

THE EAGLE

St. John's Weekly Newsletter March 2, 2025

This coming Wednesday, March 5, is Ash Wednesday. On Ash Wednesday, we transition to the season of Lent. It has been a long-standing tradition to give something up for Lent. In doing so, we embark on a 40-day journey of fasting. I remember last year... or maybe it was two years ago when I saw a news interview with Mark Wahlberg. He was talking about the fasting (giving things up) that he does during Lent. Yet, the news heading was: Mark Wahlberg's 40-Day Fast. Those words serve as a warning for us. If we fast from something (or give something up for Lent), we need to do it for the right reason — not just to make ourselves healthier or more productive. It's all about Jesus!

When I explained this to our youth group, I said it this way: If you are giving up junk food for Lent, make sure that when you crave it, you remember how much greater Christ's sacrifice was than your sacrifice of no potato chips. After all, Christ took the sins of the whole world on Himself when He died on the cross. If we fail to look to Christ in our Lenten fasting, we miss the point.

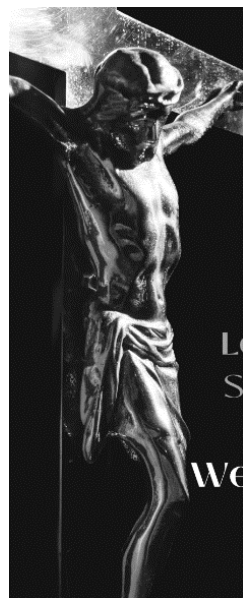
There's another way to help us look to Christ's sacrifice during Lent, too. It's to take up a new habit. Just as Jesus took on our sins, we can take on something new that points us to Him. This could be anything, as long as it points us to Jesus. A great example could be reading the Gospel of Mark during Lent or another book. It could be as simple as setting a 1, 2, or 5-minute timer and talking to God for those minutes each day. Christ took on our sins, so we can take something on for these days that brings us closer to Him.

Either way, whether you give something up for Lent or take something on, I encourage you to frame it in a way that points you back to Jesus and His words of hope for you — words that instruct you on how to live and

words that offer forgiveness when you fall short. No matter what, Jesus has spent 40 days in the wilderness before, and He always promises to walk with you as His people... even in these 40 days of Lent.

The Lord be with you,

Pastor Dille



**His
Wounded
Body**

Lenten Midweek Services
St. John's Lutheran (LCMS)
Effingham

Wednesdays 12:15 & 6:30pm
March 5 - April 9

www.stjohnslcms.net

Lenten Devotional Booklet

“Servant of the Lord” is the title of our Lenten devotional booklet. The same devotions can be received by *email* each day — *and we encourage our members do use the devotions that way.* Why? So that the devotional booklets can be handed to a non-member today! People are a little more open to a Christian message when Lent is approaching.

Take a booklet and hand it to a family member, neighbor, or co-worker you want to invite to church. Go to www.lhm.org and sign up to receive “*Servant of the Lord*” devotions in your email inbox daily. And let those devotions bless you and your neighbor. Ash Wednesday is this week. Bring someone to Church and to Jesus!

Response to the Gospel
Our Attendance Last Week

Sunday February 23.....	417
Sunday School	45
Adult Bible Classes	35
LifeLight	15

Our Offering

General Fund	\$8,615.25
Online Offering	\$3,880.54
Total Gen. Fund Offering	\$12,495.79

Stewardship Moment

Luke 9:36 – **“And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone.”** Moses and Elijah point to Jesus, speak about Jesus and His sacrifice, and then are happy to fade into the background. They know that what we need is Jesus. With our eyes focused on Him and Him alone, the rest of our lives comes into focus. He is primary, all else secondary. When that order is right in our lives, things truly fall into place. Or as Jesus Himself said, “Seek first the kingdom of God ... and all these things will be added unto you” (Matt. 6:33).

Lutheran High School

The Steering Committee for Holy Trinity Lutheran High School continues to explore the possibility of opening a classical Lutheran high school in our county. To share more about what Classical Education is, we’re having a guest speaker come to share what’s beautiful and good about classical education. Pastor Heath Curtis will speak here at St. John’s on Sunday, March 2, at 6:00pm in the Trinity Room. After his presentation, there will be time for questions and discussion. All are welcome. If you have questions now, contact Laura Galvan or Pastor Burdick. See the yellow handout beneath the hallway TV.

Preschool Reviews

We are asking past & present families that have attended Eagle’s Nest to please leave a review on our Facebook page to help promote our school.

Youth Corner Upcoming Events

Rhodes Fish Fry

Friday, March 14th 4:00 – 7:00p.m.
Drive Thru, Dine In or Carry Out.
Buy your tickets now --- \$15
Tickets at the Door --- \$17
Kids 10 and under --- FREE

Get your Tickets from our youth, at our church services, or at the church office by March 9th.

SELL SELL SELL

Money & unsold tickets are due back to Carolyn by March 9th.

Bake Sale

March 14th

6th – High School

Youth may bring 2 desserts
for the bake sale.

A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.
Please put your name, the cost, and the name of the dessert on your item.

Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 20th

VBS

June 9 – 12 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

The theme this year will be Epic Australian Adventure. Watch Bulletin for a meeting date if you would like to help.

Share the HOPE is Coming Soon

Our fourth annual Trinity Hope "Share the HOPE" online auction will begin on April 24th. We have donations of vacations, Haitian items, events, experiences, and more! With this nationwide auction, our goal is to raise enough money to provide 100,000 meals! Be on the lookout, the link will be live in early April. Be ready to share the auction with those you know.

Food Pantry

Our next distribution will be
Tuesday, March 11th from 3-4.

"This Week's Sunday School Lesson"

Lesson 9

This week's Bible lesson is "A Trusting Widow." Jesus sits in the temple, observing people depositing money into the offering box. But one offering stands out: a widow brings two small copper coins. Jesus commends this offering to His disciples because He knows her offering is everything she has to live on.

LLC Items to be donated

The Board of Social Ministry, along with St. Johns LLC representatives, are asking for items to be donated to the Involvement Store. The store is available to residents who earn points by participation in activities. Then, at the end of the month the store is open for cashing in points to shop. In addition, items are needed for the LLC Kids Childcare center. You'll find a container to place your gifts in the church hallway. There is also a list on the main hall bulletin board.

Lutheran Care Center Altamont items:

Colored dry erase chisel tip markers, Fun size candy bars, Variety packs of cookies, Emery boards, Polish remover, Fast drying clear coat nail polish, Dollar Tree gift cards.

LLC KIDS Enrichment Center items:

Baby Wipes, Disinfecting Wipes, Pine-Sol, Mr. Clean Erasers, Cereal, Sun chips, Bugles, Large Stamp Pads, Glue Dots, Sturdy Storage Bins, Puzzle Storage Rack, Owls Activity Set, Construction Paper, Kids Tool Set, Magnetic Tiles, Doctor Kit Medical Station, Play Kitchen Toys, Baby Doll Clothes, Play Food, Dress Up Clothes, Pegs & Boards, Activity Mat, Cardboard Blocks, Folding Playmat.

Easter Lilies

Time to order your Easter Lilies. This year they are 6" for \$10. Please contact the church office to place your order.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Do you have Thrivent Choice Dollars?
Don't forget to direct them by March 31st.

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

"God sent His Son to save us, not because we asked, but because He loves us. God wants you to call on Him, not because He needs the information, and not just because He wants to rescue you from distress. He wants to rescue you for a new life, for a life of trusting that He wants to hear from you, of living with His Word inside you, a life responding with God's love to others in their distress, even before they call."

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, The Lutheran Hour – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Portals of Prayer

It is time to sign up for your Portals of Prayer subscriptions. Here are the prices for this year.

Regular Size "Direct Mail" \$14.00

Digest Size "Direct Mail" \$20.00

Large Print "Direct Mail" \$24.00

Money for the subscriptions can be put in the designated offering envelopes. If you do not use envelopes, please indicate it on the memo line of your check, and place in the offering plate. You can also drop your check by the office. Monday, March 10th is the deadline.

Lutheran Witness

Renewal & New subscriptions will be in a couple of months.

Congratulations

To Kami, Chris, and Sophie Bahrns on the birth of Oliver Lawrence on February 24. Proud Grandparents are Alan & Julie Bahrns. Praise the Lord!!

Prayer List

Allen Birch, Eileen Wall, Kay Boerngen, Barbara Shelton, and Niki Bishop

Transfiguration Day

Children can take home an "Alleluia" coloring page this week. The plan is simple: color the page at home as you wish, and then bring it back to church on Transfiguration (March 2). During the Transfiguration Service we will bury "Alleluia," not using that glorious word of exclamation until Easter Sunday.

CALENDAR----- March 2, 2025 – March 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.	“What’s Beautiful About Classical Education?” w/Pastor Heath Curtis
		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
			No Preschool
		5:15 p.m.	Choir Practice
Tuesday	4		Circuit Pastor Conference – Faith Sullivan
		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
		12:15 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Service w/HC
		4:45 p.m.	Bell Choir Practice
		5:00 p.m.	Confirmation
		6:30 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Service w/HC
Thursday	6	8:45 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
		6:00 p.m.	VBS Decorating Meeting
		6:30 p.m.	Lifetime Plan for Giving Presentation
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

- 3/03 Jackson Hagerstrom, Sarah Womack, Ursula Polzin
- 3/04 Ethel Stuckemeyer, Jaxxon Green, Karen Stevenson, Kennedy Bailey, Terry Long
- 3/05 Gage Wernsing, Kade Pennington Pam Higgs, Paul Whitehair
- 3/07 Beth Hanks, Curt Meseke, Gayland Bourland, Laura Braun
- 3/08 Charlie Jansen, Debbie Buenker, Jerry Pruemmer

Anniversaries This Week

- 3/02/1996 Michael & Joyce Curry
- 3/02/2002 Sean & Cherilla Junge
- 3/06/1999 Brian & Dawn Koester
- 3/08/2020 Jordan & Paige Boldig



Saturday March 8th