



**The Evangelical Lutheran Church
of St. John**

N1904 Church Road

Town of Grover – Peshtigo, Wisconsin

Pastor Sargent—920-228-1061

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 20, 2020

Pastor Daniel Sargent
Jim Seefeldt

Dave Kaus, Paul Marquardt, Burnette Marquardt, Darlene Nohr
Counting Team

Pastor
Organist

Welcome to All Thank you for joining us in worship today, and a special welcome to our guests who are with us. May the Word and promise of our Lord's love for us in Jesus fill your heart and soul with his peace. If you are a guest with us today, please sign our guest book in the entrance area.

Large Print Bulletins Large print editions of today's bulletin and Scripture lessons are available from one of the ushers. Please request one if it is needed.

Prayer Requests Please remember the following in your prayers:

*Birthday and wedding anniversary celebrations this week.

*Family and friends of Barb Hoffman who mourn her death.

Contact Pastor Sargent for any prayer requests and to inform him of any family members entering the hospital.

Also, if you would like a special prayer put in the bulletin, please contact Brenda Polzin or email the request to stjohn-grover@gmail.com by Thursday mornings.

Communion Announcements Those who desire to attend the Lord's Supper are asked to announce by having the ushers sign up for you. We follow the Bible based practice of communing those who are communicant members of our congregation and those who are members of a congregation in fellowship with the Wisconsin Synod. If you have any questions about attending the Lord's Supper with us, please ask to speak with our pastor before the time of service.

Offering envelopes We are working on condensing and renumbering the offering envelopes for 2021. If envelopes have not been used for the last two years, they may not be issued at this

time. They can be reissued if requested. If you are using the E-giving program, you will **not** get envelopes unless requested otherwise. Special occasion donations can be made through the program app or online, or even in a plain envelope if desired. For contribution purposes, we will still assign a number to you and inform you of that when we distribute the 2020 contribution statements. Please contact Dave Kaus or Brenda Polzin with requests by 12/27/2020.

Special Voters' Meeting

There will be a Call Meeting held on Sunday, December 27, for our Principal and vacant teacher positions at St. John. All voters of the congregation are asked to attend. The meeting will be held after the 10:00 am service.



Christmas Eve Our Christmas Eve Service this year will be held at 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm on December 24th. The children's recitations and songs will be pre-recorded and shown during the service. The congregation will also participate. We are asking members to sign up in advance for the service you want to attend. Due to the current Covid restrictions, we need to limit the attendance at each service to 100.

Note: The 4:00pm service has 100 guests signed up. There are still places available for the 7:00 pm service.

We will be livestreaming the 4:00 pm service.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0E4FACAA2AA0F85-700>

If you are not able to sign up on line place contact Pastor Sargent and he can help top sign you up. 920- 228-1061

Poinsettias A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board to donate flowers for our Christmas decorations. Please note if the flowers are in memory of a loved one or for another special occasion.



Christmas/New Year's Worship Services

December 24 4:00pm St. John Children's Service (pre-

recorded with Congregation participation

December 24 7:00pm St. John Children's Service (pre-recorded with Congregation participation)

December 25 10:00am Christmas Day Worship Service

December 31/January 1 There will not be any New Year's Eve/New Year's day services.



Bible Study There will be a break in our Bible Study lessons during the Christmas/New Year Holidays. There is a plan to begin a new study on the January 10, 2021.

Christmas Tree and Decorations Our blessed thanks to the families for donating & decorating the Christmas tree and for the many decorations that beautify our church inside and outside.



Advent Wreath Our Blessed thanks to Mrs. Barbara Dumke for donating the Advent wreath and candles in loving memory of her parents, Carl & Elfrieda Carlson.

**Sunday School
Attention Parents!**



We are in the Winter Lessons. This Sunday's lesson is The Birth of Jesus. It is found in Luke 2:1-20. Please let your Sunday School Teacher or Pastor know if you are having any trouble getting the lessons. We know this is a difficult time because of the pandemic. As of now, we are not able to hold in-person classes. We are very concerned about Sunday School want to make sure parents and children are getting the lessons they need. If you have any questions or concerns you can also call Pastor Sargent (920) 228-1061.

Click on <https://online.nph.net/ss-remote> to view the videos.

Altar Guild We are looking for additional ladies to help with the duties of Altar Guild. If you are interested, please contact Charlene Hurley at 715-789-2333 for more information.

100th Anniversary Celebration of the Church Organ



A Committee for celebrating the 100th Anniversary of our Church Organ is being assembled. They will help plan the program for this special Celebration to be scheduled in February, 2021. Erin Pape has volunteered to chair this organizing committee. If you would like to help with the planning and implementing of this celebration, please contact Erin at erinlpape@gmail.com or 262-352-8762.

Volunteers As you all know we are live-streaming the 8:30am service. We will need volunteers to help with the live-streaming. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Sargent.

2020 Altar Flowers Sign Up A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board to donate flowers for special dates in memory of a loved one or for another special occasion.

Weekly Bulletins You can now find the weekly bulletins on our website(stjohnpeshtigo.org). Go to the website, click on “weekly bulletins”, then click on the link for the bulletin.

Changes To better help us keep our records up to date (address changes, landline disconnection, cell phone numbers, family members move, etc), it would be greatly appreciated if you could fill out a form which is located in the rack in back of church. You may return to any usher, Brenda Polzin, or Pastor.

Worship & Daily Devotions on WOCO The worship broadcast

on WOCO AM 1260 today (11:00 am) is hosted by St. John, Grover. The daily devotions on WOCO AM (1260) & FM (107.1) this week (Monday-Friday at 9:05 am) are hosted by Christ, Menominee, MI, by Pastor Paul Cole.

Last Week at St. John Ev. Lutheran

Mid-Week Advent Service (12/9/2020)	21
Those Who Joined Us in Worship (12/13/2020)	57/38
Average Sunday Attendance for the Year (40 weeks)	120
(does not include the 10 weeks of no service)	

This Week at St. John Ev. Lutheran

Monday	6:30pm	Zion Service
Wednesday	NO CONFIRMATION CLASS	
	11:30am	School Early Release
Thursday	4:00pm	Children’s Christmas Eve Service (pre-recorded and congregation participation)
	7:00pm	Children’s Christmas Eve Service (pre-recorded and congregation participation)
Friday	10:00am	Christmas Day Service
Sunday	8:30am	Worship Service (WELS Connection)
	10:00am	Worship Service (WELS Connection)

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK 12/24/2020-1/4/2021

Next Sunday’s Counting Team: Team “C” - Matt & Ronda Lemke, Kyle Seefeldt

Offerings for the Lord’s Work

General Fund Income for 11/29/2020	\$ 8,073.38
General Fund Income for 12/6/2020	\$ 9,463.52
General Fund Income for 12/13/2020	\$ 8,813.50
Total General Fund Income (24 weeks)	\$177,251.76
Budget Needs Weekly at \$6,932.46 (24 weeks)	\$166,379.04
Total BUDGET SURPLUS in Offerings	\$ 10,872.72
Borrowed Funds for Current Operating Expense	\$ 0.00

Included in General Fund Income Total:

E-giving - \$1,838.25; Tuition - \$200

Special Gifts & Offerings

Choir Fund - \$25; CMO - \$120;

Memorials & Special Gifts Received:

Choir Fund - In memory of Darrell Dumke from John & Vicki Duescher



School News

- ⇒ Last day of school before the Christmas break is December 23, with an early release at 11:30 am. Classes resume January 4, 2021.
- ⇒ Our CEA raised \$1,500 through the sale of gift boxes and popcorn from the Sweet Cheese Loft. This money will go towards the school cleaning this year. We wish to thank our hard working CEA for all they do to support our school.
- ⇒ A school safety visit was conducted by Lt. Chris Lesperance from the Marinette County Sheriff's Office this past Tuesday. Following a meeting with our faculty and staff, Lt. Lesperance approved the procedures we have in place.
- ⇒ The St. John School faculty, staff and students would like to wish all our St. John members a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

E-giving(Online Giving) This is an optional program and you can opt in or out at any time. There will be three methods to donate to our church. Here's how:

****Go to our website-stjohnpeshtigo.org. Click on the "Online Giving" tab (right side of screen). That'll take you directly to our E-giving webpage. Click on "create profile" and follow steps for adding transaction. The church incurs fees for debit/credit cards. You can help offset those fees by clicking on the button "help offset" (first time setup transaction only). These amounts will be added to your annual contribution statement.**

NEW FEATURE!! On donation page, under optional - select from dropdown menu and put in name/message you wish to have applied to the donation.

****GivePlus Church (smartphone app) - Download the app through "apple store (i-phone)" or "play store (android)". Create your online profile and follow the steps for adding a transaction. Search for our church by either typing the zip code (54157), typing "Ev. Lutheran Church of St. John, Grover, WI", or turn your locations on and "search for churches near me". With this method you can also help offset fees the church incurs for ACH transactions ONLY(bank routing) by clicking on the button "help offset"(first time setup transaction only).**

*****Smartphone thru a QR scan code. You must download any "QR code reader" app. Open the app and scan the QR code(to the right). It'll take you directly to our e-giving webpage. Create your online profile and follow steps for adding transaction.**



If you are a participant in this program already, THANK YOU! Information is in the back of church to help guide you. Please don't hesitate to contact Brenda Polzin(920-660-5801) or Dave Kaus(715-923-9494) if you have any questions or need help setting it up.

LITURGY—Service of the Word and Sacrament-page 26
December 20, 2020

OPENING HYMN: CW 41 - Let All Together Praise Our God

1 Let all together praise our God Before his highest throne;
Today he opens heav'n again And gives us his own Son,
And gives us his own Son.

2 He leaves his heav'nly Father's throne, Is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and lone, Lies in a humble stall,
Lies in a humble stall.

3 He veils in flesh his pow'r divine A servant's form to take;
In want and lowliness must die Who heav'n and earth did make,
Who heav'n and earth did make.

4 A wondrous change which he does make: He takes our flesh
and blood,
And he conceals for sinners' sake His majesty as God,
His majesty as God.

5 He serves that I a lord may be-A great exchange indeed!
Could Jesus' love do more for me To help me in my need,
To help me in my need?

6 For us he opens wide the door Of paradise today.
The angel guards the gate no more; To God our thanks we pay,
To God our thanks we pay.

Stand

INVOCATION

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and
the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him
with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge
our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: ♪ Lord, have mercy.

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: ♪ Christ, have mercy.

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: ♪ Lord, have mercy.

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

C: ♪ Amen.

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

SONG OF PRAISE

C:  **O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.**

**Almighty God, merciful Father,
you crown our life with your love.**

**You take away our sin; you comfort our spirit;
you make us pure and holy in your sight.**

**You did not spare your only Son, but gave him up for
us all.**

**O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the
earth.**

**O Son of God, eternal Word of the Father, you came to
live with us; you made your Father known; you
washed us from our sins in your own blood.**

You are the King of glory; you are the Lord!

**O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the
earth.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

M: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C:  **Amen.**

Be Seated

FIRST LESSON

2 Samuel 7:8-16

8 You are also to say the following to my servant David. This is what the LORD of Armies says. ¹₂I took you from the pasture, from

following sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel. 9 I have been with you wherever you went. I have cut off all your enemies from before you. I will make your reputation great, like that of the great ones on the earth. 10 I will set up a place for my people Israel, and I will plant them there. They will dwell there, and they will not be disturbed again. Violent men will not afflict them again as they did at the beginning 11 and ever since the day I appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also declares to you that the LORD himself will make a house for you. 12 When your days are complete and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up after you your seed, who will come from your own body. I will establish his kingdom. 13 He will build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he sins, I will discipline him with a rod used by men and with blows of the sons of men. 15 My faithful mercy will not depart from him as I removed it from Saul, whom I removed to make room for you. 16 Your house will stand firm, and your kingdom will endure forever before you. Your throne will be established forever.

♪ PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 98 (page 103)

Refrain: Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

Sing to the LORD a new song,*
for he has done marvelous things.

The LORD has made his salvation known*
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel;*
all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Refrain: Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,*
burst into jubilant song with music;
make music to the LORD with the harp,*
with the harp and the sound of singing.

Shout for joy before the LORD, the King.*

He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain: Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

SECOND LESSON

Romans 16:25-27

25 Now to him who is able to strengthen you—according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was veiled in silence for long ages past, 26 but now has been revealed through the prophetic Scriptures and made known to all the Gentiles, in keeping with the command of the eternal God, resulting in the obedience of faith—27 to God, who alone is wise, be glory forever through Jesus Christ. Amen.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel. Alleluia. (Matthew 1:23)

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Stand

GOSPEL LESSON

LUKE 1:26-38

26 In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin pledged in marriage to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women." 29 But she was greatly troubled

by the statement and was wondering what kind of greeting this could be. 30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, because you have found favor with God. 31 Listen, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end." 34 Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 Listen, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age even though she was called barren, and this is her sixth month. 37 For nothing will be impossible for God." 38 Then Mary said, "See, I am the Lord's servant. May it happen to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: 🎵 Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be Seated

HYMN OF THE DAY: CW 67 - What Child Is This

1 What child is this who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet With anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the Son of Mary!

2 Why lies he in such mean estate
Where oxen now are feeding?
Good Christians, fear; For sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through;
The cross he'll bear for me, for you.

Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the Son of Mary!

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings Salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high;
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the Son of Mary!

SERMON TEXT: Luke 1:26-38

Theme: A Faithful Response!

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Be Seated

HYMN: A Christmas Medley

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild-God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dream-less sleep The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shin-eth the everlasting Light-
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains, in reply, Echoing their joyous strains
Gloria! In excelsis Deo!
Gloria! In excelsis Deo!

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

****Organ Interlude****

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and Child,
Holy Infant, so tender and mild.
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heav'n's all-gracious
King!"

The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

****Organ Interlude****

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope-the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine! O night when Christ was born!
O night divine! O night, O night divine!

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: ♪ Amen. Amen. Amen.

Those who are not receiving the Lord's Supper can be dismissed.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: ♪ We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: ♪ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. By the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, he empowered his Church to be witnesses of Christ to the ends of the earth. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins, Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of he Lord be with you always.

C: ♪ Amen.

C: ♪ O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen.

Be Seated

Distribution of Communion

Stand

THANK THE LORD

**C: ♪ Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev'ryone what he has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.
He renews his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen.

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: ♪ Amen. Amen. Amen.

Have A Blessed Week!