



May 2026

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

Head Elder: Jim Schoenick

Altar Guild: Cindy Lau

Birthdays		Elder Schedule
1 st Wendy Kiedrowdski	28 th Chuck Bossingham	Sat. 2 nd R. D. Manke
1 st Deborah Becker	29 th Cassie Kiedrowski	Sun. 3 rd Jeff Zimmerman
1 st Brielle Totzke	29 th Elliane Richmond	Wed. 6 th Jim Schoenick
1 st Patricia Lumby		Sat. 9 th Chuck Peters
1 st Keaton Kotex		Sun. 10 th
3 rd Fred Lumby		Wed. 13 th Lew Porter
3 rd Marge Gellerman		Sat. 16 th Jeff Gellerman
4 th Justin Jihsky	Anniversaries	Sun. 17 th Doug Ross
5 th Judith Ontl	15 th Chester & Bonnie James	Wed. 20 th Doug Ross
11 th Diane Flick	25 th Steven & Dixie Richmond	Sat. 23 rd Jim Schoenick
12 th Taylor Cook		Sun. 24 th Bill Coley
14 th James Schoenick		Wed. 27 th
15 th Dawson Rosenthal		Sat. 30 th Chuck Peters
18 th Niles Keyzer		Sun. 31 st
20 th Ronald Zager		
21 st Fran Kostyn		
22 nd Ursula Alarie		
25 th Glen Doers		
26 th Darwin Lamb		
27 th Laurel Zagel		

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

May 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 May 28th at 1:00 PM

Rev. Paul G. Mueller's Funeral Information

June 18th 4pm – 7pm at Herman Taylor Funeral Home.

June 19th St. John Lutheran Church, visitation at 10am until funeral. Funeral/committal at 11am and lunch to follow.

May 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.

May Organ Fund Update

Thank You! Thank You! to all who have so generously donated to the Organ Fund. The total balance remaining is approximately \$ 13,455.

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!

Generous Donors

The **Lutheran Women In Mission** have recently donated to the listed accounts at St. John :

Kitchen Supplies (Paper Goods, Carry Out Boxes, etc.	\$ 2,000.00
Office Supplies (Copy Paper, Ink Toner, etc.).	\$ 2,000.00
Organ Fund	\$ 3,000.00
Roofing Fund	<u>\$ 3,000.00</u>
Totaling \$ 10,000.00	

These monies were earned from Brat Frys, the Spaghetti Supper, the Fall Harvest and Bake Sale and the Cookie/Candy Walk.

Thank You to members who participated in these events.

A Special Thank You to community members who are loyal supporters of events at St. John.

Cook Outs

Summer is here and the LWIM ladies and their Auxiliary are ready to serve:

Brats, Hot Dogs, Soda, Cookies and More!

Cook Out Dates are: Saturday May 16th and July 25th at Quality Foods (IGA) on Baker Street.

Kitchen Cleaning

The LWIM Ladies recently cleaned and re-organized the kitchen Cupboards and Drawers.

The cupboards and drawers are now labeled to help the staff locate serving /cooking ware and utensils. Kitchen users are asked to help keep the cupboards/drawers organized.

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.

May 2026

May 3

"Planning Is Everything"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Offer up your plans to God in prayer and see what God does with them. Let your plans become prayers that lead you to praise.

(Psalm 146:3-4)

May 10

"The King Who Reigns"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jason Broge

If Easter tells us that Jesus the King has won, then Ascension tells us the King is reigning, and His reign is good.

(Luke 24:36-53)

May 17

"Don't Despise Small Beginnings"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Our small efforts to become the people Jesus saved us to be might seem insignificant, but small efforts compound.

(Acts 1:14)

May 24

"Getting the Talk Started"

"Misery Loves Company"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

It's often said, "Misery loves company." Christ comes to us in our misery with God's love and mercy.

(Acts 2: 38)

May 31

"A Friendly Recommendation"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

What happens when you find out that acquiring everything you've ever wanted... still isn't enough?

(Genesis 1:26)

You're Invited... to Invite

One of our congregational goals is to become a church where inviting people is simply part of our DNA. We want to be a place that warmly welcomes guests, encourages one another, and helps more people hear the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. As part of our Strategic Plan, we have set a goal of extending 300 invitations to church by September 30.

We know from experience that we are far more likely to accept an invitation from someone we know and trust than from a stranger. A sign, an ad, or a public announcement may be noticed, but a personal invitation from a friend, neighbor, coworker, or family member carries weight. Relationships matter.

This is why invitation is so valuable in the life of the church. Many people are more open than we realize. A recent Lifeway Research study found that 56% of Americans said they would likely attend church at Christmastime if someone they know invited them. People may be curious about worship, searching for hope, or looking for a church home, and sometimes all they're waiting for someone they know and trust to ask.

It's also worth remembering that a "no" often just means "not yet." Research consistently shows that people usually need to hear something several times before they act on it, and church is no different. The first invitation plants a seed. A later one, once trust has grown or the timing is better, might be the one that opens the door. Keep asking. Keep welcoming.

That is why simple, gracious invitations matter: "Would you like to come this Sunday?" "We'd love to have you join us for Christmas." "There's a Bible study starting soon, want to check it out?" "Want to sit together?" These small invitations may seem ordinary, but God often uses them over time. What feels like a declined invitation today may become a joyful "yes" later.

The Simple Math of Invitation

Churches naturally change from year to year. Some members enter eternal rest in Christ. Some move away. Some transfer to another faithful congregation closer to home or fitting their current season of life. While we miss them, we also rejoice that they remain part of the wider body of Christ and continue receiving His gifts.

For a congregation our size, maintaining our membership does not happen automatically. If several households are lost each year through death, relocation, or transfer, new households must also be welcomed simply to remain steady. That often happens through a simple pattern:

- Many invitations extended
- Some of these respond and visit for the first time
- Some of these return again
- Some of these become regular worshipers
- Some of these pursue instruction and deeper involvement
- Some of these eventually become members

Not every invitation leads to a visit. Not every visit leads to membership. That's ok and expected. But every invitation is an act of love, and God often works through many faithful, ordinary efforts.

Simple Ways to Invite and Welcome

Invitation does not need to be complicated. Consider small, practical ways to help others feel at ease:

- Invite someone personally to worship or an event.
- Offer to meet them in the parking lot, and show them which door to go in.
- Sit with them during the service.
- Introduce them to a few friendly faces.
- Invite them to coffee or fellowship afterward.
- Greet someone new warmly, but not overwhelmingly.
- Notice those who seem uncertain or alone.
- Continue inviting, even if the first answer is "not yet."

A sincere welcome often means more than a polished program.

Consider This Your Invitation

If there is someone on your heart, a neighbor, child, grandchild, coworker, or friend, consider this your encouragement to invite them.

And if *you* are reading this as someone who has been away, uncertain, or wondering whether you would be welcome: consider this an invitation to you as well.

Come and see. There is room for you here, and we would be glad to welcome you.

In Christ,

Pastor Lorfeld

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

A member Congregation of The Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod

8020 South Park Road. Wisconsin Rapids, I. 54494

715-423-7788

Church Council Meeting, March 26, 2026

Call to Order by Chairman Craig Timm at 7:02 p.m. 12 members present & Rev. Matthew Lorfeld.

Call for Additional Agenda Items: Car Port issue.

Opening Devotions: Pastor led The Lord's Prayer.

Consent Agenda: Minutes from February 19, 2026 were approved with a motion by Jeff Gellerman and second by Chuck Peters. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Recent **Memorial Service** for Jim Helmuth. **Funeral Service** for Mona Heindl held on March 25, 2026. **Robin Ellithrope accepted into membership** by Adult Baptism. Two First Communion candidates to be accepted for Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday, include: **Killian Federwitz and Owen Porter**. Palm Sunday will include a presentation of Palms. Holy Week Communion Services will be on Maundy Thursday, at 6:00 p.m.; Good Friday, at 6:00 p.m.; the Saturday Easter Vigil at 4:00 p.m. and Easter Sunday, at 9:30 a.m. Pastor also Presented a **Draft of the Revitalization & Strategic Plan for 2026-2030. A mock-up of a tracking board to record the challenge of 300 guests brought to church in the coming months. A Visitor Follow-up Chart. Church IT Infrastructure Proposal. All documents are on file if anyone would like to review.**

Chuck Bossingham made a motion to **Budget \$900.00 for the Proposed Infrastructure program for the Office Computers**. Seconded by Jeff Zimmerman. Motion carried.

Emergency Power Outage Ministry Plan was reviewed, with additions to the Plan Revision in the April Council Meeting.

Piano Recital to be held on Sunday June 1 or 8 at 7:00 p.m. by Valeria Johnston. Approximately 10 students would participate. A Reception would follow. Motion made by Scott Federwitz and seconded by Chuck Peters. Motion carried.

Old Business: Approval of the **Treasurer's Report** will be with held until questioned items are investigated. **Organ Fund Balance** due is \$13,600.00. **Memorial Fund:** No Report.

Car Port damaged due to sustained winds was presented. A quote is being prepared to replace 4 panels in the ceiling. Suggested to obtain 2 estimates. Work is on hold until estimates are reviewed.

Adjournment: Motion by Jeff Zimmerman at 7:54 p.m., seconded by R.D. Manke. Motion carried.

The March 2026 Council Meeting closed with Prayer and the Benediction.

Respectfully submitted:

Judith A. Shepard,

Church Council Secretary

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
A member Congregation of The Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod

8020 South Park Road. Wisconsin Rapids, I. 54494

715-423-7788

Church Council Meeting, April 16, 2026

Call to Order by Chairman Craig Timm at 7:00 p.m. 12members and Rev. Lorfeld present.

Additional Agenda Items: Trustees. Elders.

Opening Devotions: All shared in the Lord's Prayer.

Consent Agenda: Minutes of March 26, 2026. Motion made by Darleene Swen, seconded by Jerry Swen to accept the printed minutes. Motion carried.

Chairman's Report: Passing of Jerry Strack. Services pending at this time.

Pastor's Report: No new members, Baptisms or Transfers In or Out. Pastor stated there is interest from families who have attended recently. Goals Invitation tracker board in progress. Elders will present skit at services demonstrating how to extend an invitation to worship to acquaintances.

Trustees: **Elevator repair** was performed by KONE repair and is operational at this time.

Generator engine needs proper software. **Car Port** repair estimate is S\$1,120 from Pro Seamless. More estimates will be gathered. **Cemetery Sign** needs repair/replacement, estimates will be gathered. **Clean -up of the Cemetery** has been completed by Rollie Ashbeck, Jerry Swen and Doug Ross.

New Business:

Organ Fund has a balance due of \$13,455.67.

Roof Fund now has a balance of \$6,100.

Adjournment at 7:50 p.m.

The April 16, 2026 Council Meeting closed with Prayer

Benediction given by Rev. Lorfeld.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. Shepard

Congregational Secretary

St. John Lutheran – May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 4:00 PM – Saturday Worship Service
3 9:30 AM – Sunday Morning Worship	4 Pastor at Camp Luther Board Meeting	5 Pastor at Camp Luther Board Meeting	6 5:00 PM – Community Meal 6:00 PM – Midweek Worship Service 6:30 PM – Wednesday School	7	8	9 4:00 PM – Saturday Worship Service
10 9:30 AM – Sunday Morning Worship	11 1:00 PM – Adult Bible Study	12	13 5:00 PM – Community Meal 6:00 PM – Midweek Worship Service 6:30 PM – Wednesday School	14	15	16 4:00 PM – Saturday Worship Service
17 9:30 AM – Sunday Morning Worship	18 Pastor at District Pastors' Conference	19 Pastor at District Pastors' Conference	20 5:00 PM – Community Meal 6:00 PM – Midweek Worship Service 6:30 PM – Wednesday School	21 6:00 PM – Elders Meeting 7:00 PM – Council Meeting 9:00 AM – Coffee with Friends	22	23 4:00 PM – Saturday Worship Service
24 9:30 AM – Sunday Morning Worship	25 Memorial Day – Office Closed	26	27 6:00 PM – Midweek Worship Service	28 1:00 PM – Lutheran Women in Mission	29	30 4:00 PM – Saturday Worship Service
31 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.