955 people
- 2023: 2,696 people
- 2024: 3,237 people

In 2024, we served 1,455 households, 2,483 adults, and 754 children. Despite not being a part of the church budget, we received a total income of \$37,105.33, our expenses were \$41,759.59, resulting in a \$4,694.26 deficit.

We anticipate continued growth in 2025 due to rising food prices and increasing demand. Please pray for our ministry, and—guided by the Holy Spirit—consider donating your time, goods, or resources. Contact Patsy Latch or the church office for more information.

Thank you for your generous support. The Lord is at work in Effingham County through our Food Pantry.

Proclaim the Christ. Grow the Family. Love the Neighbor.

CALENDAR----- January 19, 2025 – January 25, 2025

Sunday	19	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Worship Service w/HC
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
			Kanabi Baptism
		7:00 p.m.	NYG Meeting
<i>Preschool -- Monday – Friday 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. (Unless otherwise noted)</i>			
Monday	20		Pastor Dille’s Sabbath
			No Preschool
		5:00 p.m.	Board of Evangelism
			No Choir Practice
Tuesday	21	5:45 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.	Adult Catechism Bible Study
		7:00 p.m.	Council
Wednesday	22	8:45 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
		9:00 a.m.	Bible Study
		10:00 a.m.	Stephen Ministry
		10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Quilting
		1:00 p.m.	Office Staff Devotions/Meeting
		4:45 p.m.	Bell Choir Practice
		5:00 p.m.	Confirmation
		6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.	LYF Fellowship
Thursday	23	8:45 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
Friday	24		Pastor Burdick’s Sabbath
Saturday	25	8:00 a.m.	Praise Band
		5:30 p.m.	Worship Service w/HC

Birthdays This Week

1/19 Keith Knight
 1/20 Emery Wendling, Vicky Keith
 1/21 Nancy Moeller, Rachel Miller
 1/23 Steven Moeller
 1/24 Charles Braasch, Mike Mietzner
 1/25 Cole Marxman, Dalton Koelm,
 Perrie Richards

Anniversaries This Week

1/22/2022 Devin & Hali Frailey
 1/22/1977 Steven & Nancy Moeller
 1/25/2020 Clayton & Emily Gregory
 1/25/1999 Randy & Tammie Miller

Flower Chart

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