

July 2017

# The Caller

Saint John Lutheran Church



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



Deacon Lisa Johnson

## Introducing Lisa Johnson

Lisa Johnson has accepted the call issued by our congregation as Children, Youth & Family Minister. Her projected start date is the second week in August.

Lisa comes to us from Marquette, Michigan where she served as Youth Director at Messiah Lutheran Church and Campus Minister at Northern Michigan University. Lisa grew up in Albion, Nebraska.

She was active at Zion Lutheran Church participating in Blest 2 Bless Youth Choir, Luther League, National Youth Gatherings, and many camp experiences at Carol Joy Holling. These and other mission activities helped inspire her towards a calling to share God's love with others. She graduated from Midland University in Fremont Nebraska with a BA in Youth and Family Ministry/Human Services and a Minor in Religion/Philosophy. She served as the Associate Director of Program Operations at Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ashland, Nebraska before moving to Michigan. She enjoys travel, outdoors, and spending time with friends and family.



In conjunction with Vacation Bible School, we are collecting new and gently used books for Raise Me to Read, a program aimed at improving grade-level literacy among Pottawattamie County's children. The local effort is focused on children from birth through age 8, trying to provide a transition from early childhood and preschool to the community's public and private school systems.

The books will be given to children at a variety of events planned, as stated in the full page article in last Sunday's Daily Nonpareil. Look on the bulletin board for more information.

Books will be collected in the black bin in the hallway by the office through Sunday, July 16. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

## High School Youth Omaha Urban Plunge, June 25-30

The Omaha Urban Plunge gives students a chance to learn about the challenges facing their own neighbors, have meaningful discussions and service opportunities to see how local missions are addressing those challenges, and learn how their gifts can be applied to be a part of the solution. Some of the missions we had a chance to participate with include:

Santa's Camp and Wonderland, Oakland, IA  
Cross Training Center, Omaha, NE  
Scatter Joy Acres, Omaha, NE  
The Beautiful Gate, Omaha, NE  
Lewis & Clark Park to overlook the cities and pray

New Visions, Council Bluffs, IA  
Open Door Mission, Council Bluffs, IA  
Sienna Frances House, Omaha, NE  
Food Bank of the Heartland, Omaha, NE

Thanks you to everyone at Saint John and your support to make this trip possible! Thank you to Christ for the City for their amazing leadership.



### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL "Camp Agape: Gathering Around God's Love"

July 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>  
5:00pm-8:00pm.

Children ages 3 years old through entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

A meal will be served from 5-5:30  
with program starting after the meal.

You can register at: <http://saintjohnelca.org/>  
or contact Katie Warner at [saintjohnvbs@gmail.com](mailto:saintjohnvbs@gmail.com)

**Registration deadline is July 5.**

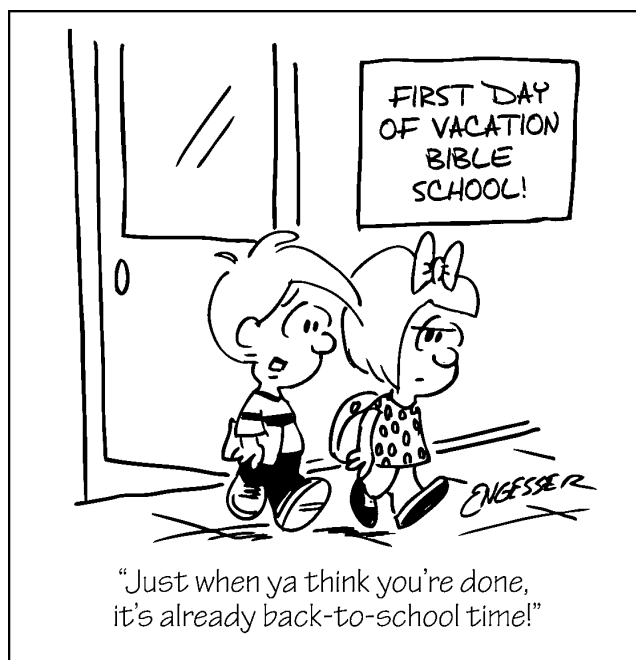
### Please Help

We are asking for your assistance for VBS. If you have any of the items below that we could borrow please drop them off in the office.

- Tents
- Lawn Chairs, fold up chairs
- Sleeping Bags
- Any other Camping Equipment (camping stove, kayak, lanterns, etc.)

### Food For VBS

The sign-up sheets are in the Welcome Center by the bookshelves for food items needed for Vacation Bible School. Please help us make 2017 VBS another great experience for our little ones!



"Just when ya think you're done,  
it's already back-to-school time!"

### Running Blind

Years ago, I worked at a summer Bible camp with my cousin Erik. As an evening staff meeting concluded, a sprinkle suddenly became a downpour. Counselors sprinted off toward cabins, while Erik and I, who didn't supervise youngsters, debated whether to wait out the storm.

We opted to run for it, but being visually impaired, I soon realized the sheets of rain, added to the dark, hindered my view. "I can't see!" I yelled through the wind to Erik. Immediately, he grabbed my hand, pulling me along. "It's okay!" he shouted back. "I can!"

The sensation of running blindly yet feeling so secure became a metaphor for me about what I can handle and accomplish through faith. When I let God grab my hand and guide me, even when I'm running through dark, stormy times, I experience peace. For though I cannot see what lies ahead, I know God can.

—Heidi Mann

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## Rooted in Faith, Forward in Mission

### CAPITAL APPEAL UPDATE – Great News!

So far \$657,859 of our \$750,000 goal has been pledged towards our “Rooted In Faith” capital appeal. If you have not yet made a pledge, please use a card from the pew or obtain a card from an usher or at the church office.

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### Men’s Club

The Men’s Club will meet on July 20 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.

### Saint John Facebook

Have you seen the [Saint John Lutheran Church Council Bluffs IA](#) Facebook page? We’re trying to keep it updated. If you want more information posted on it or have suggestions, please let us know! Thank you so much, Heather Thompson  
kandhthompson@icloud.com or 712-323-8391

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### Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) God’s work. Our hands.

As a social ministry organization of the ELCA, Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) is so thankful for your partnership in ministry! Thanks to you, we’re able to provide education for young parents and empowerment to some of Iowa’s most vulnerable children and families. This month, we would like to give special thanks for those of you who have made LSI a focus of a “God’s work. Our hands.” project.

This project is part of the anniversary celebration of the ELCA, and it’s a way to reach out to your communities and build a stronger Iowa. This year September 10<sup>th</sup> is the date when congregations are encouraged to participate in a project for “God’s work. Our hands.” This is a perfect opportunity to do good deeds or raise money as a church body for a nonprofit like LSI.

We thank you for your witness of God’s love and your service! If you are interested in supporting those served by LSI and would like to know more about current needs, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at [deborah.whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:deborah.whitford@LSIowa.org).

*Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at [www.LSIowa.org](http://www.LSIowa.org) and [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](http://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

## Bethany News

### BETHANY AUXILIARY MEETING

The Bethany Auxiliary will be meeting Monday evening, **July 10<sup>th</sup>** at Bethany Heights. A short business meeting will be held at **6:00 p.m.** followed by Bingo and a pie social with the tenants. Please note the time change from the regular meeting time. Contact your church key lady for more information.

### GARDEN PRODUCE ALWAYS APPRECIATED

We all enjoy the taste of homegrown vegetables and fruits over the summer. Many of the residents and tenants were avid gardeners in their day and miss the taste of homegrown foods. If you are gardening this summer and have extra produce you would like to share, please feel free to drop it off at Bethany Heights or Bethany Lutheran Home during the week. We would greatly appreciate it and the smile you’ll see on the faces of our residents and tenants is priceless!

### Coping through creativity

Therapy can be a great way for kids, adults, and families to overcome past trauma. But for some, it takes a little extra innovation and creativity to find a therapeutic technique that can help them thrive.

Sherry, an LSI therapist, struggled to find a technique that worked for several children she saw each week. They didn’t want to open up to her. They said “no” to participating in any activities or conversations. That’s when she turned to her “workbooks,” which focus on a child’s love of drawing and coloring.

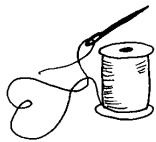
“It’s really about connecting with the kids where they’re at,” Sherry says. “They get to express their feelings through something that might be more comfortable than talking about them.” For instance, Sherry asked one child to draw what the word “love,” meant to her. The child drew a picture of a child and parent hugging and through that, Sherry learned the child wanted love and support from her parent at home. Sherry says the technique has been a breakthrough for several of the kids, and they’re becoming more and more comfortable talking in each session.

“This book is something that’s theirs,” Sherry says. “They can look back through their images and see the progress they’ve made and how far they’ve come .”

**Sewing Group**

*"He will cover you with his feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge." -*

*Psalm 91:4*



*"When it comes to life's basic needs, we can surely say that they may include shelter and refuge. Certainly, in time of most need, a warm quilt is a Godsend!*

Quilts certainly provide comforting refuge to those in need. Quilt making is doing good 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 his month to come and *"stand tall as you make quilts to help others"*. Please consider *doing something special for others* by providing some good 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. Next meeting will be July 19th, between 9:00 A.M. and Noon. See you then! For more information, please call Sue Pagan at 325-0257.

**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 July 18.

**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.

**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?

**Altar Guild Schedule**

July 1- 7  
Norma Gahm  
Linda Hansen  
Patricia Minchin  
Elaine von Gillern

July 8 - 14  
Mary Lou Burke  
Mary Lou Hansen  
Alan Meilike  
Marie Neal

July 15 - 21  
Marlys Lien  
Mary Jensen  
Shelly Menard  
Andrea Nebel

July 22 - 28  
Jan Girton  
Cookie Johnson  
Becky Taylor  
Kim Pace

July 29 - Aug. 4  
Norma Gahm  
Linda Hansen  
Patricia Minchin  
Elaine von Gillern

Altar Guild meeting on Monday, July 24 at 1:00 .

**Women of the Church Schedule**

Ruth Group: Mon., July 10, 1:30 p.m.  
Esther Group: Tues., July 11, 9:30 a.m.  
Mary Group: Thurs., July 13, 9:00 a.m.

Women's Board Meeting: Tuesday, July 25 at 9:30 a.m.

**Saint John Mugs**

Mugs are still available to buy for \$7.00 each. Look for the table by the bookshelves in the Welcome Center.

**Lutheran Lakeside Camp**

For at least the last ten years Lutheran Lakeside Camp has a week for all who are medically disabled. The week starts on a Sunday and ends on Thursday. For that week no other camping is allowed. A member of our church, Eric Hansen, has always attended. Until this year Debbie Drustrup has also attended. Our church has approved the use of our parking lot as the site for pick-ups and returning home. Pick-up this year will be on Sunday, July 2 and the campers will be returning the afternoon of July 6. Thanks to all those involved.



Many thanks to our church family for all the cards and well wishes at our recent 70th wedding anniversary open house. We appreciate all of you.

Lottie and Chuck Tawzer

I want to thank everyone for the very special going away party. I'm going to miss my children and my church family. Thank you for all the support over the years.

Love, Judith

I want to thank Pastor Jon and the Saint John congregation for the wonderful acknowledgement of my retirement of seventy-two years of singing in the church choir. It was pleasant years of singing to the Lord. I enjoy singing but felt it was time to leave and enjoy sitting with my husband for our remaining years. I will miss it and hope the choir can encourage more people to come to sing with them. Thank you.

Love, Lois Adams

*From Bloomer School:*

Thank you for your donation towards Bloomer's Gentlemen Society! We have already put it towards 2nd hand dress clothes.

Mr. Wise

Thank you for always looking out for our kids.

Mr. Novak

## July Milestones

### 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Julia Taylor (July 1)  
1613 Baldwin Circle  
Co. Bluffs, IA 51503

### Baptisms

Saturday, June 3

Vivian Mae Townsend, daughter of Stephanie & Derek Townsend

Saturday, June 24

Corbin Elijah Riner, son of Elizabeth & Todd Riner

Sunday, June 25

Effie Rae Allen, daughter of Cassandra & Eric Allen

Isla Rae King, daughter of Sarah & Jason King

### Sympathy to the Families of ...

Scott Patrick Birchard, father of Daniell Martinez, who passed away on May 18 in California.

Wayne E. Rodenburg, brother of Gene Rodenburg, who passed away on May 19 in Colorado.

Faye Wiig, sister of Eldred Butts, who passed away on June 25.



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.

**Weekends in July and August are open.**

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

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## 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: Allie VanRoekel

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)

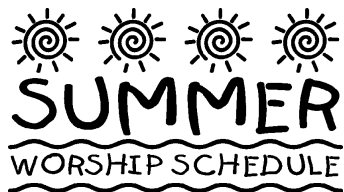
Pastor Jon Benson (323-7173)

# Saint John Lutheran Church

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633 Willow Ave.  
Council Bluffs, IA 51501-4242

Non Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Council Bluffs, IA  
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Zip Plus Four  
Change Service Requested



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



## Vacation Bible School

Camp Agape - Gather  
Around God's Love  
July 10-15,  
5:00-8:00 pm