

March 2017

The Caller

Saint John Lutheran Church



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

THE SMALL CATECHISM: 500 Years of Reformation

As most of you know, 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. It began when an Augustinian monk and Bible professor, Martin Luther, nailed on the door of the church (in essence, church's bulletin board) 95 points of disagreement with the practice of selling "indulgences." As one very clever (albeit, grammatically incorrect) church sign puts it: "

**"I've got 95 problems, but God's
grace ain't one of them!"
Martin Luther**

Given this major milestone in the history of the church, we will be using, at Saint John, Luther's Small Catechism as the basis for our Wednesday evening Lenten worship. This short but profound work by Luther has been a rich treasure for communicating the faith from one generation to the next. Primarily, it is comprised of five parts: The Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Holy Baptism and Holy Communion – which will nicely provide the structure for the five Wednesdays of Lent following Ash Wednesday. Please mark your calendars with the following schedule:

March	1	.....	Ash Wednesday (An Overview)
	8	.....	The Ten Commandments
	15	.....	The Apostles' Creed
	22	.....	The Lord's Prayer
	29	.....	Holy Baptism
April	5	.....	Holy Communion
	13	.....	Maundy Thursday
	14	.....	Good Friday
	15	.....	Holy Saturday (5:30 p.m. worship)
	16	.....	Easter Sunday (6:30, 8:00, 9:30, &11:00)

All of the worship services will be at 7:00 p.m. (unless noted otherwise). Various members from Saint John have been asked to offer "mediations" on the different parts of the catechism; and, the liturgy from the Holden Evening Prayer Service will be the format. As usual, prior to worship on Ash Wednesday and the five Wednesdays following, there will be a meal served in the Faith and Life Center, starting at around 5:30 p.m. (no meals served during Holy Week). Finally, each family will receive a new "Study Edition" of Luther's Small Catechism recently published by Augsburg Fortress in commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

Please come, nurture your faith this Lenten season and find yourself confessing with Martin Luther – and the generations spanning these last 500 years – how **"THIS IS MOST CERTAINLY TRUE!"**

Pastor Jon

Saint John High School Youth

As we begin our season of Lent, the youth will learn from our guest, Patricia Minchin about the reason behind many of our worship traditions. Continuing our lessons on “What’s Your God Language”, we will focus on the “TRADITIONALIST”, described as “Loving God through Ritual and Symbol”, and the “SENSATE”, described as “Loving God through the Senses”. Lutheran have a rich practice steeped in meaningful ways of using our senses and traditions to remind us of God’s love and our need for Him.

Service Project! Many of you may know that one of our members, Joyce Roenfeld collects toiletry items from many people and she helps to disperse them to shelters and ministries that serve people who could use them. She needs help to put kits together and organize all of her collections—so the youth will help her with this project! It will be a lot of fun!

March 1	Lent Begins-Ash Wednesday—Highs & Lows
March 8	Toiletries Care Kit Project
March 15	Lesson- <i>The Sensate & Traditionalist</i>
March 22	Meal Prep for Center for Healthy Families

Confirmation, 6th-8th Grades

IMPORTANT CONFIRMATION DATES FOR MARCH

- March. 1 - Ash Wednesday (No Class)
- March 8 - Lenten Worship (mentors and mentees eat dinner together)
- March 15 - Lenten Worship (No Class)
- March 22 - Lenten Worship (No Class)
- March 29 - Lenten Worship (No Class)

Bloomer School



Would you like to volunteer at Bloomer but don't feel like you could make a weekly commitment? Annie Vorhmann is looking for adults who would be interested in being a “mystery reader” in Pre-School to 2nd grade classes. As a mystery reader, you would have several options. You could read one of your or your child's favorite children's books, do a storytelling, or read a book that the teacher chooses for you. The teacher may also ask you a few questions about when you were learning to read, what types of books were your favorites, and how you use reading today as an adult. If you are interested in being a “mystery reader” please contact Annie Vorhmann by email at avorthmann@cbcsd.org, at Bloomer school 712/328-6519 or at 816/646-9431.

Youth and Capital Campaign

During this time of the Capital Campaign, the children and youth of Saint John Lutheran Church will be engaging in some interactive learning about stewardship. We will be learning about ways that we (as young members of our congregation) can offer our gifts to God and others, and what it means when God calls us to be good stewards. First - the Sunday School offering in the next 5 weeks, as we approach the commitment weekend of our giving campaign, will be entirely donated to the campaign fund. Second - the youth will be hosting a Sat. evening Chili Supper on March 11th, starting at 6 pm - all are welcome! And Third - we will be engaging in interactive learning units, and times of giving...so please continue to watch the caller and announcements for more information to come.



Rooted in Faith, Forward in Mission Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, March 5 at 9:45 a.m. - Brunch and Capital Appeal informational meeting. Please mark on your bulletin insert or call the church office (712-323-7173) to make reservations.

Saturday, March 18 at 6:30 p.m. - Chili Supper and Capital Appeal informational meeting. No reservations are necessary.

Sunday, March 19 at 9:45 a.m. - Capital Appeal Informational meeting.

Saint John Facebook

Have you seen the Saint John Lutheran Church Council Bluffs IA Facebook page? We're trying to keep it updated. 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

Scrip Cards

Scrip doesn't cost you anything to use for your shopping or gift giving. What it does do is profit the church. Just last year Scrip funds were used for 12 foot Christmas trees, shelves and storage containers for the kitchen pantry, and a roaster. The year before 3500.00 was used for the lighting in the sanctuary. Try buying a card to pay for your groceries or eating out this week. It becomes addictive very quickly.

Bethany News

Bethany Heights Apartments Available- Bethany Heights currently has multiple one bedroom apartment selections available for seniors. Come experience the companionship and devoted care Bethany has to offer! Please contact Paula Fandry for inquiries or to schedule a tour at 712-328-8228.

Employment Opportunities at Bethany- We encourage you to check out our available positions on our website at www.bethanylutheranhome.org. For further information, please contact Brenda Hennings at 712-328-9500.

Like us on Facebook- Search for Bethany Heights Senior Living Community and Bethany Lutheran Home pages on Facebook and stay up-to-date on events and activities! For more information or questions, please contact the Marketing Coordinator, Lauren Burke, at

Good Time Group

If interested in joining the Good Time Group, please send an email to: roenfeld@cox.net along with your name, email address and contact phone number.

The Good Time Group is planning its March get-together with an abelskiver supper at the church on March 11, 2017. Serving will start at approximately 7:00 pm. Group members please RSVP to barbvredveld@cox.net or 712-323-2993 by March 8 if you are able to join us.

Players Group

Players will be hosted by Paul and Marlys Lien, for March 3rd at the Pink Poodle in Crescent, IA. Please contact Lien's at (712-256-4357) if you would like to join us at 6 pm for a meal and fellowship.

Men's Club

The Men's Club will meet next on March 16 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.

Food Pantry

Here are a few items suggested for Our Savior's Food Pantry: boxed dinners, canned soup, canned tuna or chicken, cat food. Please place your food donations in the grocery cart in the Welcome Center. Thank you.

ChristCare

The Book Club will be meeting on March 2nd due to schedule conflicts at 7 pm -- this month we are meeting in Omaha at Caroline Nubel's home.



Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your gift of \$393.97. Mosaic is grateful to be the recipient of your congregation's stewardship efforts.

Since our founding in 1913, relationships with churches have been vital to our ministry's success. In addition to charitable gifts, we also appreciate your prayers for the success of our ministry and of the nearly 3,700 churches we serve in communities across the United States.

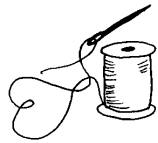
Thank you again for your support. I pray your congregation receives blessing one-hundred fold.

Sincerely,

Linda Trimmer, President and CEO

Sewing Group

“...to give of oneself without expecting anything in return is one of the finest things one human being can do for another.”



~ Leo Buscaglia (American author and motivational speaker)

The prophet Isaiah describes the people of God as a light shining in the world through their focus on the activity of caring for others (re: Isaiah 58:6-8). Quilts provide a tangible message of love and hope for a brighter future. The quilts we create with our hands help to meet God's call in a large way. And quilt-making itself is certainly doing good; gathering together in fellowship, creating a tangible message of love and caring to strangers in a far off land, and delivering warmth and comfort to those who need it most. 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 March 15th, 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 March 21.

Prayer Chain

Volunteers are needed! Please consider volunteering for Prayer Chain. Phone calls are made on Tuesdays. Sign up on the back of the insert or call the church office (712-323-7173) if you are interested.

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.

Saint John Mugs

Mugs are still available to buy. The cost is \$7.00. Look for the table in the Welcome Center.

Beat Those Winter Germs

The Service/Witness Committee is having a “Cold & Flu Season” drive for Bloomer. The teachers need Kleenex, hand sanitizer & disinfectant wipes for their classrooms. Look for the collection box in the hall by the office.

Altar Guild Schedule

March 4-10
Mary Lou Burke
Mary Lou Hansen
Alan Meilike

March 11-17
Norma Gahm
Linda Hansen
Patricia Minchin
Elaine VonGillern

March 18-24
Jan Girton
Cookie Johnson
Becky Taylor
Kim Pace

March 25-31
Marlys Lien
Mary Jensen
Shelly Menard
Andreia Nebel

Women of the Church Schedule

Ruth Group: Mon., March 6 1:30 p.m. at church
Esther Group: Tues., March 14 at 9:30 a.m.
Mary Group: Thurs., March 9 at 9:00 a.m. at church

Women's Board Meeting: Tuesday, March 28 at 9:30 a.m.

A Tribute to Stephen Ministry

“Have you heard of Stephen Ministry?” I was asked that question seventeen years ago by a hospital physical therapist caring for my late husband. The answer, “No.” The therapist explained the Ministry program and offered the services of a Stephen Minister from First Methodist Church, Omaha. I accepted.

My Stephen Minister was emotionally and spiritually supportive as I walked along side my husband during the last year and a half of his life: months of ongoing outpatient care; then three inpatient months in three hospitals, capped by his medical-backed, faith-backed, family-supported decision to stop treatment. At peace with his final decision, he welcomed visitors: conversed, reminisced, laughed, teared, prayed, lived each moment until his death ten days later. I appreciated my Stephen Minister's support during that long walk and in the months after.

Saint John Lutheran Church began its Stephen Ministry in 2006. It was a special coincidence for me when I learned that our first Stephen Ministers were receiving training in First Methodist's established program. The physical therapist who introduced me to the Ministry, along with other First Methodist Ministers, attended the installation of Saint John's first Stephen Ministers and Leaders.

In recent years I have benefited from and enjoyed my Saint John Stephen Minister's gift of time and talent, anchored in God's love. A confidential, listening ear is an antidote for “a need or a care.” Saint John Stephen Ministers are available. I pray God's blessings on the Ministry, the Ministers, and those they serve.

New Member Class

Saint John 101, our New Member Class will be on three Sundays, **March 19 & 26 and April 2** at 9:45 a.m. in the Conference Room. Please indicate on the back of the bulletin insert if you are interested. You can also call the church office if you have any questions.

90th Birthday Open House

The Congregation of Saint John is invited to an open house celebration for Jean Viagniaux's 90th birthday on Saturday, March 4, 2:00 to 5:00 pm in the Faith & Life Center.

New Arrivals

Jordyn Judith Mauch and Daniel Alan Mauch, children of Mary & Josh, were born on February 9.

Sympathy to the Families of ...

Robert Tracy, who passed away on January 23.

Mary Meyer, who passed away on January 25.

John Hansen, ex-son-in-law of Kris & Bruce Anderson, who passed away on February 14.

Barb Hansen, wife of Herb Hansen, who passed away on February 12. Cards may be sent to 2845 Coyote Road, Pebble Beach, CA 93953.

Don Tawzer, brother of Chuck Tawzer, who passed away on February 19.

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.

Most weekends in March and April are open.

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

March Milestones

80th Birthdays

Marcia Rodgers (March 15)
722 Harrison St.
Co. Bluffs, IA 51503

Bob Johnson (March 25)
510 Golden Oaks
Co. Bluffs, IA 51503

85th Birthday

Herb Hansen (March 2)
2845 Coyote Rd.
Pebble Beach, CA 93953

90th Birthdays

Jean Vuagniaux (March 4)
2306 Sherwood Dr. #108
Co. Bluffs, IA 51503

Charles Tawzer (March 8)
458 Huntington Ave.
Co. Bluffs, IA 51503

93rd Birthday

Phyllis Jones (March 29)
7 Elliott St. #212B
Co. Bluffs, IA 51503

96th Birthday

Almeda Dlwoy (March 15)
c/o Sharon Kelley
5102 N 145th St
Omaha, NE 68116

97th Birthday

Gladys Pedersen (March 1)
1801 E. Kanessville Blvd. #216
Co. Bluffs, IA 51503

70^h Wedding Anniversary

Delores & Charles Tawzer (March 29)
458 Huntington Ave

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**



The psalmist's prayer

The Psalms are full of wonderful verses about God's care and protection.

Directions: Find each missing letter in the alphabets below.
Use the resulting words to complete Psalm 86:7, NIV.

- A B C E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____
- A B C D E F G H J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____
- A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z _____
- A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S U V W X Y Z _____
- A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q S T U V W X Y Z _____
- A B C D F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____
- A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z _____
- A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z _____

- A B D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____
- B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____
- A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____
- A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____

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- A B C D F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____
- A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q S T U V W X Y Z _____

When I am in _____, I _____ to you,
because you _____ me. Psalm 86:7, NIV

Answer: When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me.
Psalm 86:7, NIV



Bethany Heights Apartments Available- Bethany Heights currently has multiple one bedroom apartment selections available for seniors. Come experience the companionship and devoted care Bethany has to offer! Please contact Paula Fandry for inquiries or to schedule a tour at 712-328-8228.

Volunteer and Spiritual Life Tea- *“Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” – Margaret Mead.*

We are proud of our Volunteers, Sponsoring Congregations, Pastors and Secretaries. We want to say thank you to you. Whether you've served as a Key Lady; led worship or communion; helped out with Bingo, a Birthday Party or the Auxiliary; baked a pie, cake, or have helped out at the Ice Cream Social; whether you've contributed or helped at the Salad Luncheon; whether you have provided volunteer time visiting Residents and Tenants or helping with an Activity; or whether you have supported us through contributions or prayers or anything else; we want to recognize and thank you. Please join us as we recognize our volunteers on **Sunday, April 30th at 2:00 p.m. at Bethany Lutheran Home, 7 Elliott Street.** Join us for an afternoon of fun, fellowship and entertainment as we say thank you for what you have done for Bethany Lutheran Home and Bethany Heights. We look forward to seeing you on April 30th!

Employment Opportunities at Bethany- We encourage you to check out our available positions on our website at www.bethanylutheranhome.org. For further information, please contact Brenda Hennigs at 712-328-9500.

Bethany Auxiliary Meeting-The Bethany Auxiliary Meeting will be held on Monday, April 10th at 2:00 p.m. This will be the **Annual Bake Sale fundraiser** with proceeds supporting resident and tenant projects at Bethany Lutheran Home and Bethany Heights. Baked good items of all types are welcome. When possible, please package items in smaller quantities. (If your item contains nuts, gluten free, etc. please let us know). Our residents and tenants enjoy shopping and smaller amounts are better. For more information contact your Auxiliary Key Lady or Diane Carlon at 712-329-5451. Thank you.

Like us on Facebook- Search for Bethany Heights Senior Living Community and Bethany Lutheran Home pages on Facebook and stay up-to-date on events and activities! For more information or questions, please contact the Marketing Coordinator, Lauren Burke, at burke@bethanylutheranhome.org or 712-256-9719.

Saint John Lutheran Church

633 Willow Ave.
Council Bluffs, IA 51501-4242

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Wednesday Night Lenten Services 7:00 p.m.

March 1	Ash Wednesday (An Overview)
8	The Ten Commandments
15	The Apostles' Creed
22	The Lord's Prayer
29	Holy Baptism