



SAINT JOHN THIS WEEK



SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor: Rev. E. Jon Benson (JonBenson@SaintJohnELCA.org)
 Interim Children, Youth & Family Pastor: Rev. Ben McIntire (ben.mcintire.rev@wisynod.org)
 Parish Ministry Coordinator: Patricia S. Minchin
 High School Youth Leader: Alli VanRoekel (allivanroekel@gmail.com)
 Chancel / Bell Choir Director: Eric Wyler (wyler.eric@gmail.com)
 Pianist/Organist: Joan Ebersold
 Choir On Fire Director: Tracy Frush
 Nursery Attendant: Amy Pedersen
 Children's Hour Director: Judith Devereaux
 Foundation Board President: Ross Jensen (402-681-1383)
 Missionaries: Revs. Colin and Jeni Grangaard
 Stephen Minister Leaders: Mary Lou Hansen (322-7248), Alan Meilike (328-1671) Debbie Plugge (256-5310)
 Pastor Jon Benson (323-7173)
 Office Manager and *The Caller* Editor: Terri Damgaard (TerriD@SaintJohnELCA.org)
 Custodian: Debbie Baird

Church 712-323-7173 ~ Fax 712-323-7174

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/SaintJohnCouncilBluffs ~ Twitter: [ConnectatSJLC](https://twitter.com/ConnectatSJLC)

LEADING IN WORSHIP ON DECEMBER 10 & 11, 2016

Ushers
 Lectors
 Greeters
 Acolytes

5:30 p.m.

Celebration of Life Choir

8:30 a.m.

Tim Chew Crew, Ryley Nebel
 Tye Nebel
 Peggy Tye

11:00 a.m.

Roy Adams Crew

Shelly Graham, Thomas Graham, Addison Nano
 Ben Brougham, Connie Brougham

ALTAR FLOWERS – In memory of our Parents, Les & Bette and LeRoy & Erna. Given by Les & Rose Hansen.

ALTAR FLOWERS – In loving memory of Elmer Sundermann, given by his family.

***PEOPLE WE HAVE BEEN PRAYING FOR:** Tracy Doebelin, Keith Warford, Nancy Andersen, Leola Poppen, Kent Madison, Ronald Thompson, Betty Stelter, Cindy Jordan, Jason Jensen, Mary Gittins, Debbie Drustrup, Jenny Grap, Derek Ravlin, Junior Boerjan, Robin Jastorff, Rose Hansen, Mary Mauch, Mason Barta, Glen Tuttle, Jan Girton

**Names will be kept on the Prayer List for 2 weeks unless the church office is notified otherwise.*

SYMPATHY to the family of ...

Pastor John Estrem, who died on December 1. Pastor Estrem was Pastor Jon's pastor while growing up in North Dakota.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

3:30 pm Traditional Candlelight Service with an interactive sermon focused for children and youth

5:30 pm & 10:30 pm Traditional Candlelight Services

CHRISTMAS DAY AND NEW YEAR'S DAY WORSHIP

Sunday at 9:30am (One Service Only)

SCRIP NOTE – Need to get gift cards to give away as gifts? Check out the Scrip table, many are on hand but thousands can be ordered.

FIRST COMMUNION PHOTOS – Pick them up at the table by the bookshelves. Thanks to Tom Pagan for taking a great photo.

SAINT JOHN T-SHIRTS - There are a few gray 125 Anniversary T-Shirts available for sale \$6.50 each. Contact church office or see Patricia between services on Sunday.

MITTENS AND COATS – In December we will be collecting hats, mittens and coats for Rocky Boy Reservation and Bloomer School, who is in need of various sizes of children's coats. If you have gently used winter coats please drop them off in the office or place them by the Hat and Mitten Tree.

We will also be gathering toys and gifts for MOHM's Place and Community of Christ Christmas support. **The deadline for donating gifts is Dec. 18.**

EARLY BIRD SAVINGS – If you register your child for camp before January 31 you will get a **\$50 discount** for a full-week session. Look for the Carol Joy Holling flyer on the table by the office.

ALTAR FLOWERS – If you would like to provide altar flowers in memory of, or in honor of someone, please call the church office, 323-7173.

All weekends in January are still open.

Altar flowers (set of 2) are \$25.68 and Chancel flowers (1) are \$21.40

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED on Friday, Dec. 23 and Monday, Dec. 26.

MEALS FOR MAUCHS - Mary Mauch, who is pregnant with twins, has been having some health issues and is on bed rest. If you would like to help Mary & Josh (and daughter Autumn) by providing a meal to them please go to the following website to sign up on the schedule:
<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/y6zv1e>

MOHM's PLACE CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE Tuesday Dec. 20, 4:00-7:00pm - Each year Saint John helps at MOHM's Place with their annual toy giveaway. Areas of serving include: the children's tent where we help kids choose and wrap presents for their parents, serving the meal, helping welcome families, and organizing gifts. There are two shifts: 3:30-5:30 and 5:30-7:30. Feel free to sign up for one or both. Contact the office or sign up on the bulletin insert if you would like to volunteer. Youth and adults from the congregation are all invited to serve. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

ESTIMATE OF GIVING CARDS are available on the table in the Narthex. Thanks to everyone who has already returned their card.

ATTENTION CHRISTMAS CAROLERS - We love to have you and want to encourage you to visit us with your music over the holidays. We know it brings great joy to our residents and tenants as well as an opportunity to connect with members of your congregation. We are asking however that you schedule your visit ahead of time with Sarah Norton at Bethany Heights (712-328-8228) and/or Kaily Stanley at Bethany Lutheran Home (712-328-9500, ext. 230). We love to have you come, but we want to make sure we are available to assist you. The residents and tenants love the music and the visits and we like to spread them out if possible. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. We look forward to hearing your music in the coming weeks.

Last Week's Attendance:		From the Finance Committee:	
Saturday, December 3	5:30 45	Last week's offering was \$12,717 or 167% of weekly budget.	
Sunday, December 4	8:30 156	Year-to-date offering is \$378,496 or 102% of year to date budget.	
	11:00 <u>98</u>		
	Total 299		

SAINT JOHN CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

- 5:30 p.m. Celebration of Life Choir
- 7:00 p.m. Good Time Group

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 – Third Sunday in Advent

- 8:30 a.m. Holiday Music Festival
- 9:45 a.m. Coffee Hour
- 11:00 a.m. Sunday School Christmas Program
- 12:30 p.m. Sudanese Worship

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

- 6:45 p.m. Seekers ChristCare

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

- 9:00 a.m. Esther Group
- 9:00 a.m. VODEC Christmas Party
- 1:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl
- 4:30 p.m. Finance Committee
- 5:00 p.m. Executive Committee
- 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

- 9:00 a.m. Adult Study
- 5:45 p.m. Council Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Meal
- 6:30 p.m. Confirmation

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14 (continued)

- 6:30 p.m. HS Youth
- 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study
- 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir
- 7:15 p.m. Advent Service
- 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15 – Newsletter Deadline

- 9:30 a.m. Life Group
- 11:30 a.m. Men's Club
- 6:30 p.m. Praise Team

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16

- 4:00 p.m. Floyd Fischer Memorial Service
(Family visitation at 3:00)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

- 5:30 p.m. Worship with Communion

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 – Fourth Sunday in Advent

- 8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion
Choir Cantata "Winter Rose"
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:45 a.m. Coffee Hour
- 11:00 a.m. Worship with Communion
Choir Cantata "Winter Rose"
- Baptism – Andersen Dane Boysen
- 12:30 p.m. Sudanese Worship

LEADING IN WORSHIP ON DECEMBER 17 & 18, 2016

Ushers	5:30 p.m. Celebration of Life Choir	8:30 a.m. Tim Chew Crew	11:00 a.m. Roy Adams Crew
Lectors	Linda Fisher	Heather Thompson	
Communion Assistants	Deb Ingwersen	Becky Henkel, Barb Woods	Tracy Frush, Becky Nickerson
Greeters		Kelli & Larry Gann	Deb Ingwersen
Acolytes	Samuel Hovey	Tye Nebel, Ryley Nebel	Ben Brougham

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25