

# THE EAGLE

## St. John's Weekly Newsletter January 11, 2026

St. John's Family,

Year after year, on January 6th, the church celebrates the festival of Epiphany. For Christians today, Epiphany marks the visit by the Wise Men who followed the star to Jesus. It's quite fascinating to many of us today to think that God used a star to guide men to visit the Messiah—but maybe even more fascinating that these people, whom we call the Wise Men, watched the stars so closely and interpreted God's message.

It makes me wonder if there is anything that we watch as closely as the Wise Men did the stars at Jesus' birth. For many of us, I don't think we have to think very hard about what we pay close attention to. We pay extremely close attention to our cell phones. There's been a lot of research about why and how we get so attached to our cell phones, and research indicates that we are not as attached to our cell phones themselves as we are to the information that we receive from our cell phones.

So, the story today isn't that different from that of the Wise Men. We're still paying close attention to the information that is around us. But here's the question: Does the information that you surround yourself with point you to Jesus? It should.

We hear in the first line of the Christmas song, "We three Kings of orient are," the word orient comes from the Latin word for east. It's the same root word that we get the word orientation from. It begs the question: What are you oriented to today? Are you, like the Wise Men, oriented to the rising of the Son of God?

Brothers and sisters in Christ, focus on what's important—what your Savior has done for you—and you will be blessed, eternally blessed.

*Pastor Diltz*

### Lutheran Heritage Foundation

Can you imagine teaching your young child about Jesus Christ – Without having any kind of Sunday school materials, or even a basic Bible storybook? This situation is a reality for many Lutheran churches around the world, but the Lutheran Heritage Foundation is helping to change that. Next Sunday, Rev. Timothy Schnare, an LHF representative, will preach at our worship services. Plan to join us during Bible class when Rev. Schnare shares the exciting mission work LHF is doing.

### 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!

### Upcoming Meetings

Council Meeting  
Tues., Jan 20 at 7:00pm  
Voters Assembly  
Tues., Jan. 27 at 7:00pm

### Sanctity of Life

January 25 will be Sanctity of Life Sunday here at St. John's. Praise God for LIFE from womb to tomb.

### Attention All Boards

Your reports are due in the church office for the Council meeting by Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>

### Flower Chart

The 2026 chart has been posted. Please sign up if you would like to donate flowers for the altar

### Food Pantry

Our next distribution will be  
Tuesday, Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>

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

New Year's Eve –Jan. 31 <sup>st</sup> .....	144
Sunday January 4 <sup>th</sup> .....	409
Sunday School.....	41
Adult Sunday School.....	40

### **Our Offering**

New Year's Eve .....	\$1,009.00
January 4th .....	\$7,017.90
Online Offering.....	\$3,279.28
<b>Total Gen. Fund Offering.....</b>	<b>\$11,306.18</b>

### **Prayer List**

Vi Kirchhoff, Bernetta Marxman, Blake Higgs, Donna Elmore, Carol Klein, Terry Long, Cassie Power, & Steve Rubin. Eagle's Nest Preschoolers Madelyn (parents Mark & Kaitlyn) and Sophie (parents Spencer & Shelby).

### **Contribution Statements**

We will be emailing contribution statements to everyone that we have an email address for. Please be watching for an email from "Auto Mail" in your inbox towards the end of January. If we do not have your email address, we will send your contribution statement in the mail.

### **"This Weeks Sunday School Lesson"**

#### **Lesson 2**

"Comfort in Captivity" is the theme for our lesson this week. When Nebuchadnezzar takes the Israelites into exile in Babylon, Jeremiah writes to the exiles, assuring them of God's continuing care for them. Through Jeremiah, God promises a new covenant where His people will live eternally through Jesus. Discuss, "How does God comfort us today?"

### **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.

### **LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life**

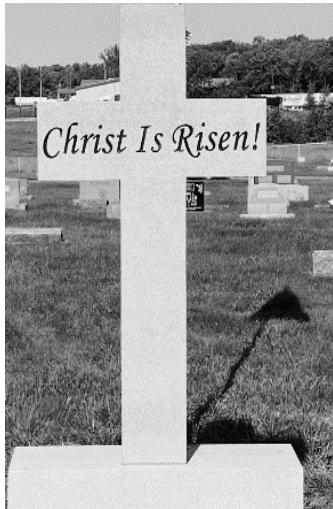
"A baby is God's opinion that the world should go on." Carl Sandburg – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

## **Stewardship Moment**

### **Matthew 3:15**

"But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.' The reason God sent His Son into the world is to fulfill all righteousness for us, to do what we could not do. Here, Jesus plunges Himself into our sins and soaks them up in His Baptism, so that in our Baptism we might be cleansed and renewed. The whole of Jesus' life, everything He did and said, was one great offering to the Father in our stead to fulfill all righteousness for us.

### **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.

# ALTAMONT Lutheran Care Center

Stop at the bulletin Board in the main hall and read about the upcoming Lutheran Care Center Annual Meeting at 7:00pm on January 26. We are owners of LCC, and we have a voice in encouraging and guiding the ministry of Lutheran Care. Our elected delegates to the LCC Full Board are Jeff Stremming and Fred Bray. At the January 26 Annual Meeting, all members of St. John's are welcome. We will be voting on the revisions to the LCC Constitution. See the information on the bulletin board!

The LCC Care Campaign is wrapping up NOW. It's not too late to send a donation to bless the people and the program of Lutheran Care Center.

### Sausage Sales

St. Peter Lutheran Men's Club will once again be taking Pre-Orders for sausage and ribs before their annual Sausage Supper. Orders are offered and encouraged ahead of time, with the deadline to order being January 31st, 2026. (Sausage will be available in 1 lb. packages this year). A limited amount of sausage will be available on the day of the supper - order early!

To order, please call one of the following:  
Scott Brauer 618-553-6224  
John Lotz 618-553-5585  
Tim Brauer 618-267-6228  
David Schaal 618-292-3732  
Reggie Grandt 618-553-6213  
St. Peter's Lutheran Church Office 618-349-8321



### Youth Corner Upcoming Events

#### Tuesday High School Breakfast

Starting this semester Tuesday, January 6th, Pastor and Katie Dille will be hosting a pancake breakfast for High School students from 7:15-7:40a.m. Come by anytime in that window. If you are having school, we're serving breakfast. This will be open to High Schoolers from all schools. Feel free to bring a friend. Call or text Pastor Dille if you have any questions.

#### Save the date

#### Puzzle Night and Mexican Dinner-Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>

Time: 2:30 puzzle  
Dine at approximately 5:00 p.m.  
Cost: \$12/adult and \$8/child (ages 6-12)  
(Anyone may come and eat)

Puzzle Teams will consist of 4 people  
We will have 18 – 500-piece puzzles

Sign up: on the church bulletin board or Call  
Donetta Ohnesorge (217-821-3300)  
Or Carolyn Wendte (217-821-6541)

Tickets are available in the office or will be sold  
before and after church services.

**Deadline to sign up is Jan 22**



#### Rhodes Fish Fry

Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>

#### Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 5th

<b>CALENDAR-----</b>		<b>Jan. 11 – Jan. 17, 2025</b>	
Sunday	11	8:00 a.m.	Worship w/HC
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:30 a.m.	Worship w/HC
Preschool – Monday – Friday 8:25 a.m. – 11:25 a.m. (Unless Otherwise Noted)			
Monday	12		Pastor Dille's Sabbath
		5:00 p.m.	Board of Stewardship
		5:15 p.m.	Choir Practice
Tuesday	13	7:15 a.m.	HS Breakfast
		1:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl Ministry
		2:30-2:45 p.m.	Food Pantry Prayer Service
		3:00-4:00 p.m.	Food Pantry
		5:00 p.m.	Board of Social Ministry
Wednesday	14	8:45 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
		9:00 a.m.	Bible Study
		10:00 a.m.	Stephen Ministry
		10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Quilting
		1:00 p.m.	Staff Devotions and Staff Meeting
		5:00 p.m.	Confirmation
		5:15 p.m.	Bells
		6:00 p.m.	Youth Fellowship
Thursday	15	8:45 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
		6:30 p.m.	Stephen Ministry
Friday	16		Pastor Burdick's Sabbath
			Office Closes at Noon
Saturday	17	8:00 a.m.	Band Practice
		9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	E.A.S.T.E.R.
		5:30 p.m.	Worship w/HC

### **Birthdays This Week**

1/11	Joanne Schlechte
1/12	Brent Bahrns, Carolyn Wendte, Kylie Pryor
1/13	Madison Marcum
1/14	Grayson Buening
1/15	Marjorie Cline, Paula Holland
1/16	Dennis A. Wendling, Kylee Hewing
1/17	Dale Schagemann, Devin Frailey, Todd Zeigler

### **Anniversaries This Week**

1/14/06	Adam & Kiley Bohnhoff
1/15/22	Howard & Marlene Haake
1/17/10	John & Cathy Mellendorf
1/17/75	Randy & Donna Lecrone