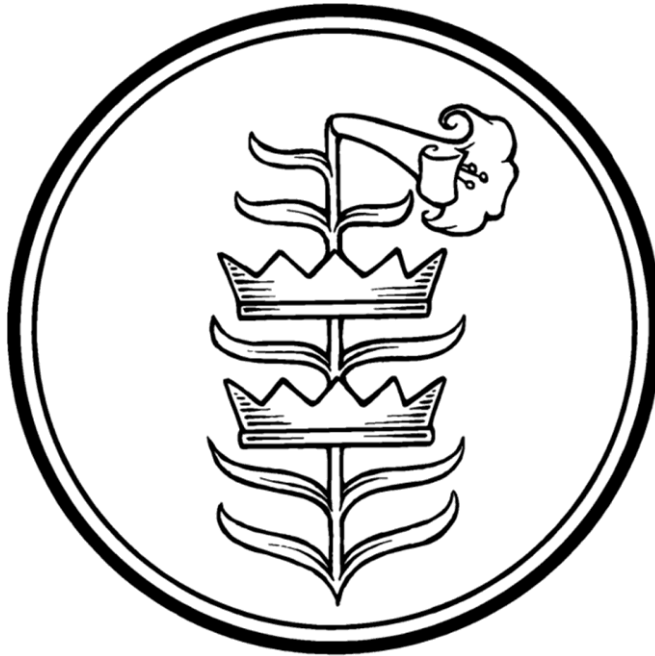


# ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

**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, January 4, 2026

SOS:	Linda Byard	Elder:	Eric Schwiderson
Greeter:	Pat Metzger	Usher:	Duane Pendred
Altar Care:	Vicki Huber	Trustee:	Jim Fica
Bulletin:	Sandra Jantzi	Liturgist and Preacher:	Pastor Sean McNeil

### This Week at St. John's

SUN (1/4)	9:00am	Worship/HC Installation of Church Officers Mites Collected
	10:15am	Coffee Hour/Fellowship Bible Study in MPR
MON (1/5)	10:00am	Women of the Word Bible Study
WED (1/7)	6:30pm	Worship/HC
SAT (1/10)	1-3pm	Christ 4 Kids
SUN (1/11)	9:00am	Worship/HC
	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 in the Narthex. Ask the greeter if you would like a copy to follow along with today's service.

SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR – We invite all to stay for coffee hour and fellowship after worship in the fellowship hall. Our January hostess will be 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 Pat to let her know how you can assist.

Stand

## 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.

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.

No evil leads my soul astray;  
I walk with Jesus all the way.

For all the world I would not stay;  
My walk is heav'nward all the way.

Text: Hans Adolf Brorson, 1694–1764; tr. Ditlef G. Ristad, 1863–1938, alt.Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, 1708, 4th ed., Halle, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen

## 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** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

*Kneel/Stand*

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I 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 8:1, 4–6; antiphon: v. 2*

Out of the mouth of babes and infants, you have established strength because | of your foes,\*  
to still the enemy and the a- | venger.

**O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in | all the earth!\***

**You have set your glory above the | heavens.**

What is man that you are mind- | ful of him,\*  
and the son of man that you | care for him?

**Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly | beings\*  
and crowned him with glory and | honor.**

You have given him dominion over the works | of your hands;\*  
you have put all things under | his feet.

**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.**

Out of the mouth of babes and infants, you have established strength because | of your foes,\*  
to still the enemy and the a- | venger.

## Kyrie

*LSB 186*



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



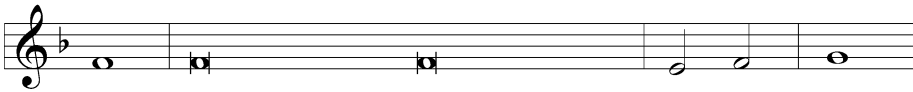
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

## Gloria in Excelsis

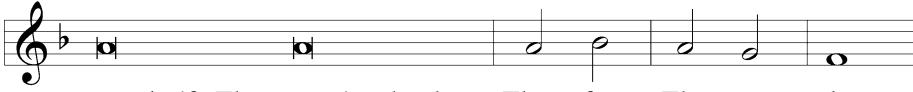
*LSB 187*



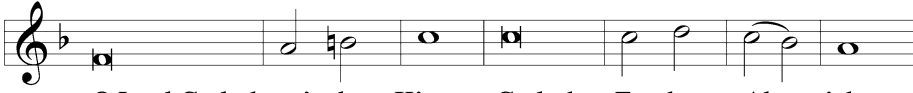
**P** Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



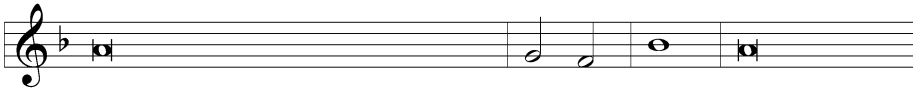
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.



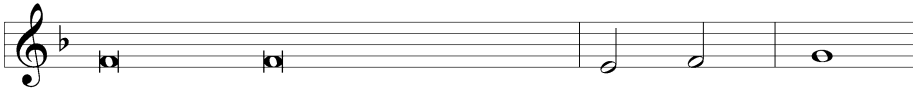
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.



Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,



art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*Genesis 46:1–7*

<sup>1</sup>So Israel took his journey with all that he had and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. <sup>2</sup>And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, “Jacob, Jacob.” And he said, “Here am I.” <sup>3</sup>Then he said, “I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make you into a great nation. <sup>4</sup>I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again, and Joseph’s hand shall close your eyes.”

<sup>5</sup>Then Jacob set out from Beersheba. The sons of Israel carried Jacob their father, their little ones, and their wives, in the wagons that Pharaoh had sent to carry him. <sup>6</sup>They also took their livestock and their goods, which they had gained in the land of Canaan, and came into Egypt, Jacob and all his offspring with him, <sup>7</sup>his sons, and his sons’ sons with him, his daughters, and his sons’ daughters. All his offspring he brought with him into Egypt.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

*1 Peter 4:12–19*

<sup>12</sup>Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup>But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup>If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. <sup>15</sup>But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. <sup>16</sup>Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. <sup>17</sup>For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? <sup>18</sup>And

“If the righteous is scarcely saved,  
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

<sup>19</sup>Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

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

*Stand*

### Alleluia

*LSB 190*



**C** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

### Holy Gospel

*Matthew 2:13–23*

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.
- C** Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>13</sup>When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” <sup>14</sup>And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt <sup>15</sup>and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

<sup>16</sup>Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. <sup>17</sup>Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

<sup>18</sup>“A voice was heard in Ramah,  
weeping and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

<sup>19</sup>But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, <sup>20</sup>saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” <sup>21</sup>And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup>But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup>And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** Praise be to Thee, 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  $\text{✠}$  of the world to come. Amen.

*Sit*

### 385 From East to West



1 From east to west, from shore to shore Let ev - 'ry  
 2 Be - hold, the world's cre - a - tor wears The form and  
 3 For this how won - drous - ly He wrought! A maid - en,  
 4 And while the an - gels in the sky Sang praise a -  
 △ 5 All glo - ry for this bless - ed morn To God the



heart a - wake and sing The ho - ly child whom  
 fash - ion of a slave; Our ver - y flesh our  
 in her low - ly place, Be - came, in ways be -  
 bove the si - lent field, To shep - herds poor the  
 Fa - ther ev - er be; All praise to You, O



Mar - y bore, The Christ, the ev - er - last - ing king.  
 mak - er shares, His fall - en crea - tures all to save.  
 yond all thought, The cho - sen ves - sel of His grace.  
 Lord Most High, The one great Shep - herd, was re - vealed.  
 Vir - gin - born, And Ho - ly Ghost e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Coelius Sedulius, 5th cent.; tr. John Ellerton, 1826-93, alt.  
 Tune: Geistliche lieder, 1539, Leipzig, ed. Valten Schumann  
 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; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. 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,



bles - ed is He, bles - 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*

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**

*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  $\text{✠}$  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  $\text{✠}$  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.



**G** 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

685 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus  
918 Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer  
725 Children of the Heavenly Father  
728 How Firm a Foundation

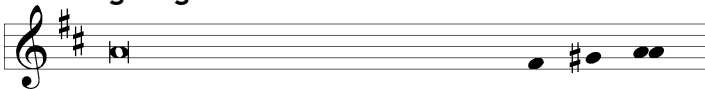
Stand

## Nunc Dimittis

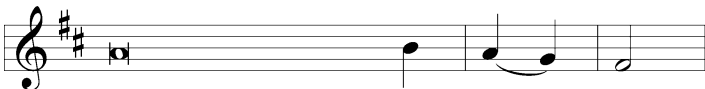
LSB 199

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 - tiles 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,



**C** 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*



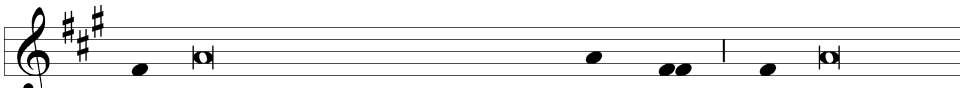
**A** Bless we the Lord.



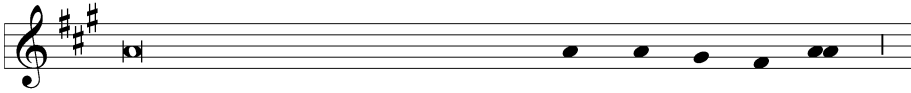
**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

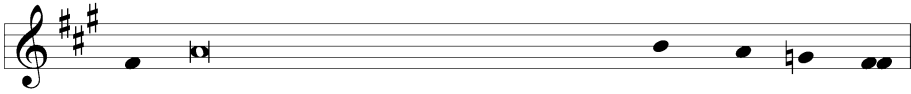
*LSB 202*



**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.



☐ A-men, a-men, a - men.

### 523 O Word of God Incarnate



1 O Word of God in - car-nate, O Wis - dom from on high,  
2 The Church from You, dear Mas-ter, Re-ceived the gift di - vine;  
3 O make Your Church, dear Sav-ior, A lamp of bur-nished gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang-ing, O Light of our dark sky:  
And still that light is lift - ed O'er all the earth to shine.  
To bear be - fore the na - tions Your true light as of old!



We praise You for the ra - diance That from the hal-owed page,  
It is the chart and com - pass That, all life's voy - age through,  
O teach Your wan-d'ring pil - grims By this their path to trace



A lan - tern to our foot-steps, Shines on from age to age.  
Mid mists and rocks and quick-sands Still guides, O Christ, to You.  
Till, clouds and dark-ness end - ed, They see You face to face!

Text: William W. How, 1823–97, alt.  
Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 1693, 3rd ed., Meiningen  
Text and tune: Public domain

### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three 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)		Brian Leja	Mike Shillair

*Please contact the office with any updates to the prayer list*

SHARING - of God's gifts for December 17, 21, 24, 25, 28, 31

Attendance for: Dec 17 – 37  
Dec 21 – 71  
Dec 24 - 122  
Dec 25 - 40  
Dec 28 - 28  
Dec 31 - 11

Needed for Budget in 2026 – \$3,461.54 per 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](http://www.stjohnaugres.org) once there, click the link located on the homepage.

## **Today at St. John**

THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER – is in your mailbox today. As you will notice the quality is not as nice as normal. We are waiting on a part to arrive so that the problem can be rectified.

LWML MITES – can be dropped in the large LWML box located in the Narthex today. If you would like to begin collecting your change throughout the month, pick up one of the small boxes and bring it with you next month.

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

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

CHURCH CALENDAR, NEWSLETTER, & WEEKLY BULLETINS – are available on our church website. [www.stjohnaugres.org](http://www.stjohnaugres.org) It is a good way to stay connected and up to date when you are unable to attend services for the week.

## **This week at St. John**

WOMEN OF THE WORD (WOW) – will resume on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 10am. All women are invited to join us as we study God's Word.

WEEKLY WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES – will begin this Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. A short, spoken Holy Communion service will begin at 6:30 pm. If you cannot attend on Sunday morning, we invite you to join us. The sermon will be different from Sunday morning, so if you want to come twice a week, Pastor won't complain!

CHRIST 4 KIDS – will be held on Saturday, January 10 from 1:00-3:00 pm. Any questions can be directed to Laura Daly.

SAVE AND SERVE THE LORD – Church Extension Fund offers something other investment institutions do not: a ministry dividend. While earning competitive interest, your investments are used to further the expansion of God's Kingdom through loans to new missions, childcare centers, schools, and local congregations. For more information, contact our congregational representative, Bob Britt or call 800-242-3944. Current rates are located on the bulletin board in the MPR.

2026 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR – along with information for ordering flowers, is located on the left bulletin board in the multi-purpose room. Sign up as a memorial, to honor someone, etc. and it will be noted in the weekly bulletin. You may bring them in yourself or have them delivered to the church on Friday or Saturday.

## **Mission Opportunities**

JANUARY MISSIONS OF THE MONTH – are Lutherans For Life of Michigan & Right to Life of Michigan. They support life from conception through life's end. All life is sacred.

THANK You TO ALL – who helped hang Christmas ornaments for the MI Food Bank. Your donations will help make sure local community members don't go hungry this year.

AU GRES CHARITIES FOOD PANTRY –Consider adding one or more of the following to your grocery list this week: 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.

THE CLOSET EXCHANGE – has been blessed with the gift of St. Paul Lutheran Church building, as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. There are some renovations and preparations that need to happen before the actual move-in day of January 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>. We are hopeful that our community will come together to help. The list of things needing to be done are located on the bulletin board in the Multi-Purpose Room. You do not need to be a skilled carpenter to lend a helping hand.

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).

# Scripture of the Week

## Psalm 50

<sup>1</sup>The Mighty One, God, the LORD,  
speaks and summons the earth  
from the rising of the sun to where it  
sets.

<sup>2</sup>From Zion, perfect in beauty,  
God shines forth.

<sup>3</sup>Our God comes  
and will not be silent;  
a fire devours before him,  
and around him a tempest rages.

<sup>4</sup>He summons the heavens above,  
and the earth, that he may judge his  
people:

<sup>5</sup>“Gather to me this consecrated people,  
who made a covenant with me by  
sacrifice.”

<sup>6</sup>And the heavens proclaim his  
righteousness,  
for he is a God of justice.

<sup>7</sup>“Listen, my people, and I will speak;  
I will testify against you, Israel:  
I am God, your God.

<sup>8</sup>I bring no charges against you  
concerning your sacrifices  
or concerning your burnt  
offerings, which are ever before me.

<sup>9</sup>I have no need of a bull from your stall  
or of goats from your pens,

<sup>10</sup>for every animal of the forest is mine,  
and the cattle on a thousand hills.

<sup>11</sup>I know every bird in the mountains,  
and the insects in the fields are mine.

<sup>12</sup>If I were hungry I would not tell you,  
for the world is mine, and all that is in  
it.

<sup>13</sup>Do I eat the flesh of bulls  
or drink the blood of goats?

<sup>14</sup>“Sacrifice thank offerings to God,  
fulfill your vows to the Most High,

<sup>15</sup>and call on me in the day of trouble;  
I will deliver you, and you will  
honor me.”

**Life Thoughts** – “Your story might not look as extraordinary as Esther’s. It might not be as exciting as David’s or as tumultuous as Rahab’s or as terrifying as Mary’s. But you don’t have to be extraordinary for God to work through you. He can accomplish great things through something as unassuming as prayer or as simple as a meal for a new mother.”