

THE EAGLE

St. John's Weekly Newsletter March 15, 2026

In the past, I have preached on today's Epistle Lesson. Although I am not choosing that as the primary sermon text this weekend, I'll share a little bit about the passage. When I preached on it three years ago, I chose to turn off the lights in the middle of the sermon. After all, Paul does say these words in the Epistle Lesson:

"⁸ for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true)." (Ephesians 5:8-9)

But I have to confess that I learned a valuable lesson that day. If you are going to turn out the lights in a sermon, warn everyone first. When I did, I could tell that confusion and concern caught the attention of the congregation immediately. People were distracted—not with the concept and understanding that the world is filled with darkness, but more with concern that the power went out.

Here's what I learned: the goal of spiritual darkness is to confuse, distract, and disrupt. It confuses the boundaries that God appointed between right and wrong. It distracts us from the truth of God's Word, and it disrupts the way that God has called us to live.

So, as we remember St. Paul's words in Ephesians 5, we are reminded that Christ has taken us out of darkness and into the light. Once again, we can live according to God's commands for us—properly distinguishing right and wrong. Once again, we can focus our attention on God's truth—in His Word. And once again, we are reminded—in fact, daily, we are reminded—that we live in the light as children of the Heavenly Father, claimed in baptism.

Let the light shine through you!

Pastor Dille

Congratulations to Dave and Jeanette Worman who are grandparents to a new granddaughter, Jenna Jeanette DeVries, born on Sunday, March 8th.

Office Assistant!

We're still praying for the next Office Assistant in the church office. Are you? We hope so! The job description and application are posted on our website under "Employment." Help us fulfill the mission God has given to St. John's. www.stjohnLCMS.net **"Make me to know Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths."**
Psalm 25:4

LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICES

12:15 pm & 6:30 pm Wednesdays

March 18 – March 25

"Exodus"

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Do you have Thrivent Choice Dollars?
Don't forget to direct them by March 31st

Catechism Bible Study



To join our congregation by adult Confirmation, or to review the faith, come to our Catechism Bible Study. Five two-hour sessions, plus Catechism reading at home, will deepen your knowledge and your faith! **Tuesdays, May 5, 12, 19, 26 & June 2! 6:30-8:30pm.** Prior to the first session you'll receive Luther's Small Catechism and an assignment to read through the section on the Ten Commandments. Each class begins with a video snippet to launch our class instruction and discussion. No one is compelled to read or answer aloud. All are welcome. Sign up on the hall bulletin board and Pastor Burdick will prepare a Catechism for you. Questions? Pastor Burdick is glad to field them! Come, study with us.



Maddux Zane Burger is baptized into Christ this Sunday immediately following our 10:30am Service. His parents are Holly and Nick Burger, and grandparents are Dave and Kathy Wall. Praise God for His gifts of life and salvation!

Response to the Gospel
Our Attendance Last Week

Sunday March 8th.....	371
Sunday School.....	40
Adult Sunday School.....	NA

Our Offering

March 8th.....	\$ 7,576.07
Lenten Offering.....	\$ 616.00
Online Offering.....	\$ 6,677.25
Total Gen. Fund Offering.....	\$14,869.32

Prayer List

James Seggelke, Betty Carter, Bob Flach, Scott Comrie, Geraldine Graves, Mary Dasenbrock, Terry Long, & Steve Rubin Jenna Jeanette DeVries

. Eagle's Nest Preschoolers Tate (parents Brittany & Wade) & Harrison (parents Allie & Garret).

"This Week's Sunday School Lesson"

Lesson 11

"A Weather Wonder" is the theme for this week's lesson. With the simple command, "Peace! Be still!" (Mark 4:39), Jesus proclaims His power over a storm strong enough to shake even experienced fishermen. With the disciples, we must ask, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?" (v. 41). How can your family respond to this question?

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

Psalm 142:5 – "I cry to you, O LORD; I say, 'You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.'" The Lord is our portion, our refuge, our everything. His mercy preserves us through all our days in the land of the living. This confidence frees us from the fear that so often leads to sins of greed and coveting. We have the Lord, we have a Father, He is in control, so we can follow His Word in confidence.

Youth Corner Upcoming Events

Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 5th

VBS

June 8 – 11 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday High School Pancakes

Join us High Schoolers on Tuesdays from 7:15-7:40 for Pancakes. Bring your friends. Pancakes (with Chocolate Chips or without) are provided. All you need to do is come and bring some friends!



The Flock (Sunday, 3/15 @ 7:00 p.m.)



Will be meeting at Panera this week. We will do a Bible Study and then play a board game. Come and join us for fun and fellowship!

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

"Never will a time come when the most marvelous recent invention is as marvelous as a newborn baby." *Carl Sandburg – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

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.

Prayer Shawls

We have prayer shawls. Please help us give them out to friends and family. Contact the office or Donna Wetherell 217-343-6901

Portals of Prayer and Lutheran Witness

We will be ordering your subscriptions through the church this year or in the future. If you wish to subscribe you will need to do it personally by calling Concordia Publishing House.

1-800-325-3040

Please disregard the offering envelopes.

Save and Strengthen your family through

1. Family meals daily, with discussion
2. Worship together at Church every week
3. Family prayer at home
It's not rocket science.

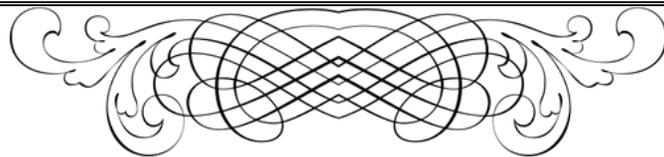
Food Pantry Needs for March

Elbow Macaroni
Crackers (NOT Saltines)
Cold Cereal
Boxed Instant Mashed Potatoes
The Pantry no longer needs plastic bags.

March for Life

Again, this year, I will attend the The Illinois ProLife March held Thursday, March 19, 2026 in Springfield. Other families from St. John's have attended in the past, and have loved the experience! Join us. - Pastor Burdick

The Effingham County Right to Life group has secured two buses for transport and has invited us to ride these buses free of charge. Busses will pick up at 6:55 am at Effingham Event Center and at 7:20am at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Altamont and return around 5:00 pm. Matins begins at 11:00am at Trinity Lutheran Church, Springfield. A simple lunch will be offered at the Statehouse Inn for a freewill donation. The rally begins at 1:00 pm in front of the Capitol with the March to follow. Altamont Area Lutherans for Life encourages participation. If you'd like to attend, please contact Rose Kopplin (217-821-2109) or Anita Ziegler (217-821-9101). Thank you. -Anita Ziegler



Anniversary Open House

You're warmly invited to an Open House in honor of Rev. Steven and Esther Becker as they celebrate 40 years of God's provision and blessings in their marriage.

March 22nd
2:00-4:00 PM

Faith Lutheran Church in Shumway.
Desserts and drinks will be provided.

Please come and go as you are able as we give thanks and celebrate this special milestone together!

The link to RSVP:

<https://forms.gle/asKyZAMZxppWPXq69>



LCMS YOUNG ADULTS BIBLE STUDY

FRIDAY MAR 20

ST PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH ST PETER, IL

6:30

Gather with other young adults to learn the
difference between Christian
denominations

St. John's Lydia Guild Easter Bake & Craft Sale

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd
Good Friday, April 3rd

Before/After the noon & evening services
until items are gone

All money raised will go to:
Lutheran Care Center

CALENDAR-----March 15-21, 2026

Sunday	15	8:00 a.m.	Worship w/HC Choir
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:30 a.m.	Worship w/HC Choir
		2:00 p.m.	Bible Bowl
		7:00 p.m.	High School Youth at the Flock's
Preschool – Monday – Friday 8:25 a.m. – 11:25 a.m. (Unless Otherwise Noted)			
Monday	16		Pastor Dille's Sabbath
		4:00 p.m.	Board of Evangelism
		5:15 p.m.	Choir
Tuesday	17	7:15 a.m.	High School Breakfast
Wednesday	18	8:45 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
		9:00 a.m.	Bible Study
		10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Quilting
		12:15 p.m.	Lenten Service
		1:00 p.m.	Staff Devotions and Staff Meeting
		5:00 p.m.	Confirmation
		5:15 p.m.	Bells
		6:30 p.m.	Lenten Service
Thursday	19		Pro-Life March in Springfield
		8:45 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
		5:00 p.m.	Board of Youth
Friday	20		Pastor Burdick Sabbath
			Office Closes at Noon
		6:30 p.m.	Young Adults Bible Study
Saturday	21	8:00 a.m.	Band Practice
		5:30 p.m.	Worship w/HC

Birthdays This Week

- 3/15 Andrew Perry, Brad Wenthe,
Jordan Grupe, & Mike Womack
- 3/16 Jonathan Becker, Mark Masrxman,
& Morgan Engle
- 3/17 Norma Wendling
- 3/18 Derek Storm & Vera Pfenninger
- 3/19 Wesley Radloff
- 3/20 Gwendolyn Kuhns, Jill Marxman
Rick Dasenbrock, & Wyatt Keith
- 3/21 David Winter, Meghan Weber,
& Sophia Bahrns

Anniversaries This Week

- 3/16/2023 David & Sandra Habbe
- 3/17/1072 Joe & Mary Roedl

Golden Eagles

Will be serving Lunch on Thursday, March 26, at noon. The menu will be Sloppy Joe, Loaded Baked Potato Soup, Vegetable Soup, Chicken Tortellini Soup, Chips, Relish Tray, and Desserts. Everyone is welcome to attend. We ask that you please sign the name of each person who will be attending on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the atrium. If you are planning to attend you MUST be signed up.