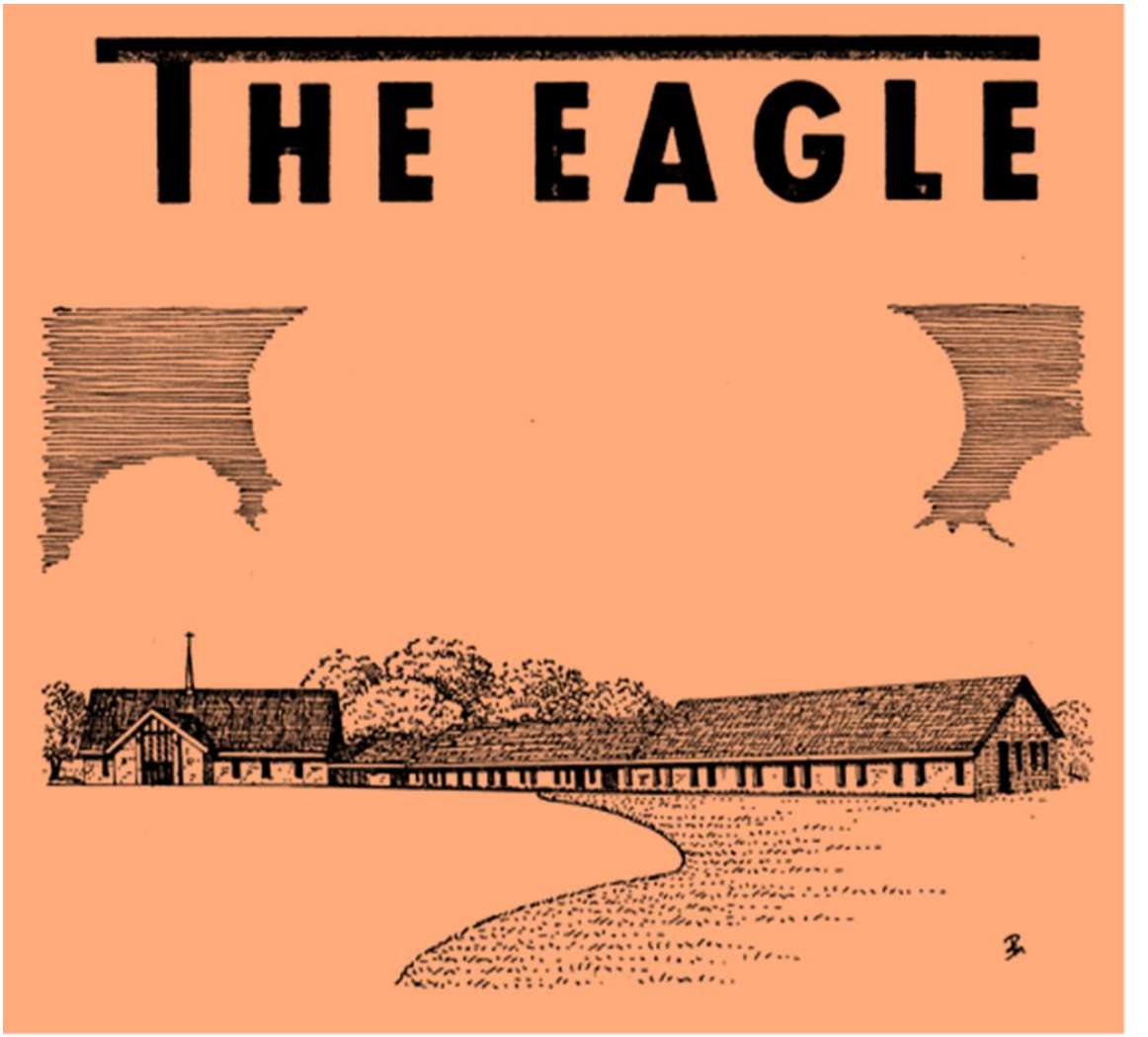
THE EAGLE



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
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Church Phone: 815-369-4035
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Web Site: http://www.stjohnslena.org

Worship Services: 8:00 & 10:30 A.M.
Saturday Evening Worship Service 5:30 P.M.
BLAST 9:00 A.M.
E-Mail: office@stjohnslena.org

THE EAGLE
NOVEMBER 2026
FROM PASTOR'S DESK
"ALL" Saints Day

The month of November launches with a great theological proclamation that many not only fail to recognize but otherwise misunderstand. This year, it falls on both the first Sunday and the first day of the month. I'm referring to All Saints Day.

The frequent churchgoer will recall that, within the context of worship on this day, we rightly chime the bells and speak the names of those who have "flown away" (Psalm 90:10) heaven bound within the past year. This act of commemorating the saints is good and proper. The issue is not with the rite itself but with our understanding of it. In particular, the challenge is in our interpretation of the term, "saint."

What comes to your mind when you hear the mention of a "saint?" Most would answer this question with a response similar to, "A saint is a deceased person who, when living, was very righteous, holy, devout, charitable, and a doer of exceptional good works." Others might add to this definition, "It's the kind of person the Christian faith names institutions or buildings after, or commissions marble statues in their likeness." The prerequisite, of course, is the persons death, which almost universally is traced way-back in history. Examples might include St. Peter, St. Paul, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Joseph, St. Mary Magdalene, St. Thomas Aquinas, etc.

An additional challenge is revealed in how casually we throw out the term "saint" to define someone who is nice or easy to get along with. Of this person, we often say, "She's such a saint."

So *what* or *who* is a saint?

It may be surprising but God's answer from scripture is clear. YOU are a saint! Your Baptismal certificate is evidence. It is in Christ you have been made a saint. How can this be?

> *"[3] Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? [4] We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we*

too might walk in newness of life. [5] For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. [6] We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. [7] For one who has died has been set free from sin. [8] Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. [9] We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. [10] For the death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God. [11] So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus" (Romans 6:3-11).

God has declared you a saint. By grace, through faith, He has declared you innocent in His sight, holy. Your righteousness isn't your own but was earned through the holy life and sacrificial death of Christ Jesus. In Baptism, God grants you this undeserved status as a gift based on His extravagant love. His imputed righteousness grants *peace* for those frantic with false piety and *hope* for those despairing of their own ability to measure up to perfection. Face it; you are as much a saint as any other – even the famous ones from the Bible. For those washed in the blood of Jesus, sainthood knows no varying levels.

God's definition of sainthood may run counter to our understanding of the term. But God's definition is the only one that counts! What a relief that God does not count our sins against us because they were nailed to the cross with Jesus! What a blessing that God counts us "in" and not "out"! What a testimony to the true nature of our God, compared to the worlds misunderstanding.

Start the month of November off right! After all, it's "ALL" Saints' Day and that includes you and me. Join us in worship on the 1st day of the month and every weekend your entire blessed life through. The real joy of this day is found in connecting those who have departed from this earth, in the true faith, with those of us saints still living in the church on this side of heaven. It celebrates the fact that there is one Church united, those in heaven who await our appearance, and those of us on earth who look forward to that glad reunion. Together, we are "ALL" counted as one in Christ. What a joy in knowing the saints are with us and we are with them, knit together beautifully in the mystical body of Christ.

Happy Thanksgiving, Dear Saint!





ST. JOHN'S ON THE MOVE

Worship Folders have been received from---
Brenda and Faith Offermann—Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Urbandale, Iowa
Stuart Luedtke-Grace Lutheran Church, Hancock, WI.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO THE FAMILIES OF:



Jim Fernstaedt, who passed away September 19th, 2026 with Christian Services here on October 1, 2026.

Bonnie Broge, who passed away September 21, 2026 with graveside service at Lena Burial Park on October 3, 2026.

Naomi Russ, who passed away October 14, 2026 with Christian Services on October 19th at Chapel Hills in Freeport.

Maria Seibert, who passed away October 13, 2026 with Christian Services here on October 26th.

Ursie Broge, who passed away October 16, 2026 with Christian Services here on October 27, 2026.



ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL BAZAAR AND BEEF & NOODLE DINNER:

Please plan to attend this event Tuesday, November 3rd. The Bazaar will open at 8:30 a.m. with coffee and bakery items available in the Hospitality Room. The Dinner will be served from 11:00 to 1:00. It will include beef and noodles, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, Jell-O salads, relishes, dinner rolls, brownies/bar, coffee, and milk – all for $15. Drive-thru and carry-out meals are other available options. There will be a Quilt raffle, homemade baked goods, homemade noodles, homemade candy, and crafts with a variety of items, including Thanksgiving & Christmas crafts. Hope to see you there!!

CRADLE ROLL NOTES

We have only one member celebrating a birthday this month. We wish Elora Caswell 11-20-25 all God's richest blessings!





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

FROM THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP



Becoming Partners in God's Work—
My Child, I've often heard your question…This message is my answer:
*You're concerned about the hungry in the world, millions who are starving…and you ask, "What can I do?" **FEED ONE**
*You're haunted by the homeless poor who wander city streets…and you ask: "What can I do?" **SHELTER ONE**
*You feel compassion for those who suffer pain, sorrow and despair…and you ask: "What can I do?" **COMFORT ONE**
*Your heart goes out to the lonely, the abused and the imprisoned…and you ask: "What can I do?" **LOVE ONE**
Remember this my child…two thousand years ago the world was filled with those in need, just as it is today, and when the helpless and the hopeless called out to me for mercy, I sent a savior.

The Friendship Center is always thankful for donations at any time for any extra ground beef or other meat that you might like to share. If you would like to donate, please call either Jenny Ils at 815-275-2476, Denise Seuring at 815-238-3938, or Michelle in the office at 815-369-4035 or 815-275-0397



A Stewardship Note 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, Simply Giving, online contributions, 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!

Looking for Volunteers to drive people to 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!!



SHUT-INS: We visit with our shut ins both in their home or in local facilities. Would you please pray about becoming a part of this ministry? We rotate and each volunteer's turn comes up about once every other month. Please contact the church office if you have any questions. If you have a heart for our shut-ins and would like to get to know them a little better and brighten their day with a visit, please consider joining our team.





Caregiver's Support Group (sponsored by the Friendship Center)

There will be no in-person November caregiver meeting. Meetings will resume in December.

The following is a list of current needs at the Veteran's Footlocker: (Stock is Very Low)

Cans soup
Cans vegetables
Cans fruit
Ramen noodle
Shampoo & Conditioner
Body Wash
Toilet Paper
Paper Towels
Laundry soap

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 or 815-233-5284; vetsvan@stephensoncountyil.gov

Also, please join us for our 3rd Annual Fall Bake Sale Fundraiser November 17th at 9am – 1:30 pm. Helm Truck and equipment, 2290 Business Route 20 East, Freeport, IL. Crafts, Cakes, Pies, Snacks, Breads, Brownies, Cupcakes, and much more! All funds raised will be matched and donated to a deserving family. For more info, contact our office at (815) 235-7131.

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



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!

CHECK OUT THE FREEPORT SENIOR RESOURCE CENTER NOVEMBER EVENTS:
Nov. 4, 1-3 pm Healthy Aging Series: Air Fryers, cost $5
Nov 5, 10:30 am Book Club Cost: Free, There Are Rivers in the Sky by Elif Shafak
Nov 9, 1-2:30 pm Create & Connect: Fall Centerpiece or Wreath Cost $10
Nov 10, 10-11 am Tai Chi, Cost: Free
Nov 12, 12-1 pm Lunch & Learn Series: Driftless Area, Free
Nov 16, 1-2:30 pm Science Spot Series: Energy Circuits & Switches Cost $5
Nov 3 & 17, 10am-noon Golden Gamers, cost Free!
For more information, check out their web site at www.seniorresourcecenter.net



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.

SNOWTEAMS HAVE BEEN FORMED Winter is just around the corner. Yikes! Chris has sent out snow team sheets to those that have helped in the past and some we are hoping to help this winter. If you see your name on the schedule and need to make a change of any sort, please the call the office and let us know. Otherwise we will assume you can help where you are scheduled. Thanks so much for serving this way.

SNOWPANTS, SHOES, BOOTS, HATS, GLOVES, SOCKS, MITTENS-DRIVE! Starting now and running through the winter months to support the Le-Win Elementary School. New items only. Kid's who don't have these items cannot go outside for recess. (Especially the snowpants!) Bring your items to church, place in a box we'll have marked for such; and we'll get the items to the school. Items can also be taken directly to the elementary school.

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP



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!



DON'T FORGET DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME—FALL BACK ONE HOUR, SATURDAY EVENING (October 31st Yes, Halloween.) BEFORE YOU GO TO BED.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Saturday, November 28th, we will be decorating the church for the celebration of Christ's birth. 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. **Sign up on the Office window!**



MAKE-A-SMILE CARDS FOR LENA LIVING CENTER



We are hoping 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 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 in being part of this venture. For questions, please contact the church office.

Thank You! To those individuals who answered the call and stepped up to fill van/bus driving and RN/CNA positions that were open at the Friendship Center. We are almost fully staffed and we appreciate all of our staff so much! For this we are truly Thankful!

THANKSGIVING
Word Search

Find the words from the list below!

V	I	O	K	K	M	H	N	L	E	B	G	N	I	A
F	P	X	X	Y	S	T	U	F	F	I	N	G	S	Y
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M	I	U	L	X	M	X	Z	I	A	P	P	L	E	X
G	E	U	C	R	A	N	B	E	R	R	I	E	S	P
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Q	X	Y	K	K	P	G	D	V	B	J	J	Q	E	B
U	F	U	A	O	U	L	C	C	V	Y	T	F	P	E

Pumpkin
Squash
Pie
Apple
Turkey
Yam
Mashed Potatoes
Cranberries
Stuffing