

THE EAGLE

St. John's Weekly Newsletter February 2, 2025

The Epistle lesson for today comes from 1 Corinthians 13. This chapter is often referred to as the Love chapter of the Bible. When you hear it called that, what do you think of? It sounds warm and cozy doesn't it. But Paul doesn't start it out that way. As you will hear, Paul begins the passage with a couple of conditional sentences. In each of these statements that begin with the word if, Paul expresses that without love, the action is worth nothing. He says that love is the most important part of the way that we use our gifts. This part of 1 Corinthians 13 is anything but warm and cozy.

The type of love that Paul is talking about can be defined as 'the love of a determined will that seeks the true welfare of the other, even when not deserved.' The thought of love being a determined will that desires to do good for others makes a lot of sense. This understanding of the love that Paul is talking about reminds us that love is not always easy. Sometimes to love each other means do what needs to be done for the good of those around us even when we don't necessarily want to do it. This came up in our 9 a.m. Bible Study this past Wednesday. Specifically the satisfaction that often comes with doing something that we don't necessarily want to do but we know we need to do.

After all, this is the type of love that Jesus offers us. His love truly is unconditional. When Jesus prayed in Gethsemane "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." (Jn. 26:39) and then still took our sins to the cross, He displayed the sort of love that Paul is talking. We look to His example, as we take on the tasks that may not want to do. And we remember that "We love because He first loved us." (1 Jn 4:19). As you hear the goodness of God's love today in 1 Corinthians 13, think about ways that you can continue to live a life of love.

God's Peace,

Pastor Dille

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 did not have your email address, we sent your contribution statement in the mail this week.

LLL Convention

More than 3 billion people have yet to hear the saving message of Jesus Christ! Come learn how you can *CONNECT* to people at the Central Illinois LLL District Convention hosted at Camp CILCA in Cantrall on Saturday, March 1, 2025. All are welcome to attend. Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, President Emeritus, Concordia Seminary St. Louis will share the keynote address. The convention theme verse is *1 Peter 4:10 'As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace...'*

The schedule for the March 1:
Doors open at 9:00 a.m.
Convention begins at 9:30 a.m.
Concluding the day at 3:00 p.m.

The registration fee is \$25.00 includes Saturday's lunch. Complete the registration form and mail with registration fee to Deloris Blessman CID LLL Treasurer, 24204 C 1850N, Topeka, IL 61567 by February 23.

Join us for a day of spiritual growth with inspirational presentations to encourage and equip you as partners in His mission. If you have any questions or need more information you can contact Deloris Blessman by phone at (309)361-1461 or by email delorisblessman@yahoo.com.

Response to the Gospel
Our Attendance Last Week

Sunday January 26	409
Sunday School.....	40
Adult Bible Classes	37
LifeLight	17

Our Offering

General Fund.....	\$7,088.41
Online Offering.....	\$3,741.45
Total Gen. Fund Offering	\$10,829.86

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 each **Tuesday at 5:45-6:45pm till March 25**. Sign up on the hall bulletin board if interested. All are welcome.

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!

Stewardship Moment

Luke 2:24 – "[They went] to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.'" Throughout the Old and New Testaments, God gives us the pattern of proportional giving. If you look at Leviticus 12, you'll see that the sacrifice for purification was either a lamb or a pair of birds if the family had no means to buy a lamb. God calls us to give in proportion to how He has blessed us — and of course Jesus sets the pattern by giving not only a portion, but His all.

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! Our first meeting will be this weekend, February 2nd from 7 – 8 p.m.

Coming Soon!

Soup Cook Off and Dessert Bake Off.



Details to come soon!!

Annual Ash Wednesday Luncheon/Supper

Due to the construction we will not be able to have our annual Ash Wednesday Meals.

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

"All life is sacred. Your life is sacred. Every life has infinite worth and eternal value. Your life matters—from conception to natural death to eternity. The psalmist declares: *'I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works; my soul knows it very well'* (Psalm 139:14)." *Rev. Robert Mohns,*

Lutheran Church—Canada – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Parent Gathering Invitation

We thank all who attended the parent gathering last Thursday. Our next gathering will be here at St. John's for a Parent Gathering on Thursday, February 27th from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Parent's of all ages are welcome. Childcare will be provided.

The Dual Parish LYF

of St. John Dieterich and St. Paul Wheeler, will be having a pulled pork lunch on Sunday February 9th from 11 am to 1 pm at St. Paul's, 13204 N 2300th St., Wheeler. If you are in need of pulled pork for your Super Bowl festivities that day, please feel free to pre-order with Jon Engelbart at 217-821-1421 or message us on our Facebook page, Dual Parish LYF

2025 Martin+Katie Conference

Join us at **University Lutheran Church in Champaign, IL on Saturday, March 29, 2025.**

At this free conference, grow as Christian men and women, meet new friends, get to know each other, and have fun. The conference is open to ages 18–30. Married or single are welcome. Registration is required, as capacity is limited. Please register no later than Friday, March 21st. Info and registration are available at <http://martinpluskatie.org>.

Plus: Extra bonus activities planned for Friday night, March 28, and Saturday night, March 29! All are invited to stay for Sunday Bible Class, Divine Service, and lunch on Sunday, March 30.



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.

Prayer List

Allen Birch, Jim Zumbahlen, Dave Frailey, Kay Boerngen, Jack Miller, and to the family of Billy Genaust.

Dollar for Missions

The current project is \$25,000 for masonry work and repointing at University Lutheran Church in Champaign. The church and student center building serves as an outpost of the Gospel to the 60,000 students annually at the University of Illinois. Portions of the brick and concrete structure are showing their age and are in need of repair. This project will fund targeted work at repairing and repointing sections of the building exterior, so that the Lord's Word and Sacraments can continue to be given out for many decades to come!

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!

A Big Thank You!

We would like to thank everyone who helped us with Pancakes with Pastors this week. We greatly appreciate your willingness to help us!

"This Week's Sunday School Lesson"

Lesson 5

This week, we study "The Thankful One." Encountering ten lepers on His way to Jerusalem, Jesus has mercy on them and sends them to show themselves to the priests. As they go, the lepers are healed; but only one, a Samaritan, returns to thank Jesus.

We extend our condolences to the family of Billy Genaust who went home to Heaven on Thursday Morning.

CALENDAR----- February 2, 2025 – February 8, 2025

Sunday	2	8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Worship Service w/HC – Bells
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		6:00 p.m.	LHS Committee Meeting
		7:00 p.m.	High School LYF
<i>Preschool -- Monday – Friday 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. (Unless otherwise noted)</i>			
Monday	3		Pastor Dille’s Sabbath
		5:15 p.m.	Choir Practice
		6:30 p.m.	Worship Committee
Tuesday	4	9:00 a.m.	CID Pastor Conference – St. John’s Effingham
		5:30 p.m.	Board of Trustees
		5:30 p.m.	Board of Education
		5:45 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.	Adult Catechism Bible Study
		7:00 p.m.	Lydia Guild
Wednesday	5	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	6	8:45 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
Friday	7		Pastor Burdick’s Sabbath
Saturday	8	8:00 a.m.	Praise Band
		5:30 p.m.	Worship Service w/HC

Birthdays This Week

2/2 Brody Brown, Duckie Johnson,
Howard Janis, Jimmy Hippchen
Wade Bloemer

2/3 Rachael Pennington, Todd Martin

2/4 Mikayla McWhorter, Witt Heuerman

2/6 Christopher Holland, Jane Probst,
Jennifer Marxman, Jessica Miller

2/7 Randy Esch, Richard Albin

2/8 Adam Bohnhoff, Calli Fritcher,
Carli Fritcher

Anniversaries This Week

2/2/2002 Brad & Brenda Osborne

2/3/1993 Jim & Vicky Keith

2/3/1990 Pat & Cindy Schilling

2/6/2010 Greg & Jill Keitel