

THE EAGLE

St. John's Weekly Newsletter January 4, 2026

St. John's Family,

I hope that your Christmas and New Year's celebrations were a blessing this year. Even more so, I hope that they reminded you of the many ways that God has blessed you and continues to bless you. It's easy to get lost in the busyness and the craziness of the season, though, isn't it? It's easy to take for granted all of the blessings, the people, and the time that we get to spend with others... especially when it seems like being with them is a given.

As you heard, I was not feeling well on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. In fact, Katie and I were convinced by my fever, aches, and sore throat that I had the flu. It was a tough 36 hours before I started feeling better, but it was in that time that I was reminded of so many blessings—blessings like spending Christmas Eve and Christmas morning with my family, the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Christmas Day Worship, and other traditions that we've had in our household. I'm not bringing this up as a pity party—quite the opposite. I want to encourage you to embrace and enjoy the blessings that God has gifted you. My encouragement is to pause and think about all of the blessings that you've received before you miss them.

But most of all, remember the blessing that Paul writes to the church in Ephesus about. In the reading below, God has called you out from the foundations of the world and has called you His own.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him." (Ephesians 1:3-4)

May God continue to bless you,

Pastor Dille

Office Closed

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

Sunday School Teacher

We are in need of a Kindergarten/1st 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 hall to pick up your envelopes. Your # has most likely changed. Make sure you don't use your new envelopes till 2026.

Upcoming Meetings

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

Installation of Officers and Boards

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

Attention All Boards

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

Flower Chart

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

New Envelope Numbers

Are now in effect! PLEASE throw the old one's out! Also, If you could put your name on the envelope that would help to make sure everything is correct.

Response to the Gospel
Our Attendance Last Week

Christmas Eve. 24 th ,	
4:00 p.m.	310
6:30p.m.	181
9:00 p.m.	112
Christmas Day 25 th	57
Sunday December 28 th	229

Our Offering

Christmas Eve/Christmas Day ...	\$9,212.00
December 28th	\$4,111.30
Online Offering	\$3,502.00
Total Gen. Fund Offering	\$16,825.30

Cards

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

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.

Prayer List

Bernetta Marxman, Blake Higgs, Jake Janis, Donna Elmore, Carol Klein, Terry Long, Cassie Power, Steve Rubin, & the family of Lisa Shaw, sister of Danny Stevenson who passed away on Monday morning.

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. If you do not wish to receive yours by email, you will need to let the office know by: Saturday, January 10th.

Poinsettias

You may take your poinsettias home; after this weekend service. They are in the gym.

"This Weeks Sunday School Lesson"

Lesson 1

This week in our Christian education time, we study "A Divided Kingdom." Solomon's heir, Rehoboam, ignored the pleas of the people to lighten their load; instead, he threatened to make their workload even more difficult. Angered by his response, ten tribes of Israel make Jeroboam their leader, leaving Rehoboam to lead only the tribes of Judah and Benjamin in Jerusalem, where the temple was. As a family, discuss how the division of the kingdom affected the worship life of the people. Ask, "How could dividing yourself from church affect your worship life?"

50th Annual Pro-Life Breakfast

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

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

"Your story might not look as extraordinary as Esther's. It might not be as exciting as David's or as tumultuous as Rahab's or as terrifying as Mary's. But you don't have to be extraordinary for God to work through you. He can accomplish great things through something as unassuming as prayer or as simple as a meal for a new mother." *Grace MacPherson – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Stewardship Moment

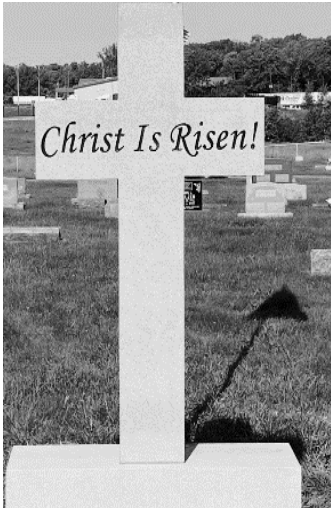
Luke 2:49

"And he said to them, 'Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?'" What a privilege the Lord has given to us by calling us to come to His house! It is not a burden but rather an honor and a blessing for us to always be able to come to a place where we know God is present for us in His gifts of Word and Sacrament. Likewise, the Lord has honored us by allowing us to support the work of His house with our tithes and offerings.

Food Pantry

Our next distribution will be
Tuesday, Jan. 13th

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.

Bible Study Resumes



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



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
Sunday, January 25th



Rhodes Fish Fry

Friday, February 27th

Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 5th

Rescheduled Lydia Guild Christmas Party

January 6th 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.



CALENDAR-----Jan. 4 – Jan. 10, 2025

Sunday	4		Installation of Officers
		8:00 a.m.	Worship w/HC – Bells
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		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	5		Pastor Dille's Sabbath
			No Preschool
		5:15 p.m.	Bell Choir
Tuesday	6		No Preschool
		7:15 a.m.	High School Breakfast
		9:00 a.m.	Circuit Pastor Conference
		5:30 p.m.	Board of Christian Education
		5:30 p.m.	Board of Trustees
		6:00 p.m.	Lydia Guild Party
Wednesday	7	8:45 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
		9:00 a.m.	Bible Study
		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	8	8:45 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
		6:30 p.m.	Board of Elders
Friday	9		Pastor Burdick's Sabbath
			Office Closes at Noon
		6:30 p.m.	Young Adult Bible Study
Saturday	10	8:00 a.m.	Band Practice
		9:00 a.m.	Undecorate
		5:30 p.m.	Worship w/HC

Birthdays This Week

1/4	Kay Boerngen, Luke Mottashed, Ryan Engel
1/5	Cathy Bloemer, Christopher Bahrns
1/6	Jeremy Fritch, Windy Westfall
1/7	Dawson Wyckoff, Robert Williams, Teri Schaefer
1/8	Charity Ozenkoski, Kateleigh Zeigler, Sarah Wyckoff, Tate Niebrugge

1/9	Ben Burdick, Jessica Fritch, Marilyn Schaefer
1/10	Dana Haarmann, Darwin Wohltman, Luke Daniels, Norbert Brauer, Pat Miller, Ruth Gall, Tenley Sams

Anniversaries This Week