

THE EAGLE

St. John's Weekly Newsletter November 30, 2025

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters! Take a moment to look carefully at the painting on the right. It's a painting of the moment that the angel Gabriel told Mary that she was going to bear a child and that child would be the Messiah, the Son of God, our Savior. Our Advent theme this year is *Mary's Son, Our Savior*. Throughout the next three weeks, we will talk extensively about the way that the Lord used Mary in His perfect plan to save His imperfect people.

The painting to the right is titled *The Annunciation*. It was painted in 1898 by Henry Ossawa Tanner (1859-1937). It's currently held in the Philadelphia Museum of Art. The painting itself is just under 6ft x 7ft in size, but its meaning is much larger. As you look carefully at the painting, I'm curious what stood out to you. Maybe it was the way that the artist represented Gabriel. He looks like a pillar of light on the left of the painting. Maybe it was the concerned face that Mary is wearing. A face that seems to somehow be frightened yet calm. Both of these things are points of emphasis by the artist, but the thing that stands out the most to me is the sheets and the rug. They are a mess. The rug seems to be bunched up in the middle. When looking at the sheets it does not look like Mary got out of bed slowly. It looks like there was certainly a moment of chaos.

Luke even tells us about the chaos in Luke 1:28-30 where he records,

"Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God."

Let those words ring for you, too. Especially when you find yourselves in the midst of bunched up rugs and the chaos of your life. Because of Mary's Son, Your Savior. You can cling to that message Gabriel delivered from the Father, too. *'Do not be afraid, Child of God, (Because of Jesus) you have found favor with me.'*

The Peace of the Lord is with always.

Pastor Dille



Advent Midweek Services

Wednesdays: Dec 3, 10, 17

12:15pm & 6:30pm

Mary's Son... Our Savior

Angel Tree

It's time to collect toys for FISH.

Bring new, unwrapped toys to the Atrium now through Dec 7th.

Bible Study

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: 9:00-10:00 in the Trinity Room. We study the Scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday.

Advent

Advent begins today. Make, buy, or dust off your Advent Wreath! Our Daily devotions will be titled "Born to You... a Savior" Wait to celebrate Christmas ... let Advent prepare you well.

Food Pantry

The next distribution is Tuesday, December 9th from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Devotions

Lutheran Hour Ministries offers excellent Advent Devotions, delivered to your email inbox daily. Give a friend a paper copy of the booklet (in the Atrium), and sign up for your electronic devotions at www.LHM.org

Response to the Gospel
Our Attendance Last Week

Sunday, November 23 399

Our Offering

General Fund \$6,836.14

Online Offering \$3,369.00

Total Gen. Fund Offering \$10,205.14

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

“As we prepare to celebrate Jesus’ first Advent, His birth in Bethlehem, we also look forward to the day of His return, His second Advent. On the Last Day, we will see Jesus returning in glory as King and Judge. The Good Shepherd will come again to gather His flock to Himself forever.” Dr.

Carol Geisler, Lutheran Hour Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Lydia Guild Christmas Party

Dec. 2nd at 6:00 p.m.

at the Burdicks’ home 717 S. First St. All Women of the church are invited. Members please bring your red stocking and an appetizer or dessert to share.

St. Louis Seminary Food Pantry

There will be an ingathering of nonperishable items for the St. Louis Seminary Food Pantry. Items may be placed at the altar rail on Thanksgiving Eve & Thanksgiving Day before or after services & in the atrium on the weekend of Nov. 29th & 30th.

Back to Bethlehem

Eagle’s Nest Families will have the opportunity to walk through Bethlehem on Thursday, the 11th. The gym will be transformed into a Bible-times village.

The preschool is asking for volunteers to help from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00p.m. You can work in the cheese shop, fish market, carpenter’s shop, at the inn, the bakery or the grape and juice market. Costumes will be available. Please reach out to Carrie in the church office if you have questions or are interested in helping!

Prayer List

Lisa Shaw, Terry Long, Mary & Kenny Dasenbrock, Matt Fauss, Cassie Power, Steve Rubin, Holly Bray, and Irvin Wendte. Eagle’s Nest Preschoolers Georgia (parents Amanda & Jesse) and Blakelee (parents Bailey & Kyle).

Youth Corner Upcoming Events

Advent Soup Meals

Wednesday, December 3

Lunch: 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 a.m.

12:45 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Supper: 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

7:15 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.

Menu: Chili, Vegetable, & Potato Soup, relish tray, hotdogs, desserts, and drinks.

Junior High Students are encouraged to bring a pie.

High School Students are encouraged to help with clean up after the supper.

LYF Caroling

December 14th

Starts at 3:00 p.m.

Youth Board will treat carolers to Pizza Man.

Cookie Walk

Saturday, Dec. 20th & Sunday, Dec. 21st.

Drop-off times:

Friday 19th 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Saturday 20th 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Check bulletin board for work times

The Story Bible

There are still 6 more Story Bibles in the office. These would make great Christmas gifts. If you are interested in purchasing one, please contact the church office. They are \$25

Cards

Check out the greeting card cabinet in the main hallway. More cards have been added as well as Christmas cards. You may designate a Junior High LYF student to receive the profit.

Stewardship Moment

Matthew 21:3

“If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” Just a colt and her foal. How significant could they be? Could they really be used by the Lord for some great, heavenly purpose? This is one facet of stewardship we often forget: the blessing it is *to us* to be of service in the Lord’s Kingdom. What honor the Lord bestows upon us by using our gifts for His goals!

E.A.S.T.E.R

We are a blessing to our special-needs neighbors. Twice a month the E.A.S.T.E.R. class meets here at St. John's on Saturday mornings. Adults with intellectual and physical disabilities come together for devotions, crafts, snacks, songs, fellowship and a Bible Lesson. It's a beautiful time. Mrs. Joan Garbe is the leader, assisted by many of our members. The next class is December 13 from 10:00-11:00am. Interested in helping? Come visit us! Oh, and you know what? **The neighbors are a huge blessing to us!**

You've heard, haven't you? We're hiring an office assistant here at SJLC! Our current assistant is moving into teaching, and that's creating this opportunity for you or for someone you know. – Pastor Burdick

Office Assistant

St. John's Mission is to **Proclaim the Christ, Grow the Family, Love the Neighbor**. The Office Assistant works alongside the Office Administrator to help the mission of the congregation move forward. This is a vital front-line position in welcoming people in the office, preparing financial and Word documents, and supporting the work of the pastors and the Preschool. The position is currently a part-time (28 hours) four-day (Tuesday-Friday) job. Compensation is commensurate with experience; rate determined by the Board of Elders. Interested candidates can pick up a job application and full position description in the church office, or at the church website: www.stjohnsLCMS.net

The ideal candidate will possess these qualities:

- Passion for supporting the mission of the congregation.
- High level of integrity, confidentiality, and precision in record-keeping.
- Ability to communicate effectively (written and verbal).
- Working knowledge of QuickBooks, Word, and Excel programs.
- Readiness to use the internet for email, online purchases, and payments.
- Joy in being a team player, participating in weekly staff devotions and meetings.

Upcoming Communion Practices

In this new Church Year, we will be introducing a couple of new practices as we distribute the Lord's Supper:

- Beginning December 14, we'll offer gluten-free hosts to those who need them. We'll be learning as we go along, but the plan right now is that the gluten-free hosts will be on the altar on a separate paten (bread tray) from the others, and the pastor will bring the paten to the person who has notified him that they will need one. Normally the person can let the pastor know before Service, but if time doesn't allow for that it's fine for the communicant to say to the pastor while at the rail "gluten free, please" and he'll bring that paten. The person will pick up the gluten-free host directly from the tray. We know of a few people who will prefer this already, and would appreciate it if others would notify the pastors before December 14, if possible.
- In our Christmas Day Service, we'll offer the Communion Chalice to those who prefer it. Since we have only one Chalice, we'll make it available on the lectern (left) side only. A beautiful symbol of the unity we have in Christ, we're making it available due to some inquiries about offering it. The trays of individual communion cups will be offered first. If someone prefers the Chalice, they won't take an individual cup and then pastor on the lectern side will follow with the Chalice. You are encouraged to guide the Chalice to your lips by holding the base of the cup.

LifeLight

LifeLight will be starting again on January 11th.

The study will be about Proverbs.

The last day to sign-up will be on

December 28th

Sign-up on the bulletin board!

CALENDAR-----Nov. 30 – Dec. 6, 2025

Sunday	30	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School Christmas Program Practice
		10:30 a.m.	Worship Service
		11:30 a.m.	Hall Rental
Preschool – Monday – Friday 8:25 a.m. – 11:25 a.m. (Unless Otherwise Noted)			
Monday	1		Pastor Dille's Sabbath
		5:15 p.m.	Choir Practice
Tuesday	2	9:00 a.m.	Board of Directors CID Meeting
		5:30 p.m.	Board of Christian Education
		5:30 p.m.	Board of Trustees
		6:00 p.m.	Lydia Guild at Burdicks' home
		7:00 p.m.	Adult Catechism
Wednesday	3	8:45 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
		9:00 a.m.	Bible Study
		11:15 a.m. – 12:15 a.m.	LYF Soup Lunch
		12:15 p.m.	Advent Service
		12:45 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	LYF Soup Lunch
		1:00 p.m.	Office Staff Devotion/Meeting
		5:00 p.m.	Confirmation
		5:15 p.m.	Bell Practice
		5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	LYF Soup Supper
		6:30 p.m.	Advent Service
		7:15 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.	LYF Soup Supper
Thursday	4	8:45 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
		6:30 p.m.	Stephen Ministry
Friday	5		Pastor Burdick's Sabbath
Saturday	6	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 – HC w/Bells

Birthdays This Week

11/30 Austin Miller, Ava Wernsing,
Bob Kohnert, David Worman,
Nancy Wendt

12/2 Alvin Siebert, Britt Wendling,
Jeff Flach

12/3 Melinda Dahnke

12/4 Alexander Gordon, Eden Wendling,
Hali Frailey, Kathy Burdick,
Kimberly Brummer

Anniversaries This Week

12/3/11 Brian & Synda Overbeck
11/5/20 Matt & Jaclyn Wohltman

Prayer Partners

We are very blessed to have Prayer Partners. If you are interested in being a Prayer Partner, please reach out to Julie Scott at (217) 343-3047.