

LET YOUR  
LIGHT SHINE



**May 17/18, 2025**

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

Then the righteous will **shine** like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.

Whoever has ears, let them hear.

Matthew 13:43

**SATURDAY (17)**

5:30 PM Worship with Holy Communion

**SUNDAY (18)**

**High School Graduate Recognition**

8:00 & 10:30AM Worship with Holy Communion

9:15 AM Jr/ Sr High/ Blast/ Moms United

9:15 Adult Bible Class

**MONDAY (19)**

3:00 PM Bible Journaling

6:00 PM Bible Journaling

**TUESDAY (20)**

9:30 AM Friendship Board Meeting

10:00 AM Stitching Blessing

11:00 AM Church Staff Meeting

3:00 PM Thrift Store Board Meeting

6:30 PM Evangelism Meeting

6:30 PM Contemporary Rehearsal (?)

**WEDNESDAY (21)**

Shut In 2 Sid 5 Fawn

9:30 AM Women's Bible Study

1:00 PM Card Party

**THURSDAY (22)**

**Newsletter Deadline**

1:30 PM Women's Society

**FRIDAY (23)**

6:30 AM Men's Bible study breakfast

**SATURDAY (24)**

5:30 PM Worship

**SUNDAY (25)**

8:00 AM Worship

10:30 AM Celebration Worship (?)

9:15 AM Jr/ Sr High/ Blast/ Moms United

9:15 AM Adult Bible Class

**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: SAT: 73 SUN 8AM: 110 10:30AM: 105 = 288**



Flowers are placed on the altar by Sue Schaefer with thankfulness and feeling blessed for all who have prayed and helped them through all of Roger's health issues.

**CHRISTIAN ONE-LINER** "Believe in yourself, and the rest will fall into place. Have faith in your own abilities, work hard, and there is nothing you cannot accomplish." — Brad Henry

## **Living Stewardship**



*"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." (JOHN 13:34) "As I have loved you," this is the hard part for Stewards – Jesus's love is unconditional; our love usually comes with strings attached. It is easy to love someone when they love you back. But it takes mercy and compassion to love someone when you feel unappreciated, feel used or feel like your opinion doesn't matter. It takes courage and the grace of God to "love my neighbor" when they may be someone you don't like, someone you don't know, or someone that doesn't look like you.*



## **LENA FOOD PANTRY**

We are still looking for individuals from St John's to volunteer their time on a *rotational basis* the FIRST Saturday of the month from 8:20 to 11:30 am. We have had a few people step forward to fill this need and we are so thankful. The more we have, the less anyone has to commit. Right now, it's looking like a volunteer would serve 3 or 4 Saturdays in a year's time on whatever schedule works for you. We are still taking volunteers so call the church office if you'd like to be on the rotation.

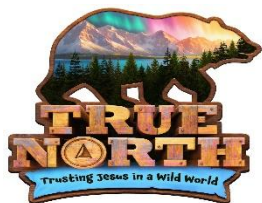
## **MY FRIEND'S CLOSET**

I am currently looking for 1 or 2 to help in the backroom with donations that could help in the morning. **I am also in need of help carrying the bags from the store to the trailer.** This is something that is done daily and it takes about 5 minutes. Carrying the bags could be done by High schoolers needing volunteer hours, or anyone that would be able to move them. This can be done during any time that the store is open. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

## **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. Your help is very much appreciated!!





We can **"BEARLY"** wait! St. John's will be hosting Vacation Bible School (VBS) August 4-8th from 2:30-5pm. Our theme this year is *True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World*! We are currently seeking volunteers to help direct stations, be crew leaders, and be general helpers. Contact Lindsay Bader (815-291-9637) if you are interested in

helping or have any questions. Please check out our VBS Amazon Wish List for requested supplies! The link is posted on our church website at [stjohnslena.org](http://stjohnslena.org) and on our church Facebook page. We are also looking for donations of small tin/soup cans and brown shipping paper (any size-like the brown paper that comes in Amazon boxes). There is a collection box in the entry hall.

## **YOUR NEW DIRECTORY INCLUDES A MOBILE APP!!**

**1) Download** the **myUCD** App from the App Store or Google Play.

- With your smart phone touch the App Store icon for your type of phone (Apple Store or Google Play) then search for: "Universal Church Directory"
- The App is called **myUCD**
- Click on the "GET" or "INSTALL" button
- When the App has finished installing, click "OPEN"

**2) Enter** your family's UNIQUE IDENTIFIER

- A **Unique Identifier** was sent to the heads-of-household whose email was listed.
- If you did not receive an email please call Michelle at church office
- Enter unique Identifier
- Click on the gray "Download My Church Directory" button (there may be a few seconds delay)

**3) Begin** using your Church App Features

Staff      Online Giving      Announcements   Email Us      **Directory in Full**  
Call Us      Watch Services      YouVersion Bible Calendar

It appears Announcements and the Calendar aren't operational at the moment. But everything else works great! And we can add more as needed. Please contact the office with any corrections needed.

**4) Desktop Version:** Go to **directory.ucdir.com**, Enter unique identifier and hit **Go**.

Prompts will appear to create your own Username & Password. Click on "Create Account".

**We can also ADD anyone to the directory with your own picture submission at any time. Let the office know if you'd like to be included.**

**Notice of Change of Date:**

**Women's Society will meet May 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM, not May 22<sup>nd</sup>**

## Current needs for the Stephenson County VA Pantry:

The following items are very low for the VA Pantry: **Paper towels, crackers, Kleenex, Dish Soap, Laundry Soap, and Toilet Tissue**

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 Deb Holmes at 815-233-5284



**MAKE-A-SMILE CARDS FOR LENA LIVING CENTER** – We would like to have **June** Cards, using a **Summer Celebration or Father's Day** 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 **10<sup>th</sup> of each month**. Thank you in advance for your willingness a being part of this venture. For questions, please contact the church office.



Northern IL Food Truck will be in Lena at St John's on June 10<sup>th</sup>  
from 3-4:30 PM

## The 2025 FLOWER CHART

is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Take a couple minutes to sign up for the weekend of your choice to provide flowers for the altar. More than one party is welcome to provide flowers for the same weekend. We appreciate all who have provided flowers and who will again be willing to decorate the altar in the coming year.



## Looking for Help



We are looking for someone who would be interested in taking the lead role of funeral lunches. This person would be guided through the role of leadership until you feel comfortable with the process. If this sounds like something you would be able to help with, please contact the church office. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

### **International Gideon Day of Prayer**

You are invited to a morning of prayer, fellowship, and breakfast in observing the  
International Day of Prayer  
Saturday June 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:45am  
At the Beltline Café (Basement)  
325 W South St, Freeport  
RSVP to Gary Pieper by 6/3/25 at [gjtspiep@yahoo.com](mailto:gjtspiep@yahoo.com)

### **Strawberry Social**

**June 4<sup>th</sup> from 4:30- 7:00pm**

**St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 410 W Lena St**

**Meal includes: Barbecue or Ham Sandwich, baked beans, chips,  
and Strawberry pie, shortcake, or sunday**



### ***Memorial Day Breakfast***

***Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup> from 7:00- 9:30am***

***Lena American Legion Home***

***Eggs, French toast, biscuits and gravy, coffee cake***





## ***Kids Corner: Rest and Recharge: Following Jesus' Example in a Digital World***

Think about your average day. How much time do you spend on your cell phone, tablet, or computer? Do you watch TV in the evenings or play video games with friends?

While we enjoy using technology, we have to balance it with *intentional rest*. Intentional rest is time that we set aside to turn off our phones or computers. Intentional rest helps us “fill our cup,” which means doing activities that make us happy and recharged. Maybe that means praying, resting, or being with friends and family.

Cell phones, social media, and instant messaging make us feel we must always be available to everyone. That is not healthy for us. God created us with bodies that need rest; even Jesus himself rested! In the Bible, Jesus spends many moments alone in prayer ([Matthew 14:22-23](#)). Prayer can help us recharge when we're tired. Try following Christ's example by getting away from distractions, like turning off your phone and spending time in prayer. Treat your relationship with God like a relationship with a parent or friend, and make time for him each day.

Jesus also rested *with* his friends. In Mark 6:31, Jesus told his disciples, “Let's go to a place where we can be alone and get some rest.” For me, seeing my best friend helps me to “fill my cup.” Perhaps you feel the same about your cousin or neighbor. Spending face-to-face time with loved ones helps to deepen our relationships. Next time you see your friend, try doing activities that don't involve technology, like playing outside or making crafts.

While technology is an important way to stay connected, we can also follow in Jesus' footsteps by disconnecting, prioritizing rest, and spending one-on-one time with those who help us feel our best.

Prayer

*God, help us remember that you created us to need rest. Help us recharge, refresh ourselves in you, and follow the example of your Son Jesus in building intentional relationships. Amen.*