

THE EAGLE

St. John's Weekly Newsletter June 1, 2025

Australia isn't on my bucket list, but I'm going there *virtually* next week. Our Vacation Bible School will launch on Monday the 9th as the "Unforgettable Journey With Jesus." We will likely have hundreds of children, parents, and volunteers here, digging into these four Bible stories:

- God Calls Moses (**Exodus 3**)
- God Leads His People to the Promised Land (**Joshua 3-4**)
- Parable of the Good Samaritan (**Luke 10:25-37**)
- Jesus Saves Us (**John 20:1-10, 19-20**)

Sometimes people think a VBS is successful if more children come than a previous year. Or the children had fun. Or the decorations were stunning. No, you likely know that there is a much higher standard by which we gauge a VBS: **did we give the families Jesus' truth and grace?**

That will be our singular goal next week on this Epic Australian Adventure. Join me in praying that our leaders will be well-prepared, the unchurched families will grow roots in the Christian faith here at St. John's, and the children will receive God's TRUTH and GRACE. These things are possible, Lord willing, in Australia and in Effingham.

Tracy Furber



Sunday School

*Enduring Faith makes it easier to teach the Word of God. Volunteer to teach a summer Sunday School lesson. Reach out to SS Superintendent Kiley Bohnhoff NOW to get scheduled for a summer lesson. Email her at kbohnhoff@hotmail.com

Summer Adult Catechism Series!

Wanting to **join** St. John's and the LCMS? Want to **review** the faith? Our Adult Catechism Bible Class will be held these Tuesdays: June 17, June 24, July 1, July 8, July 15. These two-hour sessions will present all ten of the adult catechism lessons for members' review or for a new member's preparation for Confirmation. We meet in the Trinity Room from 6:30pm-8:30pm (brief break in the middle). 2017 edition of the Catechism is \$17. Sign up on the bulletin board beforehand so you can receive the Catechism and the reading schedule prior to the June 17 session. You'll grow in grace and knowledge. *This is most certainly true.*

Have You thought about working in the Church Office?

The Office Assistant works alongside the Office Administrator to welcome people in the office, prepare financial and Word documents, and support the work of the pastors and the Preschool. The position is a part time (28 hours), four-day (Tuesday-Friday) job. Compensation is commensurate with experience; rate determined by the Board of Elders. Stop by the church office and pick up a job application and full position description in the church office. Also please share on facebook.

Card Shower

Voris & Arnetia Osborn will be celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary on June 5th. Let's shower them with congratulations. Their address is 504 Southernaire Dr. Effingham



VBS Needs Volunteers:

Set up: Sunday, June 8 at 11:30.
If you can help later, call one of us to see if we are still working.
Take down: Mon., June 16th at 9am

Response to the Gospel
Our Attendance Last Week

Sunday, May 25.....367
Life Light6
Adult Sunday School.....32

Our Offering

General Fund.....\$7528.00
Online Offering.....\$3474.55
Total Gen. Fund Offering.....\$11,002.55

Prayer List

Henrietta Poe, Justin Brown, Heather Davis, Niki Bishop, Dick Hulskotter, Janet Martins, and Madison Gartner Hagen, Mike Kallis, Sandy Mietzner, Linda Miller.

Stewardship Moment

Acts 1:11

“Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ is ascended, and Christ will come again. We live our lives in this world in the sure confidence of the world to come. We live as people who know our Lord Jesus and who know that He is coming back. This makes all the difference in how we approach our stewardship and how we prioritize our lives.

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

“Watch and prepare for Jesus to return. Set your hearts on Him and on your life in Him. He is the beginning and end, the purpose and goal of your life. So there’s no need for tears as you see Him ascend. He is with you always. He will come back for His people soon. Then we will appear with Him in glory.” *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Wheelchair



Here at church, we have a small adult wheelchair, and we could use an additional, larger one. If you have a good used wheelchair to donate, notify the church office. Thanks.

MinistrySafe

All who work with youth in our congregation (as staff or volunteers) will complete our excellent MinistrySafe online Sexual Abuse Prevention Training. It's imperative that you let our VBS leaders know soon that you'll be volunteering so Carolyn can send you the email link to your required training. **If you have not been contacted about the MinistrySafe Program, call or text Carolyn.** Thank you for your service, and for being well-trained!



Youth Corner Upcoming Events

Save the Dates

Rummage Sale: July 31st - August 2nd

Drop off dates & times:

Sun., July 27th from noon – 1pm

Mon., July 28th from noon – 6pm

Tues., July 29th from 4pm – 6pm

Golf Outing Sat., Sept. 13th

“This Weeks Sunday School Lesson”

Lesson 4

This week, students will study “Called Christian.” Following his conversion, Saul (also called Paul) is introduced by Barnabas to the apostles in Jerusalem. The Church had spread to Antioch, so the leaders in Jerusalem send Barnabas there. He exhorts the people to remain faithful, and he brings Saul from Tarsus to help him minister among the people in Antioch for a whole year. The name *Christian* is first used for the believers in Antioch. The Church in Antioch sends relief to the believers in Judea.

Next Sunday, June 8, we will hear from Kyle Stortzum, Leader of Fellowship of Christian

Athletes here in Effingham. We

support FCA in prayer and with financial donations yearly, and Kyle will give us an update on the work of FCA for area youth.

Come to the fellowship hall at 9:00am for fellowship and FCA!



LCMSFoundation

TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

We can face competing priorities when we think about planning our estates someday. Will my plans preserve what I have gathered or give it away? Most money professionals will speak with you about wealth creation or wealth preservation. The real joy of God's gifts is found in their use, not their hoarding. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you begin thinking about following Godly desires to distribute gifts through your estate. Contact Scott Radden, LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor, at 618-977-4049 or Scott.Radden@lfnd.org.

Pastor Niermann's Installation **You're Invited!**

Our new Pastor's installation at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Altamont, will be held on **June 8th at 5:00 PM with all area congregations invited.** There will be a light meal provided by the Ladies Aid after the service with sandwiches and desserts for which RSVPs are appreciated, and sign-up sheets are at all three entrances, or you may contact the church office to RSVP at 618.483.6395 or email immalt22@gmail.com. Thank you!

Holy Communion Preparation

Looking for an important way to serve in our church family? Volunteer to help with preparation and clean up for Holy Communion. Lisa Norton and others will train and guide you. Families with Jr. High and older youth are specially encouraged to serve, because it can be a tremendous lesson for the young people.

There's something for YOU in our **Church Library** (upstairs on the 5th floor). Children's books, Bible Commentaries, Luther's Works (complete), Devotional guides, Marriage helps, Teen novels, and more!

Food Pantry Distribution

The next distribution is Tues., June 10 from
3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

LET US PRAY!

Thanksgiving for the Pure Pleasure of Motion

When I was a boy, O Lord,
I used to run through the beautiful world
you gave me to move in.
I skipped on concrete walks,
dogtrotted down dusty country roads,
dashed through cold creeks,
scrambled through brush,
up narrow hill paths,
crawled up shelved cliffs
overlooking the river,
scuffed through fallen leaves,
swished through dead grasses,
slithered through greasy-soft mud,
pumped through drifted snow,
clonked over hollow ice.

Oh, it was great, Lord. And I thank you
for the memory of those
brute-rapid happy days.

I move more slowly now
on long, deliberate walks.
I look more at the sky and
the clouds above me,
at the swirling machinery of traffic,
at the architecture of an ordered world
as my legs take over and ignore me,
moving on a rhythm deeper
than my consciousness.
Oh, this wonderful, this milder motion,
that moves more narrowly and takes in more
than that first breathless race of mine!
What a river to walk by, these eddies of people--
boys, girls, laughing, whistling, calling, screaming,
beautiful in their unconscious
comeliness of ceaseless motion;
girls growing womanly; boys shambling
in first awkward manliness,
flamboyant and unafraid;
nurses padding by in
their flat-footed, easy grace;
young mothers with
theirs babies riding on their hips;
good, solid mothers carrying big, brown bags;
old women, wrinkled, white, fulfilled, serene,
living out the last quiet measures of the eternal song;
and all these men, each one a man, one of a kind--
how can I begin to praise this crazy aggregate
of amazing bipeds under this sky, clear,
bright, subdued, lowering, flat-gray, cloud-heaped,
wind-pummeled, never the same on any Tuesday?
You have made all things beautiful in their season,
not least the varied motions of a man
as he lives longer and grows older.
For this I thank You. (Martin Franzmann, 1970)

CALENDAR----- June 1 - 7, 2025

Sunday	1	8 :00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.	Worship Service w/HC
		9:15 a.m.	Adult Sunday School Only
		7:00 p.m.	"The Flock"
Monday	2		Pastor Dille's Sabbath
Tuesday	3	5:30 p.m.	Board of Christian Education
		5:30 p.m.	Board of Trustees
		6:00 p.m.	Lydia Guild Social
		6:30 p.m.	Board of Elders
Wednesday	4	9:00 a.m.	Bible Study
		1:00 p.m.	Office Staff Devotions/Meeting
		6:00 p.m.	Youth Fellowship
Thursday	5	5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall Rental
Friday	6		Pastor Burdick's Sabbath
		11:30 a.m.	Office is Closed
		6:30 p.m.	YABS
Saturday	7	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

Birthdays This Week

- 6/1 Brian Overbeck, Jackson Wendling,
Samuel Hewing, & Valena Soltwedel
- 6/2 Chris Niebrugge, Jake Niebrugge, &
Rick Kohnert
- 6/3 Kara Hoedebecke & Ryan Budde
- 6/4 Jonathan Summers & Randy Harris
- 6/5 David Wall, Eric Whitaker, Kelsi Haller, &
Todd Anderson
- 6/6 Ainsley Jeffries, Alivia Wahl, Cherilla
Junge, Richard E Ohnesorge, &
Timothy Keitel
- 6/7 Dave Budde

Anniversaries This Week

- 6/2/1973 David & Linda Wells
- 6/3/2016 Blake & Laura Bahrns
- 6/3/2017 Andrew & Carissa Snow
- 6/5/1955 Voris & Arnetia Osborn
- 6/6/1959 Dick & Carol Hulskotter
- 6/6/1992 Greg & Kara Koester
- 6/6/1981 Jeff & Pam Baker
- 6/6/1987 Scott & Joyce Marxman
- 6/7/2008 Ryan & Kelsey Baker



**LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE**

*Two great ministries: Lutherans for Life and
Camp CILCA. Thanks be to God!*



Add this article 6/7and8

THANK YOU

Central Illinois District Scholarship Sunday was May 4th. We thank everyone who participated with gifts and prayers in support of our CID seminarians and full-time church worker students. Because of the great need for pastors, teachers, principals, and other full-time church workers we also ask you to speak to your pastor if you are considering a vocation in ministry or know of someone who would be a good candidate. In addition, please forward their name and contact information to President Michael Mohr at the district office (address below).

Please continue to pray for the needs of our students throughout the year. If you were not able to make a gift last month you may still do so today or at any time during the year. The need is great. Please make your check payable to either the "The CID Scholarship Fund" to designate it to be used for current needs, or to the "CID Scholarship Endowment Fund" where the proceeds will be used for years to come to support CID church worker students. Please send your gift to: Central Illinois District LCMS, 1850 North Grand Avenue West, Springfield, IL 62702-1626.

If you are considering making a gift to ministry of retirement assets, property, IRA assets or a gift through your estate, you may contact our CID Planned Gift Counselor, Rev. Charles Olander at (217) 416-8842 or c-olander@msn.com for assistance.