

# THE EAGLE

## St. John's Weekly Newsletter March 22, 2026

I like to walk in cemeteries. Reading headstones. Calculating ages. Learning stories by the symbols people choose to have engraved in granite. You learn not only how and when people died, but how they *lived*.

In John 11 we read that Jesus walked in a cemetery with Martha and Mary. And then Lazarus! The Lord Christ called the completely dead man forth from the tomb, and His Word was fulfilled. Lazarus. Walked. Out.

This is the Lord we have: the God of the living and the dead. And all who live and die in Him, will never *spiritually* die. And even in the *flesh* they shall live forever. *Do you believe this?* I'm sure you'll say "yes." Good. Let your life and your headstone say it. Speak up now about your hope in Christ (1 Peter 3:15). Choose to have hope in Christ clearly engraved over your grave.

**"Yes Lord; I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, Who is coming into the world."** (John 11:27).



P.S. At our Immanuel Cemetery on Dutch Lane we will place a tall granite cross declaring "Christ is Risen!" We welcome more donations toward its purchase! If you would like to give a memorial or special donation for it, please make the check payable to St. John's with a clear memo saying "Cemetery Cross" and give it to the church office. Like at our St. John's Cemetery, it will be a last declaration of Easter hope!

We need more "Alleluia" posters deposited in the basket in the Atrium. Deadline is Palm Sunday.

The Rite of Confirmation will be held at 10:30am Service on May 3. "Remember Your Baptism" will be Wednesday, April 29 at 6:00pm for the seven Confirmands and their parents.

### Upcoming Meetings

Council Meeting Tues., April 14 at 7:00pm  
Voter's Assembly Meeting  
Tues., April 28 at 7:00pm

Pastor Weaver of Trinity in Stewardson has accepted a call to serve in Kansas. We will miss him, and we pray God's blessing upon him and his family as they move after Easter. Pastor Burdick will be vacancy pastor for Trinity in the interim, with help from Pastors Dille and Fortkamp. Our elders have approved a plan for our pastors to help Trinity's ministry at the church and the school to continue without interruption. This means that our pastors will occasionally preach and teach at Trinity until they receive their next pastor. We will keep you informed.

### LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICES

12:15pm & 6:30pm Wednesday

March 25

### Palm Sunday

March 28 at 5:30pm

March 29 at 8:00am and 10:30am

### Mauddy Thursday w/ Holy Communion

April 2 at 12:15pm and  
6:30pm (Stripping of Altar)

### Good Friday

April 3 at 12:15pm and 6:30pm

### No Saturday Night Service on April 4

### Easter Sunday w/ Holy Communion

April 5 at 6:00am, 8:00am, and 10:30am



Flowers on the Altar may be placed in remembrance of or in thanksgiving. There is a calendar at the top of the stairs in the atrium. Altar flowers are \$60.

The upcoming dates are available:

April 19

May 17

May 31

If questions, contact the church office

217-342-4334.

### Attention All Boards

Board reports are due in the church office for the Council meeting by Mon., April 6.

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

Sunday March 8th.....	457
Sunday School.....	44
Adult Sunday School.....	46

**Our Offering**

March 15th.....	\$20,798.49
Lenten Offering.....	\$870.00
Online Offering.....	\$2,137.00
<b>Total Gen. Fund Offering.....</b>	<b>\$23,805.49</b>

**Prayer List**

Gary Wendling, Scott Comrie, Geraldine Graves, Mary Dasenbrock, Terry Long, & Steve Rubin, Eagle's Nest Preschoolers Daxton (parents Abbie & Darius)

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

**Lesson 12**

In our Christian education time this week, we study "A Life Restored." Jairus, a synagogue ruler, comes to Jesus, begging Him to heal his critically ill daughter. Along the way, servants come with news of his daughter's death. Taking along Peter, James, and John, Jesus ignores the mourners, takes the young girl by the hand, and tells her, "Arise." And rise she does, demonstrating Jesus' power over death itself.

**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**

Hebrews 9:12 – "He entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption." The only price that could redeem us was the very blood of the Christ. This is the only sacrifice of true worth. His sacrificial giving sets the pattern for our life, for how can we who are redeemed by the self-giving of God not also give of ourselves to His kingdom?

**Anniversaries This Week**

3/24/2007 Jeremy & Jessica Fritch  
3/26/2022 Hunter & Maddy Keith

**Youth Corner Upcoming Events**

**Easter Breakfast**

Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> from 7:00am-10:00 am

Come join us for a hearty breakfast.

**Free Will**

**Donation with money going to our youth.**

- JH Youth need to bring 1-2 pastries to the church either Friday (during church hours) or Saturday by 9:00am.
- HS Youth will work at the event. Be sure to sign up for a shift on the bulletin board in the main hall. We also need parents to help us with clean up starting at 10:15am.

**Larry Brandt Scholarship**

Applications for the Larry Brandt Scholarship can be found online or copies are on the bulletin board. Due date is April 13, 2026.

**Vacation Bible School**

**June 8 – 11 from 6:00pm – 8:00pm**

**We could use your help!** A few people can work many days or a lot of people can work few days, so please consider helping. Meeting days and times vary so please contact Carolyn Wendte (217) 821-6541 or Donetta Ohnesorge (217) 821-3300 and you will be included on a group meeting text.

**Thrivent Cards are always greatly appreciated.**

**LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life**

"Grief is a road no one chooses, yet in this fallen world, it is a path we must all tread. There are no words that can fully capture the sorrow of losing someone we love—no explanations that can make death seem natural or right. It wasn't meant to be this way. Death is the great intruder, a bitter consequence of sin's curse. And yet, even in the depths of sorrow, the Lord gives us this promise: He is near."

*Rev. M.L. Smith, Director of International Missions of Lutheran Church-Canada (LCC) – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

**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

**Office Hours**

**Friday office hours have changed. The office will be open on Fridays from 8:00am-11:30am**

### **Portals of Prayer and Lutheran Witness**

We will not 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.

### **Food Pantry Needs for March**

Elbow Macaroni

Crackers (NOT Saltines)

Cold Cereal

Boxed Instant Mashed Potatoes

The Pantry no longer needs plastic bags.

### **Golden Eagles**

Will be serving Lunch on Thursday, March 26, at noon. The menu will be Sloppy Joe, Loaded Baked Potato Soup, Vegetable Soup, Sausage 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.

### **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 22<sup>nd</sup> 2:00pm–4:00pm

Faith Lutheran Church, 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!



Last Sunday we hosted four teams competing in the Bible Bowl. While our team didn't win the championship, they won multiple games, with each team member contributing. They move on to the District Bible Bowl at Camp CILCA this afternoon. Pictured above are all four teams.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Door Offering**

On March 28 and 29, there will be a free will offering taken for St. John's Large Print Center, (formerly known as the Braille Center). The Ministry Center #164 does not have a line item in the church budget. We rely solely on grants, memorials and gifts. The money collected will be sent to Lutheran Braille Workers headquarters in Yucaipa, California to cover the cost of paper, spirals, printer rental, cartons and other shipping supplies. Examples of a devotional booklet are free for the taking at collection points that weekend.

**In other news:** On March 3, the students and staff of Trinity Lutheran School visited the Center. Students were able to put together a large print devotion to take home as well as view the history of how the God's Word in the Bible has been sent around the world, and participate in a coloring, word scramble or crossword activity! We were happy to be a part of their Lutheran Schools Week observation!

We hope to see you on April 18 and 19! The Large Print Center will hold an open house for the congregation after Saturday night service and between services on Sunday. You will be able to tour the new space and understand how the production and shipping of Bibles and devotions works. It's a simple process, but a very important ministry!

### **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.



**CALENDAR-----March 22-28, 2026**

Sunday	22	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	23		Pastor Dille’s Sabbath
		5:15 p.m.	Board of Early Childhood
		5:15 p.m.	Choir
Tuesday	24	7:15 a.m.	High School Breakfast
		2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Food Pantry Prayer Service
		3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Food Pantry
Wednesday	25	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	26	8:45 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
		12:00 p.m.	Golden Eagles
		6:30 p.m.	Parent Gathering
Friday	27		Pastor Burdick Sabbath
		9:00 a.m.	Holy Trinity Lutheran HS Steering Committee
			Office Closes at 11:30
Saturday	28	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

**Birthdays This Week**

- 3/22 Bradley Miller, Elsie Kinkelaar, Mike Johnson, & Nicholas Miller
- 3/24 Carter Norris & Stacey Hagerstrom
- 3/25 Audrey Fritcher, Glenda Bunton & Jim Starner
- 3/26 Adam Storm, Pam Baker, Pauline Wollin & Sharon Giesler
- 3/27 Hayes Hinton, Jameson Engel & Sandy Wieneke
- 3/28 Amanda Rieman, Mike Burdick & Topper Woelfer

**St. John’s Lydia Guild**  
**Easter Bake & Craft Sale**

Maundy Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Good Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Before/After the noon & evening services  
 \*\*until items are gone\*\*  
 All money raised will go to:  
Lutheran Care Center