

WELCOME!

This Sunday's lessons are found in *Isaiah 61:10—62:3*, *Galatians 4:4–7*, and *Luke 2:22–40*. Pastor Kurt's message is titled "**To See What Simeon Could See**," and it's based on **Luke 2:34–35**. You can find a recording of the service on our website at www.stjohnsgrandhaven.com.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

We celebrate the Lord's Supper believing that this sacred meal is Christ's gift to His Church. Paul encourages us to examine ourselves before we "*eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgement on themselves*" (1 Corinthians 11:28-29). We request that those who wish to commune here answer yes to the following questions:

- **As a baptized child of God, do you believe that you are a sinner and in need of forgiveness from God?**
- **Do you believe that forgiveness is found only in Christ, and is offered by Christ in the Lord's Supper?**
- **Do you believe that Christ's body and blood are truly present in, with, and under the bread and wine?**
- **Do you believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, and by your participation in the sacrament, give testimony to the faith we share?**
- **Do you desire by the power of the Holy Spirit according to God's Word to live a life pleasing to Him?**

If you have questions regarding this, please speak with the Pastor or an Elder. Non-communing adults and children may come forward to receive a blessing by folding their hands across their chest or you are welcome to remain seated as we celebrate the Lord's Supper.

For those with health concerns: Gluten-free wafers are available and a wine alternative is located in the center of the tray of individual cups of wine.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

"Almighty and everlasting God, of Your great mercy in Jesus Christ You have granted us forgiveness of sin and all things pertaining to life and godliness. Therefore send us Your Holy Spirit that He may so rule our hearts that we, being ever mindful of Your fatherly mercy, may strive to overcome the world and, serving You in holiness and pureness of living, may give You continual thanks for all Your goodness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord."



And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17

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Church: (616) 842-4510
School: (616) 842-0260

For the Safety of Our Worshipers

For the safety of our worshipers, we ask that you please review the following:

Make yourself aware of all available exits. Exits can be accessed via all doors of our sanctuary (front and back).

In the event of a tornado or tornado warning, please move to our church basement which can be accessed via the stairs in the back of the church near the glass doors, or the stairs which can be accessed via either exit in the front of our sanctuary. For those who have difficulty with stairs, please proceed to one of the school bathrooms, the bathroom located in the back of the church, or allow others to assist you to the basement.

In the event of a fire, please use the nearest exit to vacate the building. Exits can be accessed via the doors in the front or the back of our sanctuary. If you have access to a cell phone, call 911.

In the event that someone seeks to inflict physical harm, take cover. When you feel you are able to safely vacate the building, immediately do so using the nearest exit and proceed to a safe location. If you have access to a cell phone, call 911.

For emergency medical needs, **an AED (defibrillator) and emergency phone are located in the lobby by the parking lot entranceway.**

While we pray that we never have to enact any of these plans, our hope is that this will allow you to be prepared. We also encourage you to let our elders or pastor know if you feel there is a potential threat at any time.

PRAYERS

Prayers for Strength & Healing: Roxana Taylor (underwent surgery, further testing) Nancy (cancer), Roy Hatfield's mom, Betty (COVID-19), Adam Shake, Bill Gierke, Norma Patton, all nursing home residents, Gene Hasenbank's brother, Ken (many health issues), Bill, Jack & Connie (dialysis), Rickie & Betty (cancer), Chris & David (health issues), Bill (for salvation), Pastor Louis and his mother in Mexico, Matt Williams' dad, Jerry (ongoing healing), and Nancy Jerovsek (dialysis, recovering from a surgical procedure).

FOR PASTORAL NEEDS

If you would like our Pastor or an Elder to call you and/or pray with you, please contact the church office at (616) 842-4510 or office@stjohnsgrandhaven.com.

GIVING

Tithes & Offerings from last weekend **\$13,575** (General Fund) **\$1,749.96** (Other)
\$20,996.00 is needed weekly for our ministry

We encourage our members to consider giving their tithes and gifts through the online opportunities offered on our website at www.stjohnsgrandhaven.com/about-us/mobile-donations-and-tithing. Members can also contribute their gifts via mail **or you can now drop off your offering in the special lock box hanging near the entrance to our church and school** between the hours of 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. ~ checks preferred (if cash is given please strive to drop off between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.). Please remember that we rely on these gifts for all the ongoing ministries of St. John's – both now and for the future.

WHAT'S THE LATEST NEWS



Update on Internet and Telephone Equipment & Parsonage Siding Repair:

With the advent of virtual learning in our school and Zoom meetings for boards, issues have caused interruptions in phone and internet services for our students and staff. Tech services were called in and recommendations were made to remedy the problems. The total cost of these fixes will run about \$10,000 in total. The Endowment funds agreed to backstop the cost with the congregation offering their help if they are able. To date more than \$1000 has been received to help with the updates; but more would be a blessing. If you can help, mark your offering "Phone & Internet Updates" and either bring them to church or mail them to the church office.

Also, siding on the parsonage is in need of immediate attention. Pieces are beginning to fall off, and paint has been peeling and fading. Let's see, is it 60+ years since it was first installed? It doesn't last forever. The warranty is way past due, and it's time to get it replaced. Estimates are around \$22,000. To date, more than \$10,000 has been received. Once again the Endowment Fund will back stop the funds needed after the congregation shares their blessings. If you can help, mark your gift "parsonage repair" and either mail it to the church or bring it to worship services when you can.

Thanks for sharing your blessings with St. John's during these challenging times!

Harry Schmidt, Congregation
President/Endowment Fund Director

New Year's Eve Worship: Ready to ring in the New Year? This year, please plan to join us as we offer a New Year's Eve service at 7 p.m. This service will include the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Daily Advent Devotions: Since we are unable to offer our traditional SJLS Christmas Program, the students of St. John's created daily devotional videos that follow our Jesse Tree devotional theme and readings. You can watch the videos as they are posted throughout Advent on our website, www.stjohnsgrandhaven.com.

Positive Options Virtual Giving Tree: Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Positive Options, a service of the Lakeshore Pregnancy Center has continued serving clients facing an unplanned pregnancy. They are able to continue their services because of the community's support. One of the ways to support Positive Options is by contributing to their Virtual Giving Tree. You can give virtually by visiting lpccenters.com/giving-tree.

Attendance: From last week...

Sat.: 5:00 – 29, Sun.: 8:15 – 59, 10:30 – 71;
Midweek Advent Service YouTube
Views: 42, Facebook Views: 158 **Total:**
359

Lutherans for Life Quote: “The slaughter of the innocents continues in our time ... done not out of anger, but because the arrival of these little ones is deemed inconvenient or too expensive or sometimes simply because they are not the ‘right’ sex. We, like Rachel, weep over our lost children. But mourning their loss does not mean that we do not fight to end this assault on the sanctity of life. The holy birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, which has transformed the world for the good in so many ways, gives us hope that abortion, too, can be ended.” *Steven Mosher, Population Research Institute – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org*

Altar Flowers: Provided by the **Loretta Lemke family**.

Sanctuary De-decorating: Sanctuary de-decorating will take place from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 9, and your help is needed. After a wonderful and blessed Christmas season it is time to de-decorate the Church.

ANNIVERSARIES

KLAUS, Mike & Denise (35)	12/28	REYES, Joann & Juan (1)	01/01
HILLMAN, Matthew & Krista (13)	12/29		

BIRTHDAYS

PICKELMAN, Carol	12/28	TAYLOR, Hannah	12/30	LYONS, Christopher	01/02
STROM, Anna	12/28	SPINK, Arabella	12/31	SANBORN, Ray	01/02
ROBINSON, Aaron	12/29	VANVOORST, Chris	01/01		
PALMER, Maxwell	12/30	KASCHUBE, Caleb	01/02		

Did we miss your anniversary or birthday? We probably don't have it in our records. Contact the church office at (616) 842-4510 or office@stjohnsgrandhaven.com to let us know.

Memorials & Honorariums: In memory of **Daniel Hass** given to Parsonage Repairs by **Mark & Diane Howard**. In memory of **Daniel Hass** given to the General Fund by **Ken & Debbie Luytjes**. In memory of **Matthew Spitters** and **Pat Batka** given to the General Fund by **Rob & Lois Eich**. In memory of **Daniel Hass** and **Lonnie McClain** given to the General Fund by **Ron & Pat Young**. In memory of **Priscilla Isabel's mom** given to the Music Department by **Ron & Pat Young** and **Karen Ralya**.

Poinsettia Reminder: Thanks, again, to everyone who purchased a poinsettia this year. Our sanctuary is beautiful with all the flowers. Please remember that if you purchased a plant, you will be able to pick it up after the Christmas Day service, or during the weekend of December 26/27. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 616-842-4510 or Karen Lange at 616-607-8025.

Holiday Office Hours: As we quickly approach the celebration of the New Year, the church office will be closed on the following dates:

- Thursday, Dec. 31 and Friday, Jan. 1 (New Years)

If you have a pastoral need when the office is closed, call Pastor Kurt at (414) 736-1772.