

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

April 2026

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 in Mission meeting will be on April 23rd at 1:00 PM

Council Minutes

Council Minutes will be available in the **Narthex** if any of you would like to take one.

April 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.

April Organ Fund Update

Thank You! Thank You! to all who have so generously donated to the Organ Fund. The total balance remaining is approximately \$ 17,655.

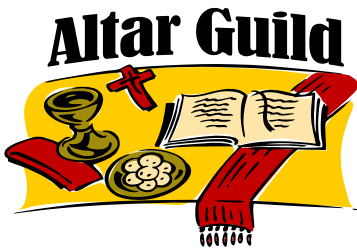
Donations have been received from MANY individuals along with donations from ORGANIZATIONS within St. John Church.

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!



April 2026

Office hours: **Mon-Thurs 9am-2pm** Office Phone: 715-423-7788

Head Elder: Jeff Gellerman

Altar Guild: Cindy Johnson

Birthdays	Anniversaries	Elder Schedule
3 rd Herny Moran	19 th James Hamel & Marlene Sauriol	Thurs.2 nd Chuck Bossingham
4 th Kiera Koback		Fri.3 rd Jeff Gellerman
6 th Tracy Fitzgerald		Sat.4 th R. D. Manke
7 th Lilyana Sweeney		Sun.5 th
8 th Linda Lindaas		Wed.8 th Lew Porter
8 th Juliana Christensen		Sat.11 th Jeff Gellerman
9 th Nala Corral		Sun.12 th Chuck Peters
11 th Colt Jacoby		Wed.15 th Doug Ross
12 th Gavin Whitrock		Sat.18 th Jim Schoenick
13 th Kaycee Hall		Sun.19 th Jeff Zimmerman
13 th Kaycee Schoenick		Wed.22 nd Scott Federwitz
14 th Chris Doers		Sat.25 th Chuck Peters
15 th Tara Manske		Sun.26 th Bill Coley
18 th Daniel Schiestle		Wed.29 th Darwin Lamb
18 th Charles Peters		
18 th Bonnie James		
18 th Nathan Fitzgerald		
20 th Marvin Helke		
21 st Hannah Rosenthal		
25 th Vernon Steinke		
28 th Brayton Wills		
30 th Charles Sweeney		

Stewardship Under the Cross

Putting It All Together

[This Newsletter Articles draws together much information from the previous five by way of summary.]

Over the past several months we have set out as a congregation to learn what God's Word has to say about stewardship. One thing we learned is that faithful stewardship is a lifestyle. So here is a review of God's Word for you to study with the year ahead in mind. No matter where you are at in your stewardship – tithing, going beyond a tithe, or still considering the concept of tithing – let this study lead you to think about pray about stewardship based on the Word.

Your heart will always go where you put God's money. Jesus said that where your treasure is, there your heart will be also and as we sing each Sunday morning at the Offering: We give Thee but Thine own. God is the ultimate giver of our incomes: all these gifts come from Him. To acknowledge this gift and our dependence on the Lord, God calls us to give a portion of our income back to Him for the maintenance of His Church. Indeed, the Scriptures are very clear: God calls His people to give at least a tithe of their income (10% of whatever “comes in”) back to Him at their place of worship.

This calls for faith. Do we trust God's Word? Do we trust that what He says is for our benefit, not our harm? **If you have never tithed before, it can be a scary proposition.** *Give 10% of my income away!?* *You've got to be kidding.* But God doesn't ever kid us in His Word. Instead, He tells us how to live holy and blessed lives full of peace and contentment. Consider these Scriptures:

Jesus said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 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 (Matthew 6:19-21) .

"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. 10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it " (Malachi 3:8-10) .

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 Corinthians 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 Corinthians 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).

We do not make God poor when we fail to give money to Him properly, but we *do* make ourselves poor if we do not give according to the standards He sets for us in His Word, the Bible. God does not need our money, but we need to give the way the Bible tells us to in order to overcome the negative influence money and the things of this world can have on us.

God will never tell us to do something that will be to our harm – He loves us too much for that. Jesus gave His life on the cross for me. He loves me and knows what is best for me – so I can know that what He says about stewardship is meant for my benefit. He wants my heart to be with Him – and my heart will always follow where I put God's money. **Tithing is not easy: it is godly. It will change your life.** Stepping out in faith always does. You may have to change your lifestyle to accommodate following God's Word in this matter. But tithing will change your life in other ways too: it will give you a peace and contentment that can only come from actually putting yourself in the hands of the Lord.

So read through those Scriptures again. Pray through the following questions and step out in faith this year with giving that is in accord with God's Word. And just see if you are not blessed in it.

The Lord loves me and gave Himself for me on the cross. Y | N

All that I have comes from the Lord. Y | N

The Lord blessed me to live in the richest land in the world. Y | N

If I had to start living on 90% of my current income tomorrow, I or someone in my family would starve. Y | N

I / We have been making first-fruit, regular, proportionate and generous (at least 10%, a tithe) money offerings to the Lord from the heart. Y | N

If “Yes”, the Lord gets all the glory for that. Y | N

If “No”, the Lord wants me to change the way I make money offerings to him. Y | N

If the Lord wants me to change, I should change now, not later. Y | N

It is the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ that changes me for the better. Y | N

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.

April 2026

April 5th

"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)

April 12th

"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)

April 19th

"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)

April 26th

"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)

St. John Lutheran – April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 6:00 PM – Maundy Thursday Service	3 6:00 PM – Good Friday Service	4 4:00 PM – Easter Vigil Service
5 Easter - The Resurrection of our Lord 9:30 AM – Sunday Morning Worship	6 1:00 PM – Adult Bible Study	7	8 5:00 PM – Community Meal 6:00 PM – Midweek Worship Service 6:30 PM – Wednesday School	9	10	11 4:00 PM – Saturday Worship Service
12 9:30 AM – Sunday Morning Worship	13 1:00 PM – Adult Bible Study	14	15 5:00 PM – Community Meal 6:00 PM – Midweek Worship Service 6:30 PM – Wednesday School	16 6:00 PM – Elders Meeting 7:00 PM – Council Meeting 9:00 AM – Coffee with Friends	17	18 4:00 PM – Saturday Worship Service
19 9:30 AM – Sunday Morning Worship	20 1:00 PM – Adult Bible Study	21	22 5:00 PM – Community Meal 6:00 PM – Midweek Worship Service 6:30 PM – Wednesday School	23 1:00 PM – Lutheran Women in Mission	24	25 4:00 PM – Saturday Worship Service
26 9:30 AM – Sunday Morning Worship	27 1:00 PM – Adult Bible Study	28	29 5:00 PM – Community Meal 6:00 PM – Midweek Worship Service 6:30 PM – Wednesday School	30		

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