

# THE EAGLE

## SEPTEMBER 2022

### IT'S SEPTEMBER! LET'S GROW!

#### THE RISK OF INVESTMENT



A backwoods farmer, sitting on the steps of his farmhouse on a warm summer afternoon, was approached by a stranger—wanting a drink of water. “How’s your wheat coming along?” asked the stranger. “Didn’t plant none,” said the farmer. “Really?” the stranger replied. “I thought this was good wheat country.” “Afraid it wouldn’t rain!”

“Oh! Well, how’s your corn crop?” “Ain’t got none.” “You didn’t plant corn either?” “Nope. Afraid of corn blight.” The stranger confused but persevering continued, “Well, how are your potatoes?” “Didn’t plant potatoes,” the farmer said flatly. “Potato bugs would probably take ‘em.”

“Didn’t you plant anything?” asked the stranger. “Nope,” replied the farmer, “I play it safe.”

There is always some risk in the investment of our time, talents, and treasures in some program or organization. However, unless we try, we never know the potential for results. Unless the Christian accepts all the risks of investment, involvement, and being a part of something new, something old, or somebody—we never know the potential for what might have been.

Jesus demonstrated the risks of investment. He invested Himself in the last likely of candidates—men who seemed to be long shots at best in becoming building blocks for the Christian Church; women whose moral standards were hardly God’s standards; businessmen who operated by less than Christian principles. Yet, in each case, we see the fruit of Christ’s investment as those individuals became devoted followers and servants.

If you look around at the programs and ministries, we are doing at St. John’s—you will notice that at some time in the past it was a risk---but the investment with God’s blessing was a good one. There are some in progress now that are at best a risk—but we pray God’s blessing for a good investment. That investment comes in the form of many talents, treasures, and time that people are willing to give to the Lord for His ministry. Without investment of such things by many people where would our missions and our ministries be? Without investment what future would our children’s Christian education programs have? Without investment what future would our Bus Ministry, The Friendship Center, My Friend’s Closet, Weekday School program, BLAST, Sonshine Calling Ministry, etc. have? (Continues)

The monthly calendar shows the investments individuals in this congregation are making—giving to God of their time, talent, and treasures. Jesus calls us to follow Him and to take the risk...even at the risk of failing, even at the risk of making a mistake. However, if we are unwilling to take the risk of failing, we will likely never know the joy of accomplishment and success for the cause of Jesus.

Now is the time to risk—risk time for Bible Study, risk talents for new programs, risk treasures for new growth! Jesus is calling our congregation to mobilize for the building of His Kingdom---that's you and me!

***“I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH HIM WHO STRENGTHENS ME.” Philippians 4:13***



### **BLAST BEGINS SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> AT 9:15 AM!**

BLAST IS A WORKSHOP ROTATIONAL BIBLE LEARNING PROGRAM THAT OFFERS CHILDREN SOLID BIBLE TEACHING PRESENTED IN A WAY THAT APPEALS TO THEIR VARIOUS LEARNING STYLES. THIS PROGRAM IS FOR CHILDREN IN FIRST-SIXTH GRADE.

### **PRE-SCHOOL – KINDERGARTEN BEGINS SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> AT 9:15 AM!**

They will meet in the first room off of the Fellowship Center.

### **WEEKDAY SCHOOL BEGINS SEPTEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>**

Supper begins at 5:30 pm. Class begins at 6:00 pm.

Weekday School is for Children in Third through Eighth Grades.

Third Graders will start with a Bible Orientation Class with their parents.

Fourth-Eighth Graders will start with a large group gathering for lesson time, break down into small groups for discussion, and then have a skit time and closing.

Children should always come prepared on Wednesday evenings. They will need their Study Bible, Catechism, Weekday School Binder, writing utensils.

## **THREE-YEAR-OLD BLESSING ON SEPTEMBER 11**



Our children who are three years old and ready to start Sunday School are invited to be a part of a blessing with their parents at either of the three weekend services. The Children will receive their heart from a special banner for that Sunday, their lamb which has been on the Nursery bulletin board since they were baptized, and a brand new Children's Bible for parents to use in daily devotions. Please call the Church Office and let us know which service you will be attending as a family that weekend.

## **RALLY DAY IS SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>!**

Rally Day marks the beginning of a new year of Sunday morning educational opportunities. This year we will do that as a family in the Fellowship Center between services. There will be coffee, juice, snacks, music by some of our high school youth, and a program by Mr. Steve "Master of Fun" that will entertain all ages. Children and Adults are encouraged to join us in the Fellowship Center for some fun and entertainment. BLAST and Weekday School Teachers and Leaders will also be commissioned on our worship services that weekend.

## **JUNIOR HIGH & SENIOR HIGH BIBLE STUDY BEGINS**

**SEPTEMBER 11**

Students in Junior High and Senior High grades at school, will meet in the Youth Room. Please join us for Food, Fun, and Faith! We have it all!

## **SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE CLASS BEGINS**

**SEPTEMBER 11**

The class is open to all adults of the congregation. We meet each Sunday morning in Luke. We will be studying "The Story of Angels." Join us each Sunday at 9:15 am for some good study and good discussion.



## **BAPTISMS**

**KEEGAN P. SCHUBERT**, baptized on July 05, 2022.

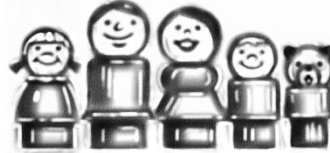
**BODI LEE LOUIS TURNMEYER**, infant son of Andrew and Baylie Turnmeyer, baptized on July 17, 2022.

**CHARLOTTE MARY ISENBERGER**, infant daughter of John and Caitlin Isenberger, baptized on July 24, 2022.

## **NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED**

**KEEGAN SCHUBERT**, soon to be husband of Meg Tessendorf, on July 17, 2022.

**CARLOS LINGLE**, on July 17, 2022.



Welcome New Church Families

## **OUR SYMPATHY**



**JOHN "JACK" KATZENBERGER**, passed away on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**BARBARA M. PINNOW**, passed away on July 02, 2022, with Christian services on July 09, 2022.

**SHARON E. HOLLAND**, passed away on August 03, 2002, with Christian services on August 10, 2022.

Our heartfelt sympathy to these families in their grief and may they find hope in Jesus, their Lord and Savior.



## **CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE**

Anita Mau has worked diligently to bring a new look to our church website. Check it out at [www.stjohnslena.org](http://www.stjohnslena.org) There are changes being made on a regular basis, updating and new events added. Cross Talk videos are right on the front page as well as direct access to our Live-Streamed and Recorded services.

## FOOD TRUCK

The Northern Illinois Food Bank Mobile Pantry will be here at St. John's on Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> from 3-4:30PM. The Pantry distributes nutritious food to high need areas. The food is free to neighbors in need. Food is distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, while supplies last. Due to COVID, the Mobile Pantry has moved to a contactless drive-thru model with pre-packed boxes of groceries.



## PRAYER LINE

You are invited to become a part of a prayer chain devoted to lifting up the family and friends of our St. John's family in prayer. Inserts have been placed on the table in the foyer for you to review and consider. Please prayerfully consider being a part of this very important ministry here at St. John's. If you feel led to be a part, please fill out the form and return it to the church office.

## TRANSPORTATION HELP NEEDED—

We are looking for volunteers to occasionally transport people to appointments using our bus, van, or your vehicle. Please prayerfully consider if you could help us, in any way. If you can, please contact the church office.



## FAITH COMES BY HEARING

### VISION 2033 & MILITARY BIBLE STICKS

Beginning September 11<sup>th</sup> and throughout the month, we will be supporting Vision 2033, **which still incorporates the Military Biblestick Outreach.** With Vision 2033, Faith

Comes By Hearing has come alongside the worldwide translation community in a movement to ensure that everyone on Earth has access to Jesus Christ's Gospel in a format they can understand. Their goal is to work in partnership with others to see that the Word of God is recorded and freely provided in every language in the world by the year 2033.



## THE FRIENDSHIP CENTER

Do you like helping people? Do you like spending time with people? Do you like arts or craft type things? Do you like to cook? Do you like to play games? Do you like to play music? If you answered "Yes!" to any of these questions—you might enjoy helping at our Adult Day Care. Volunteers help out a half day just once a month or once a week or volunteer as much as you like. Please contact Denise Seuring at The Friendship Center, 369-2690, to find out more or to sign up.

## MY FRIEND'S CLOSET THRIFT SHOP

Lots and lots of volunteers serve the Thrift Shop during store hours and we need more volunteers. You can volunteer during the day or every Wednesday we are open until 8:00 pm. **My Friend's Closet** is open Monday through Saturday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm with additional hours on Wednesday. Volunteers are always needed and appreciated. To find out how you can help, please call Claire Smunt at 815.369.4527 at My Friend's Closet or Fawn at the St. John's church office, 815.369.4035.



## ST. JOHN'S ON THE MOVE

Worship Folders have been received from –

Alvin & Dorothy Wire: Manitowish Waters Community Presbyterian Church—Wisconsin  
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church—Ottawa, IL

Dan & Peggy Korth: Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church—Scales Mound, IL

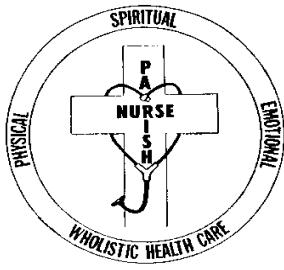
Dean & Arlene Holmes: The Living Word—Spicer, Minnesota

Kevin & Mary Anne Keith: Trinity Lutheran Church—Hayward, Wisconsin

Wayne & Carol Westaby: City Church—Madison, Wisconsin

Grace Lutheran Church—Hayward, Wisconsin

Nick & Rose Leiendecker: First United Methodist Church—Van Wert, Ohio



## PARISH HEALTH NOTES

**SIX THINGS YOU SHOULD NEVER DO AGAIN – Flu season is a great time to break yourself of bad habits and reduce your odds of infection.**

1. Never pass a sink without washing your hands. Your hands can hold an astonishing number of germs. Try to wash your hands every hour when you're out in public.
2. Never leave home without a pen. Flu viruses can live several days on inanimate objects which means that pen that the waiter hands you can be VERY germey! Bring your own.
3. Never drive when you could walk. Researchers compared inactive people with those who walked briskly nearly every day and found that inactive people take twice as many sick days as those who walk daily.
4. Never smoke a cigarette. If you need another reason to quit smoking, studies show COVID-19 patients who smoked are 91% more likely than never-smokers to die or be critically ill.
5. Never eat buffet style. Eating from a buffet may increase your risk of picking up viruses. Try to avoid shared food.
6. Never forget to pray without ceasing. Keep God foremost in your heart!

*Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.*

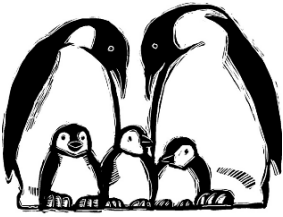
*Matthew 24:35*

**Stewardship**—it's not just about giving money.  
It's about giving **everything**.

And serve each other according to the gift each person has received, as good managers of God's diverse gifts. —1 Peter 4:10, CEB







Caring for our Cradle Roll

## CRADLE ROLL NOTES

The following member is celebrating a birthday this month:  
Bexley Rothschadl 9/22/21

We wish her all God's richest blessings!

## Ray Handel 80th Birthday Open House

On September 25th from 2:00 - 5:00  
At Logan's Bar & Grill in Freeport

No gifts are needed since your presence is the best gift you can give him.  
Please spread the word to anyone who may know him. Thanks.  
Let me know if you have any questions. Shirley Dick

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Thank you for your outpouring of school supply donations for our Operation Christmas Child ministry! As always, St. John's congregation never disappoints! **SEPTEMBER** is personal hygiene month! We will be looking for **PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS**: toothbrushes, wash clothes, small bars of soap, girl's hair items, combs/brushes, travel Kleenex, dental floss,

etc. **NO TOOTHPASTE OR LIQUID SOAPS!** Donations may be dropped off near the church office in the gift box! Check out the 'thermometers' for supply needs. If you would rather donate monetarily, please place in the offering box or give to the church office labeled OCC. We thank you so much for your continued love and support for this ministry as we share the love of Jesus with children around the world! If you have any questions, please contact Lindsay Bader or message through the St. John's Facebook page.





## MARK YOUR CALENDAR! THE BAZAAR will be back NOV 8, 2022!

Planning for this year's Bazaar has begun! Currently, we are working on plans for the Beef and Noodle meal and finalizing other details. We intend to have both in-person dining and carry-out options and are making decisions on the Candy Room, Baked Goods, Crafts, etc. As a reminder, the

Bazaar is the main fundraiser for Women's Society, who operate on a \$10,000 budget. With the funds raised, Women's Society provide Scholarships, Bibles for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders, and memorials within the church. They also support many other ministries including missionaries, Seminary Adopt-a-Student, Lutheran World Relief, Grace Lutheran School, LAMP, the Le-Win Ministerial Society, and several others. In 2019, (pre-Covid), the Bazaar involved 81 volunteers, so please start to consider if you are able/available to help that day. Watch for more details coming soon! Please contact Steve Levan, Anita Mau, or Deb Hamilton with questions or to volunteer. Thanks!



**RELAY FOR LIFE LUMINARIA** – When the sun goes down at every American Cancer Society Relay for Life event, hope shines the brightest. During the Luminaria Ceremony, hundreds of luminarias light the track or path to celebrate the lives of those who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost and fight back against a disease that has taken too much. This ceremony of light symbolizes the hope and perseverance with which we all continue to

fight. Luminaria suggested donation is \$10 each. Order forms are on the table in the foyer and all tax-deductible donation, payable to the American Cancer Society, along with the order form should be sent to Carri Mapes, 2214 Wheatland Terrace, Freeport, IL 61032 or left with the church office. Order forms and payment must be sent by 9/10/22 in order to insure delivery of your luminaria.



**RELAY FOR LIFE** – will be held on **Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>** at the Stephenson County Fairgrounds. **HELP US ATTACK CANCER IN OUR COMMUNITY.** Volunteer, form a team, make a donation or purchase a luminaria. To register for Relay for Life, start a fundraising team or purchase a luminaria, please visit [relayforlife.org/stephensonil](http://relayforlife.org/stephensonil) or call 1-800-227-2345. If needing more information, contact event leader Carri Mapes at 815-541-

6350 or email Carri at [carrin78@yahoo.com](mailto:carrin78@yahoo.com). Stop by the table in the foyer for information cards.

**Can you help the day of the Relay? Contact Carri Mapes at 815-541-6350.**



## **COLLEGE STUDENTS**

As you return to your campus, please give the church office any updates and new addresses so we have your information on file.

### **MAKE-A-SMILE CARDS FOR LENA LIVING CENTER**



**We are hoping to have SEPTEMBER Cards, using a FALL, HARVEST, LEAVES, ETC. theme, donated next.** If you are creative and are a card maker, please be a part of this wonderful venture and **please include a sentiment inside the card.** A basket will be placed on the table, outside the office, for your beautiful creations and we will get the cards to Good Shepherd Church who in turn will get them to the

Activity Director at the Living Center **around the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month.** Thank you in advance for your willingness in being part of this venture. For questions, please contact the church office.

**WAY MAKER**  
◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆  
*Miracle Worker*  
**PROMISE KEEPER**  
*Light in the Darkness*  
◆ **MY GOD** ◆  
◆ ◆ ◆  
**THAT IS WHO YOU ARE**