

# THE EAGLE

*St. John's Weekly Newsletter December 28, 2025*



One of our shut-ins told me last week of the new TV documentary "The First Christmas," hosted by Kevin Costner. Her advice for her granddaughter was that the great-grandchildren not be allowed to watch it. She's right. Herod is accurately depicted as evil, and kids shouldn't experience the depth of his twistedness.

While kids should be shielded from strong images of evil (protect them, mom and dad!), adults ought to grasp just how horrible the human mind and heart can be. Including our own. Then lament and repent.

One of our Christmas hymns addresses Herod more mildly:

**The star proclaims the King is here;  
But, Herod, why this senseless fear?  
For He who offers heavn'ly birth  
Seeks not the kingdoms of this earth.**  
(LSB 399:1)

Jesus entered into a culture and creation infected with sin. To be the world's Savior. To give us unlimited joy. Deep peace. Forgiveness of sin. Help in the midst of suffering. Confidence in the face of the grave. Hope in the presence of Herods.

Jesus offers heavenly birth to all who trust Him, and you have received it. You've been born again by water and the Word. You are living in these twelve days of Christmas with real life pulsing through your body and soul.

Your true King reigns, no matter what the Herods of the world try to do.  
Merry Christmas!

P.S. Home devotions with children are made easier through *My Devotions* from Concordia Publishing. In a blessed accident, our Braille/Large-Print Center has made free copies of January's *My Devotions* available to families on the devotional table in the Atrium. Get yours today!

## Office Closed

The Church Office will close at Noon on Fridays in January.

## Sunday School Teacher

We are in need of a Kindergarten/1<sup>st</sup> Grade Sunday School Teacher. please reach out to Kiley Bohnhoff at 217-343-3520 if interested!

## Office Help

Are you prayerfully considering our congregation's need to hire an Office Assistant? Please do! See the job description and application on our website.

## 2026 Offering Envelopes

Stop in the gym to pick up your envelopes. Your # has most likely changed. Make sure you don't use your new envelopes till 2026.

## Installation of Officers and Boards

will be in all Services the weekend of January 4. Thanks to all who serve!

## New Year's Eve

Holy Communion Service  
6:30pm - Dec. 31  
Pastor Koschmann preacher

## LifeLight

LifeLight will be starting again on January 11<sup>th</sup> studying Proverbs. Sign up by Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> on the bulletin board.

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

Sunday, December 21..... 541

**Our Offering**

Advent ..... \$1,035.00  
General Fund ..... \$33,948.03  
Online Offering ..... \$4,249.28  
**Total Gen. Fund Offering ..... \$39,232.31**

**Cards**

If you are needing cards, check the card cabinet in the main hallway. More cards have been added.

**Died in Christ**

Our long time former member, Sandra Weber died in Christ December 18<sup>th</sup>. We were notified by her son Tim of her passing.

**Church Undecorating**

Our Christmas decorations at Church will remain up through Epiphany (January 6), for the “12 Days of Christmas” are the days that follow Christmas. You can do the same at home. Please help us take down the church decorations on Saturday, January 10 at 9:00am. Thank you.

**Thank you!**

Many of you express your gratitude and love to the pastors of the Church, and we thank you for it. But so many other valuable people make our congregation function beautifully, and we have to say that the office workers, custodians, Sunday School teachers, musicians, and many others are vital, too! THANK YOU.

**Prayer List**

Bernetta Marxman, Jake Janis, Donna Elmore, Carol Klein, Lisa Shaw, Terry Long, Cassie Power, & Steve Rubin.



**Youth Corner Upcoming Events**

**Save the date**

Puzzle Night Jan 25<sup>th</sup>



**50<sup>th</sup> Annual Pro-Life Breakfast**

Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 a.m. – noon at the Teutopolis Banquet Hall. Please see Bulletin Board for details.



**LUTHERANS  
FOR LIFE**

**LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life**

“Look back at how God changed you. Look ahead to what God promises for you. The future looks bright when you’re connected to the crucified and risen Lord Jesus. May the Lord continue to strengthen you to live in your baptismal grace all the days of your life.” *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

**Stewardship Moment**  
**Galatians 4:4**

**“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law.”** Jesus was born under the law so that He might fulfill the law in our place. His perfect righteousness is credited to us. And it is this free forgiveness of sins and this crediting of righteousness that sets us free to follow our Lord in godly living. Since we are freed from the law’s condemnation, we are freed from any mercenary attitudes. Now that the Lord has shown His love to us in saving us, we freely show our thanks to Him in generosity, humility and kindness.

**December 28, 2025**

We can face competing priorities when we think about planning our estates someday. As we wrap up this year long consideration, we must ponder whether we see our estate plan as an expression of our Christian faith or just giving up on life. As we complete this year, we keep in mind that in Christ, we will never finish but simply transfer into the glorious life the Lord has prepared for us. We never let death have the final word, for Jesus has conquered it. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can assist you in putting your life-celebrating plan together.

Contact Scott Radden @ 618-977-4049 or [scott.radden@lfn.org](mailto:scott.radden@lfn.org)

**LCMSFoundation**

TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER



Thanks be to God for the Sunday School Service last week!

## **Immanuel-Dutch Lane Cemetery**



Our congregation cares for both the St. John's and Immanuel (Dutch Lane) Cemeteries. The Cemetery Committee has commenced a project to add a six-foot granite cross proclaiming "Christ is Risen" to our Immanuel-

Dutch Lane Cemetery, identical to the cross and message placed in 2024 at the St. John's Cemetery! The cost is approximately \$7000. We would like you to know about this opportunity to give a special donation to the memorial fund for the Immanuel Cemetery Cross. Donations should be payable to St. John's and earmarked "Immanuel Cemetery Cross." These gifts will be recorded in the Memorial Book located in the church atrium. Anonymous gifts are welcome, too. Our desire is to glorify God and beautify the Immanuel-Dutch Lane, where the bodies of our Christian loved ones await the promised day of resurrection. Alleluia!

Additionally, the Cemetery Committee asks that visitors to the Dutch Lane cemetery **only exit the Cemetery from the East driveway**, especially if you're turning left to go East on Dutch Lane. The height of the railroad tracks makes the line-of-sight difficult if the car is turning left from the West-end drive.

Thank you.

# CALENDAR-----Dec. 28 – Jan. 3, 2025

Sunday	28	9:00 a.m.	Worship w/HC
No Preschool			
Monday	29		Pastor Dille's Sabbath
		7:00 p.m.	Lutheran Care Board
Tuesday	30	5:15 p.m.	Bell Choir
Wednesday	31		Office closes at noon
		6:30 p.m.	Worship w/HC – Pastor Koschmann
Thursday	1		Office Closed
Friday	2		Pastor Burdick's Sabbath
			Office Closes at Noon
Saturday	3		Installation of Officers
		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 w/HC - Bells

## Birthdays This Week

12/28 Dannie Braun  
 12/29 Andrew Knight, Angie Heurerman,  
 Clayton Gregory, Phillip Knight, Tyler  
 Devall, Zachary Pruemer  
 1/1 Carla Fox  
 1/2 Faith Kinkelaar, Jacqueline  
 Wiseman, Vicki Cook, Zoey Boone  
 1/3 Sandra Devall

## Anniversaries This Week

12/28/2019 Jonathan & Sherrie Stremming

*Merry  
Christmas*

## Bible Study Resumes



The midweek Bible Study of the upcoming Sunday's Readings will resume on Wednesday, January 7, 2026 (9-10am). Join us!