



September 5/6, 2026

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

even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will **shine** like the day,
for darkness is as light to you. Psalm 139:12

SATURDAY (5)

SUNDAY (6)

MONDAY (7)

TUESDAY (8)

WEDNESDAY (9)

THURSDAY (10)

FRIDAY (11)

SATURDAY (12)

SUNDAY (13)

5:30 PM Worship with Holy Communion
8:00 & 10:30 AM Worship with Holy Communion
8:00 & 10:30 AM Canticle Choir
9:15 AM Adult Bible Class
Happy Labor Day (office closed)
5:30 PM Board of Trustees Meeting
Pastor Circuit Meeting
10:00 AM Stitching Blessings
11:00 AM Church Staff Meeting
1:00 PM Caregiver Support
3:00 & 6:00 PM Bible Journaling
6:00 PM Altar Guild Meeting
Shut In 4 Dave 1 Michelle
9:30 AM Women's Bible Study
1:00 PM Card Party
10:00 AM Worship at Serenity Estates
6:30 PM Bell Choir Practice
7:30 PM Canticle Choir Practice
6:30 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study
5:30 PM Worship
8:00 & 10:30 AM Worship
8:00 & 10:30 AM Bell Choir
9:15 AM Adult Bible Class
9:15 Blast/ Jr-Sr High
9:15 AM Women in the Word
Mary Ann Keith use of Fellowship Hall

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: Sat: 63 Sun 8AM: 73 10:30AM: 76 = 212

GENERAL CHECKING CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK: \$8666.40



Flowers are placed on the altar this week given by Pat Brown in memory of her husband Don Brown, for what would have been their 61st wedding anniversary on September 4th. May you feel God's blessings on your special day.

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

Luke 17:17–19 – *"Then Jesus answered... 'Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' And he said to him, 'Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.'" Faith and thanksgiving go together. How could they not go together? Our Lord gave Himself for us and we trust Him and His every Word. Once we have this faith, we want to say thank you — it's only natural. Thus, our stewardship is a natural part of the Christian faith. We thank the Lord with our gifts which enable the church to reach more people with the Good News of Christ.*



The Friendship Center is in DIRE 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 we don't have enough staff. PLEASE, consider getting involved to help out. We need another 1-2 RN's (for long term), another CNA (for relief or subbing), at least 2 more 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.

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.

Northern Illinois Food Truck dates:

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

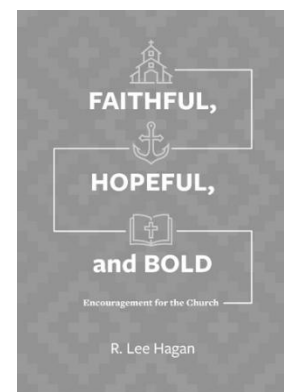
10/27- Orangeville - Jane Addams Trail



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



Adult Bible Study:
Encouragement for the church
Sunday- 9:15-10:15
With Pastor Shaw- Starts September 20th



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (OCC): Thank you for your outpouring of school supply



donations for our Operation Christmas Child ministry! SEPTEMBER is PERSONAL HYGIENE MONTH—tooth brushes, wash clothes, girl's hair items, combs/brushes, travel Kleenex, dental floss/picks, etc. NO TOOTHPASTE, LIQUIDS, LOTIONS,

OR BARS OF SOAP! Check out our Amazon Wish List posted on Facebook and our church website for other requested box fillers; for ease of shipping, all Amazon items can be directly shipped to Lindsay Bader. Donations may be dropped off near the church office in the gift box! Check out the 'thermometers' in the Narthex for needed supplies. If you would rather donate monetarily, please write checks to St. John's Church, and 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! **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.



Let's Get Moving!

Want a fun way to get healthier alongside your brothers and sisters in Christ? Then join the Let's Get Moving Challenge organized by the LCMS Northern Illinois District! The 4-week challenge is simple: move your body for 10 minutes a day, 5 days a week. If it gets you moving, it counts! No gym required, no special equipment – just move! Anyone in the Northern Illinois District can participate; all ages and abilities are welcome. Each week, submit an online check-in form to be entered for weekly prizes, courtesy of the District. The challenge runs from August 31 – September 27. Learn more details, get ideas on ways to move, and access the weekly check-in form at the Challenge webpage: <https://www.nidlcms.org/lets-get-moving-challenge>

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!!

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.

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

Lifeline Coalition Banquet:

Be part of an evening that honors the beauty and dignity of every life when you attend Lifeline Coalition's Annual Fundraising Banquet at Park Hills Church – 2525 W Stephenson St, Freeport, IL. This indoor event will be held this summer on Thursday, September 10th and Friday, September 11th @ 6:30 p.m.

Meet Mark Schultz: A Story of Hope

Mark Schultz is a platinum-selling, Dove Award-winning artist whose career spans nearly three decades and includes thirteen number one radio hits. But even with his success in music, Mark considers sharing his personal adoption story to be one of his greatest privileges. Mark's hit song, "Everything to Me," was inspired by his gratitude for his birth mother and has become a source of encouragement for countless women facing difficult decisions. Today, Mark is passionate about using his story to support organizations that save and transform lives- because he knows firsthand that he is one of those lives.

Tickets available at Lifeline Coalition's website, or call 815-232-5433

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.