

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

September 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.

Wednesday School: Registration and Parent/student information for Wednesday School will be held on September 2 at 6:30 (following the Wednesday Service). Our classes begin on September 9.

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

BOOK SALE DONATIONS:

We are currently accepting donations for our October 2026 book sale. Please bring them to the church library and place them in the blue bin. We will take books, CD's, and DVD's in good working order. Please no magazines, newspapers, cassette tapes, or VCR tapes.

September Organ Fund Update

Thank You! Thank You! to all who have so generously donated to the Organ Fund. The total balance remaining is approximately \$7100.00

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!

Search the Word

School is starting and that means we are gearing up again for Wednesday School at St. John.

One of the traps that we can fall into is that as we age, we grow out of learning from God's Word. This could not be further from the truth. Psalm 1:2 says, "[Blessed is the man whose] delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night." Here, the word for "law" is Torah, which was another name for the Hebrew Scriptures, in particular the first 5 books of the Old Testament, that David meditated on.

The word "meditate," *hagah* in Hebrew, is low utterance. This is when you are deep in thought and maybe repeat a phrase that you're trying to work out. There's another sense to the Hebrew word as well, it's the sound an animal makes as it devours its food. Think a lion eating a wildebeest or Cookie Monster eating cookies. So to paraphrase Psalm 1, "you are blessed when you repeat out loud God's Word and chew on it."

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 is sometimes seen as the Creed of the Old Testament: "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

While teaching the Word of God to children is expressly commended here, so is the repeating of God's Word to one another in the household, both children and adult alike.

We are also warned of the dangers of not studying God's Word:

Hebrews 5:12-14 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

When we stray from God's Word, when it goes unread, unstudied, or unspoken in our lives we are easily led to evil and our future generations may forget God's Word and fall away from the faith.

I want you to be blessed by God's Word. I want you to be blessed by the comfort of the Gospel, knowing that Jesus has died for your sins and is raised for your justification. That's why we study the Scriptures.

Currently we have a few opportunities to study God's Word together: Wednesday, September 2 will be Wednesday School registration and information, classes will kick off on September 9. We also have our Monday Bible Study at 1 PM. Additionally as other groups meet, such as Coffee with Friends (3rd Thursday at 9AM) or Lutheran Women in Mission (4th Thursday at 1pm) we have additional times to study God's Word together. I'd also like to get another Bible study going for those who work during the week. Look for an interest survey in the next weeks.

In Christ,

Pastor Matthew Lorfeld

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, August 20, 2026

Call to Order by Chairman Craig Timm at 7:03 p.m. with 14 members plus Pastor Lorfeld present.

Additional Agenda Items: None.

Open Devotion: Prayer led by Pastor Lorfeld.

Consent Agenda: Motion by Chuck Peters, seconded by Jeff Zimmerman to accept the Minutes from June 18, 2026 and the Financial Reports as printed. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Two new members: **Randy and Terri Evans**. Applications for membership received from two families. Instructions continue for additional members. No transfers In or Out. Funeral service for **Pastor Paul Mueller**.

Wedding scheduled for **Becky Dove and Dan Grimm** on September 12, 2026.

Weekday School: Orientation is September 2 and Classes begin September 9, 2026.

Old Business: The Financial Review is completed. Jerry Schimke and Jeff Gellerman will begin work on the 2027 Preliminary Budget with information from the Boards/Committees due in September for presentation to the Council in October for review. The 2027 Budget will be presented to the Congregation on January 17, 2027 at the Annual Meeting. Jerry Schimke and Pastor have completed backups, additional reports and passwords for the Finance and Treasurer position. There is also a procedure in place for the "handoff of information" to succeeding personnel.

Board of Trustees: Jerry Swen sated that the sofit in the carport has been repaired.

New Business:

Congregation Goals: Pastor Lorfeld reviewed the **Challenge of 300** contacts/visitors by September 30. If everyone contacted just two people the goal would be met.

Other goals include: Team needed to assess the **Community Needs** in the Town of Grant, and Grand Rapids as well as Grant School. A team of at least 2 people is needed for **Visitor Follow** of Guests to our parish, repeat guest visits, and then getting new members involved in our parish. **Review and Revised Constitution** and update of **Hand Book** by the end of 2027.

Organ Fund Balance needed as of July 31, is at \$7,100.00.

Roofing Fund now carries donations totaling \$6,630.00.

Memorial Committee: Nothing at this time.

Coffee with Friends -Thursday, September 17, 2026 from 9 to 11 a.m.

All ladies are invited to share in treats and fellowship.

Paper/Janitorial Supplies: Concern was expressed about the ordering and receipt of items from Point Supply. Sue Helmuth will contact the company and will also look for a new supplier.

Church-wide Picnic: Discussion about an October 2026 Picnic.

Dellwood presentation on Friday, November 6 and Sunday November 15.

Additional information and sign-up in the Narthex. Deadline is Sunday October 11th.

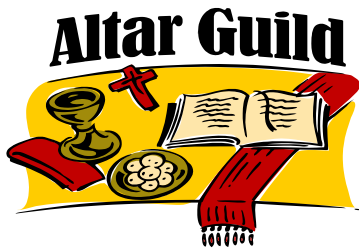
Adjournment at 7:39 p.m.

Closing with Prayer and the Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. Shepard

Congregational Secretary



September 2026

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

Head Elder: R. D. Manke

Altar Guild: Darlene Swen/Kylie Swen

Birthdays		Elder Schedule
1 st Laura Neinfeldt	25 th Micah Lorfeld	Wed. 2 nd Scott Federwitz
2 nd Emily Saeger	25 th Liyah Lawson	Sat. 5 th Doug Ross
3 rd Star Anacher	25 th Bailey Twinn	Sun. 6 th Chuck Peters
3 rd Greyson Zimmerman	25 th Sharon Dix	Wed. 9 th Lew Porters
4 th Kaitlyn Federwitz	26 th Aleda Peters	Sat. 12 th R. D. Manke
4 th Anissa Rosenthal	27 th Laurel Twinn	Sun. 13 th Jeff Zimmerman
5 th Charlotte Goldberg	28 th Shirley Zimmerman	Wed. 16 th Chuck Bossingham
6 th Cynthia Lau	29 th Jerry Bubolz	Sun. 19 th Chuck Peters
7 th Echo Keller	30 th Jean Zeman	Sat. 20 th Bill Coley
7 th Paige Dobratz	30 th Dylan Rosenthal	Wed. 23 rd Doug Ross
8 th Khloe Maleport		Sat. 26 th Jim Schoenick
10 th Kaydence Adams		Sun. 27 th Jeff Gellerman
11 th Roland Ashbeck	Anniversaries	Wed. 30 th Scott Federwitz
12 th Viktor Federwitz	3 rd Lynn & Sharon Dix	
14 th Jeff Gellerman	6 th John & Kaylee Hall	
15 th Scott Federwitz	6 th Jeremiah & Maddie Harper	
16 th Sandra Mueller	19 th Randy & Beth Krey	
16 th Aubrie Anderson	25 th Scott & Kaitlyn Federwitz	
19 th Bonnie Hansen	27 th John & Vicki Alft	
19 th James Kiedrowski	28 th Robert & Echo Keller	
21 st Lester Heindl		
21 st Sharon Goldberg		
22 nd Cody Kiedrowski		
22 nd Keith Gussel		

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.

September 2026

September 6

"Come and See"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The Book of Nature can open your mind to the possibility that God is real. The Book of Scripture, the Bible, goes further, like a friend who's been there.

(John 1:46)

September 13

"Forgiveness Is a Non-Negotiable"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

In God's family, forgiveness is non-negotiable. It's not up for debate because forgiveness is what makes us who we are.

(Matthew 6:12)

September 20

"High Bar to Clay Jar"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

In Jesus, we don't need to compare ourselves to anyone else. Instead, we are free to better appreciate them.

(Matthew 20:16)

September 27

"Teachable"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

To be a disciple is to be a learner. Jesus loves you enough to make you teachable.

(Matthew 21:31)

St. John Lutheran – September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 5:00 PM – Community Meal 6:00 PM – Midweek Worship Service 6:30 PM – Wednesday School Registration	3	4	5 4:00 PM – Saturday Worship Service
6 9:30 AM – Sunday Morning Worship	7 Labor Day - Office Closed	8	9 5:00 PM – Community Meal 6:00 PM – Midweek Worship Service 6:30 PM – Wednesday School	10	11	12 4:00 PM – Saturday Worship Service
13 9:30 AM – Sunday Morning Worship	14 1:00 PM – Adult Bible Study	15	16 5:00 PM – Community Meal 6:00 PM – Midweek Worship Service 6:30 PM – Wednesday School	17 9:00 AM – Coffee with Friends 6:00 PM – Elders Meeting 7:00 PM – Council Meeting	18	19 4:00 PM – Saturday Worship Service
20 9:30 AM – Sunday Morning Worship	21 1:00 PM – Adult Bible Study	22	23 5:00 PM – Community Meal 6:00 PM – Midweek Worship Service 6:30 PM – Wednesday School	24 1:00 PM – Lutheran Women in Mission	25	26 4:00 PM – Saturday Worship Service
27 9:30 AM – Sunday Morning Worship	28 No Bible Study – Pastor at North Wisconsin District Pastor's Conference	29 Pastor at North Wisconsin District Pastor's Conference	30 5:00 PM – Community Meal 6:00 PM – Midweek Worship Service 6:30 PM – Wednesday School			

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