

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

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 15th of the month.

Please email announcements to office@slcs.org.

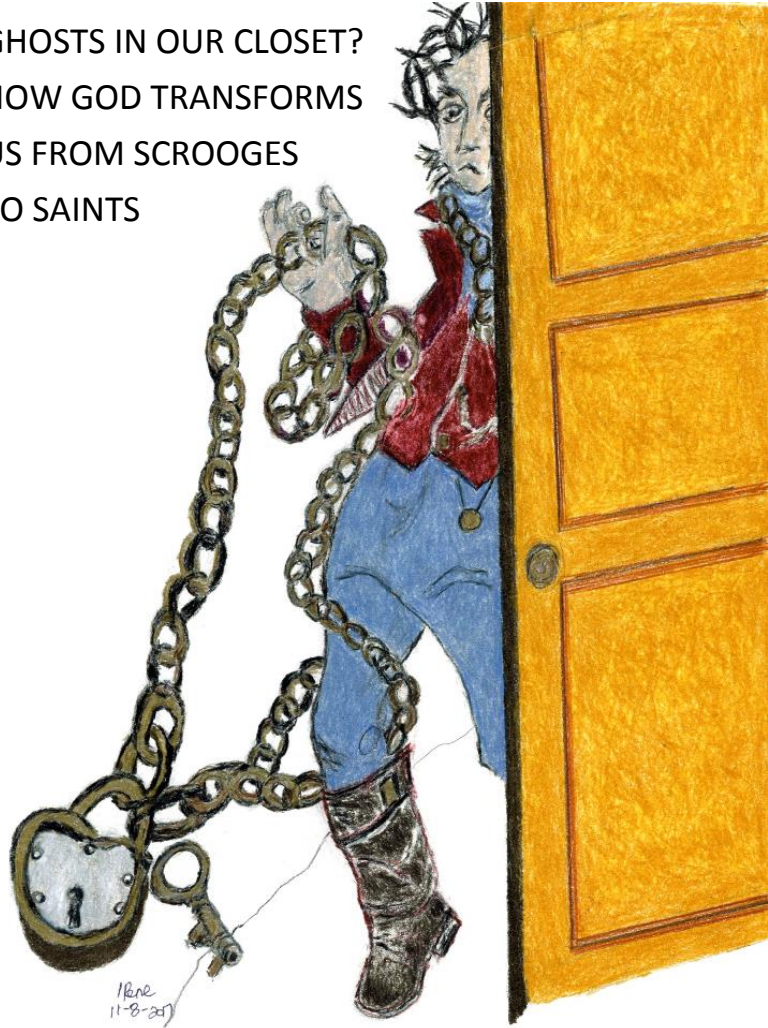
School: (616) 842-0260
Daycare: (616) 414-5499

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



December 9/10, 2017
The Second 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 40:1–11, 2 Peter 3:8–14, and Luke 1:39–45. The message, presented by Pastor Kurt, is his “**Ghosts in Our Closets**” Sermon Series “**Ghosts of the Present**” and it's based on **Luke 1:39–45**.

Prayer before worship: *“O God, by the patient suffering of your only-begotten Son you have beaten down the pride of the old enemy. Now help us, we humbly pray, rightly to treasure in our hearts all that our Lord has of his goodness borne for our sake that after his example we may bear with patience all that is adverse to us; 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.

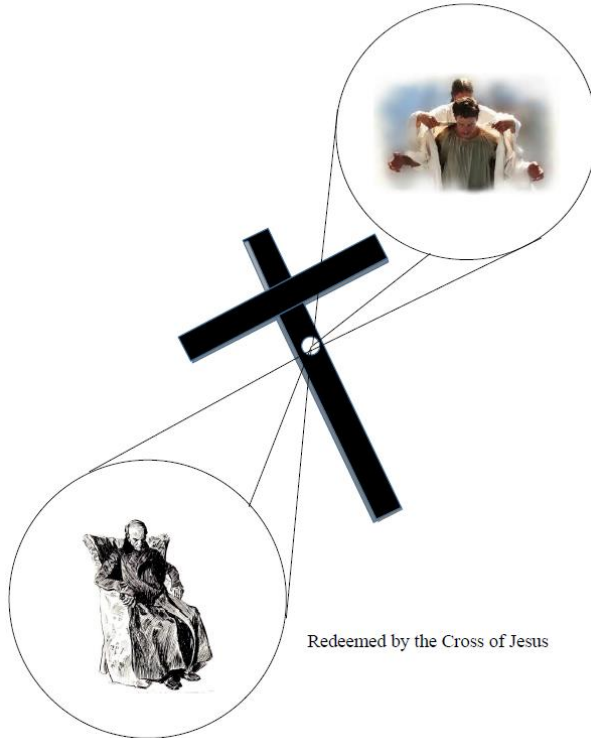
To the members of our church – The presence of children is a gift to the Church and they are a reminder that our congregation is growing. Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

For Pastoral Needs – Please contact the church office at 842-4510 or office@sjlcs.org.

Sermon Notes

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

“Ghosts of the Present” – Luke 1:39-45



Redeemed by the Cross of Jesus

Our Stewardship of Time and Talents – December 10 – 16, 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 5th/6th grade Classroom
 9:30am Sunday School
 9:30am Junior/Senior Youth Bible Study in the Youth Room in the church basement
 10:30am Contemporary Worship
 11:30am Junior/Senior Youth Christmas Party in the Youth Room in the church basement
 2:30pm Robbinswood Assisted Living worship service
- MON. 10:00am Quilters
 11:30am Recorders
 2:30pm Boy's Basketball
 7:00pm PPC
- TUE. 9:00am Prayer Shawl meeting
 6:30pm Men's Bible Study
- WED. 9:30am Ladies Bible Study
 10:00am Chapel
 1:15pm Church Staff meeting
 2:30pm Boy's Basketball
 5:45pm JuBELLation Ringers
 7:00pm Advent Worship
 8:00pm Celebration Choir
- THUR. 7:15pm Praise Team
 FRI. Pastor Kurt's day off
- SAT. 2:30pm Boy's Basketball
 5:00pm Worship

Stewards

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

For the weekend Dec. 16/17

Elders: Craig Montgomery

Acolytes:

5:00 Madeline Fellows

8:15 Hudson Shake

10:30 Aysia Dress

Lectors:

8:15 Benjamin Bosch

10:30 Donna Yost

December Altar Guild:

Connie Behm (616) 842-6518

Sunday School Calendar

December 10	Christmas Part 2
December 17	Gingerbread Houses
December 24	No Sunday School
December 31	No Sunday School



St. John's Prayer Page

Please lift up the following in prayer...

Those Celebrating Birthdays:

LEPPIEN, Sue	12/10
BEHM, Marguerite	12/11
DERHAMMER, Joyce	12/12
JONES, Jerry	12/12
FRANCIK, Terry	12/13
WOOD, Tim	12/14
VERBERKMOES, Rosalind	12/15
WALQUIST, Tobias	12/16

Those Celebrating Anniversaries:

VAN DONGEN, Chuck & Dawn (10) 12/15

Lutherans For Life Quote:

"As we bask in the glow of God Himself choosing, from His freedom and through His immeasurable power, to sanctify every aspect and moment of human life by taking flesh and passing through every stage of human growth and development, and sanctifying each of those moments, let's do the very hard work of taking our faith seriously and, knowing God loves us and will always forgive every sin, let's winsomely and gently live in such a way we show the world a better way." *Fr. Barnabas Powell, Cumming, Georgia.- A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life •*

www.lutheransforlife.org

Prayers for Supplication:

For **Sandy Hop**, recovering from surgery. For **Carol Bakke, Laura Harvey's** aunt, hospitalized with multiple injuries. For **Beverly Feldkamp**, a very dear friend of **Kay Waters**, who was just diagnosed with terminal cancer. For **Rick Rudert**, who recently received a lung transplant, and is now having kidney issues. His grandson, **Ezra**, is in infant care here at St. John's.

Prayer Requests from our Connect Cards:

Craig & Janet Montgomery: For our neighbor, **Ben Ennenga**, recovering from colon cancer surgery, awaiting test results.

Ted & Tammy Sibley: For strength for **Gene Cooper**, hospitalized at Mercy.

Ron & Pat Young: For strength and peace to the family of **Sandy Hop** as she travels a new path.

Marlene Guske: Praise for job for granddaughter, **Carrie**.

Matthew & Heather Smith: For **Sue Bork** (former co-worker of Heather's) recently diagnosed with cancer, awaiting test results. Pray for peace and strength for her and her family.

Karen Ralya: For **Carol Schmidt** and **Sandy Hop** as they battle cancer.

Rick & Kay Waters: Thanksgiving for **Archer Lee Dulaney**, new born son of **Hunter & Jenny (Waters) Dulaney**; new grandson of Rick & Kay.

Bob & Rosie Anderson: Praise Him for bringing **Carol Schmidt** and brother, **Rich**, through bone marrow transplant surgery! Continued prayers for acceptance of the new cells, also **Karen Shield's** and **Rita Scalici's** healing!

Carol Markiewicz: For **Bill Gierke**, as he will have surgery to replace his aortic valve on December 11.

Other Prayers:

NEWS AND NOTES
Our Stewardship of the Word

Attendance: Sat.: 5:00 – 49, Sun.: 8:15 – 107, 10:30 – 121, Midweek Advent – 66; **Total: 343**
Enter to Worship – Depart to Serve

Our Stewardship of Gifts

\$18,523.00 is needed weekly for our ministry

General Fund Gifts Received: \$27,181.81

Also received for: BUTC \$295, God's Pantry \$242, Debt Reduction \$1,270, Capital Renewal/Replacement \$2,000

Simply Giving (online giving) totals for November: General Fund: \$9,188, Building: \$732.00, Missions: \$100, School: \$260, TOTAL: \$10,280

Memorials

In memory of Lee Shake to the General Fund by Kim & Clarence Tullock

This weekend's Altar Flowers provided by Gene & Donna Hasenbank in honor of **Lexi's Nelson's 16th birthday.**

101 Ways to Be and Awesome Kid: Don't Ask For Money – Save your money so you don't have to ask your parents for money every time you want to buy something. Surprise them by having money on hand the next time you're at the store. And if you're headed out with friends, tell your parents you don't need any money, and that you've saved up for this.

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:** Package noodles and cereal **Holiday Food Boxes:** Anyone in need of a Christmas Food Box is asked to contact Marlene Guske 842-6879 or the Church office 842-4510 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 5th/6th 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. 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.

Interactive Family Christmas Eve Worship:

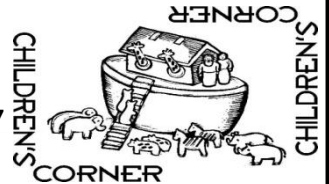
St. John's members and friends are invited to attend our 4:00pm Christmas Eve Worship Service. This service is especially suited for families with children and grandchildren (or anyone who remembers being a child at Christmas time). Portions of the Christmas story will be interspersed with familiar Christmas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

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

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 or (616) 847-7876 or Craig Kaschube at (616) 842-4510, ext. 126 or email him at ckaschube@sjlcs.org.

Writing a Will: Join Bill Burmeister, Michigan District-Church Extension Fund Gift Planning Counselor, Sun., Jan. 7, 2018, between services at 9:30am, to learn the importance of writing a will or trust and how to get started. Learn how to witness through your own last will and testament, so your children and grandchildren will inherit the blessings of your wisdom. Bill can also help you explore a variety of possibilities for fulfilling your legacy goals while making a significant gift to ministry at the same time. There is no cost or obligation to you and all conversations are kept confidential. For more information contact Bill at (800) 242-3944 or bill.burmeister@mi-cef.org.

**Sunday School
Parent Message
December 10, 2017**



The Glory Of Christmas! (Part 2)

This week we rejoice in the story of The Birth of Jesus Foretold from Luke 1. As you read this story with your children, ask them "What did the angel say to Mary?" and "What did Mary say to the angel?"

We wish to express our grateful thanks to the over 75 volunteers who showed up last Friday night to assist with the Feeding America food truck. When our client numbers were much less than anticipated, your willingness to tackle other tasks made us glad at heart. We also extend thanks to Janice Korstange for all her advice and assistance. Thank you. Your steering committee: Craig Kaschube, Joe & Sue LaLonde, Richard & Sharon Rothe

2018 Offering Envelopes can be picked up from Social Hall. Thank you for joining us in the support of our Lord's mission through the ministry we do here at St. John's.

St. John's Lutheran School Auction date is set for Fri., Mar. 23 at Porto Bello's! Our theme this year is "Michigan Awesome". 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 Year).

St. John's Lutheran Daycare is in need of an 8-seat Toddler Table. This table will allow our daycare workers to have easier access to the little ones not only during feeding times but also for crafts and other activities. This table will allow us to remove the bulky, cumbersome highchairs and instead provide the children with a sense of community and fellowship as they gather around one table. Our Daycare program is hoping that you will be able to donate to this purchase as it was not part of our budget. Cost for this item is \$435. We thank you for your consideration in helping fund this new addition to our program.

Holiday Shopping With SCRIP: Need to send gift cards to distant relatives but don't know which merchants are in their area?

1. Go to 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.

Sign cards for SPC Stuart Aspinall!!!

On a Social Hall table are several cards that will be sent to Stuart Aspinall. Please sign one and include a Christmas message to warm his heart as he celebrates Christmas away from his St. John's Church family! They will be sent December 14!!! Thank you!

Advent Devotional Booklets are still available in the church narthex (the back of church). Entitled 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! If you use email, watch your inbox for these daily devotions! (If you aren't currently receiving them, email office@sjlcs.org.)

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

In celebration of the 500th 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.

Free Live Indoor Nativity Walk: You are invited to Trinity Lutheran Church (3225 Roosevelt Rd., Muskegon) for their annual free Christmas Nativity Walk. Come experience what it would have been like to witness the first Christmas! 50 minute tours take you to 8 scenes portrayed by actors. It's an excellent way to prepare your heart for the true meaning of Christmas. Come! Fri., Dec. 15 and Sat., Dec. 16 any time between 6:00 and 9:00pm and Sun., Dec. 17 any time between 2:00 and 4:00pm.