

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

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Newsletter information may be  
submitted typed or emailed to  
[office@sjlmidland.org](mailto: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://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](http://www.sjlmidland.org)

# APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER

## On The Miracle Of Creation

*"And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good."*

From the earliest memories of my childhood, Spring has been a favorite time of the year for me. Perhaps in those youngest days it sprouted from a desire to be done with winter, but from the first warm days and melting snow to the full bloom of greenery, Spring has given me an exhilaration that I do not feel during other times of the year.

I don't suppose I am alone in that. I would imagine that everyone except for the die-hard skiers and ice fishermen is glad to see the snow melt, and who doesn't love the freshness that blooming flowers and flourishing greenery brings to the air. During Spring, life explodes all around us, and it is very refreshing.

Yet it occurred to me this year that perhaps one reason Spring is so pleasant is that it is a miniature demonstration of God's creative power. What I mean is that it can be hard to relate to God as the creator of everything, and hard to imagine all of creation coming together in six days in response to God's spoken Word. Yet it is somehow easier to imagine during Springtime, when the earth sprouts vegetation, the flowers burst forth in unexpected places, the birds and insects and animals, as if on cue, all begin to work diligently at their tasks.

And the thing that strikes me the most is that no one has to tell them what to do. Spring is not like a project or a celebration that we prepare for in advance. It just happens. Whether early or late, when God says it is time, life swings into action. One day you wake up to the sound of birds. You notice some flowers peeking out. And then everything is green, and growing so fast that it changes every day.

It's a good lesson for us, really, that the God who created the first Eden is the same God who brings forth life every Spring. It is a good lesson because sometimes we can forget that he is able to refresh and make new, and bring green life where there was only brown dormancy. God is the God of life! And during this season of Easter, may you find refreshment in knowing that your life is joined to His, as a thriving vine is joined to the branch. I hope your Spring is joyful and vibrant as your eyes are opened to see the power of His life in 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

- May 18 – Voters' Meeting
- July 20 – Communications Meeting
- September 21 – Voters' 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 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, or by appointment.

## LYDIA GUILD



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

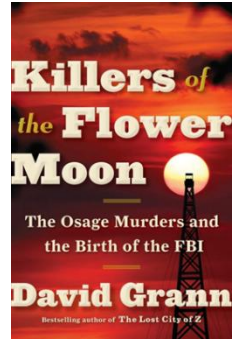
**Our April 2025 MEETING for LYDIA GUILD will be held on Monday, April 28 at 6:30 pm in the lounge.** Please join us as we all strengthen our faith with a program entitled "*Threads of My Tapestry*", presented by

Carol Sweebe. She explains how our lives are like a tapestry--we can only see the messy underside filled with trials and tragedies. But she reveals there is someone we can trust to weave those threads together to create a beautiful picture of our life.

Everyone welcome. Light refreshments will be provided.

## Book Club

St. John's Book Club meets on Monday, April 14. Join us from 6:30-8:00pm in Room 2 to discuss this month's selection: *Killers of the Flower Moon* by D. Grann. Check the Family Life bulletin board across from the Church Office for a complete list of meeting dates and books.



## Vacation Bible School

Save the date! "Magnified! Discovering the BIGNESS of God in the SMALLEST of things." Vacation Bible School is coming to St. John's **Monday, June 9- Thursday, June 12** (6:00-8:00pm, family meals offered at 5:30pm). Interested in volunteering? Connect with Anna!



## Easter Egg Hunt

We're EGGcited to invite you to SJL's Easter Egg Hunt happening on Saturday, April 19 at 10:00am. Check out our [Sign Up Genius](#) (physical sign up available in Lounge) if you'd like to volunteer. Donations of individually wrapped candy can be dropped off in Anna's office and are greatly appreciated!

## Trivia Night Fundraiser: Friday, April 25

SJL Youth invite YOU to join us for a Trivia Night fundraiser in support of students attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, Louisiana! Snacks, drinks, and prizes from local business sponsors will be provided. Register as a team of 8 for \$200.00 or purchase an individual ticket (and be paired with other solo ticket holders) for \$30.00. Registration forms are available online or in the Church Office.

- Eight diverse rounds of trivia (ranging from history to sports to the Bible) consisting of 10 questions each
- Teams work together to complete round questions, answer sheets are collected and scored (one point/correct answer), team with the most points at the end of all eight rounds wins
- Opportunities to increase your chance of winning through for-purchase advantages, come prepared with extra cash if you're interested. Includes...
  - 3 "mulligans" for \$10.00 (only available once/team)
  - "Ask-A-Youth Lifeline" for pop culture round, \$10.00 for 3 questions, \$25.00 for entire round
  - Individual Round (compete solo for a great prize!) for \$20.00
- Own a business and interested in sponsoring? Check out the sponsorship opportunities below (forms available in Church Office).





## A SPECIAL TREAT!

**Who:** All women of St. John's Congregation

**What:** A special invitation to come and enjoy a relaxing luncheon and program with fellow Christians, offered by Midland Christian Women's Connection.

- **Special Feature:** Our very own talented Karen Kempin! Karen will share how her life has been blessed by her Music Ministry.
- **Inspirational Speaker:** Marilyn Garapolo, from Plainfield, IL, will share her story entitled, *"Laughter is Medicine"*.



**When:** Wednesday, April 9, 2025, 12-2 p.m. (Plan to arrive by 11:30)

**Where:** Midland Country Club, 1120 West St. Andrews Rd., Midland

**Cost:** \$18/person (Includes meal, soft beverages, gratuity, and program)

- Cash – Exact amount or Check payable to Women of St. John's
- Non-refundable (unless canceled prior to Sunday, April 6, by 9 p.m.)
- Return registration form (below) and money by noon on Friday, April 4, to the church office or place it into the Women of St. John's orange mail drawer on the left just inside the church office.

### Special Note:

We are requesting our group to be seated together. To expedite sign in, we will have a separate sign-in line for SJL Guests – look for the sign when you arrive at MCC. We encourage you to arrive by 11:15 to get everyone checked in and seated in plenty of time.

We hope you'll join us and enjoy a delicious meal prepared, served, and cleaned up for you with some excellent Christian fellowship!

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### REGISTRATION FORM FOR MCWC LUNCHEON – APRIL 9, 2025

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

\$18 Check Payable to: Women of St. John's: # \_\_\_\_\_ Cash (\$18 exactly): \_\_\_\_\_

List any Food Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

***Form must be turned into the church office by noon on Friday, April 4!***





**Thank you to** all the ladies and men who helped prepare, serve and clean during the Ash Wednesday Soup Supper, sponsored by the WSJ. We served 114 people and raised a very generous contribution for our seminarian, Nathan Bublitz, toward his education costs in St. Louis.

The next meeting for Women of St. John's will be on May 12, 2025 at 12:30 in Room 3. We will be beginning preparations for the Fall Harvest Dinner, finalizing our funds disbursements for this year and will hold election for new officers who will begin serving in the Fall of 2025.

St. John's is a delightfully busy congregation and serves the Lord in many ministries. We hope to see you at the meeting and in church! Please call Brigitte Glaser at 989-832-4417 if you need more information.

## GROUNDS



# spring cleanup

*After the long winter, it is time to get the grounds ready for spring and summer.*

**Join us on SATURDAY, APRIL 12, beginning at 9am.**

There are several jobs to be done including cleaning the flower beds, trimming trees/bushes, and raking leaves. Please bring lawn and garden tools to use, as well as your own work gloves.

We are hoping for a lot of volunteers so we can complete this work in the morning ...

NO RSVP necessary ... just show up & meet in the church parking lot!

## EASTER LILIES



### Easter Lilies!

It's that time of year again! As we journey through the Lenten season, we eagerly look forward to Easter Sunday on April 20th. If you so desire, we warmly invite you to purchase an Easter lily to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Lilies may be purchased in honor of loved ones, and will be placed in the sanctuary for our Easter morning worship services! They may be taken home after the final service on Easter Sunday, or on Monday, April 21st. All lilies that remain on Tuesday will be delivered to our housebound brothers and sisters in Christ.

There are two lily sizes available from which you can select: A single stem lily with multiple blooms is \$16, and a double stem lily with multiple blooms is \$28.

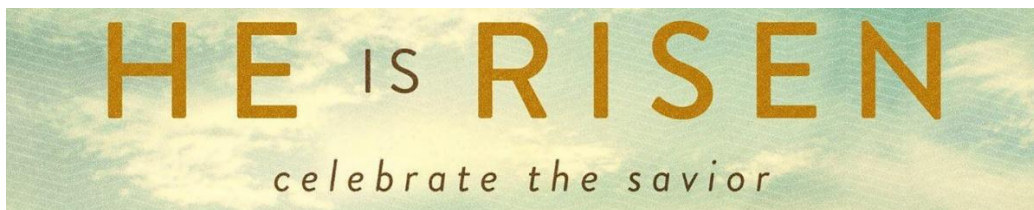
Order forms can be found outside of the church office on the bulletin board. The order forms and respective payment are due back to the church office by Friday, April 11th. If you choose to pay by check, please make checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church.

If you have questions, please contact Robin Steinke at 989.859.7148. Please feel free to text or call. We look forward to a joyful celebration together, and all proclaiming in unison, "He is risen!"

In Him,

Robin Steinke

## EASTER SERVICES



St. John's Easter Sunday Schedule:

- Sunrise Traditional Worship Service at 7:00 am with Brass ensemble
- Easter Breakfast will be served in the lounge from 8 to 9 am; hosted by SJL Youth
- Blended Music Worship Service at 9:00 am with Brass ensemble
- Joyful Praise Worship Service at 11:00 am

NOTE the following changes for Easter weekend:

- Only the 9 am service will be LIVE STREAMED on our SJL Facebook page & available for later viewing
- There will be NO 5 pm Saturday Evening service on April 19
- There will be NO Sunday School or Bible Study taking place between services on Sunday, April 20

## FAITH & FELLOWSHIP



Join us for an evening of faith, friends, yummy food, and baseball!

Dow Diamond

Saturday, June 14, 2025

Gametime is 7:05, gates open at 6:30

Cost- \$9.00 for lawn seat/per person

\$12.50 for stadium seating/ per person

Reminder that the Dow Diamond is cashless. You will need to bring a debit or credit card for food or souvenirs. Wear your St. John's spirit wear to the game.

\* There will be fireworks after the game and it's also Star Wars night.

Money and ticket order must be turned into Mrs. Graham for the school or to the church office by Friday, May 16th, 8am. Tickets will available to pick up from the church or school office the following week.

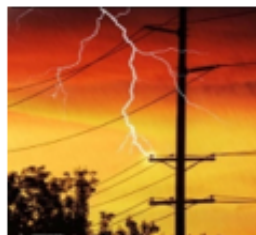
Number of lawn tickets	_____
Number of stadium seats	_____
Amount of money turning in	_____





### What to do Immediately When Your Power Goes Out

Starting in April we will be experiencing severe thunderstorms or tornado. When your power goes out unexpectedly, it can turn your day or the next few days into chaos. Power can go out instantly for several reasons, and you should be prepared. Here are a few suggestions when the lights do go out, and how to respond immediately.



**First, Call Your Consumer Power Company to Report the Outage.** This can also give you some peace of mind knowing when the power may be restored.

**Check Your Appliances, Unplug or Turn Them Off.** Right after the power goes out, go around the house and turn off or unplug your devices and appliances. Not only will this protect them from any surges when the power comes back on, but it is also a crucial safety step. Imagine you had something cooking or left an iron on before the power went out. Once the power is restored, these could become a fire hazard if you're not around to see them when the power comes on.

**Keep Your Refrigerator and Freezer Closed.** This will maintain the safety of your food. If the power is out for less than four hours, your refrigerated food should be safe. For longer outages, pack your perishables or medications into a cooler with ice to keep them at a safe temperature below 40°F. A fully stocked freezer will keep safe for about 48 hours, but this drops to just 24 hours if it's only half full.



**Have Battery Flashlights and Battery Lanterns Ready.** Candles might work for a short period of time, but they can pose a fire risk. Always have batteries on hand for extended periods as well. Also, have you recently installed new batteries in your alarm systems? This is important when the power is off for an extended period.

**Water Usage.** You and your family will need fluids. The rule of thumb is 'half your body weight in pounds, to ounces of fluid'. For example, if a person weighs 200 pounds, half of it is 100, which is the same number of ounces in fluids that person would need each day. If you don't have stored water, maybe you can borrow some from a neighbor.



**Keep an Eye on Your Family Members.** Extreme temperatures, whether hot or cold, can pose a significant risk. Designate a safe space in your home where everyone can stay comfortable, e.g., a basement during summer heat or a well-insulated central room in cold weather. Dress accordingly, stay hydrated, and go to an alternate place for safety if needed. Pay special attention to the needs of infants and elderly, or anyone with health issues.

**Cooking Safely Without Power.** If you find yourself needing to cook during an outage, your best bet is to head outdoors. A grill or camp stove can be a great solution. Just make sure to set it up in a safe, open area to avoid fire hazards. If you have a fireplace that is well-maintained, it can also be used for warmth and basic cooking. Canned food is particularly handy since it can be heated in the open can after the label is removed. If you are not able to use these options, go to your pantry. There may be several options, such as canned or dried food, e.g., water added to a can of tomato soup, crackers, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, beef jerky, nuts, fresh, canned, or dried fruit, baked beans, spaghetti-O's, protein bars, juice, etc.



**Carbon Monoxide Is Real and You Can't Smell It.** Always keep generators at least 20 feet away from your home to avoid carbon monoxide accumulation. Never use your oven or gas range for heating because it is a dangerous source of carbon monoxide.

Now is the time to prepare for when outages do happen. Stock up on batteries and get non-perishable food or water supplies.

For more information: <https://commonsensehome.com/when-the-power-goes-out/#h-4-toilet>



**APRIL 2025 – St. John's Lutheran Church & School, 505 E. Carpenter, Midland (989-835-5861)**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 8:30-Joyful Praise Rehearsal 10-Worship on MCTV (Ch. 191) 10:30-Oasis Bible Study 12-Prayer Warriors 6-Hand Bell Choir	<b>2</b> 9-Quilters 10-LifeLight <b>12:15-Worship</b> <b>5-Lenten Supper</b> <b>7-Worship</b>	<b>3</b> 5:30-Joyful Praise Rehearsal 7-Choir	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 8-Men's Bible Study 9-Visit with Pastor, Communion 10-Joyful Praise Rehearsal 5-Worship
		SPRING BREAK				
<b>6</b> 8-Worship (c) 9:30-Bible Study & Sunday Sch. 10:45-Joyful Praise (c) 6-Sr. High YG	<b>7</b> 5:30-Worship on MCTV (Ch. 191) 6:30-Board of Ops	<b>8</b> 8:30-Joyful Praise Rehearsal 10-Worship on MCTV (Ch. 191) 10:30-Oasis Bible Study 12-Prayer Warriors 6-Hand Bell Choir 7-Board of Elders	<b>9</b> 9:30-Backpack Buddies 10-Stratford Pines service 10-LifeLight <b>12:15-Worship</b> 3-Girls Sm. Group <b>5-Lenten Supper</b> 5:30-Confirmation <b>7-Worship</b>	<b>10</b> 5:30-Joyful Praise Rehearsal 7-Choir	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 8-Men's Bible Study <b>9-Spring Clean-up</b> 9-Confirmation plaques (AR workshop) 9-Visit with Pastor, Communion 10-Joyful Praise Rehearsal 5-Worship (c)
<b>13 Palm Sunday</b> 8-Worship 9:30-Bible Study & Sunday Sch. 9:30-MomCo Sm. Group 10:45-Joyful Praise 6-Sr. High YG	<b>14</b> 5:30-Worship on MCTV (Ch. 191) 6:30-Book Club	<b>15 Tax Day</b> 8:30-Joyful Praise Rehearsal 10-Worship on MCTV (Ch. 191) 10:30-Oasis Bible Study 12-Prayer Warriors 6:30-Leadership Team	<b>16</b> 9-Quilters 10-LifeLight 10:30-Washington Woods service 3-Girls Sm. Group 5:30-Confirmation	<b>17 Maundy Thursday</b> <b>12:15-Worship</b> 1:30-King's Daughters service <b>7-Worship</b>	<b>18 Good Friday</b> <b>Church Office &amp; School Closed</b> <b>12:15-Worship</b> <b>7-Worship</b>	<b>19 10-Easter Egg Hunt</b>
<b>20 Easter</b> <b>7-Worship (c)</b> <b>8-Easter Breakfast</b> <b>9-Worship (c)</b> <b>11-JP Worship (c)</b>	<b>21 Newsletter Submissions Due</b> 5:30-Worship on MCTV (Ch. 191)	<b>22</b> 8:30-Joyful Praise Rehearsal 10-Worship on MCTV (Ch. 191) 10:30-Oasis Bible Study 12-Prayer Warriors 6:30-Missions Board	<b>23</b> 9-Quilters 9:30-Backpack Buddies 10-LifeLight 10:15- Medilodge 1:30-Story Point 3-Girls Sm. Group 5:30-Confirmation	<b>24 1-Newsletter Assy</b> 1:30-Brittany Manor service 3-Riverside Bible Study 5:30-Joyful Praise Rehearsal	<b>25</b> 5-NYG Trivia Night Fund Raiser	<b>26</b> 8-Men's Bible Study 9-Visit with Pastor, Communion 10-Joyful Praise Rehearsal 5-Worship (c)
<b>27</b> 8-Worship 9:30-Bible Study & Sunday Sch. 9:30-MomCo Sm. Group 10:45-Joyful Praise 6-Sr. High YG	<b>28</b> 5:30-Worship on MCTV (Ch. 191) 6:30-Lydia Guild	<b>29</b> 8:30-Joyful Praise Rehearsal 10-Worship on MCTV (Ch. 191) 10:30-Oasis Bible Study 12-Prayer Warriors	<b>30</b> 9-Quilters 10-LifeLight 3-Girls Sm. Group 5:00-Confirmation Dinner	<b>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.</b> <b>- Romans 15:13</b>		

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



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