

THE EAGLE

St. John's Weekly Newsletter August 24, 2025



In **Luke 13:24**, which is part of this week's Gospel lesson, Jesus says,

"Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able."

This passage reminds us that the path to Jesus is not the same as the path of the world. It also brings to mind a passage from Matthew's Gospel.

In **Matthew 19:24**, Jesus tells the disciples, **"Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."**—WOW!

Jesus' words in Matthew 19:24 stick with us because they create such a memorable image—like the cartoon above. But to fully grasp their meaning, we need to understand the context. In the first part of Matthew 19, Jesus is speaking with a rich young man. The young man claimed to have kept all the commandments—or so he thought. In response, Jesus challenged him to give away his possessions to the poor. This revealed the young man's true idol. Matthew tells us that the young man went away sorrowful.

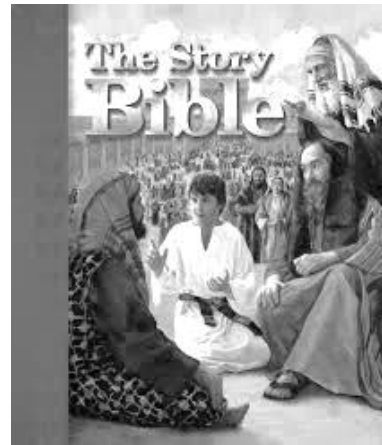
This sheds light on the image of the camel passing through the eye of a needle. If we find our wealth in our possessions, it is just as impossible for us to enter heaven as it is for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle. Our true wealth must be found in the promises of Jesus—His grace, His forgiveness, and His sacrifice in our place.

When we find our wealth in Jesus, we no longer follow the way of the world. Instead, we enter through the narrow door. Jesus is the door to eternal life. Trust in Him, to look to Him for help in times of trouble, and to listen and respond when He calls you into action.

Jesus is with you always.

May God continue to bless you this week!

Pastor Dille



Moms and Dads, Grandmas and Grandpas: It is very powerful when you read the Bible to your little ones! The Story Bible from Concordia Publishing House is one way to do that. This week we will be receiving a

small shipment of The Story Bible, and each one is \$25. True stories and great artwork help you teach the Bible at home. Make checks payable to St. John's. Available in the church office this week, or next Sunday in the Atrium.



Summer Speaker Series Final Event

Come hear Pastor Castellero at St. John's Church in Dieterich on Sunday, August 24 at 6:30pm.

He is currently the headmaster at St. Paul Lutheran School in Hamel,

IL and has served in leadership roles at other Lutheran schools as well. He has a wealth of knowledge about the why and the how of Lutheran schools! We hope you will come, listen, and ask questions!

Sunday School Teacher Needed!

We are now in need of a Kindergarten/1st grade Sunday School Teacher. Please reach out to Kiley Bohnhoff.

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

Sunday, August 10.....457
Adult Sunday School.....45
Sunday School.....54

Our Offering

General Fund.....\$6,431.25
Online Offering.....\$3,522.83
Total Gen. Fund Offering.....\$9,954.08

Choir

Choir practice is resuming Monday, September 8th. Rehearsal time is at 5:15 pm in the church balcony, and new singers are welcome. If anyone has questions, feel free to contact Dennis Lading at 217-821-8483.

Single Service Sunday **With a Potluck Dinner**

Next Sunday will be our 5th Sunday, August 31st. We will have only 1 service on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. with a potluck meal to follow at 10:45 a.m. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet on the main bulletin board.



We're glad to announce that Coraline Ohnesorge will be working parttime in the church office this Fall as Office Assistant. Welcome, Coraline!

The Growing In Faith Bible

will be presented to our 3rd grade students in future weeks, as a gift from St. John's. This is a Bible suitable for youth all the way through high school. Cherish it. Read it with your kids. Help them take care of it, even while they wear it out by daily use.

Prayer List

Matt Fauss, Samantha, Clint, Curtis, Barb Morrison, Oliver King, Cassie Power, Steve Rubin, Holly Bray, Trevor Roy, Niki Bishop, Mary Dasenbrock, Kenny Dasenbrock, and all pregnant mothers.

Sunday School Teacher Needed!

We are now in need of a Kindergarten/1st grade Sunday School Teacher. Please reach out to Kiley Bohnhoff.

Lutherans For Life ... **right here in our county!**

"Created. Redeemed. Called." Michelle Bauman, director of Y4Life in the Lutherans for Life organization, will be speaking at **Immanuel Lutheran Church** parish hall in Altamont, IL. She will be speaking **Saturday, August 30th at 7PM and Sunday, August 31st at 12:30PM**. Saturday will start with a presentation "Created, Redeemed, Called" and end with a life affirming movie. We will be serving hot dogs and smores. On Sunday, BBQ will be served along with the presentation "For You 4 Life". The Altamont Area Lutherans for Life is working on amazing incentives for youth that choose to participate in either of these events. Note: **There will be an Altamont Area Lutherans for Life meeting on Wednesday, August 20th (at Immanuel), to further discuss details.**

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

"We stand together, one in mind and heart, and with one voice, in defense of the lives of our unborn children—God's precious little ones. Yet, what we stand for is not only the lives of these precious unborn children but also the moms, the dads, the grandmas and grandpas, the young and the old, the healthy and the sick and dying. What we stand for is the very value—the very gift—of life itself." Pastor Paul Clark, LFL of Michigan

— A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Golden Eagles Dinner – **August 28, 2025**

Golden Eagles will meet again on Thursday, August 28, at noon. The August Golden Eagles will be our annual cook-out. The menu will include hamburgers, brats, pork chops, hot dogs, coleslaw, baked beans, potato salad, and deserts. Kevin & Kathy Schingler will provide Music Bingo for the entertainment. Prizes will be a gift card for a free meal at our next Golden Eagles dinner.

Cost per meal is \$10.00. Please sign the name of each person attending on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

LifeLight

"Prophecy"

Classes start September 7

Sign up by Aug 25th on the bulletin board if you wish to participate.

Stewardship Moment

Luke 13:26 –

"Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.'" Proximity to Jesus and the things of faith is not faith itself. Many Pharisees heard His Word but ignored it and refused to believe in it. We want to be not only hearers, but also doers of Jesus' Word. We want not only proximity to Jesus, but true communion with Him. We want to hear Him, follow Him, praise Him and return thanks.

Try Something New

St. John's Large Print (Braille) Center invites you to consider joining our Ministry to the Sight Challenged population worldwide!

Becoming a volunteer is EASY! Give us a call. Schedule a visit. Find out when you can help on a team.

The work is straightforward.

- Books are printed from orders sent from Lutheran Braille Workers Headquarters
- Operating a manual punching machine, you get the pages ready to assemble
- Another machine is used to bind the pages together with a front and back cover. (Also manually operated)
 - Bibles and Devotionals intended for Prison use are printed and bound separately.
- It is essential that finished books are checked page by page to ensure that the recipient has a quality Bible or Devotion for their use. Pages in order, no streaks or markings and the book is easy to open.
- Packing, labeling and mailing are done with care.

Interested? Call Marilyn Schaefer 217-821-0508 or Kathy Stremming. We will be happy to arrange for you to get involved.

Congratulations

To Kyle & Claire Gibson on the birth of their son and daughter, Wagner Joseph and Caroline Kelly born on August 12th

To Alex and Sadie Turner on the birth of their son Cal Aubrey born on August 15th

Church Picnic

The annual St. John's Church Picnic will be held Sunday, **September 28**, here at the church immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service. The meal will be held in the fellowship hall with indoor and outdoor activities for all, weather permitting. Todd Martin will be the grill master and everyone is invited to bring a favorite dish to share. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet posted on the main bulletin board. **We are having a "Cake Walk" with donations of cakes, baked goods, or goodies from the congregation. Start planning what you are going to bring.**

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

"Never apologize for sharing God's Word. Never excuse holding or defending a godly position that clearly states how a life issue stands according to Scripture. Abortion is wrong, as is assisted suicide, and many other life issues happening in our world."

Volunteer Relations, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

"This Weeks Sunday School Lesson"

Lesson 1

The lesson this week is "A Mighty Wonder." In six days—through His spoken Word alone—the heavenly Father creates a universe so vast and complex it defies our limited human understanding. Humankind, the crown of His creation, made in His own image, comes to be through the intimate work of His hands and with His own breath. Discuss the wonders of God's creation with your family.

Youth Corner Upcoming Events

Cruise Night

Cruise night is set for
Saturday, September 6

Food from 4 p.m. until we are sold out!
More details will be coming.

Golf Outing

Sat., Sept. 13 at 1:00p.m.
(See this week's Insert for details)

CALENDAR----- Aug. 24 – Aug. 30, 2025

Sunday	24	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service w/HC
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:30 a.m.	Worship Service w/HC
		6:30 p.m.	Lutheran High School @ St. John's Dieterich
Monday	25		Pastor Dille Sabbath
		5:00 p.m.	Board of Early Childhood
		6:00 p.m.	Preschool Back to School Parents and Kids
		7:00 p.m.	Lutheran Care Board
Tuesday	26		
		3:00-4:00 p.m.	Food Pantry Distribution
		6:00 p.m.	Preschool Back to School Parents and Kids
Wednesday	27	9:00 a.m.	Bible Study
		10:00 a.m.	Stephen Ministry
		1:00 p.m.	Office Staff Devotion/Meeting
		5:00 p.m.	Bell Practice
		6:00 p.m.	Youth Fellowship
Thursday	28	12:00 p.m.	Golden Eagles
		6:30 p.m.	Parent Gathering
Friday	29		Pastor Burdick Sabbath
		6:30 p.m.	Young Adult Bible Study
Saturday	30	8:30 a.m.	Stephen Ministry Training
		5:30 p.m.	Worship Service

Birthdays This Week

8/24 Joe Budde, Norma Suckow
 8/25 Lesley Miller, Nolan Dixon, Terry Simmons
 8/26 Amanda Wernsing, Hank Rieman, Kay Klepzig
 8/27 Jacob Janis, Lori Meseke, Mary Roedl
 8/28 Abby Marxman, Adam Wendt, Paul Smith
 8/29 Amy Fread
 8/30 Brandon Wallin, Camille Zeigler, Danny Klepzig, Mark Holland, Norma Miller, Rebecca Belcher, Rick Gregory

Anniversaries This Week

8/25/79 David & Joyce Barr
 8/26/23 Zachary & Madi Haake
 8/27/05 Chris & Christina Niebrugge
 8/29/09 Douglas & Kristin Jackson
 8/30/80 Fred & Ruth Bray

Excess Garden Produce

Garden produce is always very well received by our food pantry, so if you have been abundantly blessed, we would gladly accept it. However, we can only accept "fresh" produce the Sun., Mon., or Tues before our pantry distribution, which is the 2nd & 4th Tues of the month.

Our next Food Pantry Distribution

August 26 from 3-4 p.m.

Board Members

In October our Voters Assembly will elect board members for service in support of our mission (Proclaim the Christ, Grow the Family, Love the Neighbor). Boards, including those members who are completing their time of service, should soon be praying, thinking, and recruiting so that all positions are filled. Do you have a desire to serve in some aspect of our ministry? Speak with our pastors or with Adam Bohnhoff (VP) or Jeff Weis (Pres). Thank you.