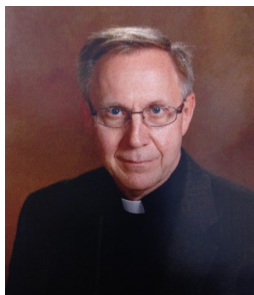


May 2017

The Caller

Saint John Lutheran Church



Pastor Jon Benson

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

From the Pastor....

CALL PROCESS UPDATE

Up till a few weeks ago, the call committee has been relatively quiet in reporting any news to the congregation. This is **NOT** to say, however, that they have been inactive. Since last fall, the synod has given us the names of **three candidates**; while we, as a committee, have asked for the mobility papers of **another candidate**. Of these four candidates, we have:

- interviewed one of them "on site;"
- interviewed another by Skype;
- had our request for an interview declined by another; and,
- been told, by the person whose name we requested, that he needed more time to discern God's lead.

The problem that we are facing as a call committee is one that is facing the entire ELCA: the total number of seminary graduates from all eight ELCA seminaries is **74 candidates**. To put this in perspective.... when I graduated from Luther Seminary in 1983, there were over 160 graduates in my class – and that was just one seminary!!! In addition, the number of parishes seeking first-call candidates is well over 300. In other words, **less than one in four of the 300+ congregations seeking first call pastors will be filled.**

Most recently, however, a friend of mine suggested the name of a **Deacon** who is a "**rostered leader**" in the ELCA and comes highly recommended: **Lisa Johnson**, who visited and interviewed at Saint John over the weekend of April 21-23. Lisa has a bachelor's degree in the area of **Youth and Family Ministry** from Midland University in Fremont, NE and has also received training to be an "Associate in Ministry." Most importantly, Lisa has expressed

interest in enrolling in a **Distributive Learning Program**, where she can take classes on line while, at the same time, serving in the area of Children, Youth and Family Ministries at Saint John. The synod office has given indication that, once Lisa is enrolled in this program, she could function in much the same way as a pastor (in other words, preaching, teaching and presiding for sacraments). **The goal would be to have Lisa receive her Master of Divinity degree and be ordained at Saint John at some point in the future.**

There are many steps in this process that yet need to be taken, any one of which could bring us back to square one and looking for another candidate. My request of you is that you continue to pray for the call committee as we discern God's leading in this process. In addition, please continue to **pray for the on-going ministry at Saint John – of which YOU are a part!** As always, we welcome your questions and feedback in this very important task entrusted to our congregation's call committee.

Pastor Jon

High School Youth Senior Recognition Day

Senior Recognition Sunday will be on May 14th at the 8:30am service. Students should arrive by 8:15 to receive a flower at the Holy Grounds coffee bar. In the midst of the service you will be called forward as a class for a rite of sending and a blessing on your new adventure in life. You will also be receiving a gift to celebrate this milestone. A reception in your honor will be held at 9:45 in the Welcome Center.

If you have not already done so, please let us know (712-323-7173) if you will be participating.

Confirmation Sunday May 7 at the 11:00 service

On Sunday, May 7th the congregation will celebrate with the eighth grade class as they affirm their baptisms during the 11:00am worship service. It has been a pleasure to teach these students this year, and to watch them grow in faith and understanding. Thanks be to God for all the support of the parents and families, mentors and congregation members that have helped raise up these young Christians who are such a vital part of this family of faith.

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Ben McIntire

Benjamin Dean Brougham	Dalton Jacob Mohatt
Elizabeth Claire Casey	Macy Nicole Mulder
Taylor Nicole Elam	Addison Leigh Nano
Seth Jeffery Frush	Grace Anne Ruzicka
Mackenzie Lynn Koesters	Madison Marie Stark
Hannah Marie Lucy	Allison Marie Steppuhn
Cael John Malskeit	Amanda Jo Stogdill
Luke Nelson Meyer	Cole Justin Wilson
Leah Christine Wilson	



Saint John Family,
I cannot begin to express my thankfulness to you for being in my life. I am so honored to call you all my family. Your generosity is overwhelming and I can't say thank you enough! Jacob & I love you all so much!

Love, Kelsey & Jacob

Congratulations!

Thomas M. Graham received the rank of Eagle Scout at a Court of Honor Ceremony on April 22 at Glenwood High School where he is a junior. His parents are Shelly and Richard Graham.



Vacation Bible School July 10-15, 5:00-8:00 pm

The VBS committee is still looking for one Lesson Teacher for grades Pre-2nd grades. We also need one Lesson Teacher for Grades 3-6. Would you like to join us for a fun week at Camp Agape? Come help us Gather Around God's Love – July 10 – 13. Lessons will be provided for your classes. Prayerfully consider helping "Share the Word" and Love of God during VBS week. Please contact Deb Ingwersen or Tracy Frush with any questions. We'd love to hear from you.

VBS registration will open up on May 1st which is the last day of Sunday School. We will have registration forms available that day to fill out and also on our Website: www.SaintJohnELCA.org



Iowa Cookie Crumbs Bakers Needed:

Each month the Iowa Cookie Crumbs send 60-65 boxes containing over 6,000 cookies to servicemen and women. Each of our three teams have 60+ members who are asked to bake 10 dozen cookies each for their month's packing which is every three months.

Unfortunately last month they were short cookies so 13 of the soldiers on the list did not get a box. There has been a rise in the number of recent requests due to movement of ships, weaponry and soldiers. This happens now and then but with the increased demand, they are unable to keep up with the new names that are received almost daily.

Please consider baking cookies for our troops. You are invited to join them at a packing to better understand what the project is all about. The next packing is Tuesday, May 9 at 10:30 am at Emanuel Lutheran Church.

If you have questions, please contact Abbie Crawford at iowacookiecrumbs@hotmail.com

Rooted in Faith, Forward in Mission

CAPITAL APPEAL UPDATE – Great News!

So far \$635,040 of our \$750,000 goal has been pledged towards our “Rooted In Faith” capital appeal. This is a fantastic affirmation of the mission and ministry God has called us to do. 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 Thanks be to God!

Scrip Cards

Using Scrip doesn't cost you anything, you pay face value for a card but the church profits from what you pay. The church benefits whether it is your regular shopping or a gift.

Partner of the Month

For the month of May, Saint John will be partnering with the Western Iowa Synod, together with Global Health Ministries in collecting misc. medical supplies and equipment for use in Lutheran medical facilities in Tanzania. Our delegates will take donations to Synod Assembly on June 9th in Sioux City. Please place items in the labeled boxes at church. Needed items are listed below:

- Blankets (twin to full size preferred)
- Bed sheets (twin to full size preferred)
- Pillowcases
- Towels & washcloths
- Crutches, Walkers, Canes, Wheelchairs
- Dressings (BandAids, gauze, Kerlix)
- Gloves (household & examination)
- Soap, regular size bar
- Personal protective equipment—gloves, face shields, eye protection
- Examination gloves, especially sizes M & L
- Surgical gloves, especially sizes 6.5- 8.0
- Syringes, especially sizes 5 and 10 ml
- Auto-disable syringes with needles
- Sutures, especially sizes 0-3 and 4-6
- Dressings & gauze IV catheters & administration sets
- Surgical blades and handles
- Surgical sponges
- Surgical instruments
- Surgical masks and caps
- Surgical gowns, scrubs, drapes - cloth only
- Ultrasonic gel, lubricating jelly
- Disinfectant sponges & swabs
- Twin or hospital-size bed sheets, flat & fitted
- Dental surgery instruments—forceps, elevators
- Dental palliative materials—IRM, etc.

Also -

* Newborn kits

* Hospice kits

(* Call the church office for details.)

Men's Club

The Men's Club will meet next on May 18 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.

Good Time Group

The Good Time Group will be meeting at the home of Barb & Gary Woods, 12 Westlake Village, on Saturday, May 20th at 7:00pm. They will provide the fried chicken, and ask that if your last name starts with the letter A-N to please bring a side dish, hot or cold, If your last name starts with O-Z please bring a dessert. Water, iced tea, coffee, and soda will be available. Anything stronger is up to you. Please RSVP either to 712-322-2288 or 402-651-6691 or in person at church. Pontoon boat rides will also be available.

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
kandthompson@icloud.com or 712-323-8391

Bethany News

Volunteer and Spiritual Life Tea— 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.

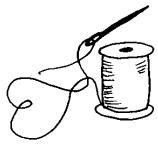
Bethany Heights Now Offering Independent Living— Enjoy apartment living with great amenities! Apartments range in size from a Studio to Two Bedroom/Two bathroom. Small pets are welcome. For more information or to set up a visit, please contact Paula Fandry at Bethany Heights 712-328-8228.

Employment Opportunities at Bethany
Bethany currently has several positions available. For more information, please visit our website at www.bethanylutheranhome.org or contact our HR Coordinator, Cindy Schechinger at 712-328-9500.

Auxiliary Meeting and Bake Sale Update
The Auxiliary would like to thank you for your support of the annual bake sale. We were blessed with a large variety of goodies and many customers to enjoy them. Thank you for your continued support of the Auxiliary and their projects.

Sewing Group

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples." - Mother Teresa



According to Shari Arison, 'doing good holds the power to transform us on the inside, and then ripple out in ever-expanding circles that positively impact the world at large.' 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 "cast your stone across the 'waters.'" 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 May 17th, 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 May 16.

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.

Service & Witness Committee

Bloomer School

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 1st-5th. Saint John would like to send a "Shout out" to all the members who work in our education system. We would like to thank you for your commitment in making a difference in the lives of the children in our community.

The Service and Witness Committee, on behalf of Saint John, sent a small token of appreciation to the staff at Bloomer as part of our Bloomer Connection. Thanks again for your dedication to education!

Altar Guild Schedule

May 6 - 12
Norma Gahm
Linda Hansen
Patricia Minchin
Elaine von Gillern

May 13 - 19
Mary Lou Burke
Mary Lou Hansen
Alan Meilike
Marie Neal

May 20 - 26
Marlys Lien
Mary Jensen
Shelly Menard
Andreia Nebel

May 27 - June 2
Jan Girton
Cookie Johnson
Becky Taylor
Kim Pace

Women of the Church Schedule

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

Women's Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 23 at 9:30 a.m.

Bloomer Gentlemen's Society

Bloomer Elementary School has started a Gentlemen's Society. This is a chance for 5th grade boys to learn social skills that will be transcendent in every day life and beyond. We teach social skills, manners and things like how to shake hands and how to tie a tie. One of the expectations for our Gentlemen's Society is to wear dress clothes to society meetings. We have discovered there is a need for dress clothes for boys in our community. We are requesting donations so that families that are unable to provide the necessary attire have the opportunity to have some nice dress clothes. Please consider donating to Bloomer's Gentlemen's Society. We have a wide range of sizes from children's small to adult extra-large sizes. For more information contact Mr. Paul Wise at [712/328-6519](tel:7123286519) or by email pwise@cbcsd.org. Thank you for your generosity.

Saint John Mugs

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

Together with their parents
Kelsey Sarah Benson & Jacob Benjamin Bang
invite you to join them at
the celebration of their wedding
Saturday, May 13, 2017 at 1:00 pm
Saint John Lutheran Church
Cake reception to follow.

New Members

April 9, 2017

Eddie Goodwin

1918 Ave. B,
Council Bluffs, IA 51501

John Gunderson

2420 S. 43rd St.
Omaha, NE 68105

Becky & Tim Wegner

802 N 35th St. #13
Council Bluffs, IA 51501

New Arrivals

Elias James Petersen, son of Megan & Trevor Petersen, was born on April 11.

Isla Rae King, daughter of Sarah & Jason King, was born on April 11. Grandparents are Karen & Jay Bramman.

Sympathy to the Families of ...

Debbie Drustrup, who passed away on April 19.

Helen Mattson, sister of Jean Rinde, who passed away on April 25.

May Milestones

80th Birthdays

Janice Myers (May 15)
260 Zenith Dr.
Co. Bluffs, IA 51503

Tom Brown (May 22)
103 North Ave. #304
Co. Bluffs, IA 51503

90th Birthdays

Mary Ellen Andrews (May 14)
3142 Kings Way
Co. Bluffs, IA 51503

Leola Poppen (May 19)
2306 Sherwood Dr.
Co. Bluffs, IA 51503

Rev. John Northwall (May 25)
c/o Luke Northwall
115 Pelican Dr.
Co. Bluffs, IA 51503

Patricia Peterson (May 30)
1007 Arbor Ridge Circle
Co. Bluffs, IA 51503

95th Birthday

Richard Boyd (May 15)
1801 E. Kanessville Blvd. #220
Co. Bluffs, IA 51503

Baptisms

Saturday, April 15
Andersen Dane Boysen, son of Jacqueline & Tyler Boysen.

Saturday, April 30
Isaac Eugene Walters, son of Emily & Casey Walters.

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

Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Council Bluffs, IA
Permit No. 68
Zip Plus Four
Change Service Requested



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

Vacation Bible School

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