

THE EAGLE

St. John's Weekly Newsletter March 30, 2025

The Gospel reading for today is from Luke 15, where Jesus tells the Parable of the Prodigal Son. This parable is perhaps one of the most well-known teachings of Jesus. Since Luke recorded Jesus' telling of the parable, it has been depicted in various artistic forms. The etching to the right is one of my favorites.

Drawn by James Tissot, this etching is titled *The Prodigal Son in Modern Life: The Return*. Take a moment to observe the picture and notice what stands out to you.

(I'll pause while you look.)

At the center of the picture, we see a poignant scene: the son returning home, falling to his knees as he pleads for mercy from his father. The father holds him tightly, bending down to ensure his son knows he is welcomed. Tissot vividly portrays the father's love and disregard for his own appearance, evident in the way his hat flies off his head. Perhaps the pig caught your attention, too. Its symbolism is significant. As you'll hear in the reading today, the son once had to eat from the feeding trough—a connection that ties him to the pigs.

My favorite detail in the picture, however, is the face of the woman on the right. Her expression conveys shock at the father's warm welcome for the son. Sometimes, we might feel this way when Jesus brings prodigals back into His family. But don't be surprised when you witness such grace; this is exactly what Jesus does.

Every time you repent and receive forgiveness Jesus welcomes you with open arms. Trust in Christ's mercy and forgiveness, just as the son trusted in his father's love.

May God continue to bless you,

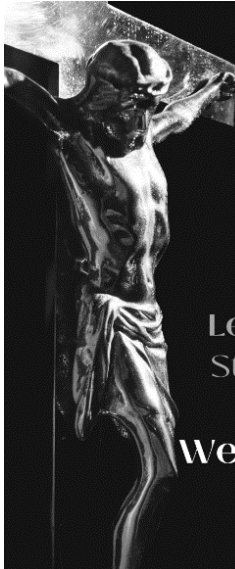
Pastor Dille



Upcoming Meetings

Council Meeting
Tues., April 15 at 7:00pm

Voters Assembly Meeting
Tues., April 22 at 7:00pm



**His
Wounded
Body**

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

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

www.stjohnslcms.net

Attention All Boards

Your reports are due in the church office for the Council meeting by Mon., Apr. 7

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

Sunday March 23	425
Sunday School	50
Adult Bible Class	35
LifeLight	13
Lenten Services	151

Our Offering

General Fund	\$7,531.97
Lenten Service	\$665.00
Online Offering	\$4,330.54
Total Gen. Fund Offering	\$12,527.51

Stewardship Moment

Luke 15:12 – “And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them.” This prodigal son only sees the father as a source of wealth. “Give me my inheritance now!” he says, which is really to say, “You are better off dead in my eyes.” This is the sin at the heart of all greed: valuing things over people. This parable calls us to come to our senses as well, and to see God as the loving Giver of all good, the true Father to be valued above and beyond all the things of this world.

LCC Congregational Scripture and Song Service

Praise God for the Lutheran Care Center and the “Care Campaign” donations this year! We will have a celebration Service for all owner congregations on Next Sunday, **April 6 at 2:30pm at Faith Lutheran Church, Shumway.** After the Service, the reception will include the “Pastors’ Bake-Off.” Come, celebrate. Sign up on the main bulletin board, please, so our hosts know how many will attend.

5th Sunday - Door Offering

Will take place on March 29 & 30 and will benefit the Lutheran Care Center.

Youth Corner Upcoming Events

Logo Apparel

The Youth have opened a store to sell items with the St. John’s Church Logo. If you are interested, please visit this site: https://stores.inksoft.com/st_johns_lutheran_church/shop/home



Larry Brandt Scholarship

Application for the Larry Brandt Scholarship can be found online or copies are on the bulletin board. Due date is April 14, 2025.

Vacation Bible School

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. Planning is underway!! If anyone has Thrivent Cards that they would be willing to donate they would be greatly appreciated!! Wish List Items! We need huge pieces of cardboard, red, yellow, and orange tablecloths.

Lydia Guild Bake Sale

Maundy Thurs – Good Friday after services until all items are gone. All proceeds will go to Lutheran Care Center.

Lutheran Witness

It’s time to sign up for Lutheran Witness. Cost this year is \$20.65 for the year, & are due by Monday, April 21.

Food Pantry Distribution

The next distribution is Tues., April 8 from 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. The Food Pantry is needing Pork & Beans, Diced Tomatoes, Tomato Juice, and Dry Macaroni.

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

“Our Lord dwelt among us for quite some time without anyone seeing or meeting Him. Yet in this span, He consecrated and sanctified every human life from its very beginning at the moment of fertilization. And He demonstrated that neither age nor appearance nor ability — nor any lack thereof — improves or impairs anyone’s worth. God creates, redeems, and calls each one as His own to start with.” Pastor Michael Salemink
Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Volunteers Needed



Can you volunteer to be a driver of our church mini-van for the purpose of bringing people to our worship services who cannot drive? Valid driver's license and other steps will be required. If you can help, there are folks who would greatly appreciate it. Our goal is to create a regular schedule of drivers and require folks who need a ride to notify the church office by 11:30am Friday. We are in the process of gathering names of potential drivers. Thank you for prayerfully considering this. If interested, please email the church office and we will be in touch with you by March 30. Thank you. Email to office@stjohnsLCMS.net

O holy and most merciful God, You have taught us the way of Your commandments. We implore You to pour out Your grace into our hearts. Cause it to bear fruit in us that, being ever mindful of Your mercies and Your laws, we may always be directed to Your will and daily increase in love toward You and one another. Enable us to resist all evil and to live a godly life. Help us to follow the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and to walk in His steps until we shall possess the kingdom that has been prepared for us in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer List

Allen Birch, Barbara Shelton, Niki Bishop, Carolyn Campton, Heather Davis, Dick Hulskotter, Terry Simmons, Dan Overbeck, Jerry Lankford, Janet Martins, and Beulah Ziegler.



New Message Board Appeal

Would you be able to help? One way in which we reach out to our neighbors is through advertising our ministry and sharing Scripture passages on the church electronic message board along Jefferson Avenue. Our LED sign is now over 15 years old, and the computer software is nearing its end of life. Our Evangelism Board is proposing that a new full-color sign with much higher resolution replace the old electronic portion of the sign. The brick and the blue acrylic portion of the sign will not change. The cost is approximately \$23,000. Our Trustees and Stewardship Boards are in accord in making this appeal to the congregation. If you would like to make a special donation to this project above your regular offering for Word and Sacrament ministry at St. John’s, it will be appreciated. Special gifts can be mailed or brought to the church offices, or can be given in a specially marked envelope in the offering boxes noted with SIGN PROJECT DONATION. Our Evangelism Board is also applying to the Church Extension Fund for a Ministry Outreach Grant to cover some of the expenses. As donations are received, we will give updates in the Eagle. Thank you.

CALENDAR-----March 30, 2025 – April 5, 2025

Sunday	30	9:30 a.m.	Worship Service
			Door Offering for Lutheran Care Center
<i>Preschool -- Monday – Friday 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. (Unless otherwise noted)</i>			
Monday	31		Pastor Dille’s Sabbath
		5:15 p.m.	Choir Practice
		7:00 p.m.	Lutheran Care Board
Tuesday	1	9:00 a.m.	Circuit Pastor Conference Holy Cross – Shelbyville
		5:30 p.m.	Board of Education
		5:30 p.m.	Board of Trustees
		7:00 p.m.	Lydia Guild
Wednesday	2	8:45 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
		9:00 a.m.	Bible Study
		12:15 p.m.	Lenten Service
		1:00 p.m.	Office Staff Devotions/Meeting
		5:00 p.m.	Bell Choir Practice
		5:00 p.m.	Confirmation
		6:30 p.m.	Lenten Service
Thursday	3	8:45 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
Friday	4		Pastor Burdick’s Sabbath
Saturday	5	8:00 a.m.	Band Practice
		8:00 a.m.	Men’s Bible Study
		8:00 a.m.	Women’s Bible Study
		5:30 p.m.	Worship Service w/HC - Bells

Birthdays This Week

3/30 Hayden Wendling, Hayes Frailey,
Sadie Norman
3/31 Judy Siebert
4/01 Audrey Niemerg
4/02 Elizabeth Soltwedel
4/03 Hunter Stewart, Ruth Bray
4/04 Amy Wetzal, Collins Jones,
Karen Grupe, Kyle Gibson
4/05 Graham Ziegler, Marsha Klussman

Anniversaries This Week

3/30/1984 Allen & Faye Tomkins
4/04/2009 Jacob & Stacy Nelson
4/05/1994 Gary & Sandra White
4/05/1964 Roger & Nancy M Ohnesorge