



October 3/4, 2026

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

The moon will **shine** like the sun, and the sunlight will be seven times brighter, like the light of seven full days, when the Lord binds up the bruises of his people and heals the wounds he inflicted.

Isaiah 30:26

SATURDAY (3)	5:30 PM Worship with Holy Communion 11 AM Bonnie Broge Committal
SUNDAY (4)	8:00 & 10:30 AM Worship with Holy Communion 8:00 & 10:30 AM Canticle Choir 9:15 AM Adult Bible Class 9:15 AM Blast/ Jr- Sr High 9:15 AM Women In the Word
MONDAY (5)	2:00 PM Bible Prayer Journaling 4:00 PM Noodle Making
TUESDAY (6)	10:00 AM Stitching Blessings 11:00 AM Church Staff Meeting 3:00- 4:30 PM N IL Food Truck- St John's 7:00 PM Board of Elders
WEDNESDAY (7)	Shut In 2 Sid 5 Fawn 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study 1:00 PM Card Party 3:00 PM Noodle bagging 6:00 PM Weekday School
THURSDAY (8)	10:00 AM Worship at Serenity Estates 6:30 PM Bell Choir Practice 7:30 PM Canticle Choir Practice
FRIDAY (9)	6:30 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study
SATURDAY (10)	5:30 PM Worship
SUNDAY (11)	8:00 & 10:30 AM Worship 8:00 & 10:30 AM Bell Choir 9:15 AM Blast/ Jr-Sr High 9:15 AM Adult Bible Class 9:15 AM Women In The Word

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: Sat: 52 Sun 8AM: 68 10:30AM: 111 = 231

GENERAL CHECKING CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK: \$16,002.40



Flowers are placed on the altar this week from Tracy Robieson in loving memory of Warren and Pauline Saxby.

CHRISTIAN ONE-LINER *"I would rather be what God chose to make me than the most glorious creature that I could think of; for to have been thought about, born in God's thought, and then made by God, is the dearest, grandest and most precious thing in all thinking." – George MacDonald*

Living Stewardship

Stewardship of Time : Our time is one of the greatest gifts God gives us, yet it is also one of the easiest to take for granted. Each day brings opportunities to serve our families, our congregation, our neighbors, and those in need. Stewardship of time does not necessarily mean adding another activity to an already busy schedule. It may simply mean being intentional about how we use the time God has given us. A few minutes spent visiting someone who is lonely, helping a neighbor, praying for others, or encouraging a fellow Christian can be a wonderful act of stewardship.



Stewardship

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.

**Adult Bible Study:
Encouragement for the church
Sunday- 9:15-10:15**

With Pastor Shaw- Starts September 20th



Northern Illinois Food Truck dates:

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

10/27- Orangeville - Jane Addams Trail

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 will be posted soon! There are several ways you can help with this year's Bazaar and Beef & Noodle Dinner. Could you make a Jello salad or brownies for the dinner? Or maybe you could make items for the Bazaar. This event gives us an opportunity to connect with a lot of people in our local communities. To do this large project, we require many helping hands. We need volunteers for various tasks on Saturday (10/31), Sunday (11/1) and Tuesday (11/3) if you are available to help. 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 is coming soon!! We are looking for our church community (including individuals, bible study groups, Blast, Kings Kids, etc.) to consider how they can help with making candy, crafts, or baked goods to donate to this event. We look forward to seeing the unique crafts and the talent of our church family. Candy Room - all your sweet treats are welcome! Examples and favorites include fudge (with and/or without nuts), barks, brittles, buckeyes, caramels, etc. Baked Goods Room – examples include breads, cookies, pies, cakes/cupcakes, snack mixes and anything else yummy. (If you are able, please package your items for sale and list any “food allergy sensitive” ingredients). Craft Room – Fall stuff, Christmas stuff, knitted/crocheted stuff, sewn stuff... be creative! Let's see how many great things we can have at our event for people to take home! Craft items can be dropped off at the church any time prior to the Bazaar. Candy and Baked Goods can be dropped off starting Sunday Nov 1.

SAVE THE DATE: HALLOWEEN PARTY AT SERENITY ESTATES

- Sunday, October 18th, 1-3pm: All St. John's kids are invited to Serenity Estates-Lena (Lena Nursing Home) for BINGO, fun, and treats with the residents. Wear your costume! There will be a costume contest!

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!

SAVE THE DATE: ST. JOHN'S TRUNK OR TREAT

- Join us for our annual community wide Trunk or Treat on **Sunday, October 27th!** Meet in the church fellowship hall at 3:30pm for a short devotion. Trunk or Treating starts at 4pm in our church parking lot. Bring your friends and family!
- **"TRUNKERS"**: WE NEED YOU! We are looking for people who are willing to decorate their trunk for our treaters during our community Trunk or Treat! Please line up in the church parking lot by 3:30pm and the treating will begin at 4pm. Please sign-up on the church office window or by calling the church office if you would be willing to decorate your trunk!

MAKE-A-SMILE CARDS FOR LENA LIVING CENTER – We would like to have **October Cards**, using a **All things for the season of Fall** 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



Why did the priest giggle during his homily?

He had Mass hysteria.





Fall Bake Sale Fundraiser

November 17th from 9:00am- 1:30pm

Helm Truck and Equipment
(2290 Business Rt 20, Freeport)

Crafts, Cakes, Pies, Brownies and more



All Proceeds raised will be matched and donated to a deserving family

REMEMBERING OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Our college students are off and running with a new year at college. They have been busy signing up for classes, packing and moving, and settling in to their new schedule. We want to send a welcome to them as soon as we get their new addresses letting them know we continue to pray for them, and miss having them around. You can help us do that. The yearly goal is to send encouraging notes and care packages on a regular basis. There is a collection container in the Narthex for you to place your love donations. If you would be so kind, the next time you are out shopping, please add a little something 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. 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 Cheese and cracker packets

Packets that just need water added like "to-go" drinks, mac & cheese, Ramen noodles

Individual packets of just about anything!!!

If you have any questions, please talk to Brenda Offermann or Fawn Nolan. Thank you in advance!

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 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 20 and can be sent to PO Box 21, Lena, IL 61048 or dropped off at the Lena American Legion Home on Saturdays from 10 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

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: 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