

August 2017

The Caller

Saint John Lutheran Church



Pastor Ben McIntire

*Followers of
Christ
who seek to
HEAR
the Word,
LIVE
the Word
and
SHARE
the Word.*

I Thank God for You

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the Gospel from the first day until now." *Philippians 1:3-5*

Dear brothers and sisters of Saint John, It has been an honor and my great pleasure to serve alongside you over the course of this interim year. In the past year, Monica and I have come to feel so at home in this family of faith. Not only have you shared a faithful witness in Council Bluffs and allowed me to participate in this ministry, you have also cared for me as a pre-med student during this challenging year of balancing work and study. We have done marvelous things together in God's mission for this place. For all these things, I thank God for you and pray with joy for all of you.

As I look back on our year together, I have much to be grateful for. First of all, for all the amazing relationships with the people of Saint John, and also for your patience as navigated the bumps of an interim year. But thankfully we have kept the energy of the youth and family programs alive, and now we can prepare to welcome Lisa Johnson to her full-time, permanent role. I am thankful for your faithful partnership in ministry, and for the chance to work next to my mentor, Pastor Jon, as we have all worked together to share the Gospel, served the people in our community, and shared the joy of working for the Kingdom.

Now as I look ahead to a new chapter in my life, I am experiencing all kinds of emotions. There is sadness in stepping down from working with this amazing congregation. There is excitement about the new challenges of my new job as a medical scribe in the Emergency Department of the University of Nebraska Medical Center. And there is joy in knowing that no matter where we go or what we do, God goes with us and uses us to serve the needs of the world.

In my final newsletter article, I want to make sure I tell you how much I thank God for you, for this church, and for the wonderful experiences we have had together. I have high hopes for the future of this congregation and the youth and family programs of this community. Trust in God, follow where the Holy Spirit leads you, and rejoice in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Remember that you are blessed and beloved children of God!

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Ben McIntire

Camp Agape: Gather Around God's Love VBS Week - July 10 – 13, 2017

How does one even start thanking all the people who made VBS a HUGE Success? I will start by saying if you in anyway touched VBS, thank you from the committee. No one person can make it run smoothly. It definitely took a village to run Camp Agape.

A special thank you to those who stepped up and took on the leadership roles to begin the planning back in January. To the lesson planners & teachers who taught God's Love each night. To music leaders who put those songs in their heads and will be singing for weeks to come. To craft leaders/helpers for making fun stuff with the kids. To the Rangers who made sure everyone got from class to class along with their helpers and kept everyone accounted for. To game leaders for their tough job of working in the heat and keeping everyone safe. To the registration/administrative leaders that kept the organizational process rolling and nightly check in a breeze. To the kitchen staff for organizing the meals and snacks each night and members for donating most, if not all, the food for the week. To the putting up and taking down of the decorations. And building the campsite for our great actors to put on their skits and Pastor Ben for kicking things off each night. A Blessed, THANK YOU!

And not least of all, to the Campers & Parents themselves. We hope you enjoyed the VBS experience at Saint John and look forward to your return next year.

Have a great rest of the summer.
Deb Ingwersen, VBS Chair

Fun Facts:

100 Registered Campers
85 Average attendance each night
60+ Volunteers
150 Meals Served each night
Temperature in the 90's all week!

Our Missionaries

Pastors Colin and Jeni Grangaard—we see these names in our bulletin listed with our Staff, but who are they and what do they do? In a nutshell, they continue their work as coordinators for six Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL). It is our privilege to provide partial support for their work. They have two small children and were one-time classmates with Pastor Ben and Pastor Shannyn in Seminary.

You may ask what is a YAGM and what do they do? The ELCA invites young adults, ages 21-29 into a year-long journey in international service in one of nine countries around the world. A year of service through this program invites young adults to become the hands and feet of Jesus in the world, providing critical support in ministries and projects in communities of need. This year of volunteer, life-changing experiences has challenged many who are wondering what God is calling them to do with their lives and changed their priorities. To learn more about the program, contact our church office.

Medical Supplies

Praise and thanksgiving for all who participated in gathering medical supplies for our companions in the Southern Diocese of Tanzania. At this year's Western Iowa Synod Assembly we were able to load a large truck 2/3 full with Infant Kits, Hospice Kits, many wheel chairs, misc. supplies, and to collect \$8440 for use in shipping and securing additional items. Special thanks to Alan Meilike for transporting our gifts from Saint John and for helping to load the truck at Synod Assembly.



Raise Me to Read

Over 280 books were collected during VBS week. Thank you for responding to this worthwhile cause.

Service Project for August

School will be starting soon and August is a good time to buy school supplies on sale. Our Saint John Partner of the month will be Lutheran World Relief Kits and school supplies for Bloomer School.

Bloomer School

Items needed are glue sticks, Crayola markers, crayons and pencils, erasers, 2-pocket and pronged folders, scissors, Kleenex. Look for the collection box in the hallway by the bulletin board.

LWR School Kits

Education is important in every community, but especially those where poverty or disaster limits the options of young people looking to improve their lives. School Kits contain essential supplies to help children—and in some cases, adults—continue learning despite the hardships they face. That learning leads to a better life for them, their families and their communities.

Include the following items in each School Kit:

- Four 70-sheet notebooks (280-300 sheets total) wide or college-ruled paper approximately 8 x 10 1/2. No loose leaf paper.
- One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other.
- One pencil sharpener
- One pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well.)
- Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- One box of 16 or 25 crayons
- One 2 1/2 " eraser

Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed. All items should be new and in good condition.

If you wish to donate money to this project, write checks to Saint John Lutheran Church and include "school kits" on the memo line. It costs \$1.40 to ship one school kit overseas.

Please bring any purchased supplies to church; a collection box will be available in the Welcome Center.



Bethany News

BETHANY AUXILIARY SALAD LUNCHEON AND BAKE SALE—Mark your calendar and plan to enjoy great food and fellowship at the annual Bethany Auxiliary Salad Luncheon, **September 20th** from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The luncheon and bake sale will be held at Saint John Lutheran Church 633 Willow Avenue in Council Bluffs. Tickets are \$7. We promise you won't go away hungry!! Join us for lunch and grab some goodies from the bake sale for later. Help support the Bethany Auxiliary. Proceeds support Resident projects at Bethany. Thank you.

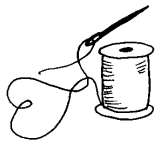
NONPAREIL READER'S CHOICE - Bethany Lutheran Home and Bethany Heights, *YOUR Nursing Home/Rehabilitation and Assisted Living Facilities*, have been selected by the community through the Nonpareil's Reader's Choice contest for the past several years (at least 5). This award comes by way of the community's recognition of the care and compassion provided by all of our staff each day as well as the facility and all we have to offer. We would encourage you to take a few moments and cast a ballot for this year's categories. Paper ballots can be found in the Nonpareil Paper or by contacting Bethany or you can vote on-line at www.nonpareilonline.com. Your ballot must contain at least 50 entries, but there are many categories to select from. (You do not need to subscribe to the paper or live in the community of Council Bluffs). Many individuals looking for a place for their loved one will look at the type of facility it is as well as the recognitions they have received. Bethany is the *BEST* because of you. Help us continue to spread the word. The deadline for submitting a ballot is approaching. For more information, please contact Diane Carlon at 712-329-5451. Thank you for your continued support.



GARDEN PRODUCE WANTED - Our Bethany Residents and Tenants always enjoy home-grown summer and fall garden produce. We know the weather has been difficult on many gardens, but if you have extra produce you would be willing to share, we would love it. Please feel free to bring it to either Bethany Lutheran Home or Bethany Heights. Thank you in advance for sharing your bountiful garden harvest and for remembering Bethany.

Sewing Group

*“For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus, to do good works...”
- Ephesians 2:10*



We are indeed God's handiwork! We were *created for a purpose*, which He prepared in advance. When we make quilts, we are doing *good works* on many levels. It brings us together in fellowship, it creates a tangible message of love and caring to strangers in a far off land, and it *delivers warmth and comfort to those who need it most*. We welcome you this month to come and *make quilts to help others*. Please consider *doing good works* by providing some comfort to those in distress. The *Saint John Sewing Group* is always looking for a new pair of hands to help tie quilts for *Lutheran World Relief!* We'll try to make you feel right at home, whether you come just once or wish to become part of this ministry. Please come and share in fellowship, devotions, and snacks. All ages are welcome! Next meeting will be August 16th, between 9:00 A.M. and Noon. See you then! For more information, please call Sue Pagan at 325-0257.

Sheets Needed: The Sewing Group needs donations of sheets, full-sized and larger, for making quilts. Please bring them to the church office or put on the table by the bulletin board. Thank you.

Prayer Shawl

The Prayer Shawl group meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. The next meeting will be on August 15.

Stephen Ministries

Do you, a family member, or someone you know have a need or a care? If so, contact Pastor Benson (323-7173), Mary Lou Hansen (322-7248, Debbie Plugge (256-5310) or Alan Meilike (328-1671) and a Stephen Minister will be assigned to you. Please note that all communications are always CONFIDENTIAL.

Altar Guild Schedule

August 5 -11
Mary Lou Burke
Mary Lou Hansen
Alan Meilike
Marie Neal

August 12-18
Marlys Lien
Mary Jensen
Shelly Menard
Andreia Nebel

August 19-25
Jan Girton
Cookie Johnson
Becky Taylor
Kim Pace

August 26-September 1
Norma Gahm
Linda Hansen
Patricia Minchin
Elaine von Gillern

Altar Guild meeting on Monday, August 28 at 1:00 pm.

Women of the Church Schedule

Ruth Group: Mon., August 7, 1:30 p.m.
Esther Group: Tues., August 8, 9:30 a.m.
Mary Group: Thurs., August 10, 9:00 a.m.

Women's Board Meeting: Tuesday, August 22 at 9:30 a.m.

Men's Club

The Men's Club will meet on August 17 at 11:30 am at Sugar's, 2725 E. Kanessville Blvd. Men of all ages are welcome to join us for a good lunch and great conversation. Call the church office (323-7173) or sign up on the bulletin insert during worship if you plan to attend.

Attention to Women of the ELCA:

Because of low attendance, the Tabitha Cluster is being dissolved. Marlys Hauge, President of the Western Iowa Synodical Womens Organization, has been notified. Unfortunately, this has been happening to a lot of the clusters. Therefore, with heavy heart, I encourage all of you to continue your personal ministries in your congregations including but not limited to the quilt donations, local charities and the different kits sent to our World Missions. Continue to pray for all of our congregations. Your Sister in Christ, Carol Jeppesen, caroldenny@cox.net, 712-323-1530.



Thank you Pastor Jon and Pastor Ben for seeing me in the hospital as much as you two did. We are very blessed to have you in our lives. Keep being the shepherd of your flock like you are. I also want to thank all of you who have kept Mary and I in your prayers.
Mary and Larry Gittins

Thank you, God, it's only by your loving grace that Mary and I have made it thru this far. We owe our lives to you for what you have done for us and also those who were praying for us over this period in our lives.
Mary and Larry Gittins

Scrip Cards

Recently a member of Saint John bought a \$200.00 card for Land's End. They paid \$200.00, were able to spend \$200.00, and the church profited \$34.00. Now, can you think of a reason you shouldn't try it?



August Milestones

80th Birthdays

Linda Hansen (August 7)
1502 Fort Crook Road So. #151
Bellevue, NE 68005

Gloria Wellendorf (August 17)
20023 Allison Lane
Co. Bluffs, IA 51503

New Arrivals

Adam Joseph Roane, son of Jennifer & Nate Roane, was born on July 4.

Zane Clarence Everly Tesch, son of Michaela & Brandon Tesch, was born on June 18.
Grandparents are Roberta & Larry Califf.

Sympathy to the Families of ...

Kent Madison, who passed away on June 29.

Faye Fox, grandmother of Pastor Ben, passed away June 29.



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

Weekends in August and September are open.

Cost for altar flowers (set of 2) is \$25.68 and cost for chancel flowers (1) is \$21.40.

Contact Us

Senior Pastor: Rev. E. Jon Benson (JonBenson@SaintJohnELCA.org)
Interim Children, Youth & Family Pastor: Rev. Ben McIntire (ben.mcintire.rev@wisynod.org)
High School Youth Leader:
Parish Ministry Coordinator: Patricia S. Minchin
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:
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)

Saint John Lutheran Church

633 Willow Ave.
Council Bluffs, IA 51501-4242

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Sunday at 9:30 a.m.
and
Saturday at 5:30 p.m.