

# February 2026

Office hours: Mon-Thurs 9am-2pm Office Phone:

715-423-7788

**Head Elder: Chuck Bossingham**

**Altar Guild: Kaitlyn Federwitz/Heidi Lorfeld**

<b>Birthdays</b>		<b>Elder Schedule</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Blake Miller	28 <sup>th</sup> Geneva Ellithorpe	Sun. 1 <sup>st</sup> Doug Ross
3 <sup>rd</sup> Chelsea Jacoby	28 <sup>th</sup> Isabella Richmond	Wed. 4 <sup>th</sup> Doug Ross
3 <sup>rd</sup> Daley Knoll		Sat. 7 <sup>th</sup> R. D. Manke
4 <sup>th</sup> Jameson Ellithorpe		Sun. 8 <sup>th</sup> Chuck Peters
4 <sup>th</sup> James Hammel		Wed. 11 <sup>th</sup> Lew Porter
8 <sup>th</sup> Cindy Johnson		Sat. 14 <sup>th</sup> Chuck Bossingham
8 <sup>th</sup> Cody Rosenthal		Sun. 15 <sup>th</sup> Bill Coley
8 <sup>th</sup> Hailey Volkening	<b>Anniversaries</b>	ASH WED. 18 <sup>th</sup> Scott Federwitz/Chuck Bossingham
9 <sup>th</sup> Tyler Jinsky		Sat. 21 <sup>st</sup> Chuck Peters
9 <sup>th</sup> Mary Blanchard		Sun. 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jeff Zimmerman
10 <sup>th</sup> Barb Kronenberg		Wed. 25 <sup>th</sup> Darwin Lamb
11 <sup>th</sup> Patricia Ashbeck		Sat. 28 <sup>th</sup> Jim Schoenick
13 <sup>th</sup> Nadia Vukosick		
14 <sup>th</sup> Brooke Torres		
14 <sup>th</sup> Paul Goldberg		
14 <sup>th</sup> Olivia Sweeney		
14 <sup>th</sup> Randy Krey		
15 <sup>th</sup> Barbara Lundquist		
16 <sup>th</sup> Heidi Lorfeld		
16 <sup>th</sup> Richard Oberbeck		
18 <sup>th</sup> Celine Manke		
21 <sup>st</sup> Deb Kawleski		
26 <sup>th</sup> Amy Timm-Peterson		
28 <sup>th</sup> John Garbalaytys		

# St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

February 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 February 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM

**February 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.

**Strategic Planning** – Join us on **Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM** for our final congregation wide strategic planning session where we hope to set goals for the near future. Your input is crucial.

## **February 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.

February 2026

February 1<sup>st</sup>

## **"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)

February 8<sup>th</sup>

## **"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)

February 15<sup>th</sup>

## **"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)

February 22<sup>nd</sup>

## **"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)

# Stewardship Under the Cross<sup>1</sup>

## Overcoming the Fear of Tithing

Your heart will always go where you put God's money.

Jesus said that where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. As the hymn verse has it: "*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 generously to the work of the Church. As we have seen, God commanded Israel to support the Word and Sacrament ministry of the Levites in the Temple with a tithe (10%) of their income. Can we call ourselves generous by doing less?

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. 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. 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 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 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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/>

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 questions below, 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.

1. *“Your heart will always go where you put God's money.”*

What fears surface when you consider giving first rather than last?

2. We confess that everything we have comes from God and belongs to Him.

Where are you tempted to trust your income or savings more than the Lord's care?

3. The article asks plainly: *“Do we trust God's Word?”*

What specific worry makes trusting God with a tithe difficult right now?

4. God's commands are given **for our good, not our harm.**

How does God's promise to provide daily bread speak directly to your fear of giving?

5. Take a moment to pray:

*“Heavenly Father, I believe Your Word is for my good, but I fear \_\_\_\_\_. Forgive my fear and unbelief. By Your Holy Spirit, teach me to trust You and to give cheerfully, resting in Your promises, through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen”*

# St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

Matthew Lorfeld, Pastor

8020 South Park Road

Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

715-423-7788

**Call to Order** by Chairman Craig Timm at 11:02 a.m. with 32 members present.

**Opening Prayer** given by Pastor Lorfeld.

**Welcome** to those in attendance given by Craig Timm.

**Minutes from the 2025 Annual Meeting** were presented for review. Motion made by Chuck Peters and seconded by Bill Coley to accept the Minutes as printed. Motion carried.

**Annual Report:** Pastor Lorfeld reviewed the printed report that is attached. Annual Booklets will be available as soon as all information and corrections are sent to the Office. Questions on giving—weekly, quarterly, twice or once yearly were answered.

**Strategic Planning Meeting** will be held on Saturday, February 7 at 10 a.m. “SMART” goals will be reviewed and set. All members are encouraged to attend.

**2026 Proposed Budget:** Chairman Timm extended a Thank You to Jerry Schimke for his many years as Treasurer. Jerry is looking forward to retirement. Financial Review is in progress. The committee is following the guidelines from the Synod. There is a person(s) interested in accepting the Treasurer duties. The 2026 Proposed Budget is in a negative state at this time with \$29,000 to \$30,000 with funds in limbo. Discussion. Chairman Timm explained a large check we deposited that should have gone to a different church. He also discussed how the organ fund needs to be addressed. Motion made by Jerry Schimke and seconded by Chuck Peters to accept the 2026 Budget with possible amendments in the future. Motion carried.

**2026 Convention Delegate Nominations** were presented by Pastor Lorfeld: President: Matthew Harrison, Brian Wolfmuller; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Peter Lange, Brady Finner. Great Lake Region: Jamison Hardy, Eric Skovgaard. Motion made by Kaitlyn Federwitz, seconded by Cathy Timm. Motion carried.

**Pastoral Elector:** Matthew Lorfeld. Lay Elector: Craig Timm. Motion made by Elaine Polansky, seconded by Marilyn Knoll-Peters. Motion carried.

**Other Items discussed:** New Lutheran High School—an Executive Director has been hired. Tentative location is at Beautiful Savior Church. **Lenten Services:** Ash Wednesday, February 18 at 6:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday service at 6:00 p.m. Good Friday service at 6:00p.m. Easter Sunday April 5, 2026 service at 9:30 a.m.

Adjournment at 12:24 p.m. Closing with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted

*Judith A. Shepard*

Congregational Secretary

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

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod**  
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, January 15, 2026**

**Call to Order** by Chairman Craig Timm at 7:08 p.m. with 11 members plus Pastor Lorfeld present.

**Additional Agenda Items:** None.

**Opening Devotion** led by Pastor based on Romans 12—"We all have gifts within the congregation. Giving & sharing with each other. Prayer.

**Consent Agenda:** Secretary Minutes reviewed. Treasurer's Report was reviewed and discussed. Motion made by Chuck Peters, seconded by Doug Ross. Motion carried.

**Chairman's Report:** Reminder of the Annual Congregational/Voters Meeting on Sunday, January 18, 2026.

**Elder's Report:** The Financial Review is being addressed and is a work in progress.

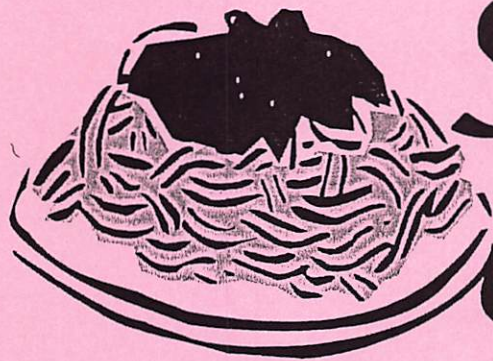
**Pastor's Report:** Pastor reviewed Annual Reports including—Giving--Attendance, Membership Changes, etc.

**Death:** Rhonda Knoll on January 3, 2026.

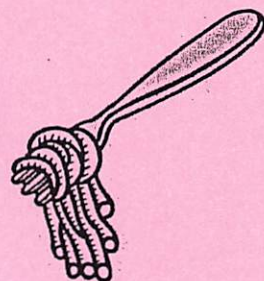
**Investment Group:** Committee is working on project.

**Adjournment** and Closing prayer followed by the Benediction.  
at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Judith A. Shepard*  
Congregational Secretary



# Spaghetti Supper



*St. John Lutheran Church*

*8020 South Park Road -- Kellner*

*Stone Church on the corner of South Park Road  
and 80th Street (Downtown Kellner)*

*Sunday, February 15th*

*Serving 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.*

*Adults/Seniors \$12.00 Children 6 to 10 \$5.00*

*Under 6 FREE*

*Dinner served at your candle-lit table includes:*

*Fresh Garden Salad*

*Spaghetti with Homemade Meat Sauce*

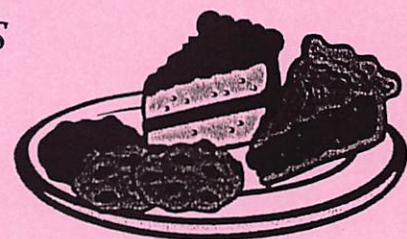
*Italian Garlic (or plain) Bread*

*Dessert Cart featuring an assortment of homemade  
pies, cakes, cookies & other desserts*

*Hot or Cold Beverages*



*Join us for a special evening  
with your loved ones*



## St. John Lutheran – February 2026

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

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

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH  
8020 SOUTH PARK ROAD  
WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WI 54494-8685



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## **February 2026**

Saturdays: 4pm Divine Service

Sundays: 9:30am Divine Service

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

Monday Bible Study in January

February 7, 10 AM Strategic Planning

February 15, 4 PM Spaghetti Supper

February 19 Coffee with Friends

February 19 Elders & Council Meetings

February 26 Lutheran Women in Mission