The Eagle

St. John's Weekly Newsletter November 22, 2026

Picture this: in 2027 a family starts attending services at St. John's. They've never been a church-going household. The wife went to church as a child, but the husband never did. Their three children haven't been baptized. But in the Spring of '27 the kids are going to Sunday School here, and the mom and dad are attending our adult Catechism Bible Study -- new friends in the church are watching the kids while the husband and wife are participating in the class. They are all preparing for Baptism and the life of faith in Christ.

How did they get to St. John's? Well, they didn't just show up on their own. No, someone from St. John's gave them a devotional booklet that prepared them for Christmas 2026. And because they were hungry for a deeper, better Christmas experience, they started to read those devotions together. The Word was planted in their hearts, and the Holy Spirit made the Word grow in faith. They experienced *Love's Pure Light* in Jesus Christ. Now in April 2027 they are all about to be baptized into Christ. And *you* are praying for them daily.



Today you can take home a printed copy of ***Love's Pure Light,*** our Advent and Christmas devotional booklet. I hope you will use the electronic version, and will give away the printed copy. Go to www.LHM.org → Daily Devotions → Subscribe. You'll receive the Advent devotions by email, beginning November 29 (the first day of Advent).
Give the printed copy to a neighbor who needs a church family. Pray for them. Encourage them. Befriend them. Show them *Love's Pure Light*, Jesus, this Advent. The goal is that they will be baptized and believing next Spring – or this Christmas!

"Silent night; holy night!
Son of God, *Love's Pure Light.*
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at They birth…!"



Our 5th Sunday Door Offering will be in support of our Lydia Guild/LWML Mites!

Thanksgiving Eve & Day Services

Thanksgiving Eve Worship at 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, November 25

Thanksgiving Day Worship 9:00 a.m.
Thursday, November 26
O give thanks unto the LORD!



Advent

Advent begins December 2nd Make, buy, or dust off your Advent Wreath! Our Daily devotions will be title "Love's Pure Light" Wait to celebrate Christmas … let Advent prepare you well. Devotions can be picked up in the atrium.

Midweek Services will carry the theme ***"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*** on December 2, 9, and 16 (at 12:15pm & 6:30pm). We will follow the Order of **Vespers** (page 229) straight from the hymnal. Come, wait for Christmas and sing of Jesus, Emmanuel!

Response to the Gospel
Our Attendance Last Week

Sunday November 15	422
Sunday School	55
Adult Sunday School	50
Life Light	12

Our Offering

Sunday November 15 ……	$9,187.75
Online Offering ……	$3,307.00
**Total Gen. Fun …….. **	**$12,494.75**

Stewardship Moments

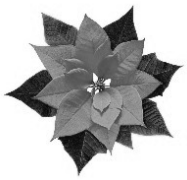
Matthew 25:44 – "Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?'" With this parable Jesus once again emphasizes that our good works come from who we are, not the other way around. Sheep do sheep works, and goats do goat works. So first things first: if we want to live more faithfully, let us come to Jesus, receive His gifts and ask Him to increase our faith!

LCMS Foundation

You need help to construct a good estate plan and the gift plan within it to family and ministry. But it is also true that no one else can tell you what your plan must look like. God has given you the responsibility to steward these assets. If what matters most to you is growing your assets, then a financial planner might be best for figuring out how to pass those assets on to family. But if your goal is to do significant things with God's gifts, then an investment advisor might not have the answers you are looking for. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can assist you in becoming concrete about what is important to you. Contact Scott Radden @ 618-977-4049 or scott.radden@lfnd.org.

Cards

There is a large supply of Christmas cards in the card cabinet for purchase. Proceeds go the youth group.



Poinsettias

The 8" poinsettia will be $22. Please place your orders in the office by Sunday, December 6.

Angel Tree

It's time to once again collect toys for FISH. Bring new, unwrapped toys to the Atrium beginning now through Dec 6th



Church Decorating

We will be decorating the Church Halls and Sanctuary for advent and celebrating the Birth of Christ on Saturday November 28th starting at 9:00am. Please come and join in on the fun and fellowship.

Cemetery Clean-Up

The Cemetery Committee will be cleaning up the St. John's Cemetery soon. Deteriorated or weathered florals will be removed. New or fresh will remain.

Painting Volunteers Needed

If you're willing to help paint in the Christian Education building, leave your name and number on the sign-up sheet. You can come on your own schedule and there will be supplies and instructions available. Call Troy Probst at 217-690-1735 if you have questions.

Man Up! will meet this Sunday, November 22, at 7:00pm. Chapters 5 & 6 will be in focus.

Thank You

George and Ann Young would like to express their sincere gratitude for all the many cards and messages they received for their 75th anniversary. They also appreciated the visits of Pastor Fortkamp & Gloria and Pastor Burdick.

Youth Corner

Advent Soup Meals

The menu will include chili, vegetable soup, sloppy joe, hot dogs, veggie tray and pie.

Dec 2nd lunch & supper – 6th-8th grade students are encouraged to bring a pie and high school students are encouraged to help with cleanup.

Dec 9th & Dec 16th - lunch only

Caroling

Sunday, Dec 13th 3:00 for 9th-12th grades. They will be having dinner at Pizza Man after.

Cookie Walk

This year the Cookie Walk will be held on Saturday, Dec 19th & Sunday, Dec 20. Each student 6th-12th should bring 6 dozen cookies. HS students will be able to sign up to work.

Life Quote

"Immanuel, God with us. How reassuring are those words?! The struggles of life, personally and professionally, often take us to the edge of an emotional cliff. Thankfully, there is One to whom we can reach out and call out for help. We are not alone—God is with us every step of the way in our personal and our professional lives." *Gayle Irwin, Pregnancy Help News – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

This Week's Sunday School Lesson

Lesson 13

"The Passover Promise" is this week's lesson about God's establishment of the Passover. God, through Moses, threatens one final plague—worse than any previously experienced. Following God's instructions, the Israelites make careful preparations for the Passover, marking their doorposts with the blood of a lamb prepared for the feast. The final plague takes place at midnight as all the firstborn throughout Egypt die. The Egyptians hand over their valuables, hastening the Israelites away.

Online Giving

The Board of Stewardship wants you to know that it is now possible to support St. John's mission by donating stocks and crypto. Using our online giving platform (via the green card in the pew or the drop-down menu on our website), you can donate appreciated stock that you have held for over one year. Consult your tax-preparer to learn about the tax advantages of such a gift. It's simple, secure, and fast: Go to www.stjohnsLCMS.net → click *Online Giving* → click *donate with stock*. For questions with using the app, please contact the church office.

St. Louis Seminary Food Pantry

There will be an ingathering of nonperishable items for the St. Louis Seminary Food Pantry. Items may be placed at the altar rail on Thanksgiving Eve & Thanksgiving Day before or after services & in the atrium on the weekend of Nov. 28th & 29th

The Flock

The Flock High School Youth group will meet at the Burdicks' home (717 S. First St.) on Sunday, December 6 at 6:30pm. Bible Study, fun, and delicious Christmas cookies will be had by all!

Prayer List

Mark Marxman, Ted Meislahn, Derek Robertson, Steve Rubin, Terry Simmons, Lynn Kuhn, Eileen Wall, Kathy Shingler, Darrell Cress, Jim Schroeder.

We grieve with Christian hope after the death of our sister in Christ, Ursula Polzin. Peace to all who knew and loved her! Her funeral was held here at church on Friday, November 20. Alleluia! If you wish to make a memorial, it can be made to St. John's Lutheran Church in Effingham, St. John's Braille Center or donor's choice.

CALENDAR----------November 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
		7:00 p.m.	Man Up
Monday	23	8:00 a.m.	Adult Catechism
		10:00 a.m.	Preschool Thanksgiving
		5:15 p.m.	Board of Early Childhood
Tuesday	24	10:00 a.m.	Preschool Thanksgiving
		3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Food Pantry
Wednesday	25		No Preschool
		10:00 a.m.	Bible Study
		10:00 a.m – 3:00 p.m.	Quilting
		1:00 p.m.	Office Staff Devotion
		5:00 p.m.	Bell Practice
			No Confirmation
		6:30 p.m.	Worship
Thursday	26	9:00 a.m.	Worship
			Office Closed
			No Preschool
Friday	27		Pastor Burdick Sabbath
			Office Closed
			No Preschool
Saturday	28	8:00 a.m.	Band Practice
		9:00 – 11:00 a.m.	Decorate Church
		5:30 p.m.	Worship w/HC

Birthdays This Week

11-22 Emersyn Jeffries, John Richards
11-23 David Brinkopf, Greg Perry, Jeff Vail, Liam Boone
11-25 Bryce Beccue, Holly Adams, Jerry Bloemer, Randy Kohnert
11-26 David Barr, Mike Schlechte, Toni Elderworth
11-27 Dr Kelly Haller, Janet Martins
11-28 Reagan Keith

Food Pantry

For the month of Nov., the food pantry could use canned fruit, fruit/cereal bars, spaghetti sauce (no glass) and peanut butter.

Anniversaries This Week

11-23-2023 Luke & Jill Daniels
11-25-2023 Johnny & Casey Trupiano
11-26-1971 Jim & Becky Bailey

Operation Christmas Child

Missed the chance for a shoebox? BASBO to the rescue – Build a Shoebox Online. Materials available in the hallway that can be ordered through December.