

# THE EAGLE

## *St. John's Weekly Newsletter February 1, 2026*

**The Word of our God will stand forever.** Those words have rung through the church for generations, even before the coming of Jesus our Savior. They are words that come from Isaiah's prophecy. In chapter 40, the prophet Isaiah prophesied about the Babylonian Captivity and the deliverance of God's people. In Isaiah's day, the struggle wasn't all that different from the struggles we face and see today. Isaiah lived and prophesied during a time full of the worship of false gods. People turned to false gods and the evil practices that came with worshipping them, leaving their creator and sustainer—the Lord. It is to this setting that Isaiah wrote the words, **"the word of our God will stand forever."** But we often overlook the overarching passage. Here's more of it:

"The grass withers, the flower fades  
when the breath of the Lord blows on it;  
surely the people are grass.  
The grass withers, the flower fades,  
but the word of our God will stand forever."  
(Isaiah 40:7-8)

What do these words from Isaiah mean to us about 2,800 years later? They mean the same thing. God is capable of punishing sin, and he does. People fall, but the word of the Lord doesn't. Think about that. This means that the church and its mission are not contingent on individuals. It's not contingent on things that may be here today and gone tomorrow. Its foundation is built on the rock.

Speaking of the rock, St. Peter—whom Jesus named Cephas (which means rock)—quoted Isaiah 40:8 in 1 Peter 1:24-25, where he said:

"All flesh is like grass  
and all its glory like the flower of grass.  
The grass withers,  
and the flower falls,  
but the word of the Lord remains forever."

It's not your glory, or accomplishments, or anyone else's that lasts, but it's the glory of the Lord. Glory that came to fulfillment when Jesus died on the cross. And it's glory that isn't just your saving grace, but the saving grace of all who trust in God. So, we move forward and trust in the Lord. Today, we lift our concerns to the Lord, and we know that **His Word will endure forever.** It is more important than ever that we lean on each other and trust in the Lord.

*Pastor Dille*



### LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICES

12:15pm & 6:30pm Wednesdays

February 18 – March 25

### **"Exodus"**

I thank God that so many of you have been praying for me as I serve our Central Illinois District as Acting District President! We all have questions about how it will impact my ministry here at St. John's, and as answers are available, we'll share them all.

*Pastor Furdick*

***O Lord, graciously receive the prayers of Your Church that, being delivered from all adversity and error, it may serve You in safety and freedom and dwell in Your peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.***

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

Sunday January 25<sup>th</sup> ..... 134  
Adult & Children Sunday School ..... 35

**Our Offering**

January 25<sup>th</sup> ..... \$7,258.00  
Online Offering ..... \$3,284.00  
**Total Gen. Fund Offering ..... \$10,542.00**

**Prayer List**

Mary Dasenbrock, Bob & Ruth Kohnert, Vi Kirchhoff, Carol Klein, Terry Long, & Steve Rubin. Eagle's Nest Preschoolers Conrad McClellan (parents Megan & Jacob) & Mabel McClellan (parents Anna & Jared)

**"This Week's Sunday School Lesson"**

**Lesson 5**

In this week's lesson, "A Nativity Night," Mary and Joseph travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem, where a simple stable serves as the birthplace for the promised Christ Child. Angelic hosts announce the birth of the Savior to ordinary shepherds, who hasten to worship the child. Having seen the Savior in the flesh, the shepherds quickly spread the news of His birth. Ask one another, "How can we share the message of the birth of the Savior today?"

**Preschool Registration for 2026/2027**

Preschool Registration for members of St. John's is now open. Visit the website for a registration form, or pick up a registration form on the bulletin board or stop by the office. If you have any questions, please contact Carrie in the church office.

**Stewardship Moment**

1 Corinthians 1:20 – "Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?" God's ways are certainly not the world's ways, including the way God tells us to manage the resources He's given to us. The world says, "hold on, hold back and gather up." Jesus says to store up treasure in heaven where moth and rust do not destroy and where no thief breaks in to steal. Whose way do you think is best? What is wiser: the wisdom of the financial gurus or the foolishness of God?

**Youth Corner Upcoming Events**

**Puzzle Night & Mexican Dinner**  
**Rescheduled for Saturday, Feb 7th**

Time: 1:00 puzzle

Dine at approximately 4:00 p.m.



**Effingham-Shelby Circuit LCMS**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Confirmation Lock-In**

Sunday, Feb 15-16

**Rhodes Fish Fry**

Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup> 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Drive Thru, Dine In or Carry Out

Early Ticket Sales by February 22

\$15/ticket ages 11 and up

10 and under eat free

Tickets at the Door

\$17/ticket ages 11 and up

10 and under eat free

(Tickets will be on sale from the youth at all church services from Feb 7 – Feb 22)

Youth 6<sup>th</sup> – High School pick up tickets from Carolyn this weekend at church

All unsold tickets must be returned to Carolyn by Feb 22. We are hoping each one of the youth will sell 20 tickets.

**Bake Sale @ Fish Fry**

6<sup>th</sup> – High School

Youth may bring 2 desserts for the bake sale. Will have a sign-up sheet. Mark your name, the cost, and what it is, on the dessert

**Easter Breakfast**

Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>

**VBS**

June 8 – 11 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**Ash Wednesday Soup Meals**

Wed. Feb 18

We will be serving for Lunch & Dinner

Questions, please contact  
Carolyn Wendte (217-821-6541)  
Domer Ohnesorge (217-821-3300)

## LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

“You may have a messy story. Your family may have a dysfunctional past. Your past (or present) may be filled with greed, sexual immorality, or other idols. But Jesus won’t let that stop Him from reaching out to you with the message of His unconditional love. You might be far from good, but you are not too far gone for God.” *Pastor Mike Novotny, Time of Grace – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

## Lutheran Young Adult Night

Lutheran Young Adult Night will be held on Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup> from 5-7 p.m. at Pagel Silver Dollar Lanes, Effingham. Come out to enjoy fellowship, friendship, and bowling with other young Lutherans from local congregations! All ages, 18-25, are welcome. Please contact Jackson Holste (217-821-6552) or Shawn Crutcher (217-500-0782) through text message by Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, if you plan on attending.

## Annual Sausage Supper

St. Peter's Lutheran Men's Club "all you can eat" will be held on Sunday, February 15, in the St. Peter's Lutheran Church School Gym. Serving will begin at 5:00 p.m., and carry outs will be available.

## St. Paul (Blue Point) Men's Club

## Annual Sausage & Pancake Supper

This Sunday, February 1. Serving will begin at 4:00 p.m. The church is located 4 miles north and 2 miles east of Altamont.

## Anniversaries This Week

2/2/2002	Brad & Brenda Osborne
2/3/1993	Jim & Vicky Keith
2/3/1990	Pat & Cindy Schilling
2/6/1010	Greg & Jill Keitel

## Birthdays This Week

02/01	Emily Lotz & Larissa Jones
02/02	Brody Brown, Duckie Johnson, Howard Janis, Jimmy Hippchen, & Wade Bloemer
02/03	Rachael Pennington & Todd Martin
02/04	Mikayla McWhorter & Witt Heuerman
02/06	Christopher Holland, Jane Probst, Jennifer Marxman & Jessica Miller
02/07	Lisa Kallis, Randy Esch & Richard Albin

## Lutheran Heritage

We thank all those who donated to the Lutheran Heritage last week. We collected \$1,509.00

## Looking for a New Mission?

The visiting team is seeking new compassionate volunteers to go see some church members who have a challenge getting out of their home. If you have a good listening ear, and love visiting with others. Please prayerfully consider joining the visiting team. To volunteer or ask questions, call Kathy Shingler at 630-805-3838.

Sincere Thanks

The volunteers at St. John's Large Print Center (Braille Center) wish to thank the Board of Trustees for approving our relocation to the former Music Room. The workflow has become more efficient and the storage area has multiplied! We want to acknowledge and extend a hearty THANK YOU to Ben Burdick, who has been a force in organizing and building a workspace that aids in a smooth production process

The congregation can be thankful for generous workers and a ministry like Lutheran Braille Workers her at St. John's.

We continue to send Bibles and devotional material to the sight challenged worldwide.

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<b>CALENDAR-----</b>	<b>Feb. 1 – 7, 2026</b>
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Sunday	1	8:00 a.m.	Worship w/HC
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:30 a.m.	Worship w/HC
		5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Young Adult Bible Study – Pagel Silver Dollar Lanes
		7:00 p.m.	The Flock HS LYF
Preschool – Monday – Friday 8:25 a.m. – 11:25 a.m. (Unless Otherwise Noted)			
Monday	2		Pastor Dille's Sabbath
		5:15 p.m.	Choir Practice
		6:00 p.m.	Worship Committee
Tuesday	3	7:15 a.m.	HS Breakfast
		9:00 a.m.	Effingham Circuit Mtg. @ St. Paul Sigel
		5:30 p.m.	Board of Trustees
		5:30 p.m.	Board of Education
		7:00 p.m.	Lydia Guild
Wednesday	4	8:45 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
		9:00 a.m.	Bible Study
		10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Quilting
		10:00 – 11:00 p.m.	Effingham Community Pastors
		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	5	8:45 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
Friday	6		Pastor Burdick's Sabbath
			Office Closes at Noon
		6:30 p.m.	Young Adult Bible Study
Saturday	7	8:00 a.m.	Band Practice
		8:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Class
		8:00 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
		9:00 a.m.	Stephen Ministry
		1:00 p.m.	Puzzle Night
		4:00 p.m.	Mexican Meal
		5:30 p.m.	Worship w/HC Bells
			Pastor Burdick Vacation