

THE EAGLE

St. John's Weekly Newsletter May 17, 2026



(back row) Pastor Trey Dille, Graham Wendling, Cloie Bailey, Alexa Westjohn, and Pastor Mike Burdick
(front row) Maddux Wyckoff, Joel Wolfe, Madison Stuemke, and Mackenzie Stuemke

Greetings in the name of the Lord. Praise the Lord for the confirmands you see in the picture above. But don't just praise the Lord for them... continue to pray for them, too. Just as with everybody else, there will be many challenges that they will face.

I heard a quote in a college graduation speech this week that speaks to one significant and unique challenge their generation is going to face: the effects social media will have on their lives. Here's a quote from that speech:

"Social media is going to show you a thousand versions of a life that looks better than yours. The comparison will be relentless, curated, and a lie dressed up in really good lighting. Someone's opinion, someone's comment is going to try to tell you what you should sound like. Don't let them. You are made uniquely, wonderfully, and distinctly. There's a sound only you can make—a voice that is unique only to you."
(Eric Church, 2026)

So, brothers and sisters in Christ, what will your voice say, and who will you say it to?

Our voice proclaims a God who sacrificed His Son for the sake of His people. We have a God who gave the most valuable thing He has to save you. And we live in a world that is thirsty to hear it, a world that is constantly trying to live up to unrealistic standards. Jesus lived up to the perfect standard for the times that we fall short. He is the only source of true hope.

So, members of St. John's, I encourage you to focus on the true message—the true guide to a good life: God's Word (read it daily). Live under its umbrella so that you may live boldly and freely, just as God has designed you to live.

Continue trusting in His promises,

Pastor Dille

Thank you for working with our common-sense security system here at church. We know it's a bit of a hassle to ring the video doorbell when you come throughout the week, but it's necessary. We're striving to be both welcoming and wise. Thanks for understanding!

Celebrating God's Work

Pastor Fortkamp will celebrate the 60th Anniversary of his ordination this summer! On July 26 we will mark that great milestone with a special dinner for the congregation following the 10:30am Service, and after that an Open House for area congregations and friends.

After VBS, our **Church Picnic** will be held Sunday, **June 14**. There will be a Single Sunday Service at 10:00am, followed by the picnic. We will have a potluck lunch with meat, drinks, ad table service provided. There will be bounce houses, sno cones, and popcorn for kids and adults to enjoy. Put it on your calendar! There is a sign up sheet on the main bulletin board.



Thank you to our talented and faithful musicians in Choir, Bell Choir, and The Band – especially to their directors: Sandy Wieneke, Linda Marxmann, and Dennis Lading.

Response to the Gospel

Our Attendance Last Week

Sunday May 10.....	470
Sunday School.....	51
Adult Sunday School.....	40

Our Offering

Sunday May 10.....	\$15,291.82
Online Offering.....	\$4,677.25
Total Gen. Fund Offering.....	\$19,969.07



A good gift plan within an estate includes inheritance for family and gifts to ministry. Some might consider this a difficult task. How does an LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor help? You may be wishing to include a very deliberate spiritual focus to your plan. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor is a fellow member of the LCMS. They can discuss with you, pray with you, all with an eye toward uncovering God's plan for great use of His gifts. Contact Scott Radden @ 618-977-4049 or scott.radden@lfnd.org.

Prayer List

John Jackson, Dick Hulskotter, Gary Wenthe, Bryce Beccue, Kiley Bohnhoff, Terry Long, Travis Vonderheide, Roger Fritch, Steve Rubin, Steve Martin, and Gerry Thoman.

Stewardship Moment

Seventh Sunday of Easter

1 Peter 5:6-7 – *“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.”* We have a Father in heaven who really cares for us and loves us. That is the basis of generosity, because such knowledge spells the end of worry, which is the source of all tightfisted greed.

LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life

“We are no longer terrified sinners but God's own children because of what Jesus has done for us. And so, the Day of Judgment becomes good news for us—because it is the day when the One we love most returns to bring us home in peace.”

Dr. Kari Vo, Lutheran Hour Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

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!

St. John's VBS 2026



“This Week's Sunday School Lesson”

Lesson 5

This week's lesson is “A Crushing Truth.” The events of Christ's crucifixion unfold in a series of brutal and bloody vignettes: questioned before Pilate, mocked and abused by the Roman guard, nailed to the cross. Jesus hangs between life and death—abandoned by His Father—yielding up His life at the moment He chooses. Multiple witnesses see where Christ is laid in a borrowed tomb. Discuss how you can remember the crucifixion of Christ.

St. John's Cards Ministry

Would you like to help reach out to the shut ins of our congregation? We have a group of people who send out cards each month to just say we care. It's a simple organized system and brings much joy to the family of God. Please sign up on the bulletin board if interested. Any questions call Kathy Burdick 309-255-8343

Palm Branches

If you return your Palm Branches to church after Ascension Day (May 14) for next year's ashes, deposit them in the basket on the coat rack in the ATRIUM. Thank you.

Youth Corner Upcoming Events

Vacation Bible School

June 8 – 11 from 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Enrollment is open and forms are available in the worship folders or the church office. Return forms no later than Sunday, May 18, 2026 if you want a VBS shirt.

We could use your help!

Please consider helping. Meeting days & times vary contact Carolyn (217) 821-6541 or Donetta (217) 821-3300 and you will be included on a group meeting text.

Wish List

Large cylinder cardboard tubes, and yellow balloons. Thrivent Cards are always greatly appreciated.

The Flock

High schoolers are invited to join us for The Flock this summer! We will be meeting on the following dates:

June 7 and **21**

July 5 & **19**

August 1 & **15**

Each gathering will include time in God's Word, meaningful fellowship, and encouragement with one another. Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to be part of The Flock this summer! We are looking for volunteer families to host on the dates in bold. Hosting is a wonderful opportunity to help build community. Friends are always welcome!

Jr. High LYF

Jr. High youth are invited to join us for Youth Group this summer! We will be meeting on the following dates:

June **3** and 17

July 1, **15**, and 29

August **5**

We look forward to time together in God's Word, fellowship, and encouragement. Mark your calendars and plan to join us this summer! We are looking for volunteer families to host on the dates in bold. This will be a great way to share our sense of community. Friends are welcome to join! Please talk to Pastor Dille if you'd like to host.

Save The Dates

Garage Sale

July 30, 31, and August 1

Larry Brandt Golf Outing

Sept. 19th

1 p.m. Tee Off

Sunday School

There will be no children's Sunday School on May 24th, but adult Bible Class will be held.

We are looking for volunteers to help with summer Sunday school. If you could teach even one Sunday, please let Kiley Bohnhoff know. It's nice to give our wonderful teachers a break.

District Scholarships for Church Workers

The Central Illinois District offers a scholarship program to support students of CID congregations pursuing a degree to become full-time church workers at one of our synodical institutions. Your gifts to the Scholarship Fund will bless future church workers! Find envelopes on the Welcome Center and the bulletin board.

Golden Eagles

Will be serving Lunch on Thursday, May 28, at noon. The menu will be Pork Loin, Parsley Potatoes, Glazed Carrots, Salad, Rolls 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.

Wanted

Vintage tools and household gadgets for a "Name that Tool" game at our next Golden Eagles Luncheon May 28. We will also be collecting combs and hair brushes for Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Mission. 43 tooth brushes were collected in April. Thanks so much.

Congratulations

To our Graduates

Reese Wendling, Hayden Wendling, Chase Smith, Evan Lotz, and Alexander Gordon from Effingham High School.

Hank Sipe from Dieterich High School.

Coen Pennington from Teutopolis High School.

CALENDAR-----May 17- May 23 2026

Sunday	17	8:00 a.m.	Worship w/HC Guest Preacher – Ron Zuccaro
		9:15 a.m.	Sunday School & Adult Class
		10:30 a.m.	Worship w/HC Guest Preacher – Ron Zuccaro
Monday	18		Pastor Dille Sabbath
		4:00 p.m.	Board of Evangelism
		7:00 p.m.	Lutheran Care Center Board Meeting
Tuesday	19	6:30 p.m.	Adult Catechism
Wednesday	20	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study
		1:00 p.m.	Office Staff Devotion and Meeting
		5:00 p.m.	Bell Choir Clean Bells Trinity Room
		5:30 p.m.	VBS Decorate Work Night
Thursday	21	5:00 p.m.	Board of Youth
Friday	22		Pastor Burdick Sabbath
		9:00 a.m.	Holy Trinity Lutheran HS Steering Comm
Saturday	23	8:00 a.m.	Band Practice
		2:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall Rental
		5:30 p.m.	Worship w/HC

Anniversaries This Week

5-18-2019 Isaac & Laura Galvan
 5-19-2001 Travis & Angie Sipe
 5-21-1988 Rick & Nancy Kohnert
 5-22-2021 Alex & Sadie Turner

5-17 Audrey Jansen, Mark Vail, Vicki Manford
 5-18 Anne Young, Dennis Johnson,
 Travis Sipe, Zachary Haake
 5-19 Cailin Ohnesorge, Seth Wilson
 5-20 Colin Wendling
 5-21 Caitlyn Vail
 5-22 Beth Debolt, Coralin Ohnesorge,
 Doris Mueller, Jane Tolch
 5-23 Emersyn Engel



Jr. High youth after their visit to Homewood Grill this week.

Birthdays This Week