

# THE EAGLE

*St. John's Weekly Newsletter March 29, 2026*

**St. John's Family,**

*"All glory, laud, and honor  
To You, Redeemer, King!  
To whom the lips of children  
Made sweet hosannas ring!"  
(LSB 442)*

Above is the chorus of the hymn we will be singing on Sunday as children process into church, waving their palm branches. This is a tradition on Palm Sunday, when we remember the way Jesus rode into Jerusalem and the way in which Jews in Jerusalem celebrated the coming of Jesus into their city.

But at the heart of this celebration is that word that's in bold above: **Hosanna**.

Hosanna gets at the heart of answered prayers. Because on Good Friday and Easter, Jesus answered the people's shouts of Hosanna. The word *Hosanna* means, "Please, save us." Whether the people who lined the streets when Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday knew it or not, that is exactly what Jesus would do that week. He saved His people from their sins.

Did you know that's what Jesus' name means? "*The Lord saves.*" That was one of the questions at the Bible Bowl held here at St. John's a couple of weeks ago—and St. John's did great! (A special thanks and shout-out to Charlie & Audrey Jansen and Avery Bonhoff, who represented St. John's at the district Bible Bowl in Springfield last weekend!)

**The Lord saves.** That's His answer to the pleas of Hosanna on Palm Sunday, and it's His answer to our pleas of Hosanna today. Our cries of "Lord, save us" were answered on Good Friday, when He took all of our sins and imperfections to the cross. And they are answered every time we receive the benefits of His death and resurrection here at church.

Thanks be to God.

God bless you this Holy Week,

*Pastor Dille*

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

There is 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 work. It's a simple process, but a very important ministry!

## Large Print

Will be taking a break from April 2 – 6 for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday & Easter Monday

## Maundy 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

## The Rite of Confirmation

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

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

Sunday March 22nd.....	418
Wednesday March 18 .....	151
Sunday School.....	46
Adult Sunday School.....	34

**Our Offering**

March 22nd .....	\$6,105.00
Lenten Offering .....	\$880.00
Online Offering.....	<u>\$2,559.00</u>
<b>Total Gen. Fund Offering.....</b>	<b>\$9,544.00</b>

**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!

**Attention All Boards**

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

**Upcoming Meetings**

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

**Prayer List**

Gary Wendling, Scott Comrie, Geraldine Graves, Mary Dasenbrock, Terry Long, & Steve Rubin, Eagle’s Nest Preschoolers Nellie (parents Lacy & Blake) and Norah (parents Morgan & Austin)



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.

Flowers are still needed for these dates:

- April 19
- May 17
- May 31

If questions, contact the church office  
217-342-4334.

**“This Week’s Sunday School Lesson”**

Lesson 13

“The Fish-and-Bread Sign” is the topic for the lesson this week. A crowd of at least five thousand men, plus women and children, gather to hear Jesus preach. When challenged to find a way to feed the hungry crowd, the disciples question how this is possible. Using just five barley loaves and two fish, Jesus feeds them all, with abundant leftovers. Discuss, “How does God provide food for His people today?”

**Stewardship Moment**

*Matthew 21:3 – “If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.”* Did Jesus really need the donkey? If the man had refused to give the donkey, would the work of salvation have been derailed? Of course not. But what an honor for the man who owned this donkey and foal! Likewise, with us — the Lord needs none of us, but what an honor for God to choose to use our generosity in the work of His church.

**LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life**

“No place on earth should be a safer refuge for that tiny innocent child than the womb, the place of *racham*, the place of mercy. Abortion invades and destroys that refuge, that mercy, at its very source. Sadly, abortion has become a part of the brutalization of human life, a sad commentary on the cruelty of human nature.” *Rev. Paul Clark, Lutherans For Life of Michigan— A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • 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

## 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 (8:00am – 11:30am) or Saturday by 9:00am – 10:00am)
- 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.

### 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 & times vary so contact Carolyn Wendte (217) 821-6541 or Donetta Ohnesorge (217) 821-3300 and you will be included on a group meeting text.

Wish List – Cardboard, Large cylinder cardboard tubes, and yellow balloons.

Thrivent Cards are always  
greatly appreciated.

## 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.

### LifeLight

Life of David Class starts April 12<sup>th</sup>

Sign Up Today

## Food Pantry Needs for April

Elbow Macaroni, Crackers (NOT Saltines), Cold Cereal, and Boxed Instant Mashed Potatoes.



## 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.

## 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

## Sing! Even if not well.



I have an admonition for **all men** in the Church. Please **sing**. Others in the Church need you to sing, especially the children – your children or the children sitting near you. I know: you might say “*I can't.*” or “*I don't like to.*” I'm going to be blunt because I love you and the children in the Church. **Sing anyway.** When you simply stare ahead while the rest of the church is participating, you lead in a poor way. Lead in a strong and godly way, please. I'm glad you're here, and while here I urge you to lead well. And if you refuse to sing out loud, at the very least I ask you to *speak* the words of the hymns and the liturgy songs quietly. This is going to be one of my ongoing admonitions, because I believe it is important. If you're already singing, thank you. If you're just starting – thank you! **Make a joyful noise to the Lord all the earth** (Psalm 100:1)! -- *Pastor Burdick*

**CALENDAR-----March 29 – April 4, 2026**

Sunday	29	8:00 a.m.	Worship – 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Offering
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
		10:30 a.m.	Worship – 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Offering
Preschool – Monday – Friday 8:25 a.m. – 11:25 a.m. (Unless Otherwise Noted)			
Monday	30		Pastor Dille’s Sabbath
		8:45 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
		10:30 a.m.	Preschool Easter Party
		5:15 p.m.	Choir
		7:00 p.m.	Lutheran Care Bd
Tuesday	31	7:15 a.m.	High School Breakfast
		8:45 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
		10:30 a.m.	Preschool Easter Party
Wednesday	1		No Preschool
		9:00 a.m.	Bible Study
		1:00 p.m.	Staff Devotions/Meeting
		5:00 p.m.	Confirmation
		5:15 p.m.	Bells
Thursday	2		No Preschool
		12:15 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Service w/HC
		6:30 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Service w/HC
Friday	3		No Preschool
		12:15 p.m.	Good Friday Service
		6:30 p.m.	Good Friday Service
Saturday	4	8:00 a.m.	Band Practice
			No Evening Service

**Birthdays This Week**

- 3/29 Cindy Esch, Glenna Schagemann, Maleah Whitehair
- 3/30 Hayden Wendling, Hayes Frailey
- 3/31 Judy Siebert
- 4/1 Audrey Niemerg
- 4/2 Elizabeth Soltwedel
- 4/3 Hunter Stewart, Ruth Bray
- 4/4 Amy Wetzel, Collins Jones, Karen Grupe, Kyle Gibson

**Anniversaries This Week**

- 3/29/1970 Dean & Donna Wetherell
- 3/30/1984 Allen & Faye Tomkins
- 4/4/2009 Jacob & Stacy Nelson

**Office Hours Have Changed**  
Office hours on Fridays have changed to  
**8:00am-11:30am**

**Wednesday Bible Study**  
Our Wednesday Bible Study of the worship readings will be at **10:00am beginning April 8**. The class will not meet on April 22, due to SJLC hosting the District Pastors’ Conference.