

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 8020
SOUTH PARK ROAD

WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WI 54494-8685

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

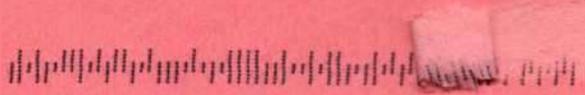


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WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WI 54494

PERMIT NO.96



December 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 December

December 18 Coffee with Friends

December 18 Elders & Council Meetings

St. John Lutheran – December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 1:00 PM – Adult Bible Study	2 6:00 PM – Trail Life	3 5:00 PM – Community Meal 6:00 PM – Midweek Worship Service 6:30 PM – Wednesday School	4	5	6 4:00 PM – Saturday Worship Service
7 9:30 AM – Sunday Morning Worship	8 1:00 PM – Adult Bible Study	9	10 5:00 PM – Community Meal 6:00 PM – Midweek Worship Service 6:30 PM – Wednesday School	11 9:00 AM Cookie Bake	12	13 9:00 AM Cookie & Candy Walk 4:00 PM – Saturday Worship Service
14 9:30 AM – Sunday Morning Worship	15 1:00 PM – Adult Bible Study	16 6:00 PM – Trail Life	17 5:00 PM – Community Meal 6:00 PM – Midweek Worship Service 6:30 PM – Wednesday School	18 9:00 AM – Coffee with Friends 6:00 PM – Elders Meeting 7:00 PM – Council Meeting	19	20 4:00 PM – Saturday Worship Service
21 9:30 AM – Sunday Morning Worship	22 1:00 PM – Adult Bible Study	23	24 2:00 PM Christmas Eve Service 6:00 PM – Christmas Eve Service	25 9:30 AM Christmas Day Service	26	27 4:00 PM – Saturday Worship Service
28 9:30 AM – Sunday Morning Worship	29 1:00 PM Adult Bible Study	30	31 6:00 PM New Years Eve Service			

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

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

December 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.

December 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.

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!



Stewardship Under the Cross¹

Do I have to Tithe?

That is an interesting question: do we have to tithe under the New Testament? After all, tithing, that is, giving 10% of our income to God's work in the Church, is a regulation of the Old Testament. We live under Christ in the New Testament so does this apply to us today?

We might approach our answer to this question by asking whether or not we have to keep the Third Commandment – which reads in full from Exodus 20:8-11

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

So do we have to keep this commandment? Should we cease from all labor on Saturday as the people of the Old Testament did? Of course not! That was one of the Old Testament prophecies of Christ – and since Christ has fulfilled the Sabbath rest by resting in the tomb on Holy Saturday, we are free from the Old Testament Sabbath regulations. Thus St. Paul writes, “Let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ” (Col. 2:16-17).

And yet, there the Third Commandment stands in our Small Catechism: Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy! What's going on here? Well, look at Luther's explanation of the third commandment: “What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but gladly hear and learn it.” So the form of the commandment, the letter of the law, has passed away as a shadow: but the spirit still remains. We are to honor God by our worship, by gladly receiving His Word and Sacraments in His Church.

So it is with tithing. The New Testament nowhere lists the precise regulations about giving this tithe and that tithe to the Levites and the Temple and so on. Those precise regulations were to point us to Christ: who represents the fullness of humanity though He is one Man, just as the tithe represented the fullness of the income of the people of Israel though it was only 10% thereof. We are in no way bound to these precise legal regulations of Old Testament Israel.

And yet, just as the fulfilling of the Sabbath Day doesn't mean that going to the Lord's House for worship once a week is obsolete – so also the New Testament does not make faithful financial stewardship obsolete. Rather, the New Testament is full of admonitions on this point: “On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as each one of you may prosper.” (1 Cor. 16:2); “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.” (2 Cor. 8:7); “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 and may provide in abundance for every good work” (2 Cor. 9:6-8).

So just as the Old Testament's once a week worship became the benchmark for New Testament worship, so also the Old Testament's tithe becomes the benchmark for New Testament stewardship. Not in the way of inflexible, minute regulations – but in the way of pattern and fulfillment. If in the New Testament we are called to give proportionally (“as each one may prosper”), weekly (“on the first day”), and “generously” - then surely the Old Testament tithe is the floor level of Christian giving, not the ceiling. As our worship in the New Testament is a greater fulfillment of the Old Testament Sabbath, so also our New Testament stewardship is called to be an even greater sacrificial fulfillment of the Old Testament tithing regulations.

¹ This article is from the booklet *Stewardship Under the Cross* by Rev. Heath Curtis. <https://resources.lcms.org/reading-study/stewardship-under-the-cross-book-planning-guide/>

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.

December 2025

December 7th

"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)

December 14th

"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)

December 21st

"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)

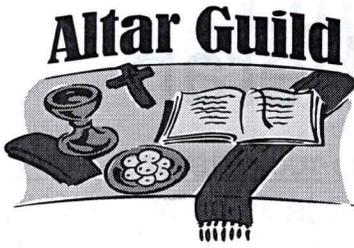
December 28th

"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)



December

Office hours: Mon-Thurs 9am-2pm

Office Phone: 715-423-7788

Head Elder: Doug Ross

715-570-0814

Altar Guild: Cindy Johnson

715-213-2699

Birthdays	Anniversaries	Elder Schedule
3 rd Jerry Schimke	2 nd Mitchell & Shirley Zimmerman	Wed 3 rd Scott Federwitz
3 rd Todd Eberhardt		Sat 6 th R.D. Manke
6 th Doug Ross		Sun 7 th Chuck Peters
6 th Raelyn Timm		Wed 10 th Lew Porter
7 th Abraham Torres		Sat 13 th Jeff Gellerman
8 th James Eberhardt		Sun 14 th Chuck Peters
8 th Cathy Timm		Wed 17 th Doug Ross
10 th Isabella Braun		Sat 20 th Jim Schoenick
11 th Nora Dobratz		Sun 24 th Doug Ross
12 th Khalil Khang		Sun 24 th Chuck Bossingham
12 th Kristin Ashenberg		Wed 25 th
15 th Griffin Holberg		Sat 27 th Jeff Gellerman
15 th Rylie Onesti		Sun 28 th Jeff Zimmerman
16 th Caroline Vukosich		Wed 31 st Darwin Lamb
16 th Kaleigh Rosenthal		
21 st Lydia Greening		
22 nd Joshua Twinn		
22 nd Kathy Kertis		
23 rd Teagan Polansky		
23 rd Owen Porter		
26 th Jonah McConaghy		
29 th Dean Rosenthal		

St. John Lutheran Church

31st Annual Cookie and Candy Walk Saturday, December 13, 2025 Doors open at 9 a.m.

What is a cookie walk...?

How do we get involved...?

Why should we get involved...?

It's time to look over your favorite **HOLIDAY COOKIE & CANDY** recipes, make a few dozen extra to help make this the "Sweetest" event of the year! Share your baking and candy making talents!

Over the past **30** years the **Cookie and Candy Walk** has been a huge success! Everyone who visited the "Sweet Treat Event" in previous years is eager to purchase homemade cookie and candy again. A good turn out of the finest cookies and candies in the area is expected from all the fine cooks, candy makers, and chefs in our congregation!

All families of St. John Lutheran Church are asked to bring 2 to 4 dozen (or more if you would like), of your favorite **HOLIDAY COOKIES OR CANDY** to the church by Friday, December 12th.

On Saturday morning, December 13th the **Holiday Cookies & Candy** will be sold "**By-the-pound**" in attractive packaged Plates, Holiday Gift Boxes and Trays. Ideal for your Holiday Parties and Gifts!

The Lutheran Women In Mission (LWIM) coordinates the Cookie and Candy Walk, but the event is a "**church-wide**" project! Proceeds to be donated to a variety of church needs.

The sale is open to the **Congregation** as well as to the **surrounding community**. Come early..... the goodies sell out quickly!

Have your **HOLIDAY COOKIES & CANDIES** to the Church by
Friday, morning, December 12th
The **SALE** will be on **Saturday, December 13th**, doors opening at 9 a.m.