

**Church: (616) 842-4510**

Pastor Kurt Wenzelburger  
Youth & Family Life Director Craig Kaschube  
Music Director Tracy Wood



**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
(a congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod)

[www.st-johns-lutheran.com](http://www.st-johns-lutheran.com)

527 Taylor, Grand Haven, MI 49417

Traditional: 8:15 a.m. With Communion  
Contemporary: 10:30 a.m. With Communion  
Saturday Night: 5:00 p.m. With Communion



**Bulletin deadline:** Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m. **Newsletter deadline** is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

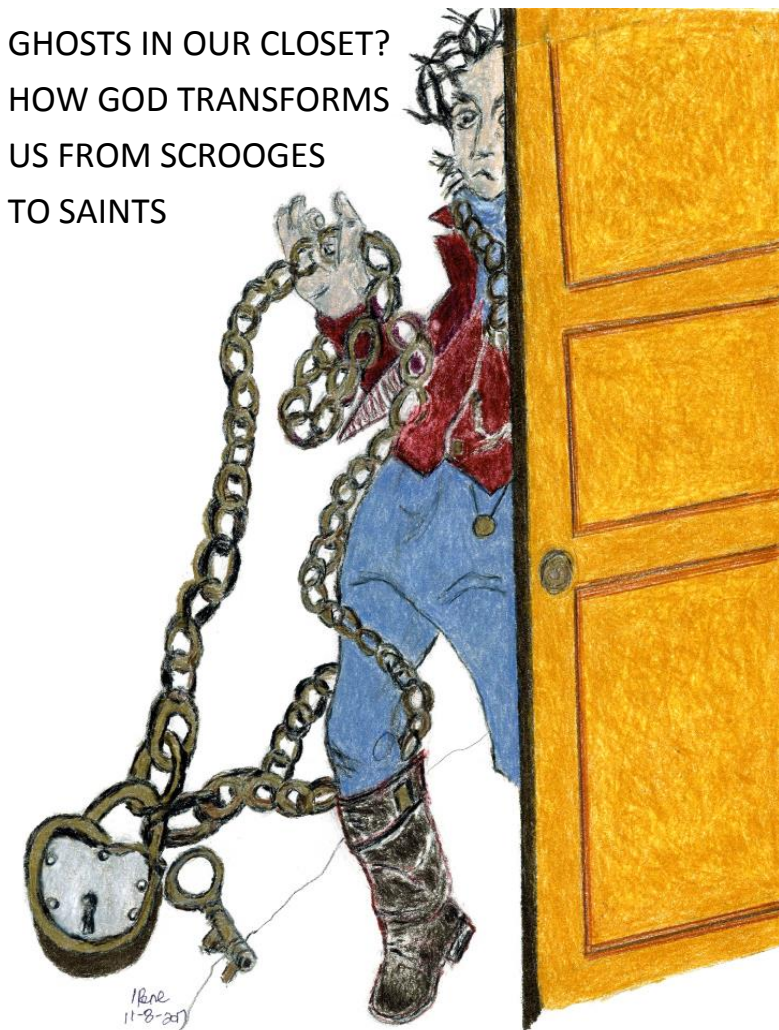
Please email announcements to [office@slcs.org](mailto:office@slcs.org).

**School: (616) 842-0260**  
**Daycare: (616) 414-5499**

Administrator/Business Manager Laura Harvey  
Early Childhood Education Director Heidi Bohn



December 2/3, 2017  
The First Weekend of Advent  
St. John's Lutheran Church—Grand Haven, MI



GHOSTS IN OUR CLOSET?  
HOW GOD TRANSFORMS  
US FROM SCROOGES  
TO SAINTS

# **Welcome to St. John's Lutheran Church and School**

**This Weekend's lessons are found in...** Isaiah 64:1–9, 1 Corinthians 1:3–9, and Luke 4:16-21. The message, presented by Pastor Kurt, is "**Ghosts in Our Closets**" Sermon Series - "**Ghosts of the Past**" and it's based on **Luke 4:16-21**.

**Prayer before worship:** *"O Lord God Almighty, since you bless your servants with various and unusual gifts of the Holy Spirit, grant us grace to use them always to your honor and glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord."*

**The Lord's Supper** is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord Jesus gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm, and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a public confession differing from that of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor, or are invited to come forward to receive a blessing by simply crossing your arms on your chest.

We have gluten-free communion wafers, as well as, non-alcoholic wine – just ask the pastor when you come up for communion.

**A note to parents of young children** – We welcome and encourage the participation of all children in our worship, cooing and crying and all; however, there is an unmanned nursery downstairs available. There are also Green Activity Bags in the entryway containing many fun things to occupy your children. **Childcare is available downstairs in the nursery** every Sunday during Bible Study time.

**To the members of our church** – The presence of children is a gift to the Church and they are a reminder that our congregation is growing. Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

**For Pastoral Needs** – Please contact the church office at 842-4510 or [office@silcs.org](mailto:office@silcs.org).

## Sermon Notes

“Ghosts in Our Own Closets: How God Transforms Us from Scrooges to Saints”

“Ghosts of the Past” – Luke 4:16-21



Fred H. Cooper

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# Our Stewardship of Time and Talents – December 3 – 9, 2017

## Calendar

\*all meetings are in the Social Hall unless otherwise designated

- SUN. 8:15am Traditional Worship  
 9:30am Bible Study Ghosts in our Closet? How God Transforms Us from Scrooges to Saints in the Multipurpose Room  
 9:30am Augsburg Confession Bible Study in the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade Classroom  
 9:30am Sunday School  
 9:30am Junior/Senior Youth Bible Study in the Youth Room in the basement
- MON. 10:30am Contemporary Worship  
 10:00am Quilters  
 11:30am Recorders  
 7:00pm Family Matters at the Parsonage
- TUE. 7:00pm All boards meet  
 10:00am Faith at Home meeting  
 4:00pm Boy's Basketball game at West Shore  
 4:00pm Journey to Bethlehem rehearsal/meal  
 6:30pm Men's Bible Study
- WED. 9:30am Ladies Bible Study  
 10:00am Chapel  
 1:15pm Church Staff meeting  
 5:45pm JuBELLation Ringers  
 7:00pm Advent worship  
 8:00pm Celebration Choir
- THUR. 12:00pm Ladies Aid Christmas potluck  
 4:00pm Journey to Bethlehem meal  
 7:15pm Praise Team
- FRI. Pastor Kurt's day off  
 4:00pm Journey to Bethlehem meal
- SAT. 4:00pm Journey to Bethlehem meal  
 5:00pm Worship

## Stewards

### For the weekend Dec. 2/3

**Elders:** Chuck Hasseldahl

**Acolytes:**

- 5:00 Matthew Uthe  
 8:15 Adrian & Alex Douglas  
 10:30 Molly & Penny Williams  
 7:00 Tiffanie Fase (Advent worship)

**Lectors:**

- 8:15 Benjamin Bosch  
 10:30 Cheryl Thomas

### For the weekend Dec. 9/10

**Elders:** Bill Schmidt

**Acolytes:**

- 5:00 Avery & JJ Parylak  
 8:15 Jocelyn & Laurel Tolliver  
 10:30 Samuel Liggett  
 7:00 Dorian Cipolla (Advent worship)

**Lectors:**

- 8:15 Michael Kuras  
 10:30 Clarence Tullock

### December Altar Guild:

Connie Behm (616) 842-6518

## Sunday School Calendar

December 3	Christmas Part 1
December 10	Christmas Part 2
December 17	Gingerbread Houses

## St. John's Prayer Page

Please lift up the following in prayer...

### Those Celebrating Birthdays:

DARA, Lori	12/03
VANDERSKI, Alex	12/03
BRINGEDAHL, Al	12/04
LIGGETT, Kelly	12/04
BOLTHOUSE, Robin	12/05
LYONS, Nick	12/05
PEIRSON Sr., Stephen	12/06
SCHUCH, Jeanne	12/06
THOMAS, Cheryl	12/07
NELSON, Alexis	12/09

### Those Celebrating Anniversaries:

ORTQUIST, Dale & Mary Jo (31) 12/06

### Lutherans For Life Quote:

"God created you in the womb. He formed your very being. He called you by name for His great plans. He made your life new through the Holy One of Israel. God gave you a new heart through Christ. God has loved you so deeply—and He gives you the gift of life so deeply—that He gave you the heart of Christ. HIS heart beats within you. THAT is God's gift of grace." Rev. Paul J. Frank, Hosanna Lutheran Church and School, Mesa, Arizona – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life •

[www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

### Prayers for the Grieving:

For **Sabrina Johnson** and family as they mourn the death of her step-father, Jerry, who passed away on November 27, 2017.

### Other Prayers:

### Prayer Requests from our Connect Cards:

**Craig & Janet Montgomery:** For **Joni Bennett & family** for peace, comfort and hope in the wake of the passing of her mother, **Sally Lawson**.

**Richard & Dorothy Grabowski:** For a successful bone marrow transplant for **Carol Schmidt**.

**Chuck & Jeanne Schuch:** For safe travel for us this week as we are going to see children and grandchildren in Colorado (November 28-December 2).

**Mark & Sherry Brooky:** Protection for all college students that traveled home for the holidays. For Mark's mother, **Cleomae Brooky**, as she is recovering from a fall.

**Karen Ralya:** For those in need of God's healing touch - **Karen Shields, Carol Schmidt, Rita Scalici** and all those we know in our hearts.

**Marlene Guske:** Job for **Carrie**, granddaughter in Florida. Praise for safe travels for her.

### Other Prayers:

**NEWS AND NOTES**  
**Our Stewardship of the Word**

**Attendance:** Thanksgiving Eve: 134, Sat.: 5:00 – 37, Sun.: 8:15 – 80, 10:30 – 110; **Total: 361**  
**Enter to Worship – Depart to Serve**

**Our Stewardship of Gifts**

**\$18,523.00 is needed weekly for our ministry**

**General Fund Gifts Received:** \$13,542.38

**Also received for:** BUTC \$381, God's Pantry \$62, Financial Freedom \$160, Debt Reduction \$1,245, TNMBS breakfast \$137

**Memorials**

**In memory of Evelyn Camburn** to the General Fund by Robert A. Green

**In memory of Charlene MacKellar** to the General Fund by David MacKellar

**In memory of Mary Richert** to Debt Retirement by Ora & Theresa Richert

**In memory of Lee Shake** to the General Fund by Carrie Holmes

**In memory of Fred Snider** to the General Fund

**101 Ways to Love Your Husband:** Clown Around – Have fun together. Sometimes, it's important to just be silly and roll on the floor or play along with his silly games. Laugh. Touch. Smile. Tickle.

**God's Pantry/Social Ministry:** Contact Marlene Guske (842-6879) for food pantry and meals; Monica Boeve (846-5588) for all other financial assistance; Bonnie Bringadahl (607-8076), for meals for the sick/injured. **Pantry needs:** Hamburger Helper and cereal **Holiday Food Boxes:** Anyone in need of a Christmas Food Box is asked to contact Marlene Guske 842-6879 by Mon., Dec. 18.

**The Votes Are In!** We'll support these 3 missions/ministries on the following weeks during Advent: Dec. 6 - St. John's Food Pantry; Dec. 13 - Love in Action; Dec. 20 - Camp Restore. Thanks for voting!

**"Ghosts in Our Closet?" "How God Transforms Us from Scrooges to Saints"**

Advent is upon us and with it comes a new Sermon Series and Bible Study entitled: Ghosts in Our Closet? How God Transforms Us from Scrooges to Saints. Plan to join us for worship and Randy Cooper's Bible Study on the first three Sundays in Dec. as we explore how Charles' Dickens famous novel, A Christmas Carol, applies to our new lives given through the Christ child. Benjamin Bosch's Augsburg Confession Bible Study continues in the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade classroom at 9:30am, too. **Childcare is available downstairs in the nursery** every Sun. during Bible Study time.

**Join Us for Our Advent & Christmas Services:** Mid-Week Advent Worship is on Wed. at 7:00pm on Dec. 6 and 13. Our Day School Christmas program will take place on Wed., Dec. 20 at 6:30pm. There is no Saturday Worship on Dec. 23. Christmas Eve Worship will take place at 9:00am (Lessons & Carols), 4:00pm (Family Worship), and 7:00pm (Candlelight Worship). Christmas Day Worship is at 9:00am. New Year's Eve Worship will take place on Sat., Dec. 30 at 5:00pm and Sun., Dec. 31 at 8:15am & 10:30am. There is no New Year's Day Worship.

**In celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation** a special edition Reformation book, is available for purchase at special discounted prices. See the order form/signup in the Social Hall. The book retails at \$29.99.

## Interactive Family Christmas Eve Worship:

St. John's members and friends are invited to attend our 4:00pm Christmas Eve Worship Service. This service is especially suited for families with children and grandchildren (or anyone who remembers being a child at Christmas time). Portions of the Christmas story will be interspersed with familiar Christmas carols. This family-friendly service will last less than one hour.



## Journey to Bethlehem (J2B) Ticket Sales:

J2B is an interactive guided outdoor journey where you encounter shepherd, magi, townspeople, livestock and even Roman Soldiers right here in Grand Haven on Dec. 7, 8 and 9. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at

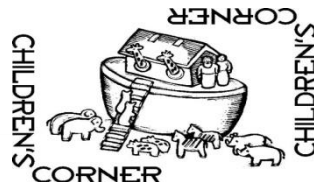
[www.journey2bethlehem.com](http://www.journey2bethlehem.com).

## Journey to Bethlehem (J2B) Help Needed:

St. John's is once again hosting the cast and crew for meals Dec. 5, 7, 8 and 9 and will need teams of 5-6 to assist in preparing and serving the meals. Help is also needed with costumes and parking lot attendants. Please sign up now in the Social Hall or on the back of your Connect Card. For more info, contact Ronda Chapman at 847-8736 or [rgchapman81@hotmail.com](mailto:rgchapman81@hotmail.com).

**Pigs-in-the-Blanket** are available in the school kitchen freezer. A package of 12 sells for \$9. Make checks out to St. John's Ladies Aid and leave in the envelope in the freezer.

Sunday School  
Parent Message  
December 3, 2017



## The Glory Of Christmas! (Part 1)

This week's lesson will be on preparing our hearts and minds on the coming of Christ. We know that Sin separates me and all people from God. God sent Jesus to be "God with us," and He makes us His own dear children through faith in His Son.

**Junior & Senior Youth Christmas Party!** We are meeting at Holy Grounds on Sun., Dec. 10 at 11:30am and lunch is included! Please bring a used (not new) "White Elephant" gift valued at \$5 or less. Please RSVP to Sue LaLonde at [suelalonde@charter.net](mailto:suelalonde@charter.net) or (616) 847-7876 or Craig Kaschube at (616) 842-4510, ext. 126 or email him at [ckaschube@silcs.org](mailto:ckaschube@silcs.org).

**Save the date!** St. John's Lutheran School Auction date is set for Fri., Mar. 23 at Porto Bello's! We look forward to having another great year supporting our school. Our theme this year is "Michigan Awesome". Do you have something to donate that is Michigan awesome? Or a cabin in Michigan you would want another family to enjoy the awesomeness of Michigan? Please remember us during your holiday shopping. If you have any questions feel free to contact Megan Vink (616) 566-8289.

**The church office will be closed on the following dates:** Fri., Dec. 22 through Tue., Dec. 26 (Christmas) and Mon., Jan. 1 through Tue., Jan. 2 (New Years).

**Family Matters** is a group that gathers once a month to make sure that the family members of St. John's are connected and cared for. If you'd like to join us, contact Shelley Wenzelburger at (414) 736-6366 or join us on Mon., Dec. 4 at 7:00pm in the parsonage.

**Advent Devotional Booklets** are available for your personal or family devotions and can be found in the church narthex (the back of church) as well in the Social Hall. These devotions, entitled Love Came Down, are from Lutheran Hour Ministries. In *Love Came Down* we see how the Heavenly Father spared nothing—not even His own Son—to work out our salvation. Though we had rebelled in our sins and spurned God and His Commandments, He chose us—not for exclusion, but redemption. The Father's love sought us out in our perilous condition and, in His infinite mercy, bridged the divide to our isolation through Jesus—the one Mediator between God and Man. A blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas to you all from the Board of Parish Education!

**Holiday Shopping With SCRIP:** Need to send gift cards to distant relatives but not sure which stores are in their area?

1. Go to [www.ShopWithScrip.com](http://www.ShopWithScrip.com), then "SHOP" tab
2. Click on a merchant, then "Find a location near you"
3. Enter a zip code to see locations available
4. Order online (if you have registered with St. John's), OR complete a SCRIP order form from the school.
5. Orders submitted with payment by Tuesday at 9:00am are available by Thursday of the same week.

**Gingerbread Houses:** Our Sunday School will be building Gingerbread Houses on Dec. 17 at 9:30am in the church basement.



**A special thank you** to the following for donating the poinsettia plants to decorate the sanctuary during Advent and Christmas:

**Plants donated in memory of...**

- John Kalavitz & John Vanden Bosch by Jane Kalavitz  
Our grandparents by the Uthe Family  
Our parents by Ken & Debbie Luytjes  
All our family in heaven by Bob & Barb Schulz  
Bob Bolthouse by Cleone Bolthouse  
Don & Nancy Kauth by Erin Von Tom  
Our parents by Mark & Diane Howard  
My sister, Gail Porter by Karen Lange  
Gene & Jo Markiewicz and Ed & Violet Gierke by Bill & Carol Markiewicz  
Gierke Vern Simpson, Chris & Shawn Simpson by Lynn Simpson  
Our parents by Dave & Rita Scalici  
Our parents by Ken & Christine Lee  
Our parents by Richard & Sharon Rothe  
Our parents by Gene & Donna Hasenbank  
My loved ones by Sylvia Miller  
Loved ones gone before us by Bill & Patti Kooi  
Our departed parents by Terry & Debra Francik

**Plants donated in honor of...**

- Our Savior's birth by Ron & Donna Yost  
Our children and grandchildren by Rick & Kay Waters

You may pick up your plants after January 1, 2018.