

November 21/22, 2026

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

You, Lord, are my lamp; the Lord turns my darkness into **light**.
2 Samuel 22:29

SATURDAY (21) 5:30 PM Worship

SUNDAY (22)
8:00 AM Worship
10:30 AM Celebration Worship
9:15 AM Adult Bible Class
9:15 AM Blast/ Jr- Sr High
9:15 AM Women In the Word

MONDAY (23)

TUESDAY (24)
10:00 AM Stitching Blessings
11:00 AM Church Staff Meeting

WEDNESDAY (25)
Shut In 3 Dave 6 Jenny
9:30 AM Women's Bible Study
1:00 PM Card Party
NO Weekday School
7:00 Thanksgiving Eve Service

THURSDAY (26) **Happy Thanksgiving!!**

FRIDAY (27) No Men's Breakfast Bible Study

SATURDAY (28)
9:00 AM Decorate for Christmas
5:30 PM Worship

SUNDAY (29)
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: 51 Sun 8AM: 95 10:30AM: 72 = 218

GENERAL CHECKING CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK: $4,413.00



Flowers are placed on the altar in thankfulness from Mark and Anita Mau for family, friends and the endless blessings God has granted to us as we celebrate another year of marriage. Happy Thanksgiving!

CHRISTIAN ONE-LINER "God cannot give us happiness and peace apart from himself because it is not there. There is no such thing." – C.S. Lewis

Living Stewardship



Stewardship has a built in tension. This balances the individual good and the common good. Do you recall pictures of our earth taken by the astronauts? We have never seen ourselves from this point of view. It makes us realize that we are a global village. We are reminded that we are a single family. We do have a ways to go yet, however, until we realize and live the implications of this fact. We do need certain things- food, clothing, shelter. We are individuals, but we depend on others and they on us. (Here we see the delicate balance of God.) What the community needs and what the individual requires are possible sources of friction. Stewardship, properly used, protects and promotes the individual and the common good in as balanced a fashion as possible.

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

Kids Christmas Program Information:
Wednesday December 2, 3rd grade through 8th grade start practicing on Wednesdays starting at 6:00pm.

Beginning Wednesday December 9th, all kids from 1st grade through 8th grade will practice on Wednesdays starting at 6:00pm

DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS–
Saturday, November 28th, we will be decorating the church for the celebration of Christ's birth. Tentatively, we will begin at 9:00 am and be done before 12:00 Noon. If we can all pitch in, it may even go faster.



2027 Flower Chart

The 2027 flower chart is now posted in the Narthex. Please take a couple of minutes to sign your name and reserve the weekend of your choice to provide altar flowers. Thank you to everyone who provided altar flowers in 2026. **Note: the November and December 2026 chart is also on the board with a few open spots still available.**

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.



Church Directories are Available in the Narthex on the table. After this week I will move extras to the office. If you'd like one after that just stop in and pick one up or let the office know and we will put one in your mailbox. A reminder that there are directories available in pdf form if you would like one emailed to you instead.

Advent Calendars

Advent calendars are located on the table in the Narthex for your taking. We have adult devotional advent books for adults, and advent calendars for kids. Please help yourself.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides one-time benefits to income eligible homeowners and renters to help with energy bills and for reconnection of energy service. Applications being accepted NOW! Income eligible LIHEAP customers of Ameren Illinois, ComEd, Nicor Gas, North Shore Gas and Peoples Gas will receive a monthly discount on their natural and/or electric bill through the Low Income Discount Rates. Please call the NICAA Main Office at 815-232-3141 or Toll Free at 800-883-1111 to receive information on outreach locations and schedules, and for information on what documents are needed to apply and different ways to submit your application.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25th AT 7:00 PM!!



Thanksgiving is a time of gratitude on our part for all the blessings God has given us in Christ Jesus. These blessings revolve around our physical, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing. We are inviting and encouraging all our families to set aside this time for worship, praise, and thanksgiving! As a part of our Thanksgiving celebration for the multitude and variety of our blessings—we use this opportunity to return a portion of our blessings to help others.

We do this through a "PROCESSIONAL OFFERING" where each family comes forward with their gift of food or cash to present to the Lord to help others. The food and cash gathered is put to use through the Le-Win Food Pantry serving our area communities.

Items needed: Canned Foods—Meat, Meat Entrees, Soups, Vegetables, Fruits
Boxed Foods—Cereal, Mac & Cheese, Pudding, Hamburger Helper
Personal Hygiene Items---Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Bar Soap, Shampoo, Disposable Razors, Other Items—Toilet Paper, Laundry Detergent, Dish Detergent
<No Homemade Items Please—by law we cannot distribute them, and please, no open items> Remember your blessings! Then share your blessings!

Women in the Word:



If you are a lady looking for a place for a group to have fellowship. Women in the Word just started a series of studying 31 Women in the Bible. We meet at 9:15 on Sunday mornings in Matthew. Come join anytime. **This week we will be talking about Rebekah "Practically Perfect in Every Way".**

Holiday Cookie Walk

Lena Methodist Church, 118 W Mason St, will be hosting a holiday cookie walk on Saturday December 5th from 3pm- 6pm. They are $7 per pound.

Current needs for the Stephenson County VA Pantry as stock is very low.

Cans of Meat-tuna, chicken, ham, etc.
Cans Vegetables
Cans Fruit
Ramen Noodle
Mac and Cheese
Spaghetti
Shampoo & Conditioner
Body Wash
Liquid hand soap
Laundry soap
Toilet Paper
Paper Towels
Bath towels
Any pantry items will be gladly accepted.

Donations can be brought to the Lena American Legion Home on Saturdays from 10:00 to 11:00 at 316 W. Main St., Lena. Donations are greatly appreciated. This list is immediate needs; however other items will always be accepted.
Questions call 815-369-4684

Celebration of Life- Remembering our loved ones this holiday season

We invite the community to join us for **Celebration of Life,** our annual remembrance service held to honor those we have loved and whose memories we now hold dearly in our hearts. Please join us for this special evening of community connection filled with music, reflections, and heartfelt remembrance. Registration is not required, and the service is open to all.

Tuesday, December 1, 2026
6:00 pm - Celebration of Life remembrance service
6:45 pm - Reception to follow in Fellowship Hall
Monroe United Methodist Church
2227 4th Street, Monroe, WI 53566

Virtual Option

If preferred, join the service virtually by searching "Monroe United Methodist Church (WI)" on YouTube

MAKE-A-SMILE CARDS FOR LENA LIVING CENTER – We would like to have **December Cards,** using a **Advent/ Christmas 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



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!

Food Drive for the Vets

During the month of November the Lions Club is having a food drive for the veterans. They are looking for food and toiletry items. A box is located outside of the church office. Any help would be greatly appreciated.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: Another year of Operation Christmas Child is in the books! We packed 300 shoeboxes! We pray that the love from our St. John's family helps warm the hearts of children, families, and communities around the world. May they feel and learn of the promise and "Good News, Great Joy" of their Lord and Savior. To date, St. John's has packed almost 3,500 boxes! GOD IS SO GOOD! Again, THANK YOU to the gracious hearts of many for all the donations to make this possible! Stay tuned to hear what country/countries our shoeboxes go!

Kings Kids Christmas Party

All King's Kids (ages K-5th grade) are invited to attend our Christmas Party on Sunday, December 13th from 11:30am-1:30pm. Lunch will be provided. We will have games, crafts, and fun as we sing "Happy Birthday Jesus"

Friendship Center needs RN's

Due to our current RN's needing to be scheduled off for various reasons in the upcoming months, we are once again in need of permanent- part time, and temporary substitute RN's. Please, if you are an RN, or know of any RN's in the local area that might consider helping at the Friendship Center, please call either Jenny or Denise at the Friendship Center at 815-369-2690 or Michelle in the office at 815-369-4035.