



Pastor Jon Benson

Interim Pastor -  
Pastor Sharon  
Worthington

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

Saturday  
5:30pm

Sunday  
9:30 am

Dear Christian friends,

Many of you are probably wondering about the progress of the Pastoral Call Committee. We had been working for some weeks with a potential candidate however this person called me this past Tuesday and has decided his calling is not to our congregation. We wish him well and pray for him as he continues to seek the congregation he is to be called to.

I have informed Pastor Jon, Kim Townsend our Council President, the Call committee, and Pastor Judith Johnson at the Western Iowa Synod (WIS) that we must continue to look for a Pastoral candidate for our position at Saint John. Pastor Judith is the Pastor that assists churches and Pastors with the call process. Pastor Judith will be sure our Pastoral Call request is published nationwide as well as locally. As before if you know of a Pastor with some years of experience that might be a great candidate for this position, please contact them and encourage them to explore it.

Our Call Committee has done an excellent job of walking through this very lengthy and complicated process. We have a lot of our homework completed so now it will be a matter of continuing to seek an excellent candidate to take through the steps toward filling our call.

If you have questions, please feel free to ask me in person or via text or phone call. In closing I would ask for your prayers and support for the Call Committee, for me as their leader and for the candidates that would best fit our congregation as we continue this quest.

Blessing to each of you,  
Becky Henkel  
Pastoral Call Committee Chairperson



"I come from above," Jesus told his disciples, "And I want you to be reborn from above so that you will be able to see with new eyes." John 3:3.

For a full week, we have been in New Orleans with 16,000 other youth and adults. Our theme was, "Created to Be. Brave. Authentic. Free. Disruptive. Disciples." These words shaped our time as we constantly reflected on our surroundings, speakers, each other, and our interactions with other youth. We spent a morning watching a documentary on the vital ministry of marching band in New Orleans. I say ministry because it is a Christ-centered program that enfolds youth into a loving community and works to keep them from being swept into a life of gang activity and poverty. The band in the documentary then entered the room, proudly playing "When the Saints Go Marching In."

We heard speakers that affirmed God's love for all, we heard the story of a young man who immigrated to the United States, and the terrifying experiences of hiding, and being separated from his family, all with the dream of escaping the crime and scarcity in his home country. We toured the city. We laughed. We took an airboat tour, we fed alligators, we grew closer to one another and to God with new eyes to see our neighbor. We give thanks for you, Saint John, and your relentless support for these youth and leaders during a pastoral transition and we give thanks for Kyle Gann and Katie Warner who accompanied the youth on this trip. Above all, we give thanks to God for this experience.



-Dn. Eric Haitz



**Back-to-School Family BBQ**

**Join us at the Back-to-School Family BBQ on Saturday, September 7, 4:00 - 6:00pm.** The BBQ will be a great night of celebrating the start of the school year.

**Rally Sunday - September 8, Sunday School starts at 9:45am.**



We are very excited to have your child participate. We would appreciate it if you would take a few minutes to complete this form so we can be prepared for your child. Thank you for your help with this.  
- The Sunday School Team



Students, teachers & educators bring your backpacks or briefcases for a special back to school blessing at any service on the weekend of **August 17 & 18**



Do you want to have some fun, buy some early decorations or gifts for the holidays, and support a worthy cause all at the same time?

Then don't miss the **Quilters and Crafters Fundraiser on Saturday, September 21 from 5:00 to 7:00p.m. and Sunday, September 22 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30!** This is part of our outreach mission to "share the Word" in our community by donating the proceeds to "Takin' It to the Streets", an organization dedicated to serving meals to the needy and sharing God's Word of love.

We will have the following:

- a **silent auction** (winners to be announced at 12:30 on Sunday - you don't have to be present to win)
- a **bake sale** with **homemade goodies** and even cookie dough that you can bake at home
- a **variety of crafted items:** table toppers, mug rugs, **themed gift baskets**, **crocheted /knitted items**, **flower bulbs**, and more

For this to be successful, we need your help.

- **attend the fundraiser** on Saturday night or Sunday morning and buy some **handmade items**
- donate some baked goods or some of your own crafted items that we can **include** on our tables. Big and **small themed baskets** are especially fun during the fall holidays. (Baked goods can be brought to the kitchen at the service you attend, and craft items should be at the church by **Sunday, September 15.**)

If you have **questions**, contact any of the committee members: **Cookie Johnson, Ruby Runte, Maggie Schneider, Sandie Smith, Jennifer VanMoorlegem** or **Elaine von Gillern.**



“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.” ~ Isaiah 40. This is why we make quilts. We make them from the repurposed scraps of fabric that people give us! But quilts are made up of more than just small scraps of material. Quilt makers place their heart and soul into creating comfort for those who are in need.

All are welcome to come and lend a hand! When we make quilts, we do good work on many levels. It brings us together in service and fellowship, it creates a tangible message of love and caring to strangers in a far off land, delivering warmth and comfort. *“And I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then I said, ‘Here I am; send me.”* Isaiah 6:8

Come as you are able; experience is not required. The Saint John Quilting Group family wishes to welcome you! If you are thinking about it, please know we will make you feel very much at home as we tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief! In this ministry of serving, we also set aside time to enjoy fellowship with one another with devotions and snacks!

Next meeting is Wednesday, August 21, 2024! You’re most welcome to join us. We will meet between 9:00am and Noon at St. John, in the Faith and Life Center. See you then! For more information, please call Sue Pagan at 712-325-0257.



Good Times Group

The Good Times Group will not meet in the summer. We look forward to seeing you in the fall. Watch for future updates.



Players Group

The Players Group will meet at Pizza Ranch on Friday, August 2 at 5:00pm in the Party Room. Cost is \$14.95 plus tax. Mary & Roger Burmeister are hosting, they would like to know approximately how many are coming.



<u>August 3 &amp; 4</u> <u>Aug. 31 &amp; Sept. 1</u>	<u>August 10 &amp; 11</u>	<u>August 17 &amp; 18</u>	<u>August 24 &amp; 25</u>
Marlys Lien	Patricia Minchin	Cookie Johnson	Mary Lou Burke
Mary Jensen	Elaine von Gillern	Becky Taylor	Norma Jones
Debbie Plugge	Carol Wood	Kim Pace	Joyce Mlynarik
Sandy Cerveny	Andrea Hill	Diane Hartman	Carolyn Clark
Andreia Nebel			Alan Meilike



\* Esther Group—August 13 at 9:30am  
\* Mary Group—August 8 at 9:00am



MEN'S GROUP

The Men’s Club meets every 3rd Thursday of the month at 11:30am at The Dock Bar & Grill, 401 Veteran’s Memorial Hwy. Men of all ages are welcome to join us for a good lunch and great conversation. Next lunch is August 15.



We are requesting donations of Tuna and Ramen Noodles.



## August 2024 – Navigating Transitions: From Summer to Fall, from Struggle to Strength

Though the longer days of summer, BBQs, and running through sprinklers are coming to an end, cool evenings at the football stadium, beautiful color-changing leaves, and spending the school day with friends are upon us. As Iowans prepare for the multicolored season of autumn, LSI is here to help you navigate the changing of the seasons.

Transitions can be a difficult time for anyone, and LSI provides services to ease the process of change.

Our Immigrant and Refugee Community Services help new arrivals to the U.S. resettle and start a life in Iowa. Our Host Homes program helps adults living with disabilities transition to greater independence through a mentor-mentee relationship. Our Early Childhood Services prepare parents expecting a child for a healthy birth and provide support as children transition from milestone to milestone. Our foster parents provide safe, loving homes for children moving through the foster system as they await adoption.

Whether we're helping someone through a difficult life transition in therapy or teaching former refugees English and cultural competency skills, at LSI we're there every step of the way. If you need support during a transition in your life, visit [LSIowa.org](http://LSIowa.org) to learn more about our services.

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563-676-2065.



I want to make you aware of some exciting changes over the past several months. Specifically, we hired a new administrator, Chandra Gustafson, and Chaplain, Pastor Kenneth Hessel.

Pastor Kenneth Hessel joined BLHS Tuesday, May 21, 2024. Pastor Hessel holds a Masters of Divinity degree in Theology from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. He is a Chaplain and Emergency Response Chaplain endorsed by The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. He has demonstrated a commitment to the role of Chaplain having served in that capacity for many years.

Chandra Gustafson joined BLHS December 29, 2023. During her five-month tenure with Bethany, Chandra has established a strong care team and made great strides hiring BLHS employees which directly impacts the consistency of care provided to our residents and reduces the need for outside/temporary staff. Chandra has also implemented processes to improve the quality of resident care at Bethany. She wants to actively engage our sponsoring churches to make sure we are meeting the spiritual needs of our residents and supporting their churches. Chandra looks forward to meeting all of you and having you as engaged members/volunteers at Bethany.

The quarterly meeting of our Auxiliary was held on Monday, July 8 at the Heights. Seven churches were represented. Michael Thomas, activity director said that their spiritual needs are being met more than ever. The population has increased at the Home and the Heights. Chandra plans to add a lounge area just inside the Home. She presented a proposal for the furniture and the costs. The Auxiliary voted to give them \$5,000 for the project. Chandra has established a strong care team and has made great strides hiring BLHS employees which directly impacts the consistency of care provided. She is committed to running BLHS as a religious nursing home where residents' spiritual needs matter, and regular communications with sponsoring churches is a priority. Following the business meeting the Auxiliary played bingo with the community members at the Heights and served them pie

# AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 - Communion - 5:30pm Worship
4 - Communion - 9:30am Worship	5	6	7 9:00am Bible study	8 9:00am Mary Group	9 5:00pm Players group	10 5:30pm Worship
11 9:30am Worship	12	13 9:30am Esther Group	14 9:00am Bible study 5:30pm Sunday school meeting	15 11:30am Men's Club	16	17 - Communion - 5:30pm Worship 
18 - Communion - 9:30am Worship 	19	20	21 9:00am Quilting Group 9:00am Bible study	22	23	24 5:30pm Worship
25 9:30am Worship	26	27 7:00pm Council Mtg.	28 9:00am Bible study	29 <i>Callers Mailed</i>	30	31 - Communion - 5:30pm Worship

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> Meela Alderton Ren Harm Pam Jensen Tom Padan	<b>2</b> Carlie Heinrichs Melissa Nation Lexie Nelson Madison Short	<b>3</b> Chad Burdick
<b>4</b> Barbara Paulson Marlee Waddell	<b>5</b> Robert Hansen Mary Mauch Don Reed	<b>6</b> Gary Matters Thaddeus Riggs Rich Sorensen	<b>7</b> Linda Hansen	<b>8</b> Billy Cates Kolbe Upson	<b>9</b> Earl Myers	<b>10</b> Marcia Benson Roger Burmeister Waverly Riggs Mary Stellish Kent Thornton
<b>11</b> Sandie Smith Nancy Walker	<b>12</b> Diane Ernstick Joel Nelson	<b>13</b> Audie Alderton Randy Mowery Grace Warner	<b>14</b> Kirk Koopmeiners Paige Messenger Leah Willson	<b>15</b> Joni Anderson	<b>16</b> Torsten Sahl Audrey Schneider Nathan Taylor	<b>17</b> Hannah Hansen Pat Nepple Pat Thompson
<b>18</b> Jennifer Hayes Tim Wegner Kaye Wohlers	<b>19</b> Chad Andersen Dylan Dunkelberger Nate Harm	<b>20</b> Sue Haven	<b>21</b> Austin Hill Kari Means	<b>22</b> Lillian Boyesen Reid Johnson Beth Townsend	<b>23</b> Chris Olson	<b>24</b> Steve Nelson
<b>25</b> Bob Krauss Adam Moon Emery Whitney	<b>26</b> Lois Adams Alexander Jones Patrick Jones Dale Pukall Jayden Walker Rozan Weigel	<b>27</b> Joshua Wultz	<b>28</b> Jay Bramman Mianna Thornton	<b>29</b> Anthony Hartenhoff Taylor Hartenhoff Terry Moxley	<b>30</b> Linda Hahn Blake Sadr	<b>31</b> Sue Mize Barbara Richardson





**90th Birthday**

Earl Myers (August 9)

**90th Birthday**

Mianna Thornton (August 28)

**95th Birthday**

Lois Adams (August 26)

**50th Wedding Anniversary**

Mike & Linda Hoel (Aug. 24)

**50th Wedding Anniversary**

Mike & Phyllis Damgaard (Aug. 30)

**55th Wedding Anniversary**

Ron & Barb Vredeveld (Aug. 9)

**55th Wedding Anniversary**

Don & Pat Knudsen (Aug. 30)

**55th Wedding Anniversary**

Doug & Sandie Smith (Aug. 30)

**66th Wedding Anniversary**

Dale & Sue Haven (Aug. 3)



Dear Saint John Lutheran friends, I want to express my sincerest thanks and appreciation for the many expressions of sympathy I've been blessed to receive at the passing of my Step-daughter

Michelle. She was only 50 years old but had many health problems. It is so comforting to know that the people I worship with were thinking of me and consoling me through those first most difficult days of loss.

Thank you to each of you. Becky Henkel



**Baptism**

~ Marnee Harm was baptized on July 6

*Sympathy to the families of...*

~ Pollie Hahn,  
mother of Mike Hahn

~ Larry Covalciuc

~ Jayne Marsh

~ Tracy Connealy

~ Shirley Jorgensen,  
mother of Debbie Hamling

~ Lois Sisson,  
mother of Tim Clark



**Saint John Lutheran Church Staff**

Senior Pastor: Rev. E. Jon Benson (JonBenson@SaintJohnELCA.org)

Interim Pastor: Rev. Sharon Worthington (interimpastorsjlc@gmail.com)

Parish Ministry Coordinator: Patricia S. Minchin

Sound Booth volunteers: Mack Bertelsen, Paul Schmidt

Chancel Choir Director: Elmer Ellefson

Bell Choir Director: Laura Nelson

Pianist / Organist: Joan Ebersold

Foundation Board President: Ross Jensen (402-681-1383)

Nursery Attendant: Susan Stellish

Stephen Minister Leaders: Alan Meilike (328-1671) Debbie Plugge (256-5310) Pastor Jon Benson (323-7173)

Office Manager: Kim Malskeit (712-323-7173) Info@SaintJohnELCA.org

Custodian: Alicia Pigsley

**Church 712-323-7173**

**Email: Info@SaintJohnELCA.org ~ Website: www.SaintJohnELCA.org**

**Facebook: www.facebook.com/SaintJohnCouncilBluffs**

## Saint John Lutheran Church

633 Willow Avenue  
Council Bluffs, IA 51501-4242

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If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter,  
please email us at [info@saintjohnelca.org](mailto:info@saintjohnelca.org)  
Thank you.



### Reminder:

Two service Sundays  
(8:30 & 11:00am)  
will start on Sunday,  
September 8.

### August 17 & 18

Blessing of the Backpacks

### September 7 - Back-to-School Family BBQ

4:00 - 6:00pm

### September 8 - Rally Sunday

Two service Sundays will resume -  
8:30am and 11:00am worship times

9:45 Sunday school starts!

### September 21 & 22

Quilters and Crafters Fundraiser

Watch the bulletin announcements and next months  
Caller for September start dates on all fall  
activities....