

The Lighthouse



St. John's
Lutheran Church
NEWSLETTER

March 2026

Gather, Give, Grow and Go with God!



What is the point of Lent?

This was a question from one of our Club 9 (confirmation) students. Maybe you have the same question. I'm sure I have, in the past. It has really changed for me over the years: the point of and how I participate in Lent.

So, let me see if I can clarify the "point of Lent"...

The point of Lent is self-reflection. That means looking inward at our heart and our connection with God. I can say from personal experience, being a parent and thinking about this young person's question... when do we really, I mean REALLY, slow down to take some time to think about our heart and what it needs? What it needs to make us good disciples, followers of Christ. For every person that is going to look different. I know a good place to start is to put church in your calendar. Not just "on your calendar" but in your calendar, just like the sports practices that get priority. Looking at our heart, are we making Christ a priority in our lives? When we must ask, "what is the point of Lent," we need to put church IN the calendar. When we must ask, how does Jesus fit into our lives, we need to put church IN the calendar. When you show up, we learn with and from one another. This is how we learn about reflecting God's light into the world and learning the story of what Jesus has done for us.

Lent is also about looking outward. When we have done the work of self-reflection we can then confidently look outward. Look to the neighbors Jesus has called us to see and to help. And friends, there ARE so many ways to help our neighbor. Helping may call you to step out of your *comfort zone* or even your *safe spaces*. And when I say safe spaces, I am not just talking about your homes. Part of Lent is stepping into a different way of thinking about the world and who we are called to be in it. Living and thinking differently about the world will put you into awkward spaces at times.

"do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will uphold you with my victorious right hand." Isaiah 41:10.

There are many hard things we do in life. There are many things we do to change how we live. Sometimes it takes little steps for us to move forward in change. Just like New Year's resolutions that we so often bite off more than we can chew instead of making the resolution about one small change. Maybe the small change is committing to going to worship twice a month for six months, then the next six months make it three weeks the next six months. Maybe it's as small as putting your Bible and a devotional book next to your favorite place to read and commit to reading a devotional once a week, if you have never done it before.

We are stronger and steadier when we are grounded in God, when Jesus is at the center of our hearts because *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."* Philippians 4:13 But this is only possible as you strengthen your relationship with Christ. To know what he means in your life and the life of the world. As you learn and grow in Christ you will come to understand the "point of Lent."

Blessings in your growing and learning.

Pr. Stacy



Income & Worship Attendance Summary

January 2026

	Actual Current Month	Budget Current Month	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Actual vs Budget
Total Offerings	\$15,256.65	\$14,208.34	\$15,256.65	\$14,208.34	\$1,048.31
Total Revenue	\$15,590.40	\$14,958.35	\$15,506.65	\$14,958.35	\$548.30
Total Expenses	\$18,620.37	\$19,161.85	\$18,482.38	\$19,161.85	\$(679.47)
Profit/Loss Net Cash Increase/(Decrease)	(\$3,029.97)	(\$4,203.50)	(\$2,975.73)	(\$4,203.50)	\$1,227.77
Average Weekly Attendance for January (In-person attendance only)				62	

Please feel free to contact the church office for a complete financial report.

2026 Council Information:

Sara Beth Holman- President

(email address: sara.b.holman@gmail.com)

Amy Spaude- Vice President, Nominating/Auction Liaison

Desiree Kozlovsky- Secretary, Outreach Liaison

Bev Possley- Financial Secretary

Greg Yager-Building & Grounds Liaison

Pastor Stacy Malzhan



Tracey Krumrei- Youth & Education Liaison

John Warren- Worship Team Liaison

Betty Stevens- Outreach Team Liaison

Tim Peters- Stewardship Liaison

Steve Larsen- Treasurer

Thank You

I'd like to thank you very much for your generous donation for the Help a Hero program.

The USO, Red Cross, and troops appreciate what we do more than you can know!!

*Thanks again,
Jaelin Poshon*



Lenten Worship Schedule



This Lent, we explore the Lord's Prayer not only as words we say, but as a life we are called to live. Petition by petition, we will hear how this prayer echoes the promises made at our baptism and affirmed in confirmation. As we reflect, remember, and return, we are invited to live our faith with trust, courage and hope, learning what it means to truly live the Amen.

***You are encouraged to bring your Catechism book with you to Sunday worship.

February 22: **Our Father** – Trust God and live among God's faithful people

March 1: **Hallowed Be Thy Name** – Proclaim Christ through word and deed

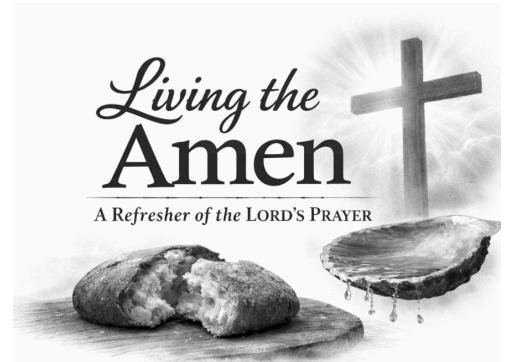
March 8: **Thy Kingdom Come** – Serve all people, following the example of Jesus

March 15: **Daily Bread** – Strive for justice and peace in all the earth

March 22: **Forgive Us...** – Repent, forgive, and return

March 29 - Palm Sunday: **Lead Us Not... Deliver Us** – Persevere in faith, even in suffering

April 5 – Easter Sunday: **Amen, Alleluia!** – Live in the promise, even when we don't fully understand it



Midweek Lenten Worship Services with Simple Supper Simple Supper Held in the Fellowship Hall

5:45 pm

Worship Service Held in the Sanctuary

6:30 pm

Wednesday, February 25

Wednesday, March 4

Wednesday, March 11

Wednesday, March 18

Wednesday, March 25





Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026

Worship 9:00 a.m.

First Communion

Maundy Thursday, April 2, 2026

Worship 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday, April 3, 2026

Worship 6:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026

Sunrise Easter Worship 7:00 a.m.

Easter Breakfast 8:00 a.m.

Easter Worship 9:00 a.m.

Easter Worship Assistants Needed

We are in need of Worship Assistants for Easter Services.

Please click on the link below to add your name or email the office and Karie will do so for you.

[*Easter Worship Assistant Schedule*](#)

Youth & Education



Faith Finders! (Sunday School)

Classes take place weekly following Worship until 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School Registration Form:

<https://forms.gle/qpCVuLgxfAFkUGnp8>

Children ages 3 and up are welcome to attend! Children are always welcome to bring a friend as well! Please see Miss Karie if you have any questions.



~The LYO (Lutheran Youth Organization) is open to all
Teens ages 6th through 12th Grades~

Club 9 Class: Weekly Classes will resume on **Wednesday, April 15th, 5:45 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

Breakfast Club: Saturday, March 14th 2026

Meet at Church at 8:00 a.m. Breakfast at JoJo's Volunteer 9-11am.

Sign up with Miss Karie today!

LYO Bible Study:



Sunday, March 15th

Following Worship in the LYO Room downstairs.

3/4/2026	Lent Worship with Dinner
3/11/2026	Lent Worship with Dinner
3/14/2026	LYO Breakfast Club
3/15/2026	LYO Bible Study, 10:15-11:00
3/18/2026	Lent Worship with Dinner
3/25/2026	Lent Worship with Dinner
4/1/2026	No Class; Holy Week
4/2/2026	Maundy Thursday Worship
4/3/2026	Good Friday Worship
4/8/2026	Easter Break- No Class

An adventure you'll fall for!

I hope to spot you here!



New friends 🌿 Amazing experiments 🌿 Creative games
Super-fun snacks 🌿 Surprising adventures 🌿 Incredible music

Location: St. John's Lutheran Church, Little Suamico
(church name)

Save these dates: Monday June 22 - Thursday June 25
(VBS dates)

Each day's fun happens from: 8:30 a.m. to Noon
(VBS start and end times)

For more information, call or visit: (920) 826-7785
(church phone number and web address)

Register Online at:
<https://myvbs.org/st-john-s-lutheran-church-2026-vbs-rainforest-falls>



Registration is Open!
[Register Here!](#)
Or Scan the QR Code:





Lenten Sentence Sparkers

Parents, please paraphrase and modify to meet the age-appropriate needs, attitudes, and safety concerns of your family. Younger children can watch parents enjoying this activity to model healthy family life.

Start a family faith conversation by completing these sentences together. Parents and grandparents paraphrase for younger children.

"Then, to show my sorrow, I went without eating and dressed in sackcloth and sat in ashes. I confessed my sins and earnestly prayed to the Lord my God." Daniel 9:3-4a (CEV)

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a 40-day season of repentance. It is a time for repentance and reflection on our lives, looking at those unchristlike aspects of our lives that need changing.

- ☀️ This year I have seen Christ work in my life by...
- ☀️ The significance of the resurrection of Jesus for me is...
- ☀️ Our family prepares to celebrate the resurrection by...
- ☀️ When I reflect on my life I realize I need to tell God I'm sorry for...
- ☀️ The prophet Isaiah told us (see Isaiah 43:25), *"But I wipe away your sins because of who I am. And so, I will forget the wrongs you have done."* When I reflect on God's forgiveness of my sins, I...



"It isn't too late. It isn't too late. You can still return to me with all your heart. Start crying and mourning! Go without eating. Don't rip your clothes to show your sorrow. Instead, turn back to me with broken hearts. I am merciful, kind, and caring. I don't easily lose my temper, and I don't like to punish." Joel 2:12-13 (CEV)

FIVE FAITH PROMISES: PRAYER BIBLE READING FAITH CONVERSATION ACTS OF SERVICE SHARED MEALTIMES & OTHER RITUALS/TRADITIONS

Copyright © 2025 by HomeandChurch.com, LLC. Permission to use and duplicate given to licensed congregations only. All other rights reserved. Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotation is taken from the Contemporary English Version © 1995, American Bible Society.

Find Resources like this and SO MUCH MORE on our customized website!

<https://faithforwardnow.org/church/stjohnslittlesuamico/>



Get ready to **TALK**,
to **PLAY**, to **PRAY**,
to be **FAMILY**

WELCOME!
FREE interactive and creative resources for every family.
INVITE and share with all parents, grandparents, neighbors, and friends.

Scan Here!



St. John's Lutheran Church

<https://stjohnslittlesuamico.org/>



Free Resources For All Families!

Welcome to the Faith Forward resource Web site. This FREE site is for everyone! We encourage you to invite and share with all parents, grandparents, neighbors, and friends. Enjoy these creative, fun activities and discussions to practically and playfully be family!

FREE "Faith on the Go" RESOURCES

📄 This Week's Download

Come back each week
or
add your email to receive weekly

📧 Subscribe For Weekly Emails





*First Holy Communion
Workshop*

**Saturday, March 21, 2026
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall**

**First Communion will be celebrated
on Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026**

**Please contact Pr. Stacy with any questions.
RSVP with Karie in the office.**

**Children grades First and Older are Welcome to attend!
Parent participation is required.**

[First Communion Workshop Registration Form](#)



Brown Bag Bible Study

Meets weekly on
Thursdays at 11:30 a.m.

Please bring your lunch and join us for an engaging Bible Study.
All are Welcome!



*Arlene Matuszewski is celebrating her
100th Birthday on March 6th this year!!!*

*Let's shower her in love and birthday wishes
as she celebrates this very special day.*

*If you would like to send a Birthday Card or other Special Message
to Arlene, please feel free to do so!*

*Arlene Matuszewski
St. Paul Elder Services
312 E. Fourteenth Street, Apt. 124
Kaukauna, WI 54130*



ALL BLOOD TYPES NEEDED

St. John's of Little Suamico Blood Drive

1253 County Rd J

Monday, March 2, 2026

Noon—5:00 p.m.

Contact Shellie Virtues for assistance with registering





St. John's WELCA Officers



Sindi Anschutz- President

Tammy Yager- Vice President/ Treasurer

Angie Larsen- Secretary

ALL women of the church are welcome to attend! Our meetings are filled with discussion and decision making about how WELCA may best support our church, the local community and the greater community and world.

Please join us!

WELCA will not be meeting monthly as in years past, but rather meeting during various months to best plan for activities during busiest times. 2026 meeting dates throughout the year are TENTATIVELY scheduled for the following Sundays after Worship:

March 22nd

May 3rd

August 16th

Sept. 20th

Oct. 11th

November 22nd

December 13th

WELCA FOCUS FOR 2026

St John's Lutheran Church - Support in general as needs arise

St John's Youth Support

Food Pantry donations all year long

Ecumenical Housing Project – Sponsor home, clean once a year, provide a hot meal at move in

Booyah Spring/Fall – support serving & baked goods (April 26th? & October 25th?)

Simple Supper Lent/Advent – March 25th, December 2nd

Funeral Dinners – food donations & helping hands

Mother's Day/Father's Day Appreciation

Vacation Bible School – Support, snacks, staff

Auction/Car Show – Support, donation, raffle baskets, baked goods, helping hands

Bazaar – Support, jam making, crafts, baked goods, kitchen luncheon, helping hands

Community Support

Ava Moody Memorial Event- donation, raffle basket & participation

Trent Maloney Memorial

Laps for Logan - donation, raffle basket & participation: May 17th-21st

Walk takes place on: May 23rd

Sun Valley Christmas gifts – collection & distribution for patients & staff

Toys for Tots

Fellowship, Faith development & FUN as we care for and enjoy each other in friendship

Altar Flowers:

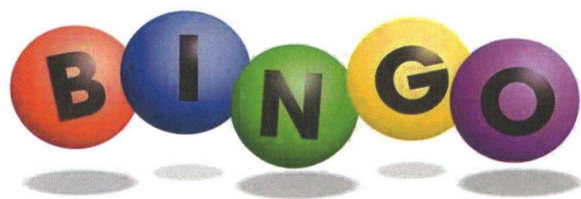
Sunday, May 10th

Sunday, July 5th

Sunday, September 20th

Sunday, November 22nd

In our Community



St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish

6051 Noble St, Sobieski WI (Off of Cty. Rd. S)

Doors open at 11:00 a.m.

Bingo starts at 12:30 p.m.

-  Saturday, January 10th & 24th, 2026
-  Saturday, February 7th & 21st, 2026
-  Saturday, March 7th & 21st, 2026

Bingo will be held in the church basement with elevator access.

***Food and Beverages

Concessions will be available for sale

***50/50 Raffle

COME OUT FOR FUN AND BE A WINNER!!

*Per the State of Wisconsin children under 10 years of age are not allowed at Bingo events



SUPPORT GROUP

We are here to help

DO YOU CARE FOR A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER W/DEMENTIA OR MEMORY CONCERNS?



A place where caregivers can share their journey, in a safe, supportive environment and find out they are not alone.

-  **Keshena:** 4th Mon./month @ 1-2pm at the FACE Center-Omaeqnomenewak Wetohkatikamek
-  **Shawano:** 4th Wed./month @ 1-2pm at The Daily Drip ~215 Main Street
-  **Oconto Falls:** 1st Mon./month @ 10-11am at the Oconto Falls ADRC
-  **Lakewood:** 3rd Thurs./month @ 1:30-2:30pm at Lakes Country Public Library
-  **Virtual:** 4th Mon./month @ 3-4pm via Microsoft Teams. Call 715-526-4708 to register.

FOR MORE INFORMATION



Call 1-855-492-2372
Ask for Liz
Liz@adrcwolfriver.org

www.adrcwolfriver.org
W7327 Anderson Ave.
Shawano, WI 54166



41ST ANNUAL KC PERCH FISH FRY



******NEW LOCATION******

ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE CHURCH
(6051 Noble St. Sobieski WI)

DATES: 2/13, 2/27, 3/13, 3/27

TIME: 4:30PM To 6:30PM

PRICES: S=\$16 R=\$20 L=\$28

Dinner includes: Bay Perch, Potato Salad, Coleslaw, Rye Bread & Onion, Home-Made Dessert and Coffee

Carry Outs available for an additional \$1

Soda and Beer available for purchase

Knights of Columbus
Council #6764 & KC Ladies Auxiliary

Thank You for Your Support!!
(Proceeds go to Support Local Needs and Charities)

Any questions, please Call Phyllis @ 920-609-1340

2026 MEMORY CAFE FUN!!

IN THE WOLF RIVER REGION

January

Paint by Numbers

- Oconto: 1/5 @ 1pm at the Bond Center
- Keshena: 1/7 @ 1pm at the (FACE Center) Omaeqnomenewak Wetohkatikamek
- Mountain: 1/15 @ 9:30am at Mountain Community Center
- Tigerton: 1/22 @ 12:30pm at Tigerton Community Center
- Shawano: 1/27 @ 2pm at Shawano Civic Center

February

St. Patrick's Day Craft

- Oconto: 2/2 @ 1pm at the Bond Center
- Keshena: 2/4 @ 1pm at the (FACE Center) Omaeqnomenewak Wetohkatikamek
- Mountain: 2/19 @ 9:30am at Mountain Community Center
- Tigerton: 2/25 @ 12:30pm at Tigerton Community Center
- Shawano: 2/24 @ 2pm at Shawano Civic Center


March

Easter Craft

- Oconto: 3/2 @ 1pm at the Bond Center
- Keshena: 3/4 @ 1pm at the (FACE Center) Omaeqnomenewak Wetohkatikamek
- Mountain: 3/19 @ 9:30am at Mountain Community Center
- Tigerton: 3/26 @ 12:30pm at Tigerton Community Center
- Shawano: 3/24 @ 2pm at Shawano Civic Center

Memory Cafes offer a safe, supportive place for individuals with memory loss and their caregivers to socialize, share experiences, and engage in meaningful activities. Everyone is welcome - come connect with others in your community!

For questions or to register for any Memory Cafe - Please call:
Liz at:
1-855-492-ADRC (2372)






March 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Fellowship Faith Finders! Brotherhood Meeting	2 Noon - 5:00 p.m. American Red Cross Blood Drive  American Red Cross	3 10:00am , Fitness Class Level 2 11:00am , Fitness Class Level 1 	4 Lent 2 5:45pm-6:30pm , Lenten Simple Supper 6:30pm , Lenten Mid-week Worship	5 11:30am , Brown Bag Bible Study	6 Office Closed	7 6pm AA Meeting
8 DST Begins 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Fellowship Faith Finders! WELCA Meeting 	9	10 10:00am , Fitness Class Level 2 11:00am , Fitness Class Level 1  6:00pm , Council	11 Lent 3 5:45pm-6:30pm , Lenten Simple Supper 6:30pm , Lenten Mid-week Worship	12 11:30am , Brown Bag Bible Study	13 Office Closed	14 8am-11am: LYO Breakfast Club! 6pm AA Meeting
15 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Fellowship Faith Finders! Worship Team Meeting LYO Bible Study	16 6:00pm , IRS Book Club	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18 Lent 4 5:45pm-6:30pm , Lenten Simple Supper 6:30pm , Lenten Mid-week Worship	19 11:30am , Brown Bag Bible Study Articles for Newsletter Due	20 Office Closed	21 9am-1pm: First Communion Workshop 6pm AA Meeting
22 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Fellowship Faith Finders!	23	24 5:30pm , Y&E Team	25 Lent 5 5:45pm-6:30pm , Lenten Simple Supper 6:30pm , Lenten Mid-week Worship	26 11:30am , Brown Bag Bible Study	27 Office Closed	28 6pm AA Meeting
29 Palm Sunday First Communion 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Fellowship Faith Finders! 	30	31	<p>For the most current event and calendar information, go to our website and click on the "Events & Calendar" tab: St. John's Little Suamico Website</p>			

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

MARCH

- Mar 3 Jeffrey Virtues, Bennet Cornell
- Mar 4 Andy Dorn, Sandy Heitzkey,
Lauren Wijas, Laknox Scharenbroch
- Mar 5 Brayden Possley
- Mar 6 Arlene Matuszewski
- Mar 7 Pat Bastian, Therese Poradek
- Mar 9 Alyssa Cooper, Gracyn McDermid,
Kelly Stellmacher
- Mar 11 Katie Krupp, Kelsey Kutska
- Mar 16 Elijah Chapman
- Mar 19 Vincent Cahoon-Draus
- Mar 21 Lillian Bloom, Skyla Wilson
- Mar 22 Christian Harper
- Mar 23 Kimberly Mahr
- Mar 28 Todd Holman, Lynne Wirtz
- Mar 29 Jo Ann Risso, Jacqueline Haid
- Mar 31 Susan Mittelstaedt

Monthly Fellowship Groups- 2025

As we begin the New Year, our new Fellowship Hour Volunteer Schedule has also begun!
Please be sure to sign up on the sheets hanging to the right of the Kitchen Door or
Use the Link Below to volunteer.

[Fellowship Hour Volunteer Sign-Up](#)

Faithful Servants for March Worship Assistants are Needed for March Services. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.					
	Sunday March 1	Sunday March 8	Sunday March 15	Sunday March 22	Sunday March 29
Acolyte	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Needed</i>
Communion Assistants	Shellie Virtues <i>Three Needed</i>	<i>Four Needed</i>	Nancy Gleffe <i>Three Needed</i>	Ginny Burkart <i>Three Needed</i>	<i>Four Needed</i>
Communion Steward	Shellie Virtues	Helen Malueg	Nancy Gleffe	Ginny Burkart	Lorna Koch
Greeters	<i>Two Needed</i>	<i>Two Needed</i>	<i>Two Needed</i>	<i>Two Needed</i>	<i>Two Needed</i>
Reader	Bev Possley	Nancy Valentine	Duayne Rosenberg	<i>Needed</i>	Shellie Virtues
Scrip Volunteers	Steve & Angie Larsen Susan Mittelstaedt	Steve & Angie Larsen Susan Mittelstaedt	Steve & Angie Larsen Susan Mittelstaedt	Steve & Angie Larsen Susan Mittelstaedt	Steve & Angie Larsen Susan Mittelstaedt
Ushers	Jerry & Michelle Cooper Family	Elora Curell Lorna Koch John Warren	Steve & Angie Larsen Dave Zimmerman	Andy Dorn Fran Miller John Warren	Tracey Krumrei Pat & Shellie Virtues
Technology Team	Barb Dorn	Nikky Urbaniak	Sara Beth Holman	<i>Needed</i>	Eder Family
Welcome Center	Eunice Redlin	<i>Needed</i>	Nancy Valentine	Pat Rosenberg	Beth Wentz
Offering Counters	Barb Dorn* Dave & Ginny Burkart	Kelly Stellmancher* John Warren	<i>Needed</i> Betty Stevens*	Barb Dorn* Rob & Nancy Gleffe	Barb Dorn* Dave & Ginny Burkart

Please let Karie Peters know if you would like to join any Worship Assistant rotations for upcoming services.



It seems that our world is FULL of acronyms~

What do ours mean?

ELCA- Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

VBS- Vacation Bible School

EPH- Ecumenical Partnership for Housing LYO- Lutheran Youth Organization

WELCA- Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

From the Church Office

Mobile Giving

**Fast
Simple
Secure**



Giving made even **EASIER!**

Simply scan the St. John's QR Code and complete your mobile donation in minutes!





All Announcements are Due to the Office NO LATER THAN THE WEDNESDAY PRIOR TO YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT DATE.

Location:
1253 County Road J, Little Suamico, WI

Mailing Address:
PO Box 55, Little Suamico, WI 54141

Office Phone: 920-826-7785

Website: www.stjohnlittlesuamico.org

Email: stjohnsls@stjohnlittlesuamico.org

Pastor Stacy Malzhan
Emergency Contact# 906-202-4415 (text ok)

Karie Peters
Office Manager, Director of Family & Youth Ministry

Janet Francies, Jan LaSota & Wayne Wentworth
Keyboardists

Office Hours
Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Call for an appointment with Pastor Stacy.



There are PRAYER CARDS in the Narthex beneath the nametags and in the pews. If you have a special prayer request, please complete the form and place it in the offering plate or place it in the office mailbox. Your prayer will be added to the Prayer List and will remain there for 3 weeks. If you wish to have the person's name continue to be listed, you must notify the church office in writing on a prayer card or by email. Be sure to let us know when someone may be removed from the prayer list as well. If you have questions, please contact the church office.

Please be sure to send your April Lighthouse submissions to the church office no later than March 19th.

God Bless!



ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH