

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
512 N. WILHELM
ELLINWOOD, KANSAS 67526

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St. John Lutheran Church



April 2026

Ellinwood, KS

EAGLES WINGS

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Holy Week Schedule:

Palm Sunday: 8:00am - Worship Service w/C
 10:45am - Worship Service w/C
Maundy Thursday: 7:30pm - Worship Service
Good Friday: 8:00pm Tenebrae Service
Easter Sunday: 7:00am Sunrise Service
 8:30am Youth's Easter Breakfast
 9:00am Family Sunday School
 9:30am Easter Egg Hunt
 10:45am Easter Service



Prayer Vigil - On Friday, April 3rd there will be a Self-Guided Walking Prayer Vigil (in the Adult Sunday School Room) from 5pm-7:45pm prior to the Tenebrae Service.

Highlights from March Council Meeting

Pastor: Have an upcoming funeral and a wedding, did shut-in visits. Gave his Holy Week Schedule for Lyons & Ellinwood
Elders: Set elder schedule. Father Son Chili Feed had 30-35. Good evening
Trustees: Finishing up things in the parsonage, faucet in church nook froze up, talking to Gavin about mowing schedule
Stewardship: No report.
Christian Services: No report.
Worship: Bells and choir practicing. Organ guy came, fixed cipher & tuned but still power supply issue he's researching
Education: Will have family SS on Easter and egg hunt. Focusing on VBS after that. 7-26-7/30
Youth Steering: Lasagna dinner raised \$1500 (highest ever). Will have the Easter Breakfast again. Will stuff eggs for hunt on 4/3 at 11am. Need candy
Endowment: No Report
Evangelism: Prayer Vigil in Good Friday in Adult SS room. "Way to the Cross"
New Building: Waiting on CDC to get moved and Pastor Weaver to arrive.
CDC: Hospital accepted our bid to purchase Main St. building. Waiting on furniture to arrive and inspection by fire marshal & KDHE before they can move.
Landscape: Upcoming Project Day. Spring fundraiser 4/26. Plans for alcove
Old Business: Discussed names for potential 150th Anniversary chairpeople
New Business: Pastor Weaver installation 4/12 3pm with meal after. Voted to reinvest maturing CD's at LCEF for 1 year at 4%.



St. John Lutheran Church
 5th and Wilhelm
 Ellinwood, Kansas

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
STAY CONNECTED WITH US
 Check out our Website by scanning our QR Code

Check out our Facebook by scanning our QR Code

Check out our YouTube Channel for the latest Church Services

Pastor Kenton Abbott - Cell 620-617-6833
 Kenton.abbott@outlook.com
 Church Secretary - Jonell Niles Cell 620-617-1008
 Tiffany Jenks CDC Director - Aislinn Sanchez, Asst. Director
 Bulletin Announcements: secretary@stjohn-lutheran.org

Church office- 620-564-2044 CDC 620-564-2885

Prayer Chain

We have re-established an email prayer chain. If you would like to be included in sharing and receiving prayer list updates, please send an email to: secretary@stjohn-lutheran.org with "Prayer Chain" in the subject line.

St. John Lutheran Church
 512 N. Wilhelm
 Ellinwood, KS 67526
 Phone: 620-564-2044

Child Development Center
Main Street Campus
 Phone: 620-564-2885
Wilhelm Campus
 Phone: 620-564-3024

A Message from Pastor:



**Pastor Weaver's Installation Service
St. John Lutheran Church**

Sunday April 12, 2026 - 3:00pm

We will have the Installation Service followed by a meal.

Brisket and a large sheet cake will be provided.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board at the back of church for other items.

Mark your calendars!

St. John Lutheran Church
512 N. Wilhem, Ellinwood, KS
620-564-2044
secretary@stjohn-lutheran.org

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 EASTER SUNDAY 7:00am Sunrise Service w/C 8:30am Youth Breakfast 9:00am Family Sunday School 9:30am Easter Egg Hunt 10:45am Worship w/C	6 6:00pm CDC Board Mtg.	7 6:30am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Ladies Bible Study	8 6:30pm LIGHT resumes 8:15pm Church Council Meeting	9 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	10 Schlessiger Wedding Rehearsal	11 Schlessiger Wedding
12 8:00am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 9:30am Adult Bible Class 10:45am Worship 3:00pm Pastor Weaver's Installation & Meal	13	14 6:30am Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Board of Elders	15 6:30pm LIGHT	16 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	17	18
19 8:00am Worship w/C 9:15am Sunday School 9:30am Adult Bible Class 10:45am Worship w/C	20	21 6:30am Men's Bible Study CDC Practice—Church	22 CDC Practice - Church 6:30pm LIGHT	23 CDC Practice—Church 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	24 CDC Practice 6pm CDC PreK Graduation 7pm CDC Carnival	25
26 8:00am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 9:30am Adult Bible Class Landscape Committee Plant & Garden Sale 10:45am Worship 6:00pm LWML Smorgasbord	27	28 6:30am Men's Bible Study	29 6:30pm LIGHT	30		



Upcoming Dates

Sunday April 26th - LWM Smorgasboard - 6pm

LWML Kansas District Convention - 4/17-4/19 - Manhattan, KS



LWML Officers 2025-2026
 Co-Presidents: Diana Soeken & Linda Ringwald
 Vice-President: Signe Cook
 Secretary: Marla Isern
 Treasurer: Annette Troyer

Funeral Dinner Coordinator:
 Karen Sessler
 Asst. Coordinator: Diana Soeken
 Christian Life - Courtney Cook
 Caring Services - Vacant
 Gospel Outreach - Karen Sessler
 Special Focus Ministries: Darla Abbott
 A-L Co-Chairs: Beverly Bownes & Normalee Isern
 M-Z Co-Chairs: Joan Panning & Diana Soeken

Mission Statement

The mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world.



**LWML
 SMORGASBORD**

Guest Speaker: Janna Weber

Janna and her husband received devastating news during a prenatal screening and their faith helped them through an emotional pregnancy journey. She will share their story with us.

The LWML will hold their April 26th at 6pm in the Youth Center. All ladies (and spouses/guests) are welcome to attend. Please bring one item to share (can be a main course, side, salad or dessert) along with the recipe. We look forward to seeing you all there!



The Ellinwood Food Bank needs are:

Cash Donations!!
 Plus: Chunky soup, Pears, Peaches, Fruit Cocktail, Pineapple, Tomato Sauce, Dice tomatoes, Chili, Chili Beans and Spinach



A Message from Pastor Kenton:

Rejoicing in the New Life of Easter

¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words. — 1 Thessalonians 4: 14-18

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! As we enter the glorious season of Easter, we are reminded that our Lord's victory over sin, death, and the devil is not just a story from long ago—it is the very foundation of our life today.

Through His resurrection, Jesus Christ has opened the door to new life for all who believe in Him. Death no longer has the final word. As the Apostle Paul writes in the read above from *1 Thessalonians 4:14–18*, we who belong to Christ will be reunited with those who have died in Him. Paul encourages the Thessalonians, and us, that just as Jesus died and rose again, so too will all who are in Him be raised. This gives comfort and hope beyond the grave: we are promised that we will be with the Lord forever. The passage reminds us to live with hope, not fear. Paul writes, "Therefore encourage one another with these words" (1 Thess. 4:18). Easter is not only a day of celebration but a continual reminder that our faith is anchored in the resurrection of Jesus. The empty tomb is proof that death does not have the final say, and it calls us to encourage one another in love, patience, and service, sharing the hope of Christ with those around us.

Easter is not a fleeting celebration—it is a living reality. Each day, through Word and Sacrament, God strengthens us, renews our hearts, and prepares us for the day when Christ will return in glory. We are called to live as people of hope, sharing His love in our homes, our communities, and wherever God places us. This April, let us celebrate the new life given to us in Jesus. Let us gather in worship, sing with glad hearts, and share the promise of the resurrection with neighbors near and far. The stone has been rolled away, the grave is empty, and Christ reigns forever—what a reason to rejoice! **"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead"** (1 Peter 1:3).

May this Easter season fill you with renewed faith, abundant hope, and the peace of Christ that surpasses all understanding. And as Paul reminds us, let us encourage one another with the promise of resurrection, looking forward with confidence to the day we are reunited with all the saints in Christ.

In the Name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor Kenton Abbott



SERVING US THE MONTH OF APRIL

April 2nd - Maundy Thursday (7:30pm) Organist: Darla Abbott

April 3rd - Good Friday Tenebrae Service (8pm)
Organist:.....Jonell Niles

April 5th - Easter Sunday
7:00 (Sunrise Service) Organist:.....Jonell Niles
10:45 (Easter Service) Organist.....Darla Abbott
Lector(s): 8:00: Isaac Panzer 10:00 The Brauers
Acolyte: 8:00 _____ 10:45 _____
Counters..... Fawnia Miller

April 12th - Second Sunday of Easter
Organist.....Jonell Niles
Lector(s): 8:00: Marvin & Karen Sessler 10:45 Stacy & Tonya Pike
Acolyte: 8:00 _____ 10:45 _____
Counters..... Luke Abbott, Donna Long, Karen Sessler

April 19th - Third Sunday of Easter
Organist.....Jonell Niles
Lector(s): 8:00: Pastor Weaver 10:45 The Schlessigers
Acolyte: 8:00 _____ 10:45 _____
Counters..... Bill & Jackie Cook, Amanda Proffitt

April 26th - Fourth Sunday of Easter
Organist.....Darla Abbott
Lector(s): 8:00: Carl Gray 10:45 John & Linda Ricker
Acolyte: 8:00 _____ 10:45 _____
Counters..... Marla Isern, Teresa Sieker, Fawnia Miller

Altar Guild for April
Rose Knop, Stephanie Moos, Lorene Rajewsky, Carol Lebbin

EASTER BLESSINGS



April Ushers

- Early Captain - Jeff Troyer
- Late Captain - Stan Isern
- John Ricker
- Ryan Witt
- Kurt Rugan
- Steve Soeken
- Galen Deutsch
- Spencer Proffitt
- Cooper Proffitt
- Sam Brauer
- Andrew Kirkpatrick
- Cameron Stevenson

Acolytes Needed

Please remember (5th-8th graders) to sign up to acolyte. You are required to serve a minimum of 6 times/year.



Acolyte Sign Up QR Link

Interested in Serving???

If you're interested in serving our church in some way, here are the contact people:
Acolyte: Pastor Kenton
Lector: Jonell Niles
Counter: Fawnia Miller
Altar Guild: Normalee Isern
Usher: Alan Brauer

April Birthdays

- Apr 1 Skye Feldman
- Apr 4 Troy Moore
Devin Moos
- Apr 5 Jeanette Ard
- Apr 6 Travis Feldman
Brian Sieker
- Apr 8 Ellis Goering
- Apr 10 Nancy Gordin
Cari Ringwald
- Apr 11 Brooke Cook
- Apr 12 Luke Kirkpatrick
- Apr 13 Shawn Panzer
- Apr 14 Blayre Moore
- Apr 15 Stacey Deutsch
Jacob Prescott
- Apr 16 Dominick Donovan
Landry Sieker
- Apr 17 Cooper Proffitt
Rick Wilson
- Apr 18 Leann Steinert
- Apr 20 Emily Long
Aprille Ullerick
- Apr 21 Henry Moore
- Apr 24 Tim Isern
- Apr 26 Allison Ricker
- Apr 30 Joe Brauer



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- Joe & Lorene Rajewsky Apr 01
- Jeff & Alexandria Mason Apr 23
- Caleb & Corey Hirsch Apr 25
- Glenn & Linda Heine Apr 26
- Justin & Janae Ringwald Apr 28



So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together let not man

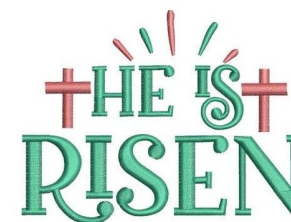
Giving: Received \$58,945.86 (2/28/2026)
Needed per week: \$7,422.33
Over-Under (\$432.76)

Altar Flowers

- April 5 - Easter Lilies
- April 12 - Schlessigers
- April 19 - Schlessigers
- April 26 - Jacque Isern



Please consider helping adorn our altar with flowers. Sign up is on the wall by the mailboxes.



LIGHT resumes on Wed. 4/8/26

Messages from the Church's Boards

Board of Worship



Thank you to the following for participating in the Choir & Bells this season! We are blessed with so many willing to share their talents!

Choir: Linda Ringwald, Rose Knop, LouJean Hadley, Aliyah Proffitt, Annette Troyer, Jackie Cook, Lauren Ringwald, Maddie Kirkpatrick, Vivian Klepper, Shawn Panzer, Luke Abbott, Ethan Sauer, Alan Brauer, Joe Brauer, Dirk Ricker
Director: Stephanie Goering

Bells: Linda Ricker, Karen Sessler, Erin Vaupel, Amanda Proffitt, Signe Cook, Terra Ricker, Kerry Lampe, Darla Abbott, Joe Brauer, Chloe Vaupel, Jennifer Kirkpatrick and Luke Abbott **Director:** Jonell Niles

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE GARDEN & PLANT SALE

The Landscape Committee will host a Garden & Plant Sale on Sunday April 26th to raise funds for upcoming landscape projects.



Board of Endowment

Fundraising is underway for the needed church tuck point project. This tedious work will cost \$92,000, and the St. John Endowment has pledged \$45,000 in matching funds. Contributions may be made to the church, noting Building Fund/Tuck Point on the memo line.



Wishing your family the joy and peace of Easter. Romans 6:8: "Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him."



Upcoming Youth Activities

2026 Confirmands

**Laken Cook
Eden Ringwald
Chloe Vaupel**



**Confirmation
May 3, 2026**

St. John Lutheran Youth's

Easter Breakfast

APRIL 5TH

Easter Breakfast Includes:

- BREAKFAST CASSEROLES
- COFFEE CAKES
- FRUIT SALAD
- JUICE & COFFEE
- BREAKFAST BEGINS AT 8:30AM
- FOLLOWING THE SUNRISE SERVICE

St. John Youth Center



Other Easter Sunday Activities

- Family Sunday School in Adult SS Room - Approx. 9am
- Easter Egg Hunt - Approx. 9:30am





PRAY, PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

Our prayer life is a very important part of our Christian walk. The Lord seeks and hears our prayers. Please remember the following persons and petitions in your daily prayer life:

For Healing:

Milton Schwertfeger, Nancy Kizzar, Shara Stettinger, Teresa Sieker, Eddie Divine, Gayle Christie, Althea Mai, Bob Long, Christine Nemnich (Nickie Isern's mom), Beth Ringwald, Melvin Birzer (Connie Miller's brother), Jeanette Diederich (Annette's mom), Leon Sobba, Devontay (Amber Rukan's nephew), Catherine Hammeke

For Shut-Ins:

Milton & Delores Schwertfeger, Phyllis Miller, Normalee Isern, Lylas Schultz



New in the Church Library



Adult and Teen Fiction:

These Blue Mountains by Thomas
Designed With Love (The Hope of Cheyenne novel) by Peterson
This Promised Land by Gohlke
The Bitter End Birding Society by Cox
Where Secrets Lie I (A Tupelo Grove novel) by Coble
Last Light (A Restoration novel) by Blackstock

Non-Fiction:

Not available this month

DVD's:

No new selections



Juvenile Fiction:

Goldtown Adventure: River of Peril
Green Ember: Ember Falls

Juvenile Non-Fiction:

Not available this month



Children's Fiction:

Freedom Island: The Island of Free Ice Cream
You Are Beloved
Freedom Island: The Parrots Go Bananas
The Little Drummer Girl
Freedom Island: Puddin, Pirates, and the Problem with Power

Children's Non-Fiction:

My Illustrated Bible for Beginning Readers

Children's DVDs:

The King of Kings (Released as a motion picture in 2025)
The Chosen Adventures Season 1

+++++

A library worker will be available the last Sunday of the month in the adult library for anyone needing assistance. A computerized card catalog is available upstairs in the children's library at all times. If you need help in locating items, please ask Paula or a member of the library staff for assistance.



St. John's Child Development Center News



Upcoming CDC Events

4 Year Old Pre-K Graduation & Carnival

Friday April 24th

6:00pm Grad

7:00pm Carnival



A Better Way (Originally published in April 2023)

The most common question about stewardship is not whether a Christian should give to their church. Of course Christians should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Rather, the question asked most is, "How much should I give?" But this question really means, "Should Christians give a tenth of their income to their local congregation?"

Here are some common reasons against tithing. Some say tithing isn't necessary because it isn't expressly commanded in the New Testament. There is no "Thus saith the Lord," or "should" concerning tithing. Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these together with treasures (money) add up to more than a tithe. Still others say that they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church. And then there are those who think Christians shouldn't tithe because of some fear. They are afraid that if they tithe, their gift will be misused, or that after tithing, there won't be enough left over to get the things that they use, want or need.

Here are some reasons why Christians should tithe. Even though the New Testament doesn't specifically command Christians to tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to. And on top of this, St. Paul often describes giving a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of one's income — terms similar to a tithe (2 Cor. 8:7-23; 2 Cor. 9:2-7).

But here's another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? This tithe was intended to support the ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry. What does it say in the New Testament? "The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther used in the Small Catechism's Table of Duties to explain what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we're not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let's answer this by asking a different question. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? After all, there is no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest verse we have, and it states simply that Christians should not neglect gathering together. And even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? The conversation might go something like this. I'm glad you're still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God's promises of forgiveness, life and salvation, and to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I'd really like you to try to attain it.

We should approach the topic of tithing with a similar conversation. The tithe is not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, we're ecstatic that you're giving, and that you're giving in all these various ways — time, talents and treasures. But there is a better way. And that will only be a blessing to you, just as the Word of God — Old and New Testament alike — promises. Can you try increasing your gifts over the coming weeks, months and years? Can you put your trust in the God who sent His Son to take away your sin and give you everlasting life? And if He did this for you, if He did not spare His only Son, how will He not give you all things? He will not disappoint.