

THE EAGLE

St. John's Weekly Newsletter January 26, 2025

It's a marathon, not a sprint. Pastor Dille and I share those words with one another often in relation to the ministry here at St. John's. Together with you, we're working with eternal things (God's Word and Sacraments) to build lives and families (yours!) that endure through thick and thin.

Endure is the theme for our National Youth Gathering this summer. It's also our theme for Lutheran Schools Week this week. In our Eagle's Nest Preschool we strive to give children and their families the foundation for a life which endures to eternity. The theme verse is inspiring:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

(Hebrews 12:1-2)

I asked you two weeks ago to consider reciting the Creed in your home at least once per week. Here's the next challenge: paste the words of Hebrews 12:1-2 upon your fridge and recite them at least once per week. They call us to the long-game of faithfulness to God, not success as the world pursues it.

We're blessed to have Eagle's Nest Preschool here and our fine staff. We'll celebrate Lutheran Schools Week under the theme "Endure," and we'll give these families the enduring Word of God. Someday, some of these students will travel together to a National Youth Gathering and then into adulthood, *enduring* with their eyes fixed upon Jesus. God grant it!



P.S. Our tradition in Lutheran Schools Week is having "Pancakes With Pastor" with the preschoolers and their parents. If you can help with prep and clean-up on Wednesday and Thursday this week, sign up on the hall bulletin board. We appreciate it.

While we worship temporarily in the Fellowship Hall, we'll go off to our Bible Studies somewhat quickly after getting our beverages. Sunday School children will have their opening in the Fellowship Hall, and the band will rehearse for the 10:30 Service. Adult Bible Class will meet in the Trinity Room (with doors closed due to music). Altar Guild will use the kitchen for Communion prep and cleanup. LifeLight classes and High School Bible Class will continue to meet on the first level. We are blessed with ample room and the ability to be flexible.

Join Us for Adult Bible Study

Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

LifeLight – 6th Grade Confirmation Room

Colossians – Trinity Room

Contribution Statements

Email contribution statements went out to everyone that we have an email address for. Please look for an email from "Auto Mail" in your inbox. If we do not have your email address, we will send your contribution statement in the mail this week.

Upcoming Meetings

Voters Assembly Meeting
Tues., Jan. 28 at 7:00pm

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

Sunday January 19	386
Sunday School.....	36
Adult Bible Classes	60
LifeLight	17

Our Offerings

General Fund.....	\$19,831.96
Special Services	\$275.00
Online Offering.....	<u>\$2,402.55</u>
Total Gen. Fund Offering	\$22,509.51

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.

Voters Assembly Packets

Are available below the announcements TV. In our Quarterly Voters meeting this Tuesday at 7:00pm, one of the items of business will be choosing our Lay Delegate to the CID Convention, July 13-15, 2025. The expenses for our Lay and Pastoral Delegates are paid by the congregation, and the convention runs from 3:00pm Sunday to Noon on Tuesday, in Springfield. Any man or woman interested in serving as our delegate should make their interest known to the Voters this Tuesday. You can speak with Pastor Burdick, if you have questions.
Note: we will also have the opportunity to nominate one or two pastors to serve as Central Illinois District President in the coming triennium (or there is time to make this nomination at our April meeting).

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.

Puzzle Night/Mexican Dinner – Jan. 26th



Time - 2:30 puzzle
Dine at approximately 5:00

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

Coming Soon!

Soup Cook Off and Dessert Bake Off.



Details to come soon!!

Stewardship Moment

1 Cor. 12:16 – “And if the ear should say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body.” The Lord has called each of us individually and given each of us unique gifts. He has made our whole lives holy in our Baptism and has called us to a life together in the church, His body. You are a part of that body, and that body needs you and the gifts the Lord has given you. This is your holy calling from the Lord.

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of Sara Bernhard.

We extend our condolences to Billy Genaust and family following the death of Florence Genaust last Friday. Her funeral was held Friday at Johnson Funeral Home. Blessed are those who die in the Lord! Memorials may be made to St. John’s Lutheran Church in Effingham.

Lutheran Care Center will hold its Full Board and Congregational Meeting Monday, January 27 at 7:00pm in the Family Gathering Center. All are welcome to attend this meeting and be informed about the ministry of LCC.

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.

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

"Babies are born into the world wrapped in surprising packaging like disabilities or poverty, but even so, God has a perfect plan for each one of them. Abortion is a tragic end to the countless blessings in store for those who would have surrounded these children." Brad Mattes

Life Issues Institute – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Parent Gathering Invitation

Join us for a Parent Gathering on **Thursday, January 30th 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!

Prayer List

Allen Birch, Jim Zumbahlen, Dave Frailey, Kay Boerngen, Jack Miller, and The ministry of St. John's Lutheran, Louisville, as Pastor Bartens is installed as their pastor.

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!

"This Week's Sunday School Lesson"

Lesson 4

Jesus performs an amazing miracle in "A Resurrection Sign." Mary and Martha's brother, Lazarus, falls seriously ill. When word of his illness comes to Jesus, He delays two days, assuring His disciples the disease would not lead to death but to God's glory. Despite death threats, Jesus reassures the disciples when deciding to return to Judea. They set out for Bethany, arriving four days after Lazarus is placed in the tomb. Jesus tells Martha that He is the resurrection and the life, as she boldly confesses, *"I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God"* (John 11:27). Deeply moved by their grief, Jesus calls Lazarus back to life.

St. Paul (Blue Point) Men's Club

Annual Sausage and Pancake Supper

is on Sunday, February 2, 2025. It will be a dine in event with carry out meals available. Packaged rope, cooked rope, and bulk ground sausage available. Serving begins at 4:00pm. The church is located 4 miles north and 2 miles east of Altamont.

Food Pantry Needs

They are in need of plastic grocery bags! Please help them out with bringing in yours and put them in the brown box by the elevator. Thanks!

CALENDAR----- January 26, 2025 – February 1, 2025

Sunday	26	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Worship Service w/HC
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		2:30 p.m.	Puzzle Night
		5:00 p.m.	Mexican Dinner
<i>Preschool -- Monday – Friday 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. (Unless otherwise noted)</i>			
Monday	27		Pastor Dille's Sabbath
		5:15 p.m.	Choir Practice
		6:30 p.m.	Board of Early Childhood
		7:00 p.m.	Lutheran Care Center Full Board and Congregational Meeting
Tuesday	28	3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Food Pantry
		5:00 p.m.	Altar Guild
		5:45 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.	Adult Catechism Bible Study
		7:00 p.m.	Voters Assembly Meeting
Wednesday	29	8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Pancakes with Pastors
		8:45 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
		9:00 a.m.	Bible Study
		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	30	8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Pancakes with Pastors
		8:45 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
		12:00 p.m.	Golden Eagles
		6:30 p.m.	Parent Gathering
Friday	31		Pastor Burdick's Sabbath
Saturday	1	8:00 a.m.	Praise Band
		8:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
		8:00 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
		9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.	E.A.S.T.E.R. – Multi Purpose Room
		5:30 p.m.	Worship Service w/HC – Bells

Birthdays This Week

1/26 AJ Radloff, Cason Klepzig, Kristin
Jackson, Leslie Boggs, Sawyer Whitaker
1/28 Alec Niebrugge
1/29 Taylor Rieman
1/30 Darcie Buening
1/31 Kathy Stremming, Susan Larson

Anniversaries This Week

1/26/1969 Paul & Carolyn Webb
1/27/1963 Richard & Betty Albin