

June 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.*

## Summertime

For a time of the year when people supposedly have more free time—off from school, taking vacations, three-day weekends—it seems like we find ways to fill that extra time so that we end up being busier than usual! If you find yourself in this situation, then this advice is for you:

### **Make Time**

How on earth can a person make time? Between work, house chores, cooking, volunteer commitments, appointments, kids' activities, and everything else you've got going on, this sounds like an impossible dream. Yet "what is impossible for humans is possible for God," says Jesus. If you've never tried to set aside a few moments of the day for prayer and reflection, or maybe it's been a long time since you tried, try it again! Try spending just 5 minutes in the morning reading a devotional, the Bible, or just praying about your worries and turning them over to God and also thanking Him for the good things in your life. Or if mornings are too hectic, try your lunch break or just before bed.

### **Turn It Over**

You might be surprised at the peace, calm, and clarity that comes from beginning your day refocused on God and your relationship to your Creator. When you can keep perspective by being reminded that God is ultimately in control and watching over you, both in the good times and the bad, then some of our daily anxieties and stress are put in their right places as superficial and trivial.

### **Give Thanks**

I've often heard the wisdom of remembering to give thanks. For most of us, it's easiest to turn to God in moments of trouble because when things are going

well we feel in control. I've found that in moments when things are under my control, I am usually due for a smash-up crash! Remembering to make time for God in order to offer thanks and praise maintains the relationship in the good times too! What kind of friendship is it, that is only used in crisis? People with that kind of relationship to us are not usually consider friends; that's called a parasitic relationship and it's not what we are called into by God.

### **Recharge In the Community of Faith**

During the summer it is all too easy to avoid church. We make excuses that we are busy with other activities or on vacations, but the truth is that worship ought to take a front seat on our priority lists. Worshipping God can certainly be done outside the walls of a church building, but the relationship to a community of faith is found among God's people! Even if you are on vacation and can't worship at Saint John, I'd encourage you to make an effort to find a worship space among other Christians and share in their energy and enthusiasm for praising God. Our weekly worship time is really an opportunity to recharge in God's Spirit so that our lives out in the world are filled up with the love of God in order that we can sprinkle that love around to others.

I pray that this summer brings you joy and rest, peace and spiritual growth, and the opportunity to strengthen relationships with family, friends, and most of all with our Lord.

Peace in Christ, Pastor Ben McIntire

### **May 21 Congregational Meeting**

The vote was unanimous to extend a letter of call to Deacon Lisa Johnson for the position of Children, Youth & Family Minister. Lisa has 30 days to accept the position.

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

The Omaha Urban Plunge is led and operated by Christ for the City, Intl. Our group will be taken out of their comfort zones as they participate in serving the homeless, sorting clothes at thrift stores, prayer walking, sharing time with the elderly and disabled, running kids programs, assisting in community clean-ups, packaging meals for overseas aid, and so much more! There are many cities that Christ for the City executes Urban Plunges, but we decided to keep it in our backyard in inner city Omaha.

Congregation, we ask for your prayer support. Remember our team by name, the list is provided below, along with some specific prayer requests:

Team members: Alli Van Roekel, Anne Vorce, Ben Brougham, Carlie Wilson, Curtis Pestel, Elizabeth Casey, Emma Cortney, Joel Nelson, Katie Brougham, Kyle Gann, Mackenzie Koesters, Madison Baxter.

Things to pray for:

- For God to continue to prepare the team's hearts for service in Omaha, NE.
- For God to show the team members the importance of their gifts and talents to do the "Good work" He has for them to do.

### Seniors at Saint John

High school seniors were honored at Saint John on Sunday, May 14. Those in attendance received a quilt made by our sewing group, and a reception was held in their honor.

#### Katie Nicole Brougham

Katie will graduate from Lewis Central High School where she was active in Show Choir, drama and the International Thespian Society. She will attend Iowa Western Community College this fall and will take classes to become a Veterinarian Technician. She plans to work at either the Henry Doorly Zoo or PetSmart this summer. Katie's favorite church memory is attending the National Youth Gathering in Detroit, especially the many church music concerts they went to.

#### Emma Elizabeth Cortney

While attending Lewis Central High School Emma was active in Show Choir, Drama, Jazz Choir and Spanish Club. She looks forward to attending the University of Northern Iowa where she will major in Spanish Education. Emma was active in Youth Group, Bell Choir and Chancel Choir at Saint John. One of her favorite memories is one of the Mission Trips when the leaders washed her feet in the candlelight, one of the moments she felt closest to God.

#### Warren Alexander "Alex" Michael

Alex will graduate from Abraham Lincoln High School where he was active in Band and Marching Band. He will attend the University of Nebraska at Omaha where he will major in computer science. Alex will continue to work at HyVee on Madison Avenue and volunteer at the animal shelter this summer. His favorite church memories are of the mission trips to Detroit and to South Dakota.

#### Colton Jon Pestel

Colton attended Glenwood Community High School where he played soccer and golf. He went to State Speech Competition for Large Group Speech 2 years in a row for Short Film. In the fall he will attend the University of Iowa where he will major in criminology. During the summer he will be employed at Castle Unicorn, a wedding venue near Glenwood. His first mission trip to the Minnesota Boundary Waters was his favorite church memory.

#### Wil Andrew Prine

After graduating from Lewis Central High School, Wil plans to attend the University of North Dakota where he will major in engineering. While in high school he was on the Blue Honor Roll and received both academic and football scholarships to college. Wil was named to the first team for All City Football and lettered in basketball all four years. Making new friends at confirmation classes is his favorite church memory.

#### Anaka Kristine Speer

Anaka was on the high school swim team and Student Council all four years at Lewis Central High School. She will attend Iowa Western Community College where she will major in education. This summer Anaka plans to work at Eileen's Cookies and vacation in New York City and Table Rock Lake. She enjoyed decorating for Vacation Bible School here at Saint John, and seeing the children have fun and grow during VBS.

### Join us for Vacation Bible School!

**"Camp Agape: Gathering Around God's Love"**

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

Children ages 3 years 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)

## Rooted in Faith, Forward in Mission

### Celebration Barbeque

Sunday, June 4 at 11:15 a.m. Please join us as we celebrate our success with our "Rooted In Faith" capital appeal. Please call the church office (323-7173) or indicate on the back of the insert how many family members will be attending.

### Capital Appeal Update

So far \$653,984 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. To this amount \$45,000 can be added over the next three years from the Iva Heuwinkel bequest. Thanks be to God!

### Kaltenborn Scholarships

The following students have been selected to receive \$500 per semester for the 2017-2018 school year:

Katie Brougham	Tyler Messenger
Megan Frush	Pastor Ben McIntire
Madeline Hahn	Warren "Alex" Michael
Noah Hahn	Colton Pestel
Brendan Hartman	Alicia Steppuhn

### Welch Scholarship

The following student has been selected to receive The Alfred E. and Diane Welch Scholarship for \$1,000 per semester for the 2017-2018 school year:

Pastor Ben McIntire



Lois Adams is retiring from the Chancel Choir after singing for 72 years. She was recognized at the music department's recent end-of-year party at the home of Barb & Gary Woods.

## Men's Club

The Men's Club will meet next on June 15 at 11:30 am at Sugar's, 2725 E. Kanesville Blvd. Men of all ages are welcome to join us for a good lunch and great conversation. Please sign up on the bulletin insert during worship if you plan to attend.

## Bethany News

Mark your calendar. It's time for ice cream!! **The Auxiliary Ice Cream Social** will be held on **Sunday, June 4th from 2-4 p.m.** at Bethany Lutheran Home, 7 Elliott Street in Council Bluffs. Ice Cream as well as assorted pies and cakes will be available for a free will offering. Come join us for an afternoon of fellowship and dessert!! Tell your friends!! Proceeds will be used for resident and tenant projects at Bethany.

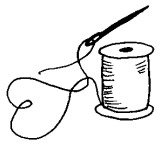
**CALLING ALL TEENS-** What are **YOU** doing this summer? Bethany Lutheran Home and Bethany Heights are looking for some great volunteers between the ages of 14-18 to be a part of our Teen Volunteer program. Teen Volunteers interact with residents and tenants, participate in activities and outings and assist where needed. If you are looking for an opportunity for a rewarding experience and willing to commit 2-4 hours per week, please contact Sarah Norton at Bethany Heights at 328-8228 to sign up. Teen Volunteer orientation will be held on **Tuesday, June 8th at 2:00 p.m. in the Garden Lounge at Bethany Lutheran Home.** Hope you join us this summer!!

## BETHANY HEIGHTS NOW OFFERING

**INDEPENDENT LIVING OPTION-** Not quite ready for the services of assisted living, but would enjoy the benefits of a senior community? Maybe someone interested in living independently or having the benefits of an assisted living community available when they need them? Bethany Heights offers both independent and assisted living services in full size apartments ranging from a Studio to Two Bedroom/Two bathroom. As an individual's needs increase, services are delivered directly to your apartment. Something unique to the area. Both living options include meals, recreational activities, transportation, utilities, Cox cable and WiFi, housekeeping and much more. We'd love for you to schedule a visit. Small pets are welcome. Some Long Term Care Insurance Policies are eligible for use with assisted living services at Bethany Heights. For more information or to set up a visit, please contact Paula Fandry at Bethany Heights 712-328-8228.

**Sewing Group**

*"Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless."*



- 1 Corinthians 15:58

*"No man is ever so tall as when he stoops to help a child..." said Abraham Lincoln.* Likewise, it might also be said about quilt-makers. 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 June 21st, 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 June 20.

**Altar Guild Schedule**

- June 3-9  
Norma Gahm  
Linda Hansen  
Patricia Minchin  
Elaine von Gillern
- June 10-16  
Mary Lou Burke  
Mary Lou Hansen  
Alan Meilike  
Marie Neal
- June 17-23  
Marlys Lien  
Mary Jensen  
Shelly Menard  
Andreia Nebel
- June 24-30  
Jan Girton  
Cookie Johnson  
Becky Taylor  
Kim Pace

**Women of the Church Schedule**

- Ruth Group: Mon., June 5 1:30 p.m.
- Mary Group: Thurs., June 8, 9:00 a.m.
- Esther Group: Tues., June 13, 9:30 a.m.
- Women's Board Meeting: Tuesday, June 27 at 9:30 a.m.



Did you know WELCA was formed 35 years ago in Milwaukee, WI? It is important to note that every confirmed female member of an ELCA congregation belongs to the Women of the ELCA. If you are reading this, you are member of the Tabitha Cluster, a geographical regional division of the Western Iowa Synodical Women's Organization. Women have always had gatherings with Bible Study, fellowship and of course, coffee with refreshments. Women are always involved in several ministries of each congregation especially those serving others! We need to be proud of our heritage and pray for its continuing success. One of the best resources I have come across to keep me grounded is the **Gather** magazine (formerly the Lutheran Women). Having just received the June issue, I wanted to share just how it helps in our daily life. The emphasis on several articles was on nice versus good! Do I do the good thing or nice thing just to avoid confrontation? It was very humbling reading to think I may be more interested in taking the easy (nice) way or more difficult (good) route in my daily encounters. Even the Bible Study in this issue "Saying Goodbye to Nice: Niceness can sometimes get in the way of doing good in our own lives and within our faith community. WHOOPS! Hopefully, you are already receiving this marvelous magazine and if not, please consider a subscription. 800-638-3522, X2730 or [gather@elca.org](mailto:gather@elca.org). Please note that the Tabitha Cluster will be having its annual Fall meeting sometime in October. Look for the upcoming notice! Carol Jeppesen, Tabitha Chapter Coordinator. 712-323-1530 [caroldenny@cox.net](mailto:caroldenny@cox.net)



## 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 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 June and July are open.**

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

## June Milestones

### 85<sup>h</sup> Birthdays

Jim Bixler (June 6)  
308 Wendy Hts. Rd.  
Co. Bluffs, IA 51503

Jean Rinde (June 6)  
14966 Gayland Dr.  
Co. Bluffs, IA 51503

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Linda & Rich Sorensen (June 30)  
208 Fawn Park Dr.  
Co. Bluffs, IA 51503

## Wedding

Kelsey Sarah Benson and Jacob Benjamin Bang were united in marriage on May 13.

## Sympathy to the Families of ...

Deputy Mark Burbridge, who passed away on May 1.

Arthur Hays, father of Russ Hays, who passed away on May 2.

Richard Needham, who passed away on May 8.

Delbert Rueschenberg, uncle of Larry Gittins, who passed away on May 9.

Susan Northwall Calusic, daughter of Ps. John Northwall and sister of Luke Northwall, who passed away on May 9.

Eloise Hays, aunt of Mike Ashbaugh, who passed away on May 11.

Jack Freese, brother of Pam Wilson, who passed away on May 12.

Glen Tuttle, husband of Marilyn, who passed away on May 13.

Jean Vuagniaux, who passed away on May 14.



Many thanks to our church family for all the cards, prayers, visits and concern during the illness of our sister, Debbie Drustrup. Saint John was her 2<sup>nd</sup> home and all of you her family. We are truly blessed with wonderful friends in our faith community. The journey would have been much more difficult without your caring and support. Debbie will be missed, but we rejoice that she has entered into eternal life with our Lord.

Jennifer and Jon VanMoorleghem  
and the Drustrup family

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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: Judith Devereaux

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)

Office Assistant: Kim Malskeit

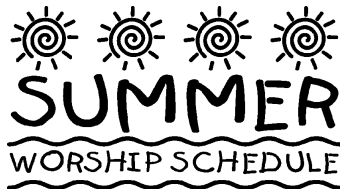
Custodian: Debbie Baird

**Church 712-323-7173 ~ Fax 712-323-7174 ~ Warmline: 712-328-8898  
Email: Info@SaintJohnELCA.org ~ Website: www.SaintJohnELCA.org**

## Saint John Lutheran Church

633 Willow Ave.  
Council Bluffs, IA 51501-4242

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Beginning on Sunday, May 28  
9:30 a.m. service on Sunday  
5:30 p.m. service on Saturday

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### Join us for Vacation Bible School!

The theme is

**“Camp Agape: Gathering Around God’s Love”**

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

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