

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

PO Box 763, 206 N. Court St.

Au Gres, MI 48703

Missouri Synod



**Holy Baptism: Alternate Form Based on
Luther's Baptism Rite**

Sunday Worship– 9:00 am

Bible Study – 10:15 am

Wednesday Worship – 6:30 pm

**Pastor Sean McNeil
Phone: 231-750-2294**

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office@stjohnaugres.com
Office Hours: Wednesday 8 am– 12 pm**

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

SERVING THE LORD

Sunday, February 22, 2026

SOS:	Charlie Appold	Elder:	Bob Britt
Greeter:	Pat Metzger	Trustee:	Greg Easterle
Liturgist and Preacher:	Pastor Sean McNeil	Bulletin:	Sandra Jantzi

This Week at St. John's

SUN (2/22)	9:00am	Worship/HC – First Sunday in Lent
	10:15am	Coffee Hour/Fellowship
		Bible Study in MPR
MON (2/23)	10:00am	Women of the Word Bible Study
WED (2/25)	5:15pm	Soup Supper
	6:30pm	Midweek Lent II Service
FRI (2/27)	1:00pm	Ladies Card Party
SUN (3/1)	9:00am	Worship/HC
	10:15am	Coffee Hour/Fellowship
		Bible Study in MPR
		Mites Collected

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 in the Narthex. Ask the greeter if you would like a copy to follow along with today's service.

CHECK YOUR MAILBOX! –There you will find a copy of “For Us” a Daily Devotions for Lent and Easter.

Acknowledgments for today's service

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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594 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It



1 God's own child, I glad - ly say it: I am bap-tized
 2 Sin, dis - turb my soul no long - er: I am bap-tized
 3 Sa - tan, hear this proc - la - ma - tion: I am bap-tized
 4 Death, you can - not end my glad-ness: I am bap-tized
 5 There is noth - ing worth com - par - ing To this life-long



in - to Christ! He, be - cause I could not pay it,
 in - to Christ! I have com - fort e - ven strong-er:
 in - to Christ! Drop your ug - ly ac - cu - sa - tion,
 in - to Christ! When I die, I leave all sad - ness
 com - fort sure! O - pen - eyed my grave is star - ing:



Gave my full re - demp - tion price. Do I need earth's
 Je - sus' cleans - ing sac - ri - fice. Should a guilt - y
 I am not so soon en - ticed. Now that to the
 To in - her - it par - a - dise! Though I lie in
 E - ven there I'll sleep se - cure. Though my flesh a -



treas - ures man - y? I have one worth
 con - science seize me Since my Bap - tism
 font I've trav - eled, All your might has
 dust and ash - es Faith's as - sur - ance
 waits its rais - ing, Still my soul con -



more than an - y That brought me sal -
 did re - lease me In a dear for -
 come un - rav - eled, And, a - gainst your
 bright - ly flash - es: Bap - tism has the
 tin - ues prais - ing: I am bap - tized



va - tion free Last - ing to e - ter - ni - ty!
 giv - ing flood, Sprin - kling me with Je - sus' blood?
 tyr - an - ny, God, my Lord, u - nites with me!
 strength di - vine To make life im - mor - tal mine.
 in - to Christ; I'm a child of par - a - dise!

P Dearly beloved, Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” In the last chapter of Mark our Lord promises, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.” And the apostle Peter has written, “Baptism now saves you.”

The Word of God also teaches that we are all conceived and born sinful and are under the power of the devil until Christ claims us as His own.

Therefore, depart, you unclean spirit, and make room for the Holy Spirit in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The pastor makes the sign of the holy cross upon the forehead and heart of the candidate while saying:

P Receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your † forehead and upon your † heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

C Amen.

P Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin.

We pray that You would behold Laura according to Your boundless mercy and bless her with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in her which has been inherited from Adam and which she herself has committed since, would be drowned and die. Grant that she be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all believers in Your promise, she would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Hear the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

They brought young children to [Jesus] that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.” And He took them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them.

The pastor places his hands on the head of the candidate, and the congregation joins in praying:

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.

P The Lord preserve your coming in and your going out from this time forth and even ✠ forevermore.

C Amen.

Sit

The pastor addresses the candidate(s) and asks the following questions:

P Laura Jean McNeil, do you renounce the devil?

R Yes, I renounce him.

P Do you renounce all his works?

R Yes, I renounce them.

P Do you renounce all his ways?

R Yes, I renounce them.

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

R Yes, I believe.

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead?

R Yes, I believe.

P Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting?

R *Yes, I believe.*

P Laura Jean McNeil, do you desire to be baptized?

R *Yes, I do.*

The pastor pours water three times on the head of each candidate while saying:

P Laura Jean McNeil, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

A white garment may be placed on the newly baptized.

The pastor places his hands on the head of the newly baptized while saying:

P The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life † everlasting.

C **Amen.**

P Peace † be with you.

C **Amen.**

All return to their places.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit



Psalm 91:1–2, 9–10, 13; antiphon: vv. 15a, c, 16

When he calls to me, I will | answer him;*

I will rescue him and | honor him.

With long life I will sat- | isfy him*

and show him my sal- | vation.

He who dwells in the shelter of the | Most High*

will abide in the shadow of the Al- | mighty.

I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my | fortress,*
my God, in | whom I trust.”

Because you have made the LORD your | dwelling place—*

the Most High, who is my | refuge—

no evil shall be allowed to be- | fall you,*

no plague come | near your tent.

You will tread on the lion and the | adder;*

the young lion and the serpent you will trample | underfoot.

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.

When he calls to me, I will | answer him;*

I will rescue him and | honor him.

With long life I will sat- | isfy him*

and show him my sal- | vation.

Kyrie

LSB 186



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray.

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 3:1–21

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’”
²And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’”
⁴But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”
⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.
⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.
⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”
¹⁰And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.”
¹¹He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”
¹²The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.”
¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.”

¹⁶To the woman he said,

“I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be for your husband,
and he shall rule over you.”

¹⁷And to Adam he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
‘You shall not eat of it,’

cursed is the ground because of you;
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
¹⁸thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.
¹⁹By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”

²⁰The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Proper

Psalm 91:11–12



He will command his angels con- | cerning you*
to guard you in | all your ways.
On their hands they will | bear you up,*
lest you strike your foot a- | gainst a stone.

Epistle

Hebrews 4:14–16

¹⁴Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

The ‘Glory Be’ and ‘Praise to thee’ are omitted during Lent

Matthew 4:1–11

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³And the tempter came and said to him, “If

you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”⁴But he answered, “It is written,

“Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

“He will command his angels concerning you,”

and

“On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.”

⁷Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

“You shall worship the Lord your God
and him only shall you serve.”

¹¹Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Amen

Nicene Creed

C 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.

Sit

656 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God,
 2 With might of ours can naught be done,
 3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill,
 4 The Word they still shall let re - main



A trust - y shield and weap - on;
 Soon were our loss ef - fect - ed;
 All ea - ger to de - vour us,
 Nor an - y thanks have for it;



He helps us free from ev - 'ry need
 But for us fights the val - iant One,
 We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
 He's by our side up - on the plain



That hath us now o'er - tak - en.
 Whom God Him - self e - lect - ed.
 They shall not o - ver - pow'r us.
 With His good gifts and Spir - it.

The old e - vil foe Now means
 Ask ye, Who is this? Je - sus
 This world's prince may still Scowl fierce
 And take they our life, Goods, fame,
 dead - ly woe; Deep guile and great might
 Christ it is, Of Sab - a - oth Lord,
 as he will, He can harm us none.
 child, and wife, Though these all be gone,
 Are his dread arms in fight; On earth
 And there's none oth - er God; He holds
 He's judged; the deed is done; One lit -
 Our vic - t'ry has been won; The King -
 is not his e - qual.
 the field for - ev - er.
 tle word can fell him.
 dom ours re - main - eth.

Text: tr. composite
 Text and tune: Martin Luther, 1483-1546
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192

C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Sit

Offering

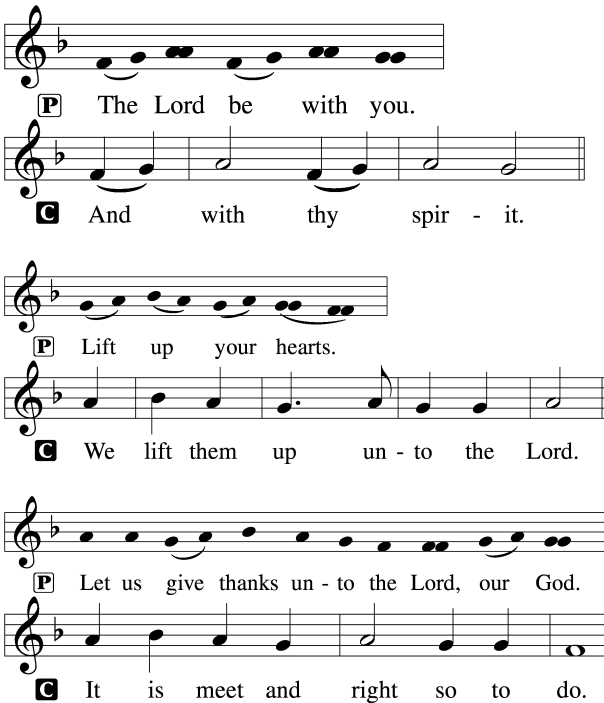
Stand

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 194



P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spir - it.
P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them up un - to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.
C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. 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 195



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



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

P 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.

C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

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 ✠ 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

LSB 197



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

Distribution

544 O Love, How Deep

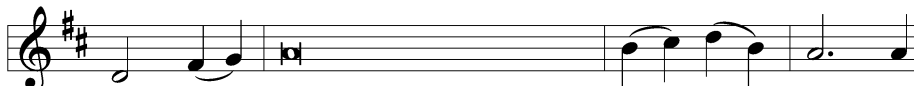
454 Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle

724 If God Himself Be for Me

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199



C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -

cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,

which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,

a light to light - en the Gen - tles and the glo - ry of Thy

peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and

to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving *LSB 200*

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

G and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

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.



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

LSB 202



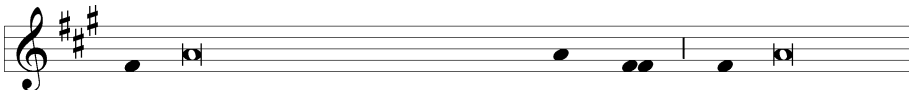
A Bless we the Lord.



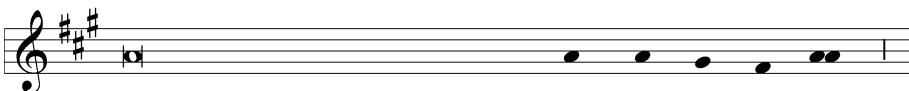
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

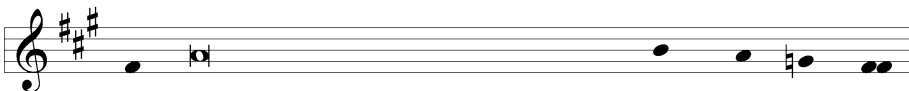
LSB 202



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

716 I Walk in Danger All the Way



1 I walk in dan - ger all the way. The thought shall nev - er
 2 I pass through tri - als all the way, With sin and ills con -
 3 And death pur - sues me all the way, No - where I rest se -
 4 I walk with an - gels all the way, They shield me and be -



leave me That Sa - tan, who has marked his prey, Is
 tend - ing; In pa - tience I must bear each day The
 cure - ly; He comes by night, he comes by day, He
 friend me; All Sa - tan's pow'r is held at bay When



plot - ting to de - ceive me. This foe with hid - den snares
 cross of God's own send - ing. When in ad - ver - si - ty
 takes his prey most sure - ly. A fail - ing breath, and I
 heav'n - ly hosts at - tend me; They are my sure de - fense,



May seize me un - a - wares If I should fail to
 I know not where to flee, When storms of woe my
 In death's strong grasp may lie To face e - ter - ni -
 All fear and sor - row, hence! Un - harmed by foes, do



watch and pray. I walk in dan - ger all the way.
 soul dis - may, I pass through tri - als all the way.
 ty to - day As death pur - sues me all the way.
 what they may, I walk with an - gels all the way.

5 I walk with Jesus all the way,
 His guidance never fails me;
 Within His wounds I find a stay
 When Satan's pow'r assails me;
 And by His footsteps led,
 My path I safely tread.
 No evil leads my soul astray;
 I walk with Jesus all the way.

6 My walk is heav'nward all the way;
 Await, my soul, the morrow,
 When God's good healing shall allay
 All suff'ring, sin, and sorrow.
 Then, worldly pomp, begone!
 To heav'n I now press on.
 For all the world I would not stay;
 My walk is heav'nward all the way.

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)		Brian Leja	Mike Shillair

Please contact the office with any updates to the prayer list

Sign up Today!



YOUR HELP IS REQUESTED – to host our Wednesday night Lenten Soup Supper. The sign up sheet is on the table in the Multi-Purpose room. If doing this alone feels overwhelming, team up with another church member. The menu is to be kept simple: soup, crackers or bread, dessert, and drink.

EASTER FLOWERS – are being ordered. Cost is \$13. 50 for your choice of Lily and \$15 for Tulip or Daffodil. Sign up on the sheet in the Multi-purpose room to reserve your order. Please make checks payable to St. John Ladies Aid and give to Roxanne Klein, Treasurer.



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

SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR – We invite all to stay for coffee hour and fellowship after worship in the fellowship hall. Our March hostess will be Jane Bourdeau (989-646-2257) and Pat Metzger (989-867-4734) Your help in bringing snacks or facilitating set up/clean up would be much appreciated. You can sign up in the fellowship hall or call to let them know how you can assist.

LIKE AND SUBSCRIBE! – did you know that our services are often recorded and posted on YouTube? By subscribing to our channel, you make us more visible, and it helps spread the Word of God. Although not the same as attending in person, it is a way to stay connected when you are traveling out of town. Our channel is: @stjohnsaugres8759

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR LENT & EASTER – a copy has been placed in your mailbox. There are extra copies on the table in the Narthex as well as the bookshelf in the coat area of the Fellowship Hall entrance. Take one or more to gift to neighbors and friends. While you are at it, invite them to our Sunday morning and Wednesday evening services.

This week at St. John

WOMEN OF THE WORD (WOW) – invite you to join them on Monday's at 10am. Women of any age are invited to join us as we study God's Word. NOTE: If the Au Gres-Sims School District is closed due to weather, WOW is also cancelled for the week.

LENT II MIDWEEK SOUP SUPPER & WORSHIP/HC – Please join us on Wednesday, February 25, at 5:15pm for a soup supper and fellowship with worship to follow, beginning at 6:30 pm. Invite family, friends or a neighbor to join you. Our hostess for the evening will be Sherry Jackson.

LADIES CARD PARTY – all ladies are invited from 1-4pm on Friday, February 27, for various card games in the multipurpose room. Enjoy a fun afternoon out with your sisters in Christ for a little competition, fellowship and snacks.

Mission Opportunities

FEBRUARY MISSIONS OF THE MONTH – is for Lutheran Hour Ministries. LHM is a global mission organization that shares Christ's love through television, radio, and online programs.

MARCH MISSION OF THE MONTH – will be for Harbor Lights Pregnancy Center.

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, March 1st

IS YOUR MONEY DOING DOUBLE DUTY? – With Church Extension Fund, your money has a double purpose. Your investment earns you interest and it builds churches and schools throughout Michigan. For more information, contact Bob Britt. 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).

THE CLOSET EXCHANGE – is grateful for all who have come to assist in the renovations and move to the St. Paul Church building. If you are interested in finding out how you can continue to be of help, contact the via email or call: ittakesavillagearenac@gmail.com 989-820-5122

AU GRES CHARITIES FOOD PANTRY NEEDS –Chicken Noodle Soup and Peanut butter. Items can be placed in the grocery cart in the fellowship hall.

CANCELLED POSTAGE STAMPS – Don't throw them away! These stamps can help fund worldwide missions. All stamps, US or foreign are accepted. Do NOT soak the stamp off the envelope, just tear the corner of the envelope off. Stamps can be placed in the box in the multi-purpose room. More information about the organization is available next to the box.

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.

CHURCH STORE – Cards are in the display case in the fellowship hall. Cards, containing beautiful Bible verses, are available for many occasions. Individual cards are (.50) each or box (\$6).

FREE ITEMS TO SHARE – Our table in the multi-purpose room is overflowing with Books, booklets, puzzles, etc. Please take a look and help yourself.

LOST & FOUND BOX – is located in the back of the multi-purpose room. Various items have been found and are waiting to be claimed.



CHRIST 4 KIDS – was held on February 14, and we had 11 children in attendance! Pastor had a devotion on love. Christ on the Cross is Love! We painted rocks, made Valentine ornaments, did a word search, color by number, and decorated cookies and marshmallows for Fellowship on Sunday. Snack was a Valentine trail mix. The next Christ 4 Kids event will be Saturday, March 21st 1-3pm. St. Patrick’s Day will be the theme.

Scripture of the Week

Psalm 32

¹ Blessed is the one
whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.
² Blessed is the one
whose sin the LORD does not count
against them
and in whose spirit is no deceit.
³ When I kept silent,
my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
⁴ For day and night
your hand was heavy on me;
my strength was sapped
as in the heat of summer.^[a]
⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you
and did not cover up my iniquity.
I said, "I will confess
my transgressions to the LORD."
And you forgave
the guilt of my sin.
⁶ Therefore let all the faithful pray to
you

while you may be found;
surely the rising of the mighty waters
will not reach them.
⁷ You are my hiding place;
you will protect me from trouble
and surround me with songs of
deliverance.
⁸ I will instruct you and teach you in
the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my loving eye
on you.
⁹ Do not be like the horse or the mule,
which have no understanding
but must be controlled by bit and
bridle
or they will not come to you.
¹⁰ Many are the woes of the wicked,
but the LORD's unfailing love
surrounds the one who trusts in
him.
¹¹ Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you
righteous;
sing, all you who are upright in
heart!

February 22 "God created us anew in Baptism. We are the work of His hands, and He will not forsake us. Guided by the Spirit through the wisdom of His Word, we learn to walk in His ways, even when we must 'walk in the midst of trouble.'"