

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

PO Box 763, 206 N. Court St.

Au Gres, MI 48703

Missouri Synod



Sunday Worship– 9:00 am

Bible Study – 10:15 am

Pastor Sean McNeil
Phone: 231-750-2294

Church Phone: 989-876-8910
office@stjohnaugres.com
Office Hours: Wednesday 8 am– 12 pm

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

P.O. Box 763, 206 N Court St; Au Gres, MI 48703

SERVING THE LORD Sunday, December 7, 2025

PIANIST: Marion Stafford
Greeter: Jean Hogan
Altar Care: Pat Metzger
Bulletin: Sandra Jantzi

Elder: Denny Klein
Usher: Duane Pendred
Trustee: Greg Easterle
Liturgist and Preacher: Pastor Sean McNeil

This Week at St. John's

SUN (12/7)	9:00am	Worship/HC – Advent II Mites Collected
	10:15am	Coffee Hour/Fellowship Bible Study in MPR
WED (12/10)	5:30pm	Soup Supper
	6:30pm	Midweek Service: Advent II
SUN (12/14)	9:00am	Worship/HC – Advent III Children's Christmas Program
	10:15am	Coffee Hour/Fellowship Blood Pressure Clinic Bible Study in MPR

WE WELCOME ALL TO GOD'S HOUSE TODAY – in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Please take a moment and fill out the “*Welcome to Our Worship*” pad in the brown folder at the end of the pew. If you are visiting, please sign the guest register book in the narthex. If you do not have a church home, we invite you to return every Sunday at 9:00am.

LARGEPRINT – copies of today's service are available. Ask the greeter if you would like one.

SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR – We invite all to stay for coffee hour and fellowship after worship in the fellowship hall. December hostess is Veronica Hiveley (989-876-8466) Please consider calling and offering to help bring snacks or facilitate set up/clean up.

LWML MITES – are accepted the first Sunday of each month. If you wish to save mites throughout the month, please take a mite box. Bring your mite box or drop any spare change for needed missions in the large LWML box located in the gathering/narthex area next Sunday.

508 The Day Is Surely Drawing Near



1 The day is sure - ly draw - ing near When Je - sus, God's a - noint - ed,
2 The fi - nal trum - pet then shall sound And all the earth be shak - en,
3 The books are o - pened then to all, A rec - ord tru - ly tell - ing
4 Then woe to those who scorned the Lord And sought but car - nal plea - sures,



In all His pow - er shall ap - pear As judge whom God ap -
And all who rest be - neath the ground Shall from their sleep a -
What each has done, both great and small, When he on earth was
Who here de - spised His pre - cious Word And loved their earth - ly



point - ed. Then fright shall ban - ish i - dle mirth, And flames on
wak - en. But all who live will in that hour, By God's al -
dwell - ing, And ev - 'ry heart be clear - ly seen, And all be
trea - sures! With shame and trem - bling they will stand And at the



flames shall rav - age earth As Scrip - ture long has warned us.
might - y, bound - less pow'r, Be changed at His com - mand - ing.
known as they have been In thoughts and words and ac - tions.
judg - e's stern com - mand To Sa - tan be de - liv - ered.

5 My Savior paid the debt I owe
And for my sin was smitten;
Within the Book of Life I know
My name has now been written.
I will not doubt, for I am free,
And Satan cannot threaten me;
There is no condemnation!

6 May Christ our intercessor be
And through His blood and merit
Read from His book that we are free
With all who life inherit.
Then we shall see Him face to face,
With all His saints in that blest place
Which He has purchased for us.

7 O Jesus Christ, do not delay,
But hasten our salvation;
We often tremble on our way
In fear and tribulation.
O hear and grant our fervent plea:
Come, mighty judge, and set us free
From death and ev'ry evil.

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Kneel/Stand

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 80:1, 3, 14, 17; antiphon: Isaiah 62:11b; 30:30, 29

Say to the daughter of | Zion,*

“Behold, your sal- | vation comes.”

The LORD will cause his majestic voice | to be heard,*

and you shall have glad- | ness of heart.

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph | like a flock!*

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, | shine forth.

Restore us, | O God;*

let your face shine, that we | may be saved!

Turn again, O | God of hosts!*

Look down from | heaven, and see.

But let your hand be on the man of your | right hand,*

the son of man whom you have made strong | for yourself!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Say to the daughter of | Zion,*

“Behold, your sal- | vation comes.”

The LORD will cause his majestic voice | to be heard,*

and you shall have glad- | ness of heart.

Kyrie

LSB 204



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Malachi 4:1–6

¹ “For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ²But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

⁴“Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and just decrees that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

⁵“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ⁶And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 50:1–15; antiphon: v. 15

- ¹The Mighty One, God the LORD,
speaks and summons the earth*
from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- ²Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,*
God shines forth.
- ³Our God comes; he does not keep silence;*
before him is a devouring fire,
around him a mighty tempest.
- ⁴He calls to the heavens above*
and to the earth, that he may judge his people:
- ⁵“Gather to me my faithful ones,*
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!”
- ⁶The heavens declare his righteousness,*
for God himself is judge!
- ⁷“Hear, O my people, and I will speak;
O Israel, I will testify against you.*
I am God, your God.
- ⁸Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you;*
your burnt offerings are continually before me.
- ⁹I will not accept a bull from your house*
or goats from your folds.
- ¹⁰For every beast of the forest is mine,*
the cattle on a thousand hills.
- ¹¹I know all the birds of the hills,*
and all that moves in the field is mine.
- ¹²“If I were hungry, I would not tell you,*
for the world and its fullness are mine.
- ¹³Do I eat the flesh of bulls*
or drink the blood of goats?
- ¹⁴Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,*
and perform your vows to the Most High,

¹⁵and call upon me in the day of | trouble;*
I will deliver you, and you shall glo- | rify me.”

Epistle

Romans 15:4–13

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

⁸For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God’s truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,
and sing to your name.”

¹⁰And again it is said,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”

¹¹And again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples extol him.”

¹²And again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse will come,
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;
in him will the Gentiles hope.”

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

C These things are writ-ten that you may be-lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 21:25–36

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²⁵[Jesus said:] “There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

☩ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

336 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
 2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold Him
 3 Those dear to - kens of His pas - sion
 4 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore Thee,



Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner slain;
 Robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;
 Still His daz - zling bod - y bears,
 High on Thine e - ter - nal throne;



Thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 Those who set at naught and sold Him,
 Cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



Swell the tri - umph of His train:
 Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
 To His ran - somed wor - ship - ers.
 Claim the king - dom as Thine own.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly
 With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture, with what
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 wail - ing, Shall their true Mes - si - ah see.
 rap - ture Gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and Thou a - lone!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt.
 Tune: Thomas Olivers, 1725-99
 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Sit

Offering

Service of the Sacrament

Sacrament Confession: We, as a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, believe that Holy Communion is a divinely instituted sacrament in which Jesus Christ grants to the communicant His true body and blood under the forms of bread and wine. We invite all who are confirmed Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Lutherans, who have repented of their sins, and trust in Jesus' words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins", to commune with us. Those who are members of other Christian congregations and desire to attend Holy Communion are asked to speak with an elder or the Pastor prior to the service.

Stand

Preface

LSB 208

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 208



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My H body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** Amen.

Agnus Dei

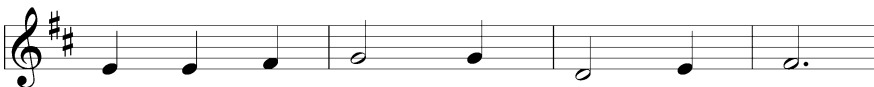
LSB 210



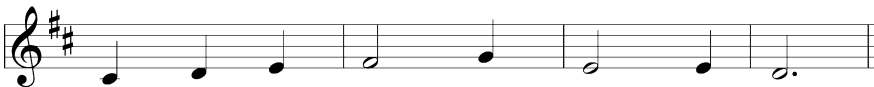
C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Sit

Distribution

- 355 O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide
- 359 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
- 645 Built on the Rock

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211



C 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All



part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

LSB 212

A Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

337 The Night Will Soon Be Ending



1 The night will soon be end - ing; The dawn can -
 2 The One whom an - gels tend - ed Comes near, a
 3 The earth in sure ro - ta - tion Will soon bring
 4 Yet nights will bring their sad - ness And rob our
 5 God dwells with us in dark - ness And makes the



not be far. Let songs of praise as - cend - ing Now
 child, to serve; Thus God, the judge of - fend - ed, Bears
 morn - ing bright, So run where God's sal - va - tion Glows
 hearts of peace, And sin in all its mad - ness A -
 night as day; Yet we re - sist the bright - ness And



greet the Morn - ing Star! All you whom dark - ness
 all our sins de - serve. The guilt - y need not
 in a sta - ble's light. As old as sin's per -
 round us may in - crease. But now one Star is
 turn from God a - way. But grace does not for -



fright - ens With guilt or grief or pain, God's ra - diant
 cow - er, For God has rec - on - ciled Through His re -
 ver - sion Is mer - cy's vast de - sign: God brings a
 beam - ing Whose rays have pierced the night: God comes for
 sake us, How - ev - er far we run. God claims us



Star now bright - ens And bids you sing a - gain.
 demp - tive pow - er All those who trust this child.
 new cre - a - tion—This child its seal and sign.
 our re - deem - ing From sin's op - pres - sive might.
 still as chil - dren Through Mar - y's in - fant Son.

Text: Jochen Klepper, 1903-42; tr. Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923-2007
 Tune: Welsh
 Text: © 1998 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002410
 Tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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PRAYER CONCERNS



Pray for our members with health concerns:

Devin Ruse	Marcia Twarog	Walker Byard
Doris Braman	Tammy Younger	Sharon Whyte
Sandy Metzger	Jerry Thomas	Adalyn Osborn
Perry Tremble	Rich Schnell	Ken Bender

Pray for friends with health concerns:

Ella Layton	Janice Haas	Wendy Dieleman-Reid	Karen Olson
Shannon Reed	Debbie Kahihikolo	Tim Robbin	Brendan Harrison
Hunter Sweet	Jean Marttila	Matthew Mason	Kris Hammerbacher
Paula Switala	Brianna Dery	Scott Schell	Karen McGuire
Al Fox	Cody Gee	Howard Hackerd	Kay Tremble
Jeri Christie	Emmett Lynch	Cathy Mueller	Joan Behrman
Greg Norgan	Teresa Strehl	Matthew Hackerd	Donald Nelson
Diane (Joyce Forro's daughter)		Mike Jones	Mike Shillair
Brian Leja			

Please contact the office with any updates to the prayer list

SHARING - of God's gifts for November 23 & 30



Attendance for: November 23 – 71; November 30 - 44
Needed for Budget in 2024 – \$2,981per week



Convenient and secure ONLINE GIVING is available through TITHE.LY giving portal. Scan the QR code to the left or go to our church website at: www.stjohnaugres.org once there, click the link located on the homepage.

Today at St. John

MAILBOX CHECK – Check your mailbox today for a copy of the December Newsletter and Portal of Prayer Devotional. If you know of someone who is housebound, spread some Christmas love by visiting them and delivering their mail.

FREE ITEMS TO SHARE – Books, booklets, puzzles, etc. are on the table in the multi-purpose room. Help yourself.

HAVE A DESIRE TO GO TO FRANKENMUTH THIS WEEK? – the person who has picked up our communion wine no longer comes to Au Gres regularly. If you are interested in making a trip to St. Julian Winery in Frankenmuth, please let pastor know today. He will give you the address and information about the pick up.

This Week at St. John

WOMEN OF THE WORD (WOW) – is on a hiatus until after the first of the year. Watch the future bulletins for when they will resume on Monday's at 10am.

NATIVITY SCENE SET UP – Thank you! The nativity scene was set up after the snowstorm by a great group of volunteers. Thanks to Bob Colby (especially for use of his trailer), Bob Britt, Charlie Appold, Denny Klein and Son-in-law Dave, Jim Fica, Duane Pendred, Greg Easterle, and Pastor McNeil who made it possible to set up this Gospel message to the community! Good work.

LADIES CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING – Thank you to all who came and made our sanctuary a beautiful place to remember the true “Reason for the Season”.

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE WITH SOUP SUPPER – Invite friends and family to join us at 5:30pm on Wednesday for a soup supper, provided by Bob & Sheri Colby and Bob & Carol Britt. Our Midweek/Advent II service will begin at 6:30pm.

IT'S LUTHERAN WITNESS TIME – now is the time of year when our members can order or renew subscriptions of *The Lutheran Witness* (LW), the official periodical of the Lutheran Church -Missouri Synod. Published 11 times a year, they provide laypeople with stories and information that complement congregational life. Each issue includes the *Michigan In Touch* (michiganintouch.com) supplement. Cost is \$22.50 for one year. Deadline for ordering is December 15th. Let the church office know if you wish to receive it.

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC – is the second Sunday of the month, (next Sunday) after worship. This FREE service is provided by our parish nurse, Kim Easterle, as well as Charlie Appold.

CHURCH STORE – Let someone know you are thankful for them this Thanksgiving. Cards are in the display case in the fellowship hall. Cards, containing beautiful Bible verses, are available for many occasions. Check them out! Individual cards are (.50) each or box (\$6).

Mission Opportunities

November's MISSION OF THE MONTH – Wellspring Lutheran Services, walk alongside people of all ages and walks of life. They share hope when a circumstance may not feel hopeful.

FOOD BANK OF EASTERN MICHIGAN – We are hanging Christmas ornaments for the Food Bank of Eastern MI with your name on it in the window of the church office for the months of November and December . Every \$1 you donate equals 6 meal for our hungry neighbors. Checks may be made out to the Food Bank of Eastern MI. Putting the number P710 in the memo portion of your check insures the donation stays here in Au Gres.

AU GRES CHARITIES FOOD PANTRY – The need in our community it great! Pantry shelves are dwindling. Here are the most pressing needs: dry cereal, chicken noodle soup, Spaghetti O's, Mac N' Cheese, Pancake mix, spaghetti noodles, spaghetti sauce, and canned potatoes. Items can be placed in the grocery cart in the fellowship hall.

JOY FILLED INVESTING – Your investment in Church Extension Fund helps build facilities for the spreading of the Gospel. Your investment works for you earning competitive interest rates while serving the Lord; a double joy! For more information, contact our local representative, Bob Britt or call toll-free 800-242-3944. Current rates are posted on the bulletin board in the MPR.

PENNIES FOR THE SEMINARY – We are collecting pennies to send to the seminary, helping to equip future pastors. You may drop your donation in the wood box near the doors in the fellowship hall. “So, let each one give as he purposes in his heart” (2 Corinthians 9:7).

CAN TABS – We continue to save can tabs from pop cans, soups, etc. You may place them in the container labeled *CAN TABS* in the multi-purpose room on the back table. They are donated to St. Jude Children’s Hospital.

THE CLOSET EXCHANGE – will be moving in January 2026! Their new address will be 1264 (St. Paul Lutheran Church is donating their building to us.) Hours will be Friday and Saturday from 9-1. We care clothing of all sizes for kids age 18 and under. There is no charge for any of the items and not financial qualifications to utilize The Closet Exchange. We are funded by community and corporate donations.

For more information email or call: ittakesavillagearenac@gmail.com (989) 820-5122

If making a financial donation, make checks payable to It Takes a Village-Arenac and mail to PO Box 281; Au Gres, MI 48703. You can also donate online using the following link: www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=LQWNWRLM2DEE2

Upcoming Events at St. John

Advent Midweek services with Soup supper – December 3, 10, 17

Children’s Christmas Service – December 14th @ 9am.

Christmas Eve Service – Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Day Service – Thursday, December 25

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS SERVICE – Prepare to celebrate our Savior’s birth during the children’s Christmas service at St. John on Sunday, December 14, at 9:00am. Please join in as we participate with our children in worship.

CHRIST 4 KIDS – will be resuming in January. Watch future bulletins for more details about upcoming events.

Upcoming Community Events

See the bulletin board in the MPR for more details about an event

December 13 Cookie Walk – Faith Lutheran Church Prescott

December 14 Old Fashioned Christmas in the Park – Au Gres (2 & 4 pm)

Scripture of the Week

Psalm 72

Of Solomon.

- ¹ Endow the king with your justice, O God,
the royal son with your righteousness.
- ² May he judge your people in righteousness,
your afflicted ones with justice.
- ³ May the mountains bring prosperity to the people,
the hills the fruit of righteousness.
- ⁴ May he defend the afflicted among the people
and save the children of the needy;
may he crush the oppressor.
- ⁵ May he endure as long as the sun,
as long as the moon, through all generations.
- ⁶ May he be like rain falling on a mown field,
like showers watering the earth.
- ⁷ In his days may the righteous flourish
and prosperity abound till the moon is no more.

Life Thoughts – We rejoice that God Himself defends the cause of the poor and needy (Psalm 72:4) and that He does this primarily through us, His saints. We must be careful, however, that we don't fall into self-righteousness and become a pharisaical "brood of vipers" (Matthew 3:7), always pointing out the sins of other while neglecting our own. Instead, as children of Abraham, we are all to "bear fruit in keeping with repentance" (Matthew 3:8), remembering that the things of God's Word were "written or instruction" (Romans 15:4), as well as for the instruction of others.