

THE EAGLE

St. John's Weekly Newsletter December 7, 2025

When Pearl Harbor was under attack in 1941, the people of St. John's were on their way home from Sunday worship. News didn't reach Chicago and Effingham until early afternoon. Devastating news about a devastating attack. Even those of us who weren't alive then have read and seen the stories about the ways the news affected people.

In their grief, they were inspired to step up. To do their part. Men and women volunteered. They got involved. In the wake of devastation, it was quite beautiful.

Today, there's an abundance of devastating news about the weakening of the family and the Christian faith. It grieves us. It should...for a time. But it shouldn't paralyze us. We can do something.

If you're sitting in the pew reading this, you're doing something about it! You're here. Being in church every week is doing something about the weakening of the family and the faith. Daily devotions at home. Contributing sacrificially to the ministry of the Church. Teaching Sunday School. Going to Bible Study. Volunteering with our Food Pantry. Praying for missionaries and moms. Being a present, Christian father for your children. These are effective ways to answer the attacks on family and the faith. Don't stop. The ultimate victory is sure and certain. Jesus reigns.

"Do not grieve. The joy of the Lord is your strength." Nehemiah 8:10



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.

Thank you

Thank you for the food donations for the St. Louis Seminary Food Pantry. It is very much appreciated!

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.

The Story Bible

There are still 5 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

Advent Midweek Services

Wednesdays: Dec 10, 17

12:15pm & 6:30pm

Mary's Son... Our Savior

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

Thanksgiving Eve.....	88
Thanksgiving Day	65
Sunday, November 30	340
Dec. 3 rd Advent Service	160
Adult Bible Class.....	51

Our Offering

Thanksgiving.....	\$1,070.00
General Fund.....	\$3,680.00
Online Offering.....	<u>\$2,407.28</u>
Total Gen. Fund Offering.....	\$7,157.28

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

"Children brightly signaled hope in our sin-infested world of old—consider the births of Seth, Isaac, Moses, Samson, Samuel, John, and, finally, of course and paramount, Jesus. And we, too, must become as children." *James M. Kushiner, Fellowship of St. James – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

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.

Pennies



Please do not give us pennies, because our bank is no longer taking them!

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!

Pastor Koschmann

Pastor Koschmann will again be our guest preacher on New Year's Eve at 6:30pm Communion Service. While he'll always be loved and welcomed here, this will be the last regularly scheduled New Year's Service with PK. He loves our congregation, too, and said, "a lot has changed! But the Gospel hasn't."

Food Pantry

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

Prayer List

Betty Carter, Bernetta Marxman, Carol Klein, Lisa Shaw, Terry Long, Cassie Power, Steve Rubin, Holly Bray, Jane Probst & for the family of Matt Fauss. Eagle's Nest Preschoolers Isla (parents Ashley & Tanner) and Theodore (parents Gabby & Kyle).

Youth Corner Upcoming Events

Advent Soup Luncheon

Soup will be served before and after the Lunch Advent service December 10th

High School Caroling

Will be December 14th. Meet at the church at 3:00 p.m. Youth Board will treat carolers to Pizza Man afterwards.

Cookie Walk

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

Drop-off times:

Friday 19th 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Saturday 20th 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

High School Work Times:

Saturday 20th

Before Church 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

After Church 6:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Sunday 21st

Before 8:00 a.m. Worship

7:15 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

After 10:30 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. - noon

6th – 12th Grade bring 6 dozen cookies

High School Student Only sign up to work on the bulletin board

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!**

Which Christmas Service(s) will you attend?

All three Christmas **Eve** Services (4:00, 6:30, and 9:00) are the same, except that the special musical anthem in each is unique. 4:00pm is likely to be crowded. 6:30 & 9:00 will have plenty of room, and plenty of God's Word. In all three Services will be using the offering plates (not the offering boxes at doors) to collect offerings and our attendance/prayer cards. Our Christmas **Day** Service (9:00am) will begin with a procession and culminate with the proclamation, "Joy to the World, the Lord is Come!"

What to look forward to...

Take note of some special aspects of our calendar in the latter part of this month:

- Children's Christmas Service is December 21 at 10:30am. There will not be adult Bible Class that day. The 10:30am worship will be a non-Communion Service.
- Christmas Eve Communion: 4:00pm, 6:30pm, 9:00pm.
- Christmas Day Communion: 9:00am.
- No Service Saturday, December 27.
- Sunday, December 28 there will be ONE Service at 9:00am. The Lord's Supper will be celebrated.

Stewardship Moment

Matthew 3:1-2

"In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'" John prepared the way for Jesus by preaching repentance. Then, when Jesus' ministry was complete and He was raised from the dead, He sent out His disciples to preach "repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (Luke 24:47). We never outgrow the need for repentance — for examining our lives, turning away from our sins and turning toward Jesus in faith to receive his forgiveness and strength for a renewed life of godliness.

Prayer Partners

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

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.

German Christmas Vespers

The annual German Christmas Vespers at Immanuel Lutheran in Terre Haute, IN will be December 14 at 4:00pm. See the poster on the bulletin board.



Behold the
Lamb of
God

CALENDAR-----Nov. 7 – Dec. 13, 2025

Sunday	7	8:00 a.m.	Worship w/HC - Bells
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School & Christmas Program Practice
		10:30 a.m.	Worship w/HC - Bells
		7:00 p.m.	The FLOCK – HS LYF
Preschool – Monday – Friday 8:25 a.m. – 11:25 a.m. (Unless Otherwise Noted)			
Monday	8		Pastor Dille's Sabbath
		5:15 p.m.	Choir Practice
Tuesday	9	8:45 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
		1:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
		2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Food Pantry Prayer Service
		3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Food Pantry
		5:00 p.m.	Board of Social Ministry at Brays' Home
		7:00 p.m.	Adult Catechism
Wednesday	10	8:45 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
		9:00 a.m.	Bible Study
		10:00 a.m.	Stephen Ministry
		11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	LYF Soup Lunch
		12:15 p.m.	Advent Service
		12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	LYF Soup Lunch
		1:00 p.m.	Office & Preschool Staff Christmas Lunch
		5:00 p.m.	Confirmation
		5:15 p.m.	Bell Practice
		6:30 p.m.	Advent Service
Thursday	11		No Preschool
		5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Back to Bethlehem
		6:30 p.m.	Board of Elders
Friday	12		Pastor Burdick's Sabbath
Saturday	13	8:00 a.m.	Band Practice
		10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	E.A.S.T.E.R.
		5:30 p.m.	Worship w/HC

Birthdays This Week

12/7 Kierra Mueller, Logan Sanders,
Marcella Kennedy
12/8 Debbie Barr, Jackson Dasenbrock,
Judy Meislahn, Todd Nelson
12/10 Chloe Martin, Lisa Sigg
12/11 Andrew Snow, Joel Wolfe,
Kiersten Baker

12/12 Brandon Willis, Eden Probst,
Kaleb Hartman, Mallory Dixon,
Marcia Probst, Marlin Alwardt
12/13 Julie Sudkamp, Kellie Siebert,
Kim Niebrugge

Anniversaries This Week

12/11/1971 Lesley & Norma Miller