

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

SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

For everything there is a season...

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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

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

Can you feel it in the air? The nights are cooler now, the mornings as well. Just the other day I saw a leaf fall from a tree... The season is beginning to change. I just love fall - sweater weather, bonfires on a cool night, the crisp air from the opened window in your bedroom allowing you to, somehow, sleep deeper. Not to mention, there's pumpkin spice everything! What's not to love? In fact, the only thing I don't love about fall is its brevity. But, so it is, and such is life. As Solomon so aptly put it, by God's grace, *"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace."*

Recently my grandmother died. My mom was remarking the other day how odd it is that you spend a lifetime accumulating things then, in a day, they're all divided up among various family members, some things donated, others just thrown away and my grandma, who accumulated those things, is just gone. Try as you might, she's nowhere to be found. In the face of such things maybe you feel like King Solomon who, in Ecclesiastes, wrote *"Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless." What do people gain from all their labors at which they toil under the sun?* In other words, what's the point of all this? In the midst of such questioning, confronted by life's changes, including those changes we don't enjoy, such as the loss of a loved one, there is One who does not change, Who can be relied upon, counted on, trusted, in every season of life. One Who promised to never leave us nor forsake us, Who promised to shepherd and provide for us, forgive us, cleanse us, renew us and lead us. One who promises eternal rest in His presence, in a place that He Himself has prepared for us. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever and because this is true, you and I can enjoy peace today as we rest in Him and His precious promises to us. In the joys and heartaches this new season will bring, know that your Savior is with you. He is near. Rely on Him today. Call upon Him in the day of trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks. For to this we have been appointed.

See you on the mission field,

Pastor Josh

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."

Congregational Meetings

September 27th

Voter's Meeting at 2pm

November 22nd

Communication Meeting at 2pm

Confirmation Prayer Mentors

Willing to invest in one of our confirmation students' walk with Jesus? We're in the process of pairing each 7th and 8th grade confirmand with a prayer mentor. Prayer mentors commit to pray for their student throughout the year and spend time getting to know them through three fun events hosted here at St. John's. If you're interested in serving as a mentor, reach out to Anna by phone (989-835-5861 ext. 1204) or email (akruger@sjlmidland.org).

SJL Kids

SJL Kids is officially starting on September 20th from 9:15-10:30am! We cannot wait to begin sharing the gospel with our students. This year our curriculum is The Gospel Project. Students will learn how to see Jesus from Genesis to Revelation. We hope to see you there!

Prayer for our Children, St. John's School and SJL Staff

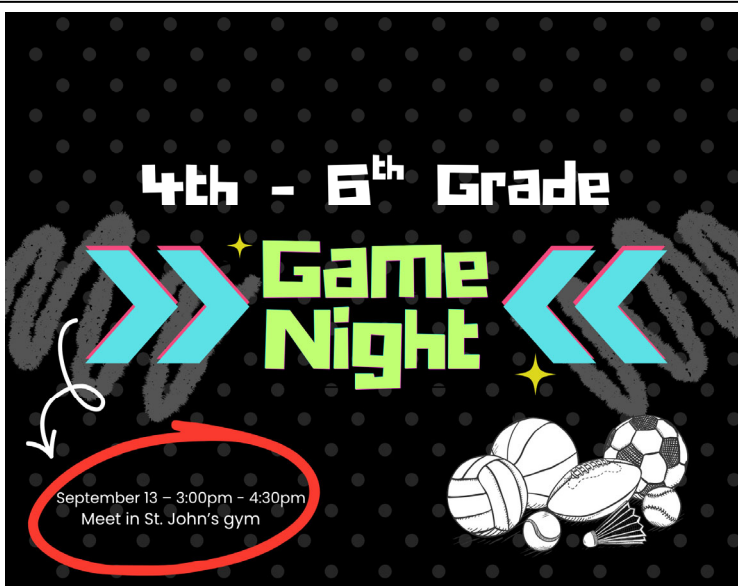
Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them."

Mothers, Aunts, and Grandmothers are all welcome as we will be gathering again this year in the Lounge for about 30 minutes to pray for our children and St. John's school and staff. We will meet on Fridays right after drop-off at 8:00am, starting Friday, September 18th.

We will pray in a group around an attribute of God such as "God is Sovereign", followed by prayer for the school and staff, and then break into groups of 2-3 to pray for one of our own children. Unlike a Bible study, there is no need to attend every week as each week is a separate attribute and prayer time, though it's always a blessing to place your concerns/hopes at the foot of the throne.

Our time will be roughly modeled after Moms-in-prayer, but greatly shortened. Mark your calendars for Friday, September 18, 2026 at 8:00am! There is such peace available through prayer for your child knowing the Father hears, and then also hearing how the Spirit speaks through another woman's heart over your child. Hope you can join us and bring a friend if that is more comfortable.

Aleece Kreiner and Ellen Ware



Join us on September 13th from 3:00pm - 4:30pm, for 4th - 6th Grade Glow Party Game Night in the St. John's gym! Come wearing neon or white and light up under the backlights. These evenings are open to students in 4th through 6th grade for the 2026-2027 school year. Come enjoy a night of games, fun, and fellowship.

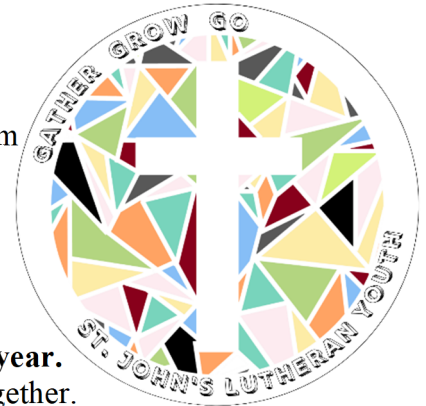


On September 22nd from 8:15am - 9:45 am, parents/caregivers and preschoolers are invited to join us for this new ministry! Once a month, we'll gather for a fun Bible time filled with a Bible lesson, games, and activities designed especially for preschoolers and their caregivers.

SJL Youth

We are excited to jump back into regular youth programming this fall! SJL Youth *GATHER* with peers and mentors, *GROW* in relationship with Jesus and one another, and *GO* into the world as the hands and feet of Jesus with the good news of the Gospel. Here are our regular opportunities for youth to connect to live out that mission:

- Sunday Bible Study
 - Sunday School for 7-12 graders returns weekly between worship services starting Sunday, September 20. Meet in the BRICK at 9:30am
- Sr. High Youth Nights
 - Youth Nights happen every Sunday from 6:00-7:30pm in the BRICK for 9-12 grade students and friends. **Parents are invited to our first Youth Night on Sunday, September 13 for a meeting to start the year.** Come meet the youth leaders, hear about the year ahead, and pray together.
- Girls Small Group
 - 8-12 grade girls are invited to Coffee Chaos after school on Wednesdays from 3:00-4:30pm starting September 16. Enjoy a laid-back afternoon of fellowship with sisters in Christ, time in God's Word, and a great cup of coffee!



Book Club

Calling all readers! The St. John's Book Club resumes monthly meetings from **6:30-8:00pm** this fall. Come every month or stop by when you can — all are welcome! This year's meeting dates and book selections are:

Date	Title	Author
September 14	I See You've Called in Dead	J. Kenney
October 19	My Own Country: A Doctor's Story	A. Verghese
November 9	Home (#2 Gilead)	M. Robinson
January 11	How Green Was My Valley	R. Llewellyn
February 8	Theo of Golden	A. Levi
March 8	Pontius Pilate	P. Maier
April 12	Family of Spies	C. Kuehn
May 10	Becoming Madam Secretary	S. Dray

Women of St John's

With the start of school, programming begins again. The Food Safety program was held last week. I hope that those of you who are involved in creating meals in the kitchen attended and found it helpful.

Harvest Dinner sign-ups were emailed last week. If you did not get an email or have questions, contact Cynthia Benner. There is also information in the Lounge.

The next meeting of the Women of St. John's will be on Monday, September 14th at 12:30pm in Room 2. On the agenda will be reports from our sub groups, discussion of changes in the kitchen, Harvest Dinner, Advent & Lenten Dinners, and projects for the remainder of 2026.

A couple of things to be aware of. We have put the kitchen back together as best we can at this point. Cabinets are labeled (some with temporary signs) as we determine if these will be the final locations. Please contact one of the officers of Women of St John's if you have a donation for the kitchen. We have slimmed down the number of items that we keep so that it is easier to find things.

Please plan to attend the Ministry Fair on September 13th to learn more about our groups.

Please contact Cynthia Benner at 989.600.9463 or midbkwrn@hotmail.com for more information.

LWML News

Lutheran Women's Missionary League will celebrate LWML weekend on October 10 and 11. Please join the Lydia Guild members in wearing purple, the official color of the Lydia Guild, at the worship service you attend that weekend. We will be serving as greeters at all services and furnishing refreshments and children's messages on Sunday. You are invited to visit the LWML table in the mission alcove near the Lounge.

Join the Handbell Choir!

Ever wanted to make a joyful noise, but with slightly more organization? The Handbell Choir is looking for new ringers! No previous experience is required, just a willingness to learn, make music, and occasionally wonder which bell you're supposed to ring! Come join us as we praise God, have fun, and make a little beautiful music together. Come ring with us! We will begin with an evening of bell cleaning and polishing on Wednesday, September 9th at 6:00pm, with formal rehearsals each Wednesday following at 6:00pm. Please contact director Laura Meiers at lelindg@gmail.com or Karen Kempin at kkempin@sjlmidland.org for more information.

SCRIP

What is SCRIP? The SCRIP Program are gift cards that may be purchased at face value and a small rebate will be given to our school. Rebates can be given to the school, the scholarship program, a student's tuition, Stem Program or for 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.

Melissa Brown will be the new SCRIP Coordinator. You may call/text Melissa at (989) 980-7465.

Cards are sold on Wednesday mornings during the school year following Chapel or on the 2nd and 4th Sunday between Church services.

Come Find Your Oasis!

Looking for a place to relax, connect, laugh, and grow in God's Word? Come join the Oasis Bible Study! This fun and welcoming group combines good fellowship with meaningful Bible study—and there's no homework or long-term commitment required. Each session is a stand-alone study, so you can jump in anytime. Come for the Bible study, stay for the fellowship, and leave refreshed! The Oasis Bible Study will meet on Tuesdays at 10:30am, beginning on September 15th.

LYDIA GUILD

The officers of this SJL Women's Group met recently to discuss and plan great programs for the 2026-27 year of Lydia Guild. Plan to join us at our first meeting on Monday, September 28, 2026, beginning at 6:30 pm!



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

WHAT IS LYDIA GUILD? Lydia Guild is a women's organization designed to foster individual **spiritual growth**, provide **fellowship** with other women, to **serve** the church in allegiance with Jesus Christ, and to support the Lutheran Women in Mission organization (LWML) by providing opportunities to learn about and serve charitable groups.

WHEN & WHERE DOES LYDIA GUILD MEET?

The Lydia Guild meets on the 4th Monday of each month from September through May (except no meeting in December) at 6:30 pm in the Lounge at St. John's ... that's only 8 meetings a year!

WHO IS IN CHARGE OF LYDIA GUILD?

Volunteers are elected bi-annually on a rotational basis. The 2026-27 officers include:

- Darlene Jones, President
- Jan Sleight, Vice-President
- Lynn Bennett, Treasurer
- Shelby Shonce, Secretary
- Karen Schultz, LWML Representative

Our KICK-OFF MEETING for the new program year of LYDIA GUILD is on Monday, September 28th at 6:30 pm in the Lounge.

Please join us for a dessert buffet and initial business meeting as we introduce the new officers and the programs that will be featured throughout the year. Our September presentation will focus on spiritual growth; Mrs. Jan Sleight will recap a presentation from the June 2026 LWML State Convention titled "Go to the Head of the Bible Class!"

Ministry Fair

SJL is hosting a "Ministry Fair" on Sunday, September 13th between services from 9:15 to 10:30 am. All members are encouraged to visit centers in the Lounge, alcoves, and meeting rooms. Learn about the many opportunities at SJL for **Spiritual Growth, Christian Fellowship, and Service!** Look for a place you can participate! Coffee, juice, & pastries will be available in the Lounge and the new kitchen floor will be accessible for viewing.

PART I: THE CHURCH In *Hebrews 10:24-25*, the writer challenges us not to neglect meeting together, understanding that regular gathering is essential for mutual encouragement and spiritual growth. In an age of online options, this reminder of the irreplaceable value of physical presence and face-to-face fellowship becomes increasingly vital. The church isn't meant to be a spectator sport where professional Christians perform for an audience, but a training ground where every believer is equipped for ministry. Growth happens as each member actively participates in the body's life and mission.

PART II: FELLOWSHIP *Acts 2:42*: The early church provides us with a compelling picture of community: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer". This wasn't casual socializing but committed engagement in shared spiritual life. Their devotion to fellowship was as crucial to their spiritual growth as their devotion to teaching and prayer. Like musicians in an orchestra who must play in harmony with each other, early believers understood that authentic fellowship required both dedication and active participation.

PART III: SERVICE In *Galatians 5:13*, the apostle's instruction to "serve one another humbly in love" places service within the context of Christian freedom, where we are called to voluntarily serve others. Yet in *Colossians 3:23-24*, the motivation for our service is noted "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord". This perspective transforms even mundane tasks into sacred service, because ultimately, we're serving Christ.

PART IV: PURPOSE In *Ephesians 2:15*, Paul assures us that "we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do". This adds another dimension to our understanding of purpose. We're not just random products of chance, but masterpieces of divine craftsmanship, created with specific good works in mind. Our purpose isn't something we need to invent, but something to discover and fulfill.



The Foundation Team is looking for a few members to fill out vacant trustee spot(s) on the Foundation Board. Qualifications are simple: have familiarity with financial investing and be a member (voting) of St. Johns. Trustees can be members of other boards, however, can only hold one trustee role. You will join a diverse team of members that meet quarterly and discuss incoming requests or donations as well as share pertinent information at the Voters Meetings as needed.

Please contact Steven McNally, Congregational President, or reach out to any of the current Foundation members: Al Paulsen, Daryl Landis, Dwight Hoffman, or Roxy Boilore to express your interest.



Harvest Dinner Updates

Happy September everyone! Harvest Dinner sign-ups are ready for you to review. There are sheets in the back of the Lounge for those who prefer to use paper & pencil. We will update our sign-up sheets regularly to avoid any duplications.

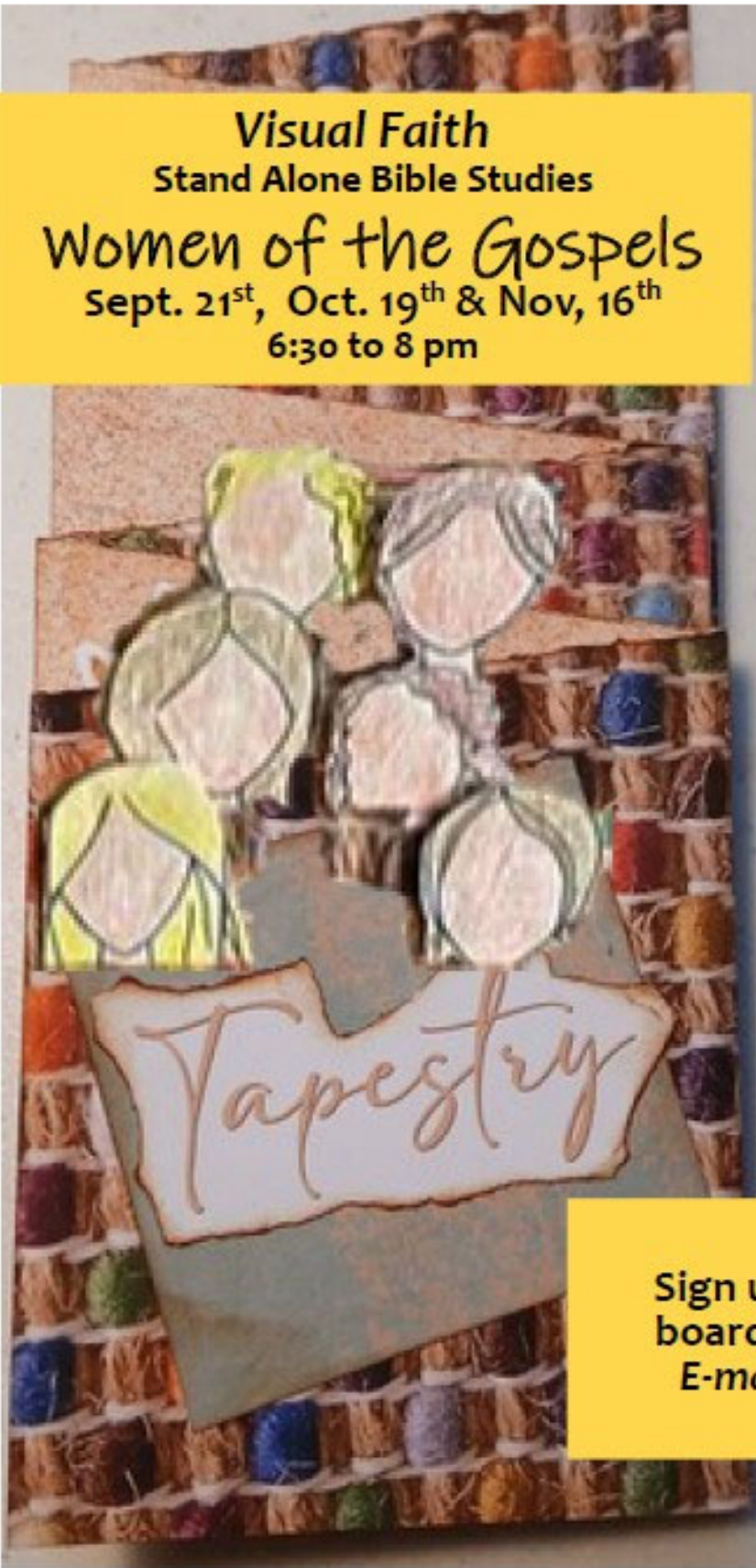
Signup Genius is also up and running. New for this year is a tabbed design. Each tab is for one major part of the needs we have for Harvest Dinner. The tabs are divided by roasters (yes, we still need to borrow some), pies (especially apple), food items needed by September 30th, food items needed by October 11th, volunteer options for the days we are preparing food, and of course, the big day, October 15th. It takes **many** volunteers to run this event and each person is needed. You can sign up by scanning the QR code and scrolling through the tabs.

Tickets will be sold after all services beginning on September 12th. You will be able to purchase tickets on weekdays during church office hours. Tickets will be sold at Cleveland Manor, Riverside, and Washington Woods on October 1st. Residents should check their newsletters for information on time and location. Meals for tickets purchased at the senior centers will be delivered. If you need delivery of meals other than to the senior centers, please contact us or the church office to be placed on the delivery list. **No delivery requests will be honored after Friday, October 2nd.**

All checks must be made out to Women of St. John's.



If you have any questions, please contact Cynthia Benner (989.600.9463), Joyce Battjes (989.430.7166), or Joy Miller (989.600.5437).



Visual Faith

Stand Alone Bible Studies

Women of the Gospels

Sept. 21st, Oct. 19th & Nov, 16th
6:30 to 8 pm

**Read Scripture In
Community Using VF
Practices**

**Creative Hands-On
Projects**

*That provide time to
linger in God's Word
and pray.*

**Listen To VF
Author's Takeaways**

*Hear their
perspective and
items that connected
to their own life story.*

Reflection Questions

*Make connections to
your life.*

REGISTER NOW

Sign up sheet is on the bulletin
board outside of the office OR
E-mail llsmb@chartermi.net

Peripheral Neuropathy

Peripheral neuropathy is a condition characterized by damage to the peripheral nerves, which are the nerves located outside of the brain and spinal cord. This damage can disrupt the communication between the central nervous system and the rest of the body. Neuropathy occurs when multiple peripheral nerves become damaged. Neuropathy can affect several nerves in different parts of the body at the same time.

Symptoms include problems with feeling the coordination of movement, sensation (numbness, sharp jabbing pain, burning, or tingling), or both. It may also affect the autonomic nerves responsible for controlling functions such as digestion, the bladder, blood pressure, and heart rate.



Cause. Peripheral neuropathy is nerve damage caused by several different conditions. Health conditions that can cause peripheral neuropathy include autoimmune disease (rheumatoid arthritis, vasculitis, celiac disease), infections, inherited conditions, tumors, alcohol use disorder, medicines, injuries, low vitamin B levels, and diabetes which is the most common cause. Among people with diabetes, more than half develop some type of neuropathy. Sometimes, no cause can be identified. This type of case is called idiopathic peripheral neuropathy.

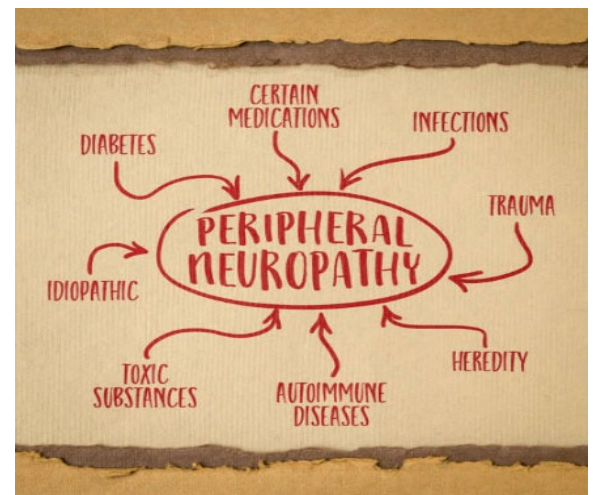
Complications that are common with neuropathy include falling due numbness, the lack of balance and coordination, or muscle weakness. Because of the numbness the inability to feel pain can lead to accidental burns and cuts. These injuries then can become unnoticed, leading to the risk of infection. A person may not feel temperature changes or pain in parts of the body that are numb. There may be an infection on your foot that had become injured without knowing.



Treatment that is recommended by the American Academy of Family Physicians is to address the underlying disease process, correct nutritional deficiencies, and provide relief from symptoms that could be medications or medical therapies such as physical therapy, acupuncture, massage, or chiropractic care.

Prevention of neuropathy involves limiting the risk factors and managing the underlying conditions. Some lifestyle changes that may help reduce the risk of neuropathy include:

- ✓ People with diabetes should closely follow their doctor's treatment plan.
- ✓ Check the feet regularly, wear closed-toe and well-fitting shoes.
- ✓ Avoiding drinking too much alcohol.
- ✓ Avoiding cigarette smoke.
- ✓ Limiting factors that contribute to physical trauma or injury, such as repetitive actions and restrictive positions that may cause blisters.
- ✓ Getting enough sleep and physical activity to support the immune function.
- ✓ Eat a diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains and lean protein to keep nerves healthy. Protect against low levels of vitamin B12 by eating meats, fish, eggs, low-fat dairy foods and fortified cereals. If you're vegetarian or vegan, fortified cereals are a good source of vitamin B12 and talk with your healthcare professional about B12 supplements.



For some people treating the underlying cause can lead to improvements, however the damage is permanent in some cases and symptoms may worsen over time. If a person is experiencing any symptoms of neuropathy, such as weakness, pain, or tingling in the hands or feet, it is important to contact a physician. Implementing a treatment plan as soon as possible is essential to help manage symptoms and prevent further nerve damage.

For more information: Peripheral Neuropathy | National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

September 2026 – St. John's Lutheran Church & School, 505 E. Carpenter, Midland (989-835-5861)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:30am Cascades Bible Study 12pm Prayer Warrior 1pm Colonial Villa Worship 7pm Board of Christian Day School	2 9am Quilters 10am LifeLight 12pm Archives 5:30 Confirmation	3 10am Bickford Bible Study 2pm Brittany Manor Worship 5:30pm Joyful Praise Rehearsal	4 No School	5 9am Visit with Pastor 5pm Worship
6 8am Worship 9:30am Bible Study 10:45am Joyful Praise	7 5:30pm Worship on MCTV (Ch. 191) No School Church Office Closed Labor Day	8 10am Worship on MCTV(Ch.191) 12pm Prayer Warriors 7pm Board of Elders	9 9am Quilters 9:30am Backpack Buddies 10am LifeLight 10am Stratford Pines Worship 12pm Archives 6pm Handbell Cleaning	10 10am Bickford Bible Study 5:30pm Joyful Praise Rehearsal	11	12 8am Men's Bible Study 9am Visit with Pastor 10am Joyful Praise Rehearsal 5pm Worship
13 8am Worship 9:15am Ministry Fair 10:45am Joyful Praise 6pm Senior Youth	14 5:30pm Worship on MCTV (Ch. 191) 12:30pm Women of St. Johns 6:30pm P.T.S. Meeting	15 10am Worship on MCTV (Ch. 191) 10:30am Oasis Bible Study 10:30am Cascades Bible Study 12pm Prayer Warriors 6:30pm Leadership Meeting	16 9am Quilters 10am LifeLight 10:30am Washington Wood Worship 12pm Archives 1:30pm Kings Daughters Worship 2pm Meridian Acres Worship 3pm Girls Small Group 5:30pm Confirmation 6pm Handbells 6:30pm FORGE Discipleship Group	17 10am Bickford Bible Study 5:30pm Joyful Praise Rehearsal	18	19 8am Men's Bible Study 9am Visit with Pastor 10am Joyful Praise Rehearsal 5pm Worship
20 8am Worship 9:30am Bible Study/ Sunday School 10:45am Joyful Praise 6pm Senior Youth	21 5:30pm Worship on MCTV (Ch. 191) 6:30pm Visual Faith Newsletter Submission Due	22 10am Worship on MCTV (Ch. 191) 10:30am Oasis Bible Study 12pm Prayer Warriors 6:30pm Mission Board Meeting	23 9am Quilters 10am LifeLight 12pm Archives 1:30pm Story Point Worship 3pm Girls Small Group 5:30pm Confirmation 6pm Handbells	24 10am Bickford Bible Study 3pm Riverside Place Bible Study 5:30pm Joyful Praise Rehearsal	25	26 8am Men's Bible Study 9am Visit with Pastor 10am Joyful Praise Rehearsal 5pm Worship
27 8am Worship 9:30am Bible Study/ Sunday School 10:45am Joyful Praise 2pm Voter's Meeting 6pm Senior Youth	28 5:30pm Worship on MCTV (Ch. 191) 6:30 Lydia Guild	29 10am Worship on MCTV (Ch. 191) 10:30 Oasis Bible Study 10:30am Cascades Bible Study 12pm Prayer Warriors	30 9am Quilters 10am LifeLight 12 Archives 3pm Girls Small Group 5:30pm Confirmation 6pm Handbells			