

ST. JOHN'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

JUNEAU • HORICON • SALEM-LOWELL

THE KINGDOM
OF GOD
is near



Advent Wreath & Candles: Understanding the Meaning, History & Tradition

Advent is a time of expectation and hope. "Advent" means "arrival" or "coming," and it prompts us to pause each day in December and remember why Jesus came at Christmas.

The History of Advent

The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming," which is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*. Most know Advent today as a time of anticipation and expectation of the birth of Christ. However, Advent began as early as the 4th and 5th centuries as a time of fasting and prayer for new Christians. Advent lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas.

What Is the Advent Wreath?

The Advent wreath first appeared in Germany in 1839. A Lutheran minister working at a mission for children created a wreath out of the wheel of a cart. He placed twenty small red candles and four large white candles inside the ring. Eventually, the Advent wreath was created out of evergreens, symbolizing everlasting life in the midst of winter and death as the evergreen is continuously green. The circle reminds us of God's unending love and the eternal life He makes possible. Advent candles are often nestled in the evergreen wreath. Additional decorations, like holly and berries, are sometimes added. Their red color points ahead to Jesus' sacrifice and death on the cross, shedding his blood for our sins. Pinecones can symbolize the new life that Jesus brings through His resurrection. Families begin lighting a candle on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, and they light another candle each subsequent Sunday.

Meaning & Symbolism of the Advent Candles

Advent candles shine brightly in the midst of darkness, symbolizing and reminding us that Jesus came as Light into our dark world.

A new candle is lit on each of the four Sundays before Christmas. Each candle represents something different, although traditions vary. Often, the first, second, and fourth candles are purple (or blue); the third candle is rose-colored. Occasionally, a fifth white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and is lit on Christmas Day to celebrate Jesus' birth.

The **first candle** symbolizes **hope** and is called the "Prophet's Candle." The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah's arrival.

The **second candle** represents **faith** and is called "Bethlehem's Candle." Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, which is also the birthplace of King David.

The **third candle** symbolizes **joy** and is called the "Shepherd's Candle." To the shepherd's great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them, too. In liturgy, the color rose signifies joy.

The **fourth candle** represents **peace** and is called the "Angel's Candle." The angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace—He came to bring people close to God and to each other again.

The (optional) **fifth candle** represents **light and purity** and is called "Christ's candle." It is placed in the middle and is lit on Christmas Day.

Excerpts from <https://www.crosswalk.com>

First Sunday in Advent

November 28, 2021

OPENING HYMN 2 v.1-4

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

Please stand

INVOCATION

We rejoice, heavenly Father, that you have stirred up your might and have come to save us.

Our spiritual eyes turn toward Bethlehem, the birthplace of your Son, as foretold by the prophet Micah.

We accept with joy the fulfillment of your prophecy.

As John the Baptist recognized your Son before he was born, help us also to recognize him as your Son and our Savior.

In a most marvelous manner, you prepared a sacrifice for our sins in the womb of the Virgin Mary.

Send us your Holy Spirit that we may truly believe and accept this miracle of your love.

As we anticipate with joy the celebration of his birth,

Grant us your grace that we may see in him the greatness of your love for us. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another

Silence for self-examination

We confess, almighty God, that we have wandered and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed our own ways and the desires of our hearts instead of your will and way.

We have broken your commandments and neglected your righteous decrees.

We have offended you, our mighty and eternal God.

There is no health in us.

O Lord, have mercy on us.

For the sake of your great mercy, O Lord, forgive us. Spare us the just punishment our sins deserve according to your promises declared to us in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

And grant that for his sake, we may live sober, upright and godly lives to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God, our heavenly Father, has taken away your guilt and punishment. Because of the living and dying of God's appointed Lamb, our Lord Jesus Christ, he has forgiven you and restored you to your Father's house. May God grant you peace and joy as you await his return from heaven to gather his people home.

Amen.

ADVENT LITANY

We light one Advent candle, remembering Jesus who is coming again. He will come to gather his people from everywhere, both the living and the dead.

We remember Jesus who will come at the end of time. None of us knows what day that will be.

We hear his call to watch.

We light one Advent candle as a sign of our watchfulness and waiting.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

One Advent candle is lit as the congregation sings

HYMN 702 v.1

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

**Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!
Let ev’ry hill and valley A level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, Foretold in sacred story:
Hosanna to the Lord, For he fulfills God’s Word!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 19:15-17, 23-29 EHV

¹⁵ When the dawn came, the angels urged Lot, “Get going! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, so that you will not be swept away by the guilt of the city.” ¹⁶ But Lot was taking too much time, so the men grabbed his hand, his wife’s hand, and the hands of his two daughters, because of the Lord’s compassion for him. They led him out and placed him outside of the city. ¹⁷ Then when they had taken them out, one of them said, “Run for your life! Don’t look behind you, and don’t stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, so that you are not swept away!”

²³ The sun had risen over the land when Lot came to Zoar. ²⁴ Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire out of the sky from the Lord. ²⁵ He overthrew those cities, as well as all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and whatever grew in the soil.

²⁶ But Lot’s wife, who was behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

²⁷ Abraham got up early in the morning and went to the place where he had stood before the Lord. ²⁸ He looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah and all the land of the plain. As he looked, he saw that the smoke from the land was going up like the smoke from a kiln. ²⁹ And so when God destroyed the cities of the plain, God remembered Abraham and brought Lot out through the middle of the devastation, when he overthrew the cities where Lot had lived.

ANTHEM

8:00 Service

"Immanuel"

Adult Choir

9:30 Service

"My Soul in Stillness Waits"

Junior Choir

Please stand

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 21:25-36 EHV

²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars. And on the earth nations will be in anguish, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the surging waves, ²⁶ people fainting from fear and expectation of the things coming on the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ But when these things begin to happen, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is near."

²⁹ He told them a parable. "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. ³⁰ As soon as they are sprouting leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is actually near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Amen I tell you: This generation will not pass away until all these things happen. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³⁴ "Watch yourselves or else your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and the worries of this life, and that day may come on you suddenly. ³⁵ For it will come like a trap on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Stay alert all the time, praying that you may be able to escape all these things that are going to happen and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."

Please be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY CW21 724 “Be Still, My Soul, before the Lord”

Melody “We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight” CWS 756

- 1. Be still, my soul, before the Lord,
For God is always near.
Before your mind is moved to pray,
God listens and will hear.**

- 2. You need not multiply your words
Nor pray with practiced art.
Beyond all speech, God understands
The hunger of your heart.**

- 3. Wait, then, in quiet confidence,
Your anxious thoughts at rest.
God knows your needs before you ask
And works for what is best.**

- 4. Be still, my soul, before the Lord;
On God in patience wait.
God’s love, unseen, surrounds your life;
God’s help will not be late.**

SERMON

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 EHV

Prepare for Christ’s Coming: Pray!

⁹Indeed, how can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have before God on account of you? ¹⁰Night and day we are praying earnestly to see you in person and to supply what is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ May God our Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord increase your love and make it overflow for each other and for all people, just as ours does for you, ¹³ so that he may establish your hearts as blameless in holiness before our God and Father, when our Lord Jesus comes with all his saints.

Please stand

CONFESSION OF FAITH

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.

Please be seated

PRAYERS & 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.

Please stand

OFFERING HYMN 488 v.1

“Savior, Thy Dying Love”

**Savior, thy dying love Thou gavest me;
Nor should I aught withhold, Dear Lord, from thee.
In love my soul would bow, My heart fulfill its vow,
Some off'ring bring thee now, Something for thee.**

THE SACRAMENT

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is good and right so to do.

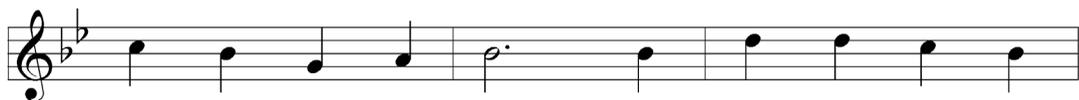
It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who comes with his Father to make his home in human hearts, working repentance and faith by his Spirit until he comes again. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



1 O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How tru - ly blest is



might, Your glo - ry, earth and heav - en In
he Who in God's name is com - ing To



count - less ways re - cite. Ho - san - na! Come and
set his peo - ple free! He comes to bring sal -



save us, Lord God of hosts on high, And
va - tion And with his blood out - poured, De -



in your grace and mer - cy Re - ceive our fer - vent cry.
liv - er us from bond - age—Ho - san - na, might - y Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

By his innocent death, he overcame hell.

By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world;

grant us your peace. A - men.

Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN 32

“When Sinners See Their Lost Condition”

Please stand

THANKSGIVING

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

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.

Amen.

Please be seated

CLOSING HYMN 2 v.5

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

Preacher: Paul Schupmann

Liturgist: David Brandt / Joel Luetke

Organist: Matthew Lober / Ruth Affeld

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Announcements

No Bible Class this Sunday! Just a reminder that there is no Sunday Morning Bible Class this Sunday, November 28th. Class will resume on Sunday, December 5th. Thank you!

Flowers on the Altar: Flowers on the Juneau Altar are given in honor of Gary and Becky Zimmerman's 35th Wedding Anniversary. Happy Anniversary Gary and Becky!

Christmas Painting Party!!! Join us for a Christmas Painting Party on Thursday, December 9th. We'll be painting a Christmas-themed picture on canvas which will be completed for you to take home that evening. Cost is \$35 which includes the canvas, paint and instruction. (Canvas size will be approximately 12"x12".) No prior painting experience needed. Event starts at 6:30pm and goes until 9pm. Please wear appropriate clothing for painting. Sign up now in the narthex for this fun Christmas event- deadline for sign up is Sunday, December 5th. Questions, call or text Karen at 920-386-2419.

WELS-ELS Singles: The WELS-ELS Singles group invites single/widowed/divorced individuals to a board game event on Saturday, December 4 at 1 pm at Star of Bethlehem School, 3700 S. Casper Drive in New Berlin. Bring a game and snack to share. Pizza will be provided. Questions? Please contact Dawn Fanning Jansen at 920-427-9258 or djansen8@hotmail.com. Not able to make it but would like to stay in the loop for future events? Find us on Facebook at WELS & ELS Singles.

Once again, 35 **poinsettias** have been ordered from Robin's Countryside Gardens to be purchased by members for the Juneau Campus this Christmas. The cost for the plant is \$14. If you would like to donate a poinsettia to church for the Christmas season, please see the sign-up sheet in the Juneau narthex.



During this challenging year, it is more important than ever to support our local food pantries.

Would you consider donating to help those in need?

St. John's will host a **food drive** from Sunday, December 5 – Sunday, December 12. Proceeds will go to both The Gathering Source and St. Stephen's Food Pantries. Please consider participating and bringing nonperishable, nonexpired donations to any campus.

"Just as you did it for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me."
Matthew 25:40 (EHV)



Would you like to help those in our community who are in need this Christmas? St. John's Juneau Campus will have a **Giving Tree** during December. Needy members in our community have submitted gift requests and St. John's will place tags onto the tree specifying certain gift requests. Our members may take a tag from an anonymous family and purchase or donate money for the requested item on the tag.

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40 NIV)

Reasonable Faith Bible Study: St. John's Youth Group's Reasonable Faith Bible Study had a great turnout this past month! The youth group Bible study entitled "Reasonable Faith" will hold its second session on Wednesday December 1st at Dodgeland High School. The class meets in Room 306 from 4:15-5:15pm. This week's topic: The Reality of the Resurrection. Contact Senior Assistant Tommy Welch with any questions. Please invite all high school aged students to join us for this wonderful Bible Study that answers many questions today's youth may have.

Snow Removal: It's not too early to start thinking about snow removal! If you'd like to help this year, please signup in the narthex or call our church office. Thank you!

Church Decorating at our Salem-Lowell Campus: Christmas decorating at our Salem-Lowell Campus will take place after the 9:30 service on Sunday, December 5th.

Food Drive: St. John's will once again have a Food Drive from December 5th through December 12th. If you would like to share some Christian love with those in our community in this way, please bring your nonperishable, nonexpired food items to any of our campuses and we will distribute the items to the Gathering Source in Juneau and St. Stephen's Food Pantry in Horicon. Thank you!

Candy Bag Donations: St. John's has a tradition of giving a candy bag to the children who participate in the Christmas services. If you would like to donate towards the candy bags, please bring your items to any of our campuses or church office by December 19th.

Christmas Painting Party!!!

Join us for a Christmas Painting Party on Thursday, December 9th. We'll be painting a Christmas-themed picture on canvas which will be completed for you to take home that evening. Cost is \$35 which includes the canvas, paint and instruction. (Canvas size will be approximately 12" x 12".) No prior painting experience needed. Event starts at 6:30pm and goes until 9pm. Please wear appropriate clothing for painting. Sign up now in the narthex for this fun Christmas event- deadline for sign up is Sunday, December 5th. Questions, call or text Karen at 920-386-2419.



Adopt a Seminary Family for Christmas!

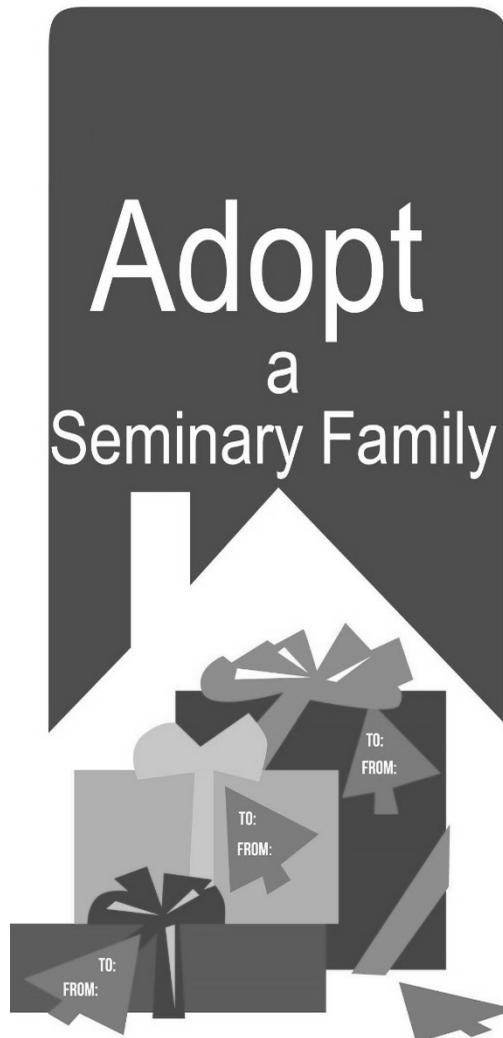
The St. John's Ladies Aid will again be sponsoring a seminary family this Christmas and we want to invite you, the members of St. John's, to be a part of our annual Christmas gifting! We have been given the name of a deserving family by the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary staff (this couple has 1 daughter Kensley, born in July of 2021) and we asked them for a wish list. (Below you will see the communication we received from the Koelpins.) To participate, you'll find a tree in the St. John's narthex with their gift ideas on snowflakes hanging from the tree. Take the snowflake with you and once you purchase the item wrap it, include a card with Christmas wishes if you like or it can be anonymous, and bring it to church no later than 11:30am Sunday, December 19th. (As an idea, some of the items are more expensive so perhaps a few families can work together to make the purchase.) There will be a gift drop box in the St. John's Juneau narthex. What a blessing it is to be able to help this young family working on their way into the ministry!

Letter from Koelpins

Thank you so much for this! We are beyond blessed to have fellow brothers and sisters in Christ who are thinking of us... Thank you so very much for your amazing generosity and Christ-like love!

Blessings on your day!

Caleb, Emily & Kensley Koelpin



VOLUNTEERS (11/28)

Greeters:

8:00 AM

Bonnie Sell and McLain Family

10:30 AM

Delores Gentz, Russ and Barb Ridge



Ushers:

8:00 AM

Bob Sell, Bob Rist, Steve Weinheimer, Tony Colantonio

9:30 AM

Harold Lenz, William Borth

10:30 AM

Keith Weinheimer, Andy Gentz, Eugene Gentz, Mark Saeger

Communion Assistants:

8:00 AM

Dave Gerbitz, Chuck Wolfram, Bill Luebke, Luke Hirschfeld

9:30 AM

Pastor and Tommy Welch

10:30 AM

Randy Mohr, Russ Ridge, Marty Weinheimer, Kevin Schultz

Weekend of November 14th

Offerings given to our Lord

General \$11,169.92

Improvement \$300.00

Lakeside \$150.00

Missions \$525.90

Total \$12,145.82

Attendance:

383 (58, 30, 117, 73, 105)

This Week at St. John's

Sunday (11/28)

8:00 AM Worship @ Juneau
8:15 AM NO Bible Class @ Lowell
8:30 AM Sunday School @ Lowell
9:00 AM Blood Pressure Screening @ Juneau
9:15 AM Sunday School @ Juneau
9:30 AM NO Bible Class @ Juneau
9:30 AM Worship @ Lowell
10:30 AM Worship @ Juneau

Monday (11/29)

6:30 PM Readings Bible Study @ Juneau
7:30 PM Sunday School Mtg @ Juneau

Tuesday (11/30)

6:30 PM Old Testament Bible Study @ Juneau

Wednesday (12/1)

9:00 AM Ladies Bible Study @ Juneau
4:15 PM Youth Group Bible Study @ Dodgeland
5:00 PM Confirmation @ Juneau
6:30 PM Joint Advent Worship @ St. Stephen

Thursday (12/2)

6:30 PM Worship @ Juneau

Saturday (12/4)

5:00 PM Worship @ Horicon

Sunday (12/5)

Food Drive Begins
8:00 AM Worship @ Juneau
8:15 AM Bible Class @ Lowell
8:30 AM Sunday School @ Lowell
9:15 AM Sunday School @ Juneau
9:30 AM Bible Class @ Juneau
9:30 AM Worship @ Lowell
10:30 AM Worship @ Juneau
10:30 AM Church Decorating @ Lowell
6:00 PM Advent by Candlelight @ Juneau

Welcome to St. John's

WELCOME

We are so glad you joined us to worship our Lord Jesus today! St. John's is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). We are happy to answer your questions about our service, our beliefs, or communicant membership at any of our campuses. Please join us again soon!

PERSONAL PRAYER AFTER WORSHIP

Good Shepherd, I was glad to be here, gathered with your flock to worship you. Cause the Word I have heard to take root in my heart and bear fruit in my life. Guide me in paths of righteousness, that my words and actions might lead others to glorify you. Amen.

Pastors & Assistant

David Brandt 608-343-2206

Paul Schupmann 920-344-9839

Joel Luetke 920-285-1351

Tommy Welch 920-740-1370

Principal

Richard Cody 920-386-4644

Staff Minister

Ryan Kummerow 608-345-1900

Worship Services

(same service at all locations)

Thursday

6:30pm Juneau

Saturday

5:00pm Horicon

Sunday

8:00am Juneau

9:30am Lowell

10:30am Juneau

Bible Classes

Sunday

Juneau Campus

9:30-10:15

Salem-Lowell Campus

8:15-9:00 AM

Monday

Juneau Campus

6:30 PM

Tuesday (2nd, 4th, 5th)

Juneau Campus

6:30 PM

Wednesday

Juneau Campus

9:00 AM (Ladies Bible Study)

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

Juneau Campus

920-386-3313

400 S. Main St.

Juneau, Wisconsin

Horicon Campus

920-386-3313

716 Clinton St.

Horicon, Wisconsin

Salem-Lowell Campus

920-386-3313

105 Juneau Rd.

Lowell, Wisconsin

School Office

920-386-4644

402 S. Main St.

Juneau, Wisconsin

www.stjohnsdodgecounty.com

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