

St. John's Lutheran Church
505 E. Carpenter St.
Midland, Michigan 48640

Contact Us

Rev. Dan Kempin
Senior Pastor (ext. 1201)
dkempin@sjlmidland.org

Rev. Josh Parsons
Associate Pastor (ext. 1202)
jparsons@sjlmidland.org

Kris Zastrow
Business Manager (ext. 1206)
kzastrow@sjlmidland.org

Jeff Sopcak
Admin Assistant (ext. 1203)
jsopcak@sjlmidland.org

Brad Massey
School Principal (ext. 1300)
bmassey@sjlmidland.org

Sarah Graham
School Secretary (ext. 1301)
sgraham@sjlmidland.org

Anna Kruger
Dir. of Family Life (ext. 1204)
akruger@sjlmidland.org

Newsletter information may be submitted typed or emailed to office@sjlmidland.org by the due date on the calendar in the newsletter. Submissions may be edited.

Worship Times

Sunday at 8 & 10:45 am
Bible Study and Sunday
School at 9:30 am

Saturday at 5 pm

Live Stream:
[facebook.com/sjlmidland](https://www.facebook.com/sjlmidland)

St. John's Worship
Services on MCTV
Monday at 5:30 pm
Tuesday at 10 am
Channel 191

Church Phone:
(989) 835-5861

www.sjlmidland.org

NOVEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

The Challenge is to Love

November in Michigan. Beautiful weather, falling leaves, apples, pumpkins, hunting. . . and another election in a battleground state.

As a veteran of many such elections, I can say with all my heart, "Here we go again." Sheesh.

It is punishing to endure the barrage of the same old political attacks, with the slander updated to suit the current candidates. It is draining to keep up with the emotional energy invoked by those who say, "This is the most important election in the history of the world! (And this time we mean it!)" It is depressing to endure once again the awkwardness of yard signs, social media posts, and water cooler conversations.

Yet for as much as I might want to simply avoid the whole thing, I know that it is my responsibility as a Christian citizen. It is my responsibility—and yours, too, if you are of age and eligible—to vote. To do this I have a responsibility to inform myself as much as possible and use my own judgment.

The problem is that the wells of information have become severely poisoned, and commentary has become polarized and toxic. What is a Christian to do? For instance:

How do I know what source of information or opinion is accurate?

How do I know if a candidate is being honest?

How do I know which issues to prioritize?

These are all serious challenges. But I submit that the greatest challenge is to love. That is the directive from our Lord, Jesus, and our allegiance to Him is even higher than our citizenship. Not that I am suggesting we avoid our responsibility as citizens—far from it. I am suggesting that we are to fulfill that responsibility as followers of Jesus.

Which means that we may disagree strongly, passionately, even viscerally . . . but we may not hate. Those you oppose you must also love. You may only oppose them in love. This is from Jesus.

It is also a very foreign concept in the current radicalized political climate. Politics is a dirty business, but do not let your heart become soiled with it. When you find your emotions triggered with frustration or hurt, and when you feel the violation of lies and injustice, do not let that translate to bitterness. Instead, pray for those who have wronged you. Pray for those who are wrong. Pray for those who are power hungry, and for those who are misguided. Even if you are convinced that a person or a group is your enemy and seeks your destruction, then as Jesus says, "Love your enemy and pray for those who seek to harm you."

Cast your vote in the meantime, but hold tight to love. For we do not have human enemies. Every office holder and candidate is a person Jesus loved enough to die for, and His desire is to see them as your brother or sister in the kingdom. Pray for that. Pray that we can spend eternity with people from both sides, because the dividing line is not right or left. It is Jesus or not Jesus. The enemy is not those on "the other side" of the political struggle. The enemy is the one who seeks to destroy the souls of both sides by inciting mutual hatred and bitterness.

Let it not be so with you.

See you in church,

-Pastor Kempin

Our Mission Statement

"We are here to share the good news of salvation and make disciples of Jesus Christ, in accordance with the Scriptures (Matt. 28:18-20) and with the help of the Holy Spirit. This mission begins with our St. John's family and extends to the Midland Community and the world."



UPCOMING CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

- November 24 – **Voter's Meeting*** (2pm)

*Changed from Communications Meeting

SCRIP - FREE MONEY FOR OUR SCHOOL

What is a SCRIP Program? You can buy gift cards at their normal price that you would buy them at ANY store, and a small rebate would be given to our school. This rebate could be given to the school for the scholarship program, it can be designated for a student's tuition, OR it could be designated for the STEM Program OR the Kitchen Upkeep account.



We have over 750 cards available through the SCRIP Program including Ace Hardware, Amazon, Applebee's, Arby's, Barnes & Nobles, Bath & Body Works, Bob Evans, Buffalo Wild Wings, Burger King, Cracker Barrel, Dairy Queen, Domino's, Exxon/Mobile, Family Fare, Gordon Food Service, Home Depot, iTunes, Jo-Ann's, Kohl's, Kroger's, Little Caesar's, Lowe's, Marathon, Marshall's, Meijer, Menards, Michaels, Olive Garden, Panera, Papa John's, Pi's, Pizza Hut, Qdoba, Shell, Speedway, Staples, Starbucks, Subway, Supercuts, Taco Bell, Target, Tim Hortons, Ulta, Walgreens, Walmart / SAMS, Wendy's and many others that can be ordered. We can also order American Express cards, Visa gift cards, and SCRIP Gift Cards.

See the SCRIP display on the table in the lounge or call/text Cheryl Zastrow, St. John's Scrip Coordinator, at 989-239-3919. SCRIP cards are sold on Thursday mornings during the school year 8:00a-10:00a. Also Sunday mornings following both church services on the 2nd & 4th Sundays, or by appointment.

VISITATION MINISTRY

Visit and Christmas Present Delivery

The Visitation Ministry is looking for help sharing Christmas greetings during a short visit and delivering a wrapped present to our shut-ins, homebound, and members who correspond with a SJL student through our Faith Pal program.

We have purchased 43 seasonal gifts and the wrapped/tagged presents will be ready for pick up in the office on Sunday, November 17th. We request that visits/deliveries be made before December 8th so that recipients will be able to display their gift during Advent and Christmas.

How Do I Sign Up?

1. Simply add your name and the best way to contact you on the sign-up sheet in the office
2. Indicate how many delivery points you would like.*

* If you have a preferred area, please write your name next to the delivery point listed and indicate how many you want to deliver at that location.

Still have questions? Please contact Linda Bebeau via email at l1smb@chartermi.net.

THANK YOU!

Dear members of St. John's, Stephanie and I want to take a moment and thank you for the prayers, the cards, the meals, all your kind words, your acts of love, and the expressions of sympathy you showed as we have mourned the passing of Stephanie's dad, Doug Catlin. Through you the Lord has showered upon us His love and blessings. In Christ, the Parsons' family.

CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER



Christmas Wreath and Christmas Centerpiece Sale



Decorate your home for Christmas by stopping by our Annual Christmas Wreath and Centerpiece Sale.

We will be selling wreaths, centerpieces, and porch pots.

Vouchers are available for purchase after both Sunday church services in the lounge on November 3, 10, 17, 24, December 1, 8, and 15 2024 and at St. John's Holiday Bazaar on November 9, 2024 from 9:00-3:00 in the gym and via the website.

Purchases support the 7th and 8th grade fundraising efforts for the 8th grade dinner and class trips!!

Thank you for your support!!

WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S

WSJ CLEANING BEE: Thank you to the many volunteers who worked so hard during the Oct. 17 Kitchen Cleaning Bee. We were able to empty, clean and sanitize the cabinets and counters, polish the stainless-steel tables and storage units; clean and sanitize all cabinet contents and return the ovens and range to a clean and shiny condition! The refrigerator and freezer were cleaned and sanitized, sinks were scrubbed and polished and coffee machines were cleaned and restocked. Rubber floor mats were power washed and dried. All was ready for the custodian to take the last step of scrubbing the floor. We are looking forward to getting back to cooking for the 2024 Advent Soup Suppers and we hope you will all come and partake.



WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S will hold their next meeting on Monday, Nov. 11 in Room 2 at 12:30. We will be finalizing the details for upcoming events including Advent Soup Suppers, Holiday Roll Bake and Christmas Decorating. We hope to see you there.



CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Dear St John's Family! Do you love decorating for Christmas? Do you love serving? We have a wonderful opportunity for you to do both this November. We will be decorating the church for Christmas on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 30. Christmas tree set up will begin at 8:30am and decorating will follow, starting around 10am. We will have childcare available on-site with activities and games to keep the children entertained while you decorate. Sign-ups are required so we can ensure adequate coverage for childcare and decorating stations. We hope you can join us for this amazing event. Please contact Brigitte Glaser at 989.832.4417 or Jenny Butler at 989.274.9154 (text or call) with questions and to sign up to help at this event. Thank you!

NOMINATIONS FOR VOTING MEMBERSHIP

Season's Greetings to all,

Over the past year St. John's Lutheran Church & School have been blessed with the addition of many new visitors and members. While attending services and participating in the many activities taking place during the year, there is another important way to be involved. You can learn more about the many boards, and leadership roles of church governance by becoming a *voting member*.

How to do this you ask? Every year the Voter's & Communication's Meeting schedule is included in the church newsletter which lists all of the dates, time and place the meetings are held. Voter's Meetings will have an agenda of reports from the Leadership Team, Boards (Elders, Operations, Day School) and in addition, items requiring a vote of the assembly. Communication's Meeting has a similar agenda of items, although there are no items brought forward for a vote.

It is during these meetings where an agenda item *Nominations to become a voting member* is asked by the President of the Leadership Team. A church member who is at least 18 years of age can be nominated (either by another voting member or by self-nomination) at either the *Voter's Meeting* or the *Communication's meeting* and does not require being in attendance at that meeting. The actual vote to be approved is scheduled for the next Voter's Meeting and requires the nominated member to be in attendance at that time. If the nominated member cannot attend, they can be voted on at the next scheduled Voter's Meeting and then will be eligible to vote at the subsequent Voter's meeting *after reading and signing the constitution*.

As stated in the By-Laws, Members Received by Transfer from Another LCMS Congregation with approval from The Board of Elders and was an active voting member will also concurrently receive membership in the Voters' Assembly after reading and signing the By-Laws and Constitution.

Please feel free to contact me with any other questions or need of support.

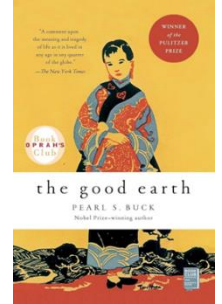
Blessings!

Marilynn Lefler
Congregational Secretary
989-948-8039

FAMILY LIFE

Book Club

St. John's Book Club meets on Monday, November 11. Join us from 6:30-8:00pm in Room 2 to discuss this month's selection, *The Good Earth* by P. Buck. Check the Family Life bulletin board across from the Church Office for a complete list of meeting dates and books.



SJL Youth

October was a fun month for our SJL Youth! Confirmation students traveled to Camp Arcadia for a weekend retreat where they studied God's Word, met other confirmands from across the state, and enjoyed camp activities like archery, capture the flag, evening devotions, and more.

Sr. High students have been walking through the Bible chronologically at Youth Nights and in Sunday morning Bible study, piecing a timeline of Scripture together as they go. They also spent a beautiful Saturday afternoon raking leaves at a congregation member's home.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for these wonderful students!



Fall Fest

THANK YOU to everyone who made Fall Fest possible. It was a fun afternoon in fellowship with our SJL family and Midland community. Participants enjoyed trunk-or-treating, games, face painting, DJ, hay bale maze, and (new this year) specialty "What About Waffles" food truck. Check out the photos below for a glimpse of the fun! *(Pictures on page 6)*



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

THANK YOU to everyone who makes this possible, whether by knitting/crocheting shawls or by taking them to people who are in need of a loving hug from God.

Several knitters have continued to contribute shawls during the summer and thanks to their efforts we have plenty of shawls that are ready to be used to bless others. Please stop by the Prayer Ministry Closet which is outside of Room 3, and take shawls for the people that you know who may need a little extra empathy or encouragement.

SHARING TREE



Sharing Tree
 Fulfill a Christmas Wish
 Through Sharing Tree

Once again St. John’s Lutheran Church will be participating in the Salvation Army’s Sharing Tree. Sharing is caring and the Salvation Army in cooperation with the United Way of Midland County invited us to help fill holiday wishes for our community by serving as a host for a Sharing Tree this season. The Sharing Trees will be put up by November 1st which is the first day that tags may be displayed on our trees. Tags will be hung on each tree and they will be identified as Sharing Trees. Gifts can be returned to the them and will be taken over to the Salvation Army’s distribution center. All gifts must be returned by **December 2nd**. Please consider brightening the holidays for a neighbor in need and help spread hope for Midland County families and individuals this holiday season.



LYDIA GUILD IS OPEN TO ALL LADIES AT ST. JOHN'S

**Our NOVEMBER MEETING for LYDIA GUILD is on
Monday, November 25 at 6:30 pm in the lounge.**

Please join us as we learn about the Humane Society of Midland County (HSoMC). This non-profit animal shelter located in Midland is dedicated to finding permanent, loving homes for abused, unwanted, and abandoned animals. Learn what services they provide in our community, and any ways we might be able to help. Light refreshments will be provided.

NOTE: there will not be a December meeting for Lydia Guild but look for the ladies as they serve a delicious Advent Soup Supper!

Veteran's Day

You are cordially invited to join us in a special program honoring St. John's Lutheran Church and School families/family members who have bravely served our Nation

When: Monday November 11th

Where: St. John's Gym 8:30am

Refreshments will start at 7:45 in the lounge.

Help us showcase your family members that have served!
PTS is looking for a photo along with member's Name, Rank
and branch of service.

Email to se.fauver@gmail.com or dropped off at church or school office.

Cold vs. Flu: Differences and Similarities

In the peak flu season in the United States during the fall and winter, as many as 20% of the population will get the flu according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The flu season starts as early as October, peaks in January or February, and can last until as late as May.

How did you get it and what is the expected duration?

A cold and the flu are both caused by viruses, but the viruses are different. Flu viruses are far more capable of causing more harm to the patient than cold viruses. The flu and the common cold are both respiratory illnesses, but the flu can be far more serious and may cause significant problems in the respiratory system. If you feel sick, stay home for at least 24 hours after the fever has gone away.



Colds are contagious and can be transmitted from person to person. A cold is usually spread through hand-to-hand contact, such as with handrails or doorknobs, and shaking hands with someone who has a cold. Therefore, the best way to prevent a cold is to regularly wash or sanitize your hands. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. If you cough or sneeze cover your nose and mouth with the inside of your elbow or with a tissue. Colds have an incubation period of about one to seven days (time from infection to appearance of symptoms). A cold's duration (how long it lasts) is about seven to 10 days. However, depending upon the viral strain, a cold can last up to two weeks. Colds are mainly mild respiratory illness.



Flu viruses usually cause more serious symptoms in the respiratory system than cold-causing viruses. Flu viruses are spread through a "droplet spread" that is propelled 3 feet into the air when talking, sneezing, or coughing. It has an incubation period of about one to four days. The flu's duration varies from about five days to two weeks depending upon the severity of the infection. The flu can become an intense and potentially fatal illness. Individuals who do not receive a yearly flu vaccine are more likely to risk getting infected with a flu virus.

How can you tell the difference between a cold and flu?

It's difficult, especially in the early stages of infection, to tell the difference between a cold and the flu. However, there are some symptoms, if present, that may help distinguish between colds and the flu. With the flu, most people will experience a fever of 100-102 degrees or higher, especially in children. Also, there are usually body aches and headaches. A cough and fatigue are usually moderate to severe. With a cold you will be sneezing and have a runny nose.



Treatments, medications, and home remedies for cold and flu.

Treatment options, medicines, and home remedies for the common cold and flu are almost the same except for a few items that pertain to the more severe virus, the flu.

- Common treatments for both diseases include rest and treatment of symptoms as they occur. Fever is treated with Tylenol. Do not give aspirin to children or teens. Symptoms can be managed with good hydration and over-the-counter medications that include suppression of symptoms such as cough and sore throat.
- Home remedies for colds and the flu are similar -- humidified air and saline spray, steamy showers, gargling with saltwater, compresses to relieve sinus congestion and/or headaches, warm lemonade, and homemade chicken soup. It is best to check with your physician, especially if you have the flu, before relying on home remedies, such remedies mainly reduce symptoms but do not cure diseases.



When should I call the doctor about a cold or flu?

If you develop trouble breathing, have a severe sore throat, a cough that produces green-colored mucus, have chest pain, or develop a high and persistent fever, you should see your doctor. If you suspect you have the flu and are pregnant, over 50, a child under 2 years of age, have a weakened immune system for any reason, or have ongoing medical problems such as diabetes, you are at higher risk for developing complications due to the flu and should contact your physician.

For more information: <https://www.sciencealert.com/chicken-soup-has-been-a-remedy-for-thousands-of-years-but-why>
<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/common-cold/in-depth/cold-remedies/art-20046403>

NOVEMBER 2024 – St. John’s Lutheran Church & School, 505 E. Carpenter, Midland (989-835-5861)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p align="center">Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.</p> <p align="center">- 1 Thessalonians 5:18</p>			1	2 8-Men’s Bible Study 9-Brass Choir 9-Visit with Pastor, Communion 10-Joyful Praise Rehearsal 5-Worship (c)
					3 Daylight Savings Time Ends 8-Worship (c) 9:15-Prayer in Weller Chapel 9:30-Bible Study 10:45-Joyful Praise (c) 5:15-Sr. Seminar 6-Sr. High YG	4 8-Picture Day 5:30-Worship on MCTV (Ch. 191) 6:30-Board of Ops
10 8-Worship 9:15-Prayer in Weller Chapel 9:30-Bible Study 9:30-MomCo Sm. Group 10:45-Joyful Praise 5:15-Sr. Seminar 6-Sr. High YG	11 Veterans Day 12:30-WSJ 5:30-Worship on MCTV (Ch. 191) 6:30-Book Club	12 8:30-JP Rehearsal 10-Worship on MCTV (Ch. 191) 10:30-Oasis Bible Study 12-Prayer Warriors 7-Board of Elders	13 9:30-Backpack Buddies 10-LifeLight 3-Girls Sm. Group 5:30-Confirmation 6-Hand Bells	14 9-Kitchen Cleaning Bee 1:30-King’s Daughters service 5:30-Joyful Praise Rehearsal	15	16 8-Men’s Bible Study 9-Visit with Pastor, Communion 10-Joyful Praise Rehearsal 5-Worship (c)
17 8-Worship (c) 9:15-Prayer in Weller Chapel 9:30-Bible Study 10:45-Joyful Praise (c) 5:15-Sr. Seminar 6-Sr. High YG	18 Newsletter Submissions Due 5:30-Worship on MCTV (Ch. 191)	19 8:30-JP Rehearsal 10-Worship on MCTV (Ch. 191) 10-Stratford Pines Service 10:30-Oasis Bible Study 12-Prayer Warriors 6:30-Leadership Team	20 9:30-Backpack Buddies 10-LifeLight 10:15-Medilodge 3-Girls Sm. Group 5:30-Confirmation 6-Hand Bells 1:30-StoryPoint	21 1-Newsletter Assy 5:30-Joyful Praise Rehearsal	22	23 8-Men’s Bible Study 9-Visit with Pastor, Communion 10-Joyful Praise Rehearsal 5-Worship
24 8-Worship 9:15-Prayer in Weller Chapel 9:30-Bible Study 9:30-MomCo Sm. Group 10:45-Joyful Praise	25 5:30-Worship on MCTV (Ch. 191) 6:30-Lydia Guild	26 8:30-JP Rehearsal 10-Worship on MCTV (Ch. 191) 12-Prayer Warriors 6:30-Missions Board	27 9:30-Backpack Buddies 10-LifeLight 11:30-Half Day Sch. (Dismissal) 5:30-Confirmation 3-Girls Sm. Group 7-Thanksgiving Worship Service	28 Thanksgiving Day Church Office Closed	29 Church Office Closed	30 9-Visit with Pastor, Communion 5-Worship (c)

To view the calendar online: <https://sjlmidland.org/calendar>



St. John's Lutheran Church
505 E. Carpenter St.
Midland, MI 48640

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Midland, MI
Permit No. 137

