



August 22/23, 2026

LIVING IN THE LIGHT THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

The sun will no more be your light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon **shine** on you, for the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.

Isaiah 60:19

SATURDAY (22)	5:30 PM Worship
SUNDAY (23)	8:00 & 10:30 AM Worship 9:15 AM Adult Bible Class
MONDAY (24)	
TUESDAY (25)	10:00 AM Stitching Blessings 11:00 AM Church Staff Meeting
WEDNESDAY (26)	Shut In 2 Dave 5 Jenny 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study 1:00 PM Card Party
THURSDAY (27)	6:30 PM Bell Choir Practice
FRIDAY (28)	6:30 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study
SATURDAY (29)	5:30 PM Worship
SUNDAY (30)	8:00 & 10:30 AM Worship 9:15 AM Adult Bible Class

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: Sat: 60 Sun 8AM: 72 10:30AM: 80 = 212

GENERAL CHECKING CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK: \$10,975.00



Flowers are placed on the altar from Linda Kowalczyk in loving memory of her husband Ted on their 68th wedding anniversary, as well as thankfulness for her church family here at St. John's.

CHRISTIAN ONE-LINER *"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."* – C.S. Lewis

Living Stewardship

"Or who has given the Lord anything that he may be repaid?" - ROMANS 11:35 St. Paul reminds us of a central fact of stewardship. We cannot give God anything - He already owns it all. God made everything, including us. Since we are made in His image, we too, are called to be generous. How we use our God-given gifts becomes our gift back to Him. Gratitude for all we have been given opens our hearts to joyful generosity! And, through our generosity, we just may be the answer to someone else's prayer.



BOARD BUDGETS FOR 2027

It is time to review board budgets to prepare for the new fiscal year. Each board chairperson can find in their church mailbox the information to review the budget at their next respective board meeting. Please plan your next board meetings accordingly to include time to review the budget.

Approved budgets from each board need to be submitted to Deb Turnmeyer, Chair for Board of Finance, by October 1st. These budgets will be reviewed at the October Council Meeting and then presented by each board at the October Voter's Meeting. God bless your planning.

St. John's Women's Society Quilt Raffle

This year we are raffling a Queen size quilt that was donated to the Women's Society by Mary Tessendorf. This beautiful quilt is called Farmhouse Cross. Our second prize is a lap quilt called Card Trick that came to us through the Thrift Shop. (Some great items come into the Thrift Shop – if you haven't stopped by lately – check it out.) These items are on display in the hallway near the office. Special thanks go to Mary Tessendorf for piecing and machine quilting the quilt for us.

Tickets are available for a \$2.00 donation per ticket OR 3 tickets for \$5.00 on the table by the quilts. Drawing will be held on election day, Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

Thanks for supporting the Women's Society and all the mission projects, high school scholarships and other projects they support.



Noodle making returns to St. John's!

In preparation for our November 3rd bazaar, we will begin making noodles again on Monday, September 14th. To involve more individuals, we will start at 4:00 PM, but come whenever you can, and we will find a job for you. Help is needed for set-up, mixing the dough, turning the cranks on the machines, laying out the noodles on tables to dry, and clean-up. Everyone is welcome (male, female, child, or adult) and no previous experience making noodles is necessary. A light meal will be provided when the kitchen crew has completed the dough, and we will be done by 8:00 or earlier. Additional dates for noodle making will be September 21 and 28, and October 5, 12, and 19.

On Wednesday afternoons we could use help bagging, weighing, and packaging noodles after they have dried. This only takes about an hour starting at 3:00 PM.

If you helped last year, we are looking forward to working with you again. If not, please consider joining us for some excellent fellowship. Bring your children, your spouse, or a friend! Questions? Ask Kathie or Steve Levan.



Krape Park Band Shell Freeport, Illinois

(Tune in to WFEN 88.3 in case of rain)

2026 Summer Season - PRAISE IN THE PARK- 7-8pm

"Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth." Psalm 98:4

August 28 . . Faith Center Freeport

Northern Illinois Food Truck dates:

9/01- Orangeville - Jane Addams Trail

10/06- Lena - St. John's Lutheran Church

10/27- Orangeville - Jane Addams Trail



MAKE-A-SMILE CARDS FOR LENA LIVING CENTER – We would like to have **September Cards**, using a **Back to School** donated next. If you are creative and are a card maker, please be a part of this wonderful venture and please include a sentiment or Bible verse 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 10th of each month. Thank you in advance for your willingness and being part of this venture. For questions, please contact the church office



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (OCC): It's shoebox time! Samaritan's Purse collects



shoeboxes filled with toys and other fun items and delivers them to children around the world in partnership with local churches. Each gift is an opportunity for the Gospel to transform the life of a child, a family, and a community. Since

2012, our congregation has filled and shipped over 3,000 shoe boxes to countries such as Ukraine, Namibia, Madagascar, Togo, Jamaica, Peru, Zambia and Malawi. Leading up to National Collection Week in November, we will be collecting specific donations each month. We are looking for small gifts to fill shoeboxes for both boys and girls ages 10-14 years old. In the month of August we are asking for donations of school/art supplies including: SMALL notebooks, crayons, markers, solar calculators, pens, pencils with sharpeners, colored pencils, small coloring books, rulers and stickers. If you wish to donate monetarily, it costs \$10 to ship each box, and additional money is also used to buy additional items. Starting in August, supply donations may be dropped off near the church office in the gift box and monetary donations at the church office or in the offering box labeled "OCC"! We thank you in advance for your continued support! If you have any questions, please contact Lindsay Bader. **Check out our Amazon Wish List on Facebook or our church website to see suggestions for donated gifts. For ease, items can be directly shipped to a Lindsay Bader**

Are you looking to help at St. John's but not sure how?

We have something for you. We could use help with ushering, greeting, altar guild, etc). If you are new and you would like to help, or has God been tugging at your heart to help at church... we would love to hear from you. Just reach out... give the office a call.



Lake Le-Aqua-Na
Park Services
Saturdays at 6:30 p.m.
May 30-Sept 5, 2026
Hickory Hills Campground
Amphitheatre

Aug 29 Finding Grace
Sept 5 Deb Leininge

(In case of rain, service will be in the first shelter house when entering the park)

Time for a funny:

Who was the greatest babysitter in the Bible?



David—he rocked Goliath to sleep!

REMEMBERING OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Our college students have been busy this summer. Some are working part-time jobs, some are traveling abroad, some are teaching our youth at the park programs and day camps--so many things they get involved with. School is not much of a break for some that are taking online classes, getting certified. The list is endless with what our college students are doing. The summer is going fast, and we want to be ready when they are signed up for classes and heading back in the fall. We will continue to collect care package items, so that we can continue to wish them well, encourage them, and will miss having them around. You can help us do that. The goal is to send encouraging notes and care packages on a regular basis. There is a collection container in the Narthex. If you would be so kind, the next time you are out shopping, add a little extra to share with our college students. This will be an ongoing project for the school year so all seasonal items will be appreciated. Remember it should be easy to ship. Gift cards are especially welcomed. Below is a list of suggestions: Goldfish, Life Savers, Reese's, Cheetos, Gum, Pringles, Mentos, M&M's, Peanuts, Gift Cards—McDonald's, Starbuck's, Subway, Amazon, and the likes, Candy, Cookies, Beef Sticks Packets that just need water added like "to-go" drinks, mac & cheese, Ramen noodles. Cheese and cracker packets - - Individual packets of just about anything!!! If you have any questions, please talk to Brenda Offermann or Fawn Nolan. Thank you in advance!



Grief Support Group Opportunities

SSM Health:

September 2 – October 21, 2026

Wednesdays from 10:00 – 11:30am
Monroe Custom Engraving, 1005 30th St, Monroe

September 3 – October 22, 2026

Thursdays from 10:00 – 11:30am
SSM Health at Home Hospice Office
4639 Hammersley Rd, Madison

Handling the Holidays

This free program is for those grieving during the holiday season and will explore common holiday concerns, practical strategies for coping with the holidays, and ways to honor the memories of loved ones. Registration is requested.

Saturday, November 7, 2026

10:00am – 12:00pm
Monroe Custom Engraving, 1005 30th St., Monroe

FHN/ Mercyhealth:

First Steps Grief Support Group meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10am.

Living Through Grief Support Group meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday at 6pm.

Both groups are held at Mercyhealth Hospital- Freeport, 1045 W Stephenson St.

Looking for Volunteers to drive people to Dr's Appointments

We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to drive people who need a ride for doctor appointments. Typically the appointments are in Lena, Freeport, or Monroe. You can use the church van or your personal vehicle. Please let the office know if we can add your name to the list.



Current needs for the Stephenson County VA Pantry:

The following items are very low for the VA Pantry: Toilet Paper, Body Wash, Shampoo, Conditioner, Liquid hand soap, mouthwash, cans of fruit, peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti, canned tuna, canned chicken, canned ham. We can also use some gas cards and food gift cards. These have become our most requested items. Donations can be brought to the Lena American Legion Home on Saturdays from 10:00 to 11:00 at 316 W Main St., Lena. This list is immediate needs; however other items will always be accepted. Questions call Deb Holmes at 815-233-5284

COLLEGE STUDENTS: Don't forget to turn in your new college addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses to the church office once you have them. We look forward to staying connected with you whether near or far, on campus or off, living at home or in a dorm. Thank you!!

The Friendship Center is in great need of help. In fact, we are so much in need that we run the risk of having to close on certain days or for a period of time because of staff having medical procedures done and we don't have the staff to cover them. PLEASE, consider getting involved to help out. We need another 1-2 RN's (for long term), another CNA (for relief or subbing), van drivers, and another bus driver. These are all paid positions. The transportation route's hours are, generally, M through F, 7:30 to 9 and 3:15-4:30. These times fluctuate a bit depending on the day. Drivers do not have to do both shifts in a day but certainly can. Whatever fits into your schedule. We also need bus aides. This is a VOLUNTEER position. Please contact Jenny or Denise at the Friendship Center at 815-369-2690, or Michelle at 815-369-4035 to see where you can help. For bus drivers, you do not need a special endorsement on your license to drive. You just need a clean driving record and willingness to help.