

October31/ November 1, 2026

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

Many, Lord, are asking, "Who will bring us prosperity?" Let the light of your face **shine** on us. Psalm 4:6

SATURDAY (31) 5:30 PM Worship with Communion
(Daylight Savings Time Ends)

SUNDAY (1) 8:00 & 10:30 AM Worship with Communion
9:15 AM Adult Bible Class
9:15 AM Blast/ Jr- Sr High
9:15 AM Women In the Word

MONDAY (2)

TUESDAY (3) **8:30- 1:00 PM Beef and Noodle Bazaar**
7:00 PM Elders Meeting

WEDNESDAY (4) Shut In 6 Dave 3 T & M Bannon
9:30 AM Women's Bible Study
1:00 PM Card Party
6:00 PM Weekday School

THURSDAY (5) 6:30 PM Bell Choir Practice
7:30 PM Canticle Choir Practice

FRIDAY (6) 6:30 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study

SATURDAY (7) 5:30 PM Worship
5:30 PM Bell Choir

SUNDAY (8) 8:00 & 10:30 AM Worship
9:15 AM Blast/ Jr-Sr High
9:15 AM Adult Bible Class
9:15 AM Women In The Word

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: Sat: 48 Sun 8AM: 66 10:30AM: 100 = 214

GENERAL CHECKING CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK: $9,118.50



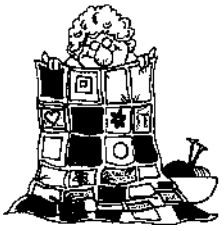
Flowers are placed on the altar in celebration of Wayne and Carol Westaby's 74th wedding anniversary. May you feel God's love and blessings on your special day.

CHRISTIAN ONE-LINER *"How sweet is rest, after fatigue! How sweet will Heaven be, when our toilsome journey is ended." – George Whitefield*

Living Stewardship

Are you cheerful in your heart about giving your offering to the Lord, or is it a task? Do you pray about the amount you give and respond to the extra blessings God has given you during the previous week? If you receive a raise at work, do you increase your giving proportionately? It is traditional to make an offering as a way to show our gratitude to the giver of all gifts. Are we going through the motions, or is our heart in our giving?

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.

Directories are Available



Would you like a paper directory of those at St. John's Church? They are currently located on the table in the Narthex. We will keep printing them until needed. If one isn't available, keep checking the table because we will keep printing more.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS NEEDED!

We will soon begin our family Christmas shopping. If you are interested in being a shopper for a needy family please contact Michelle at the church office by November 9th (or ASAP). We'll fill you in on the details.

ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL BAZAAR AND BEEF & NOODLE DINNER: Please plan to attend this event November 3rd, 2026. The Bazaar opens at 8:30 a.m. and features a variety of homemade products: baked goods, noodles, candy, and crafts. The Bazaar will again feature a Hospitality Room with coffee and baked goods. Dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Dine-in meals will include beef and noodles, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, Jello salads, relishes, dinner rolls, brownies, dessert, coffee, or milk – all for $15. Drive-thru carry-outs will also be available. The carry-out meals will vary slightly and include applesauce instead of Jello. We also will raffle a beautiful quilt and a wall hanging (tickets $2 each). Flu shots and blood pressure screenings will not be available. Hope to see you there!

Signup sheets are now posted! Your time and talent are essential to the success of this fundraiser. Everyone has been blessed with something to give. If you would like to help or have any questions, please contact one of the bazaar chairpersons: Anita Mau 815-541-9062 or Steve Levan 815-275-3606. Look for the sign-up sheet which will be in the Narthex.

The 2026 Bazaar updates!! There are still a few opportunities to help with our Bazaar and Dinner on November 3rd. Check the dividers in the narthex. People are still needed to sign up for the positions highlighted in yellow.

Set-up & tear down help is especially needed. We will set up the Fellowship Hall/Dining Room on Saturday, Oct. 31 at 9:00. Setting of tables will happen next at 10:30. The remaining setup will happen on Sunday, Nov. 1 beginning at 11:30 a.m. If you are available to help tear everything back down and return things to "normal", we would love your help on Bazaar Day – Tuesday, Nov. 3rd at 1:15 p.m. Again, the sign-up sheets are on the rolling divider in the narthex.

There is still a need for more brownies or bars (all w/o nuts) and for Jell-O. Only half the quantity needed has been signed up for. We also require a few more items for the Hospitality Room. Also, please consider providing candy, baked goods, and/or crafts for the Bazaar.

If you have consented to help:

· The arrival time for your responsibility is posted on the sign-up sheets.

· Please park in the grass behind the Sanctuary, weather and space permitting

Looking for Donations

We are looking for donations of coffee cake, muffins, or donuts for the Hospitality Room for the bazaar on November 3rd. If you are able to donate it would be greatly appreciated.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (OCC):
We are so grateful for your continued donations, love, and support for this ministry!
We THANK YOU!

- In the month of OCTOBER, we are looking for SMALL TOYS: balloons, cars, card games, musical instruments/whistles, puzzles, jump ropes, balls, travel games, playdoh, stuffed animals, etc.
- Take a look at the thermometers for other needed supplies.
- Monetary donations can be labeled "OCC" and placed in the offering box or given to the church office.
- Check out our OCC AMAZON WISH LIST on our church website/Facebook!
- SAVE THE DATE: Our Shoebox Packing Party will be Wednesday, **November 11th at 6pm during Week Day School.** Join us in the fellowship hall as we pack the love of St. John's! All are welcome!

Current needs for the Stephenson County VA Pantry:
The following items are very low for the VA Pantry: Cans of Soup, Cans of Vegetables, Cans of Fruit, Ramen Noodles, Shampoo and Conditioner, Body Wash, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, and Laundry Soap. 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



Hunger Luncheon
Friday November 13th
Located at the St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Freeport
$25 per seat/ $200 per table (8 seats)
RSVP by Friday November 6th
Doors open at 11:30, Lunch at 12:00, Program 12:30- 1:00pm

Why couldn't they play cards on the Ark?

Noah was always standing on the deck.



REMEMBERING OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS



Our college students have a couple of months under their belts at school by now. They have been making decisions, studying, and adjusting to life on campus. We want them to know that they are not forgotten by their friends and family at St. John's, and we look forward to seeing them soon over the upcoming holidays. 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. We have had a tremendous outpour for the fall season that we appreciate enormously. Remember it should be easy to ship. 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 and the likes - Candy - Cookies - Beef Sticks - Packets that just need water added like 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. There is a collection container in the Narthex area for you to place your love donations.

NOTICE: As church leaders continue to find ways to cut costs, one of the budget items that can be trimmed is the cost of printing contribution envelopes. If you give in other ways, (electronically, automatic withdrawal, etc.) and don't use the physical envelopes that are put in your boxes annually, please let Michelle know in the office so we can update that information in our files and hopefully cut down on our envelope order. Thank you!

MAKE-A-SMILE CARDS FOR LENA LIVING CENTER – We would like to have **November Cards,** using a **Thanksgiving 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 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



The Lena American Legion Auxiliary will once again be putting up a window display of area veterans and currently serving military during the month of November. Pictures need to be submitted by October 28 and can be sent to PO Box 21, Lena, IL 61048 or dropped off at the Lena American Legion Home on Saturdays from10 to 11 am. Pictures will not be returned.

Make sure you stop at Klein's Repair in Lena during November to see who has been added to the window this year.

- Julia Moore-815/369-4684

An Excerpt from the Executive Director of Illinois Family Institute—David E. Smith
"For years, one of the most troubling realities in American public life has been the quiet retreat of Christians from civic engagement. *Millions of Believers—people who pray, attend church, and affirm biblical truth—regularly fail to vote. Some feel politics is too ugly. Others think their vote will not matter. Still others have been convinced that faith should stay out of the public square altogether.*

But that retreat has come at a tremendous cost.
Our system of self-government does not operate by the will of the majority, but by the will of ***those who show up****. When Christians stay home during the Primary, General or midterm Elections, a vacuum is created for secularists, humanists, and atheists to fill. The result is not neutrality, but laws and policies increasingly hostile to biblical truth, the family, and human dignity.*

God did not design us to be spectators in the affairs of our nation. Scripture teaches that He established institutions such as the family, the church, and civil government for the good of human society. In a constitutional republic, citizens ***are not passive subjects; they are stewards.*** *Voting is one of the most direct ways we exercise that stewardship……."*

On the table in the narthex/hallway are voting guides from the Illinois Family Institute. They simply show the voting records of our politicians currently running for reelection or running for office this November 3rd . We at St. John's are not suggesting to you HOW you should vote, but putting information in your hands to help you decide for whom you might vote. But please do vote. It matters.