

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 8020
SOUTH PARK ROAD

WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WI 54494-8685

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WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WI 54494

PERMIT NO.96

November 2025

Saturdays: 4pm Divine Service

Sundays: 9:30am Divine Service

Wednesdays: 6pm Worship Service (Divine Service w/communion every 1st & 3rd Wednesday)

Monday Bible Study in November

November 20 Coffee with Friends

November 27 Lutheran Women in Mission

St. John Lutheran – November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 4:00 PM – Saturday Worship Service
2 9:30 AM – Sunday Morning Worship	3 1:00 PM – Adult Bible Study	4 6:00 PM – Trail Life	5 5:00 PM – Community Meal 6:00 PM – Midweek Worship Service 6:30 PM – Wednesday School	6	7 Dellwood Theater	8 10:00 AM – Strategic Planning 4:00 PM – Saturday Worship Service
9 9:30 AM – Sunday Morning Worship	10 1:00 PM – Adult Bible Study	11	12 5:00 PM – Community Meal 6:00 PM – Midweek Worship Service 6:30 PM – Wednesday School	13	14	15 4:00 PM – Saturday Worship Service
16 Dellwood Theater 9:30 AM – Sunday Morning Worship	17 1:00 PM – Adult Bible Study	18 Trail Life	19 5:00 PM – Community Meal 6:00 PM – Midweek Worship Service 6:30 PM – Wednesday School	20 9:00 AM – Coffee with Friends 6:00 PM – Elders Meeting 7:00 PM – Council Meeting	21	22 4:00 PM – Saturday Worship Service
23 9:30 AM – Sunday Morning Worship	24 1:00 PM – Adult Bible Study	25	26 6:00 PM – Midweek Worship Service	27 1:00 PM – Lutheran Women in Mission	28	29 4:00 PM – Saturday Worship Service
30 9:30 AM – Sunday Morning Worship						

The Lord's Supper is offered every Saturday and Sunday and, on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month.

Pastoral Letter November

Stewardship Under the Cross

God's Word on How We Use His Gifts

What is Stewardship?

Christian stewardship is the faithful management of our financial resources and all we have. It begins with the understanding that all we have is God's (Ps. 24:1 "The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it") and that "we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world" (1Tim 6:7). Since all we have is God's, we should use it for His purposes. God's purpose for us in our lives is expressed in the various vocations, or callings, that we have. So, for example, a father and mother use their income to feed, clothe, and protect their children.

Besides the vocations that each of us have in our family life and in society, we are also all Christians and members of this parish. How do we use our income faithfully in regard to this vocation? To learn this we must look to God's Word.

Deuteronomy 8:17-18 17 You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." 18 But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.

Luke 16:13 Jesus said, "No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

Matthew 6:19-21 Jesus said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Malachi 3:8-9 "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. 9 You are under a curse-- the whole nation of you-- because you are robbing me.

2 Corinthians 8:7, 9:6-8 But just as you excel in everything-- in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us --see that you also excel in this grace of giving... The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything.

What does this mean?

Your heart always goes where you put God's money. Stewardship is not an optional subcategory of the Christian life; it is the living out of a Christian's dependence on God. As such, faith and finances are inseparable. True joy is found not in storing up the things of this world, for the things of this world won't last. True joy is found in clinging to Christ who poured out His life for you on the cross and now gives you His Life in Baptism, Absolution, and the Lord's Supper. The things of this world are temporarily given to us by God to see and we will be called to account for how we manage the Owner's things (Rom.14:10-12, 2 Cor. 5:10).

THIS NOVEMBER: Prayerfully Consider Your Giving

In this month of Thanksgiving, prayerfully consider your giving to God's work in His Church. Are you faithfully giving a first-fruits tithe (10%) of your income to the work of God? Are you, as St. Paul says, "excelling in this grace of giving"? If not, why not? In next month's newsletter we'll consider more of what God says about Stewardship – specifically more about tithing (the Biblical practice of giving a tenth of our income to God's work in the Church) – and provide steps for planning your giving for next year.

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

November 2025

Mission Statement: Our mission is to proclaim Christ crucified and worship the Holy Trinity.

Purpose Statement: By the work of the Holy Spirit we are gathered together in Christ to proclaim the good news of Jesus and mercy of God to all people in our community. We do this through historical, biblical, Christ-centered worship and teaching.

Lutheran Women in Mission

The Lutheran Women in Mission meetings will be on November 22nd at 1pm.

November Wednesday Evening Following Meals. Please join us between 5 & 6 for a meal, followed by church from 6 to 6:30 and weekday school following the service.

Reminder Dellwood Sand County Players **Friday, November 7th or Sunday, November 16th**

September Organ Fund Update

Thank You! Thank You! to all who have so generously donated to the Organ Fund. The total received to date is over \$48,000.00 with a balance of approximately \$ 31,000.00.

Donations have been received from MANY individuals along with donations from ORGANIZATIONS within St. John Church.

Donations may be made by using the "Organ Fund" envelopes on the Thermometer board, placing your donation in the Offering Plate or you may use your own envelope— (PLEASE note "ORGAN FUND" and your name on the envelope). Donations may also be placed in the Church Office or mailed to

St. John Ev. Lutheran, 8020 South Park Road, Wisconsin Rapids, WI. 54494.

We are getting closer to the goal...we can almost hear the music!

Thank You again to ALL who have made Organ Fund donations!



Lutheran Hour Broadcast

The Lutheran Hour can be heard on the following radio stations on Sunday Morning:
WAXX 104.5 FM at 6:30 a.m.; WDLB 1450 AM at 8 a.m.; WDUX 92.7 FM at 8 a.m.;
WSAU 99.9 FM at 8:30 a.m.; and WRVM 91.3 FM, 94.3 FM or 101.3 FM at 10 a.m.

November 2025

November 2nd

"A Little Light, Reading"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The Book of Job is not light reading, but Christians read it in the Light of Christ.
(Job 1:8)

November 9th

"Fearless and Endless Growing"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola

God's Word grows like a perfect garden, bearing fruit in every season.
(Colossians 1:1-14)

November 16th

"God's Plan = Jesus"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

God's plans for us are not me-centered; they are Christ-centered. Dr. Zeigler talks with "Soul Surfer" author, Bethany Hamilton.
(John 16:33)

November 23rd

"Getting the Talk Started"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

God's Law-talk prepares us for God's Gospel-talk. Author Tim Carter (The Executioner's Redemption) is featured.
(Luke 11:1)

Thank You



to all

who supported the



57th annual



*Fall Harvest & Bake Sale

*Book Sale & *Luncheon



Your donations of time and
talent and participation is
greatly appreciated!



Monies earned from this event will
be shared within the church,
the community, the nation
and the world!



Notice: The Council Minutes printed below are for communication purposes only.
St. John Council members have not approved these minutes.

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

A Member Congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Matthew D. Lorfeld, Pastor
8020 South Park Road
Wisconsin Rapids, WI. 54494
715-423-7788

Council Meeting **Thursday, October 16, 2025**

Welcome: Call to Order at 7:00 p.m. Chairman Craig Timm welcomed the 14 members and Pastor Lorfeld.

Opening Devotions Led by Pastor Lorfeld was based on 2 Timothy Chapter 3 verses 16 & 17.

Additional Agenda Items: None.

Consent Agenda: Minutes from Sept. 18, 2025 and the Treasurer's Report. Motion by Chuck Peters, seconded by R.D. Manke to approve the Reports. Motion carried. The Audit is in the planning stage.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Lorfeld : No membership changes. Week Day School is well underway.

There are 3 boys in the Confirmation class, with Confirmation to be in the spring of 2027.

No 8th grade students at this time.

Elder's Report: Jeff Zimmerman stated the Elder's held a planning meeting for the 2026 Budget, also reviewed the congregation's view on membership participation.

Discussion was also held regarding the "electronic" organist when the Organist is not available.

President's Report: Craig Timm stated a monetary gift has been received from the estate of Howard Hagen via. his son Scott. Discussion held. The monies will be designated for use at a future date.

Trustee's Report: Jerry Swen stated that a refund from Church Mutual has been received and the monies were donated to the Organ Fund. The west side Cemetery driveway is in need of re-grading and repair. Mr. Swen noted that there are monies in the Cemetery Budget to complete the work. The Road Inspector will review all the roadways.

A Roofing Fund should be established to help cover expenses in the upcoming future.

Organ News: Minor adjustments to the settings are being completed.

The Organist is continuing training on the new church organ.

The former organ bench has been refinished by Tim Geiger and is now ready for display service.

Board of Education: Kaitlyn Federwitz announced that there will be a "Reformation Party" on Wednesday, October 29th during Week Day School. A Caroling Party and Program is scheduled for Wednesday, December 17th. More information to follow.

Wednesday Meals continue: All members are invited and asked to bring a friend or family to join in the meal and worship service.

SWOT (addressing the church's Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis is scheduled for Saturday, October 18th , at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome.

The Lutheran Women in Mission have donated \$720.00 to the Grant School Milk Program for nine students-in-need for the 2025-2026 school year.

The Neighborhood Table (Focus) will be hosted by the members of St. John Lutheran, Kellner on Thursday, August 6, 2026. Mark your calendars.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. Shepard

Congregational Secretary

Elder's Meeting—Thursday, November, 20th at 6:00 p.m.

Council Meeting--Thursday, November 20th at 7:00 p.m.

