

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

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

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



Faith at Home



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

Please email announcements to office@slcs.org.



December 24/25, 2017
Christmas Eve/Christmas Day
St. John's Lutheran Church—Grand Haven, MI

GLORY TO GOD

in the highest heaven, and on earth



Luke 2:14

peace among those whom he favors

Merry Christmas!

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Luke 2:6-7

It never gets old. Even after 2,000 years, the celebration of Christ's birth never gets old. And neither does the mystery of it all.

At times I wonder what Adam, Eve, Noah, Abraham, David, and all the prophets would think, had they heard how it all played out. To hear that their much needed Messiah and Savior would leave His heavenly throne and enter this world as an infant-child born in a stable on the outskirts of Bethlehem probably would've been as much a mystery to them as it remains to us. God choosing to enter the world through the womb of a virgin with a feeding trough as His bed is not exactly what anyone would expect from the One who has the power to create heaven, earth, and all things.

*No doubt, so much of what God has chosen to do and how He chooses to work remains a mystery; and while we may attempt to explain away the reasons for Him choosing to enter this world through the virgin-birth in Bethlehem as simply the fulfillment of the prophecies, it's still hard to understand **why** God would make this His plan. Yes...God's ways are certainly mysterious in and of themselves, but today we are once again given an opportunity to give thanks and praise to Him for revealing the purpose of His arrival.*

*Plain and simply put...in His great love for us, God has chosen us to be His own. And though we never deserved to be called children of God, through the Cross that Jesus came to bear for us, we have been forgiven, redeemed, and made His own – **forever!***

*Certainly, Christ choosing to journey from heaven to earth to the cross to the grave and back to His rightful heavenly throne to make us His own forever appears mysterious; but today we once again rejoice that **He has done it**. Because, in all this, He has revealed something that is just as mysterious as anything you and I could imagine -- a love so vast, so pure, and so strong that we are shown a great truth about our Savior and King. And that truth?*

There is nothing that God wouldn't do to reclaim you as His child. The very thought of you and me being eternally separated from Him due to our own sinful choices was enough to bring Him to earth and make things right again by becoming the perfect sacrifice which demonstrates the love that He has for us.

So...while many of God's ways remain a mystery to us, may the truth of His love revealed in and through the Christ-child fill your heart as we praise Him for what He has done. After all, God's love for you was not only enough to bring Him to earth; but through His life, death, and resurrection, He has now revealed that there is nothing that you or I can do to make Him love us more, just as there is nothing we have ever done that will make Him love you less. The proof is in the manger.

A Blessed Christmas to You as we celebrate God's love for all of us in Christ Jesus.

Pastor Kurt Wenzelburger

Our Stewardship of Time and Talents – December 24 – 31, 2017

Calendar

*all meetings are in the Social Hall unless otherwise designated

SUN.	Christmas Eve
	9:00am A Service of Lessons & Carols
	4:00pm Family Worship
	7:00pm Candlelight Worship
MON.	Christmas Day
	9:00am Christmas Day Worship
TUE.	Church Office is closed
	11:30am Recorders
	6:30pm Men's Bible Study
WED.	
THUR.	7:15pm Praise Team
FRI.	
SAT.	5:00pm Worship

Sunday School Calendar

December 24	No Sunday School
December 31	No Sunday School

Stewards

For Christmas weekend Dec. 24/25

Elders: Bill Schmidt, Matt Williams

Acolytes: (Christmas Eve)

9:00 Elders

4:00 Molly & Penny Williams

7:00 Abbey Turner

(Christmas Day)

9:00 Elders

For the weekend Dec. 30/31

Elders: Scott Taylor

Acolytes:

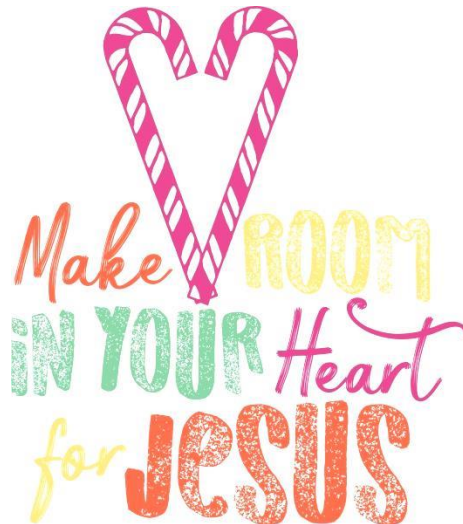
5:00 Elders

8:15 Elders

10:30 Elders

December Altar Guild:

Connie Behm (616) 842-6518



St. John's Prayer Page

Please lift up the following in prayer...

Those Celebrating Birthdays:

HEYN, Stephanie	12/24
BATKA, Jessica	12/25
OHLENDORF, Samuel	12/25
SIBLEY, Ted	12/25
WADE, Matthew	12/25
WADE, Michael	12/25
PICKELMAN, Carol	12/28
STROM, Anna	12/28
KRUEGER, Joan	12/29
PALMER, Maxwell	12/30

Those Celebrating Anniversaries:

ZILLINS, Bud & Marion (62)	12/25
BEVERLY, Skip & Judy (8)	12/26
KLAUS, Mike & Denise (32)	12/28
HILLMAN, Matthew & Krista (10)	12/29

Lutherans For Life Quote:

"So celebrate that divine-human Gift who has so changed your life by His Spirit. Praise Him for His gracious forgiveness and righteousness. Praise Him as the One who will one day transform the mortal into immortality. Indeed, He who was once a baby has changed and is changing lives and will one day change His whole creation."

Rev. David Fuerstenau, Holy Truth Lutheran Church, Ketchikan, Alaska

Prayers for the Grieving:

For the family of **Gene Cooper** who passed away on December 14. He is the husband of **Ruth Cooper**, step-father of **Tammy (Ted) Sibley**; grandfather of **TJ (Andrea) Sibley** and **Tracy (Leif) Olsen**; great-grandfather of **Lily & Paisley Sibley** and **Dakota, Gracie & Talan Olsen**. For the family of **Ron Mistretta**, who passed away December 20. He is the brother of **Norma Patton**.

Prayer Requests from our Connect Cards:

For **Rick & Kay Waters'** friend, **Bev Feldkamp**, and her family and friends as she nears the end of her earthly life.

For **Megan Vink's** cousin, **Ryan Reimus** as he has been battling an infection for about 3 months and is looking at possibly losing his whole leg.

For **Jeff (Becky) Eminger's** mom, **Margaret Eminger**, who is quite ill.

Prayers that treatments will work.

For **Dennis Johnson's** pain to end and may he be stronger.

Doug Fraiser asked for prayers for **Kalie & Freeda**.

For **Terry & Debra Francik's** brother-in-law, **John Dejong**, as he undergoes his 2nd chemo treatment this week.

Financial blessings for **Marlene Guske's** granddaughter, **Carrie**, in her new job.

For **Nicholas & Andria's** niece, **Monroe**, who is having heart surgery on January 24 at U of M. Prayers that she gets healthy enough to have surgery are appreciated.

Bob & Barb Schulz's friend who is battling depression.

Prayers for Supplication:

For **Mike Ripka**, recovering from surgery.

For **Ron Mistretta**, under hospice care at Heartwood. For **Michelle Shonamon**, recovering from surgery, awaiting test results.

Other Prayers

NEWS AND NOTES

Our Stewardship of the Word

Attendance: Sat.: 5:00 – 50, Sun.: 8:15 – 96, 10:30 – 148, Wed. Advent: 44; **Total: 338**

Enter to Worship – Depart to Serve

Our Stewardship of Gifts

\$18,523.00 is needed weekly for our ministry

General Fund Gifts Received: \$22,887.10

Also received for: BUTC \$101.50, God's Pantry \$740, Debt Reduction \$705, Food Truck \$500, TNMBS breakfast \$142, Chapel (God's Pantry) \$75.22, Wed. Advent (Love In Action) \$541

This weekend's Altar Flowers provided by Ron & Donna Yost in honor of **our Savior's birth** and by Loretta Lemke in remembrance of **family**.

101 Ways to Love Your Husband: Let Love Win – Determine in your heart that you will always love your husband. Your marriage commitment was “for better, for worse, ‘til death do us part”. When it's better, let love win. When it's worse, let love win!

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

Join Us for Our Christmas Services: 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.

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.

Sanctuary De-Decorating will take place on Sat., Jan. 6, from 9:00am until noon. Please sign up to help on the back of your Connect Card if you are able to help.

The church office will be closed on the through Tue., Dec. 26 (Christmas) and Mon., Jan. 1 through Tue., Jan. 2 (New Year).

Lutheran for Life Quote for Christmas:
“God gave you what you couldn't do for yourself. What a great Christmas gift you have in the unconditional forgiveness of your sins through the person and work of your Savior Jesus Christ! Thank You, God!”
Rev. Mark Jeske, (www.timeofgrace.org)
– A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life •
www.lutheransforlife.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.

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. Any offerings given after Dec. 31 will be on your 2018 statement.

Sunday Bible Study Notice: Please note that Pastor Kurt's Bible Study will not meet on Sun., Dec. 24 or Sun., Dec. 31; however, the Augsburg Confession study will meet on Dec. 31.

Confirmation News: Mark your calendars for the following dates –Our second year confirmation students will share their Statements of Faith on Sun., Jan. 28 at our 10:30am worship service. They will then be confirmed on Sun., Feb. 4 at our 10:30am worship service.

Social Ministry thanks you for your donation of school jackets. The preschool and elementary school sizes all stayed with our St. John's school. The larger ones went to Grand Haven High School with attention to the liaison for homeless teens.

Men's Bible Study



Men's Bible Study – Coming Soon! The Parish Board of Education and Faith At Home is offering a morning Bible Study for men starting on Tue., Feb. 20, 2018 at 6:30-7:30am and continuing for the ensuing five Tuesdays after that. The study, entitled 33 Series: A Man and His Design, is designed to inspire and equip men to pursue authentic manhood as modeled by Jesus Christ in His 33 years on earth. The study contains six sessions that explores the basic foundations of authentic manhood and God's clear design for men. The study starts with meaningful insights into the current state of manhood, which will help men navigate through some realities that have created cultural confusion. It follows by unfolding God's mandates for all men and offering a clear definition of authentic manhood that will help men on their journey. Each participant will learn the four "faces" of manhood and how to anticipate and transition through the specific seasons of life. The study will be facilitated by Pastor Kurt and/or Craig Kaschube. Each session will have a video of 30-35 minutes in length and have some brief discussion afterward. The sessions will begin promptly at 6:30am and be over promptly at 7:30am for those of you that have to go to work, etc. We will have coffee and donuts available for each one of the sessions. See you then.

Please Join us at St. Matthew Lutheran Church Sat. Jan. 6, 2018 at 1:00pm (15395 Rannes St.; Spring Lake). Bishop Vsevolod Lytkin of the Siberian Lutheran Church will present an interesting and informative program. Bishop Lytkin is joined on this visit by his son Yuri and their organist Natasha. More information is available on the work of the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society in support of the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church at

www.siberianlutheranmissions.org.

Preceding the program a light luncheon will be served. A freewill offering will be accepted for support of the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society. For more information, please contact Bill Boice at (616) 402-5457 or Mary Ann Weise at (616) 818-8216. Sponsored by St Matthew Lutheran Church, the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society and Thrivent.

Makes Sense: Do not pass this opportunity to combine good-sense investment of your savings with good stewardship. Your investment with the Church Extension Fund makes building loans possible for LCMS churches and schools. Next month, CEF is offering very attractive rates on all of its investments for individuals and organizations. Grow your savings and simultaneously help build the fund that helps build its ministry facilities. Call (800) 242-3944 or visit www.mi-cef.org for more information.



Have a Blessed Christmas

ST. JOHN'S YOUTH GROUP SUPER BOWL 6" SUB SANDWICH FUNDRAISER
2018 ORDER FORM – PLEASE COMPLETE FULLY & LEGIBLY

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

COST: \$2.50 each or 10/\$20.00 (\$1.00 more per double meat sandwich)

** Submit payment (cash or personal check to "St. John's Youth") with order form **

SUBS ORDERED: _____
TOTAL COST: \$ _____

MEAT CHOICES:	QTY.	DOUBLE MEAT?	AMERICAN CHEESE CHOICES:
<i>* Bun is a 6" white hoagie *</i>	<i>* Write # of subs for double meat *</i>		<i>* Write # of subs with/without cheese *</i>
Ham	_____	Yes ___ No ___	Yes-DM ___ No-DM ___ Yes ___ No ___
Turkey	_____	Yes ___ No ___	Yes-DM ___ No-DM ___ Yes ___ No ___
Ham & Turkey	_____	Yes ___ No ___	Yes-DM ___ No-DM ___ Yes ___ No ___
Ham & Salami	_____	Yes ___ No ___	Yes-DM ___ No-DM ___ Yes ___ No ___
Ham, Salami, & Turkey	_____	Yes ___ No ___	Yes-DM ___ No-DM ___ Yes ___ No ___

*** EXAMPLE ORDER FOR SARAH & STEVE SUBMARINE ***

Ham & Turkey	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u> Yes <u>3</u> No	<u>0</u> Yes-DM <u>1</u> No-DM <u>3</u> Yes <u>0</u> No
Ham, Salami & Turkey	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u> Yes <u>2</u> No	<u>2</u> Yes-DM <u>2</u> No-DM <u>1</u> Yes <u>1</u> No

Their order's total cost is \$25.00 (10 subs for \$20, \$5.00 extra for 5 double meat subs)

Submit order form and payment using the Social Hall drop box by Sunday, 1/28/18.

Pickup orders at church after worship Saturday, 2/3/18 or Sunday morning, 2/4/18.