

# THE EAGLE

*St. John's Weekly Newsletter May 24, 2026*



Freedom is not free. This is sometimes said at Memorial Day observances to remind us that the liberties we enjoy as US citizens were often secured through the sacrifices of armed forces members. Thus, we decorate

their graves with flags and flowers. We remember them and their service. The grave of each veteran in our two church cemeteries has been marked with a flag this week. Freedom is not free.

That simple statement is also a profound Christian truth. One of the Scripture passages upon which I've meditated this week is Galatians 5:1...

***"For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."***

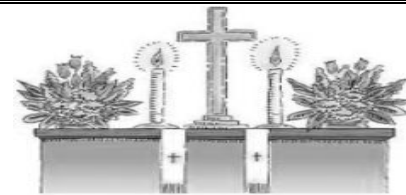
Without Christ's atoning sacrifice, we would remain in slavery to sin, death, and the devil. That bondage would be a dreadful existence. Our guilt would always hang over us. The devil would lead us to despair. Every funeral and cemetery would be hopeless. That is, if Jesus had not set us free. Yet, He has!

- ❖ He was stricken by God so that your guilt would be removed. (Romans 5:8)
- ❖ He defeated the devil and declared His victory to the prisoners in hell. (1 Peter 3:18-20)
- ❖ He rose from the dead and declared "Because I live, you will live." (John 14:19)

The liberties we enjoy as Americans are temporal and good. Visit a veteran's grave, and thank God for their service. The liberty we have as redeemed Christians is eternal. Every Christian grave can be visited with thanksgiving. Christ is risen. You're free. Have a blessed Memorial Day...and more.

The Dedication of the Cross at our Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery on Dutch Lane will be held at Noon on Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup>.

After Vacation Bible School we will be working on reorganizing some of the storage areas around the church. Numerous Boards and groups will evaluate what items must be kept and which can go on the Rummage Sale in late July.



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:

May 31

June 28

July 5

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

Almighty God, You have given us this good land as our heritage. Grant that we remember Your generosity and constantly do Your will. Bless our land with honest industry, truthful education, and an honorable way of life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil course of action. Grant that we, who came from many nations with many different languages, may become a united people. Support us in defending our liberties, and give those to whom we have entrusted the authority of government the spirit of wisdom, that there may be justice and peace in our land. When times are prosperous, may our hearts be thankful, and in troubled times do not let our trust in You fail; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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

Sunday May 17 .....	407
Sunday School.....	41
Adult Sunday School.....	NA

**Our Offering**

Sunday May 17 .....	\$5,011.00
Online Offering.....	\$3,157.00
<b>Total Gen. Fund Offering.....</b>	<b>\$8,168.00</b>

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, and 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.

**LCMS Foundation**  
TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

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? Depending on your goals, an LCMS Foundation has a quiver full of gift planning tools that can be customized to your plan, so that your intent is realized some day when the Lord calls you home. Contact Scott Radden @ 618-977-4049 or [scott.radden@lfnd.org](mailto:scott.radden@lfnd.org).

**Prayer List**

Sharon Moss, Marty Vail, Paul Lash, Jr., Pastor Gary Fortkamp, John Jackson, Donetta Ohnesorge, Dick Hulskotter, Gary Wenthe, Bryce Beccue, Terry Long, Roger Fritch, Steve Rubin, Steve Martin, Gerry Thoman, Lois Budde, St. Peter Lutheran Church and School, and for the family and friends of Daryl Schroeder.

**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.

**Sunday School**

There will be no children's Sunday School on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**Stewardship Moment**

"When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place." Pentecost is the Old Testament harvest festival, taking place around the time when the wheat and oats are ready to be brought in. Of course, this was an image and foreshadowing of the great harvest of humankind that God means to carry out through the preaching of His Word. God gives the seed, and God brings about the harvest. From first to last, in things temporal and things eternal, we stand only by His grace.

**LIFE QUOTE From Lutherans for Life**

"In grief, the world often feels empty. The absence of loved ones weighs heavily, leaving our days feeling hollow and incomplete without their presence. And yet, Scripture tells us that in these moments of deep sorrow, God draws near. He does not stand at a distance, waiting for us to be strong enough to move on with our life. He comes to us, holds us in our brokenness, and carries us when we cannot stand." *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)*

**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. Ministry safe has been sent to all VBS workers. If you have not received an e-mail, please contact Carolyn Wendte at 217-821-6541 ASAP. Thank you for your service, and for being well-trained!

## Youth Corner Upcoming Events

### Vacation Bible School

June 8 – 11 from 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Enrollment is open and forms are available in the Atrium or the church office.

### 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. 19<sup>th</sup>

1 p.m. Tee Off

### 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.**

### 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

St. John's VBS 2026



**CALENDAR-----May 24- May 30 2026**

Sunday	24	8:00 a.m.	Worship w/HC
		9:15 a.m.	Adult Bible Class Only
		10:30 a.m.	Worship w/HC
Monday	25		Pastor Dille Sabbath
			Office Closed for Memorial Day
Tuesday	26	2:30 p.m.	Food Pantry Prayer Service
		3:00-4:00 p.m.	Food Pantry
		6:30p.m.	Adult Catechism
Wednesday	27	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study
		1:00 p.m.	Office Staff Devotion and Meeting
		5:30 p.m.	VBS Decorate Work Night
Thursday	28	12:00 p.m.	Golden Eagles
		6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Hall Rental
		6:30 p.m.	Parent Gathering
Friday	29		Pastor Burdick Sabbath
		6:30 p.m.	Young Adult Bible Study
Saturday	30	8:00 a.m.	Band Practice
		5:30 p.m.	Worship

**Anniversaries This Week**

- 5-25-1985 Alvin & Judy Siebert
- 5-25-1974 Dennis & Nitelle Lading
- 5-27-2023 Brady & Shayna Scott
- 5-27-2016 Brendan & Brittney Keller
- 5-28-2016 Christopher & Kami Bahrns
- 5-28-2005 Kris & Amanda Wernsing
- 5-28-1982 Rick & Dana Keller
- 5-29-2016 Jimmy & Kristin Hippchen
- 5-30-1998 Gene & Janet Koebele
- 5-30-1992 Jerry & Cheryl Pruemmer

**Birthdays This Week**

- 5-24 Janet Koebele, Julie Bahrns, Laura Galvan
- 5-25 Chris Lidy
- 5-26 Lucas McDevitt, Marla Pilcher, Sadie Turner, Will McDevitt
- 5-27 Dick Kinkelaar, Kori Heuerman
- 5-29 Jaxson Pilcher
- 5-30 Aiden Hanks, Tabitha Bailey

