

# THE EAGLE

*St. John's Weekly Newsletter April 26, 2026*

Brother and Sisters,

This week we have an opportunity to pause, slow down, and think about our resurrected Lord in a different light. We call this Sunday Good Shepherd Sunday. It's an opportunity for us to remember that Jesus is our Good Shepherd. We'll speak Psalm 23 responsively in the service and hear from John chapter 10.

A later passage in John 10 is the passage that our high schoolers here at St. John chose when naming their group. St. John's High School Youth Group is The Flock. Their name comes from Jesus' words in John 10:27-30:

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

These verses are central to our lives as children of God. But we aren't always the best sheep. I remember a short video clip from my childhood that a pastor showed when preaching on this text. It showed a sheep who, after being helped out of a ditch, immediately jumped right back into it. When we think carefully, we realize we aren't too different. It can feel like every time Jesus pulls us out of a ditch, we jump right back into one—whether it's the same one or a different one.

Brothers and sisters, this is why Jesus' words in John 10 are so important for us. We need to work against the devil, the world, and our sinful nature to listen actively for Jesus—our Good Shepherd's—voice. We do that by knowing His Word and following Him.

He is your Good Shepherd. Trust in Him, and He will not lead you astray.

In Peace,

*Pastor Dille*

## + OUR MISSION + ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

### **Proclaim the Christ.**

- Within the Church, we proclaim the Christ in our worship Services and educational offerings. Founded upon the Bible and Luther's Small Catechism, we give our members Christ's Word of Law and Gospel, so they have comfort in Him.
- As the Church, we reach out to unbelievers with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We share God's Word, because it alone has the power to bring someone to faith.

### **Grow the Family.**

- As we have the opportunity, we get married and raise up children in the Christian faith. We teach the next generation the truth and grace of God.
- We believe that fellow members of St. John's Lutheran Church comprise the household of faith, our church family. We care for one another and we invite people to join the church family.

### **Love the Neighbor.**

- We begin with our closest neighbors: our families. In concentric circles outward, we put Christian love into word and deed.
- As we have opportunity, we provide some of the necessities of life to those in our community and world -- food, shelter, help, and friendship -- with the love of Jesus.



Camp CILCA provides a fantastic program for youth and families. Visit [www.CILCA.org](http://www.CILCA.org) and choose a camp experience for this summer. All members of St. John's should submit their paid

receipt for a Camp CILCA youth camp to the church office and they will be reimbursed for the cost of their camp! A generous donor has provided these scholarships. "Let's Go" to Camp!

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

Sunday April 19.....464  
Sunday School.....NA  
Adult Sunday School.....44

**Our Offering**

Sunday April 19.....\$11,316.00  
Special Services .....\$100.00  
Online Offering.....\$3,147.00  
**Total Gen. Fund Offering.....\$14,563.00**

**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.

**Prayer List**

Terry Simmons, Travis Vonderheide, Roger Fritch, Mary Dasenbrock, Steve Rubin, and Corban Matney.

**Stewardship Moment**

**1 Peter 2:21** – “For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.” Our heavenly Father wants us to grow into the image of His Son and to follow in His steps. Jesus suffered for us not only to redeem us, but also to show us what love looks like and to leave us an example of self-giving, sacrificial generosity. “Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow His example pure.”

**Bring a Friend Sunday**

April 26th is Bring a Friend Sunday for Sunday school. Bring them to church and Sunday school.

**Gentlemen**

Are you interested in a replay of the book **Man Up!** we read two years ago? *How* we would do it isn't known yet, but we have heard that some guys are interested. Add your name to the **Man Up!** Replay List on the bulletin board. And if this would be the *first* time to read this excellent book for Christian men, you're welcome!

**LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life**

“Sin and shame and guilt are taken away by one thing only—the blood of Jesus Christ—which cleanses us from all sin. Our sins have already been punished in Him, on that cross. Jesus bodily rose from the tomb so that we would know that now even death itself cannot harm those who belong to Jesus and trust in Him alone, for as He lives, so we live as well.” *Rev. Paul Clark, Lutherans For Life of Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

**Voters Assembly**

Tues., April 28 at 7:00pm

**MinistrySafe**

All who work with youth in our congregation (as staff or volunteers) will complete our excellent MinistrySafe online Sexual Abuse Prevention Training. It's imperative that you let our VBS leaders know soon that you'll be volunteering so an email link can be sent to you with the required training. Thank you for your service, and for being well-trained!

**Thank You**

The Central Illinois District Church Worker's Conference was held here at St. John's this past Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Thank you to everyone who assisted in making the conference a blessing for those in attendance. From custodians, ushers, numerous kitchen volunteers, cookie and pastry donors, sound and video technicians, and anyone else who assisted, your help and support were greatly appreciated.

### Food Pantry News

The next Food Distribution will be Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> from 3 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

#### Food Pantry Needs for April

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

### Family Life Center



**BABY BOTTLE**  
*Fundraiser*

**MAY 10 - JUNE 21**

Pick up your baby bottle, fill it with your loose change, dollars or checks and return to the church on Father's Day or give online below:



<https://rebrand.ly/bbeff>

### Youth Corner Upcoming Events

#### Save The Dates

#### Vacation Bible School

June 8 – 11 from 6:00pm – 8:00pm

#### Garage Sale

July 30, 31, and August 1

#### Larry Brandt Golf Outing

Sept 19<sup>th</sup>

1 p.m. Tee Off

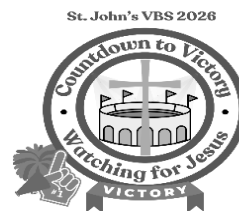
**We could use your help!** A few people can work many days or a lot of people can work few days, so please consider helping. Meeting days & times vary so contact Carolyn Wendte (217) 821-6541 or Donetta Ohnesorge (217) 821-3300 and you will be included on a group meeting text.

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

**Thrivent Cards are always greatly appreciated.**

### VBS Decorating Work Night

The VBS committee and volunteers will meet Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm in the multipurpose room.



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

#### Lesson 2

"A Prayer Lesson" is the title of this week's Bible lesson. With Jesus' disciples, we, too, implore, "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1). Jesus teaches His disciples—and all humankind—the prayer used throughout the Church to this day. Jesus follows His instruction with a parable illustrating how our heavenly Father unfailingly hears all our prayers. As a family, challenge one another to recite the Lord's Prayer from memory.

### Golden Eagles

Will be serving Lunch on Thursday, April 30, at noon. The menu will be Lasagna, Chicken Alfredo, Salad, Garlic Bread and Dessert. 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. **We are collecting items for the Samaritan's Purse Shoe Boxes that will be assembled later this year. Tooth brushes are being collected this month. Please bring one to Golden Eagles.**

### The Rite of Confirmation

Will be held at 10:30am Service on May 3, these young Christians will stand and publicly confess the Christian faith as their own: Cloie Bailey, Mackenzie Stuemke, Madison Stuemke, Graham Wendling, Alexa Westjohn, Joel Wolfe, and Maddux Wyckoff. Pray for them. Pray for their parents, who are the most influential teachers in their lives. Pray that they will treasure what they have learned from the Catechism, and will keep their vow of fidelity to God.

**CALENDAR-----April 26 - May 2, 2026**

|   |    |                       |                                    |
|---|----|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Sunday  | 26 | 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  | 27 |                       | Pastor Dille Sabbath               |
|   |    | 5:15 p.m.             | Board of Early Childhood           |
|   |    | 5:15 p.m.             | Choir Practice                     |
| Tuesday   | 28 | 7:15 a.m.             | High School Breakfast              |
|   |    | 2:30 p.m.             | Food Pantry Prayer                 |
|   |    | 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Food Pantry Distribution           |
| Wednesday   | 29 | 8:00 p.m.             | Preschool Mother's Day Breakfast   |
|   |    | 8:45 a.m.             | Preschool Chapel                   |
|   |    | 10:00 a.m.            | Bible Study                        |
|   |    | 1:00 p.m.             | Office Staff Devotion and Meeting  |
|   |    | 5:00 p.m.             | Bells                              |
|   |    | 5:30 p.m.             | VBS Decorate Work Night            |
|   |    | 6:00 p.m.             | Youth Fellowship                   |
|   |    | 6:00 p.m.             | Remember your Baptism              |
| Thursday  | 30 | 8:00 a.m.             | Preschool Mother's Day Breakfast   |
|   |    | 8:45 a.m.             | Preschool Chapel                   |
|   |    | Noon                  | Golden Eagles                      |
|   |    | 6:30 p.m.             | Parent Gathering                   |
| Friday  | 1  |                       | Pastor Burdick Sabbath             |
|   |    | 6:30 p.m.             | Young Adult Bible Study            |
| Saturday  | 2  |                       | NO Band Practice                   |
|   |    | 8:00 a.m.             | Men's Bible Study at Niemerg's     |
|   |    | 8:00 a.m.             | Women's Bible Study                |
|   |    | 5:30 p.m.             | Worship w/HC-Bells will be playing |

**Birthdays This Week**

4/27 Judy Wendling & Oliver Boone  
 4/28 Jerry Lindsey & Leigha Weber  
 4/29 Hope Wente & Shirley Wittenberg  
 4/30 Banks Wahl, Breannah Westjohn  
 & Karla Flach  
 5/01 Brandon Wendling & Marla Jackson  
 5/02 Brian Haake & Colby Adams

**Anniversaries This Week**

4/29/1972 Dick & Pauline Kinkelaar  
 4/29/1995 Eric & Penny Hanks  
 4/29/2006 Lance & Jacque Dixon  
 5/04/2009 Jacob & Stacy Nelson

**We're hiring in our church office!**

See [www.stjohnsLCMS.net](http://www.stjohnsLCMS.net) for the job description and application.