



September 26/27, 2026

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

The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving **light** to the eyes. Psalm 19:8

SATURDAY (26)

SUNDAY (27)

5:30 PM Worship

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

5:00 PM Jr/ Sr High Youth Group

MONDAY (28)

TUESDAY (29)

4:00 PM Noodle Making

10:00 AM Stitching Blessings

11:00 AM Church Staff Meeting

WEDNESDAY (30)

Shut In 1 Dave 4 Luise

9:30 AM Women's Bible Study

1:00 PM Card Party

3:00 PM Noodle bagging

6:00 PM Weekday School

THURSDAY (1)

6:30 PM Bell Choir Practice

7:30 PM Canticle Choir Practice

FRIDAY (2)

SATURDAY (3)

SUNDAY (4)

6:30 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study

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 Blast/ Jr-Sr High

9:15 AM Adult Bible Class

9:15 AM Women In The Word

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: Sat: 49 Sun 8AM: 86 10:30AM: 119 = 254

GENERAL CHECKING CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK: \$8,268.50



Flowers are placed on the altar this week by Tracey Robieson.

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



Luke 14:11 – "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." The kingdom of God is always upside down and backwards like this. We must die in order to live. We must be humbled so we can be exalted. It's like this with giving as well. When we give away, then we receive much more than we bargained for: peace of mind, contentment, joy.

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.



Two down and four to go!

We continued making noodles last Monday.

Additional opportunities will happen again on Mondays: September 28th, October 5th, October 12th, and October 19th. We 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 the dough on tables for the initial drying, then cutting it into noodles, laying them out to dry and of course, cleaning up. Everyone is welcome (male, female, child, or adult) and no previous experience making noodles is necessary. A light meal will be provided, and we are usually done by 7:00.

The dough for last Monday's noodles was rapidly produced by five expert dough-girls. We would like to acknowledge these kitchen magicians; Carol W, Karen K, Ellen C, Lisa P, and Kathie L. We will acknowledge another selection of noodlers again next week



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 **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



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 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

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>



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: Body Wash, Shampoo, Conditioner, cans of fruit, canned tuna, canned chicken, canned ham. We could also use a few pairs of men's jeans size 32 thru 38. 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

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.