



The Caller

2024

Saint John Lutheran Church



Pastor Jon Benson

Interim Pastor -
Pastor Sharon
Worthington



Sunday school is for all children ages PreK - 5th grade. Classes begin at 9:45 each Sunday, of which the first 10 minutes is Choir on Fire practice.

First day is September 8.

Confirmation is for all youth in 6th - 8th grade. Classes meet Wednesday nights at 6:30pm.

A parent/student meeting will be held on September 4 at 6:30pm.



HS Youth meet on Wednesday nights at 6:30pm.

Reading Biblical Literature: Genesis to Revelation

Beginning on September 11, Wednesday night adult Bible study will focus on a series of lectures on DVD by Professor Craig Koester from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. Each class will begin with a one half hour presentation by Professor Koester, followed by another half hour discussion. These lectures are a "distillation" of a course that Professor Koester taught for several years. The course was so popular that the enrollment had to be limited and every class was filled to capacity.



No previous knowledge of the Bible is necessary. Just bring your Bible (if you don't have a Bible, one will be provided to you) and a willingness to learn. **Class is held in the conference room, from 6:30-7:30p.m.**

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

Saturday - 5:30pm

Sunday, Sept 1. -
9:30am

Starting Sept. 8
Sunday - 8:30 am
& 11:00am

Sunday school -
9:45am



Do you play an instrument and/or love to sing? Please consider sharing your love of music with us when choir practices start this month. Everyone is welcome, no experience needed. Join us!

Bell Choir - Wednesdays at 6:30pm, starting September 4

Chancel Choir - Wednesdays at 7:30pm, starting September 4

Praise Choir - Tuesdays at 7:00pm, starting September 3



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

Parent Meeting - There will be a parent information meeting on Sunday, Sept. 8 **during Sunday school hour** for parents with kids planning to come to Sunday school this year. **Please meet in the Chapel** with your children.

NEW FACEBOOK PAGE - for Saint John Youth & Family: Saint John Lutheran Youth & Parent/Guardian. You can find the link to this page on our website under the tab "Youth News."



Classes on Sunday at 9:45am (starting 9/8)



Sept. 4 - Parent & Student Information Meeting 6:30

Classes Wednesdays at 6:30pm

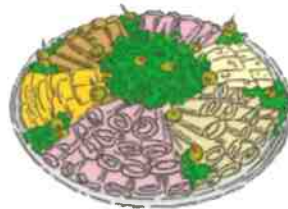


Back-to-Sunday School Family BBQ

Join us at the Back-to-Sunday School Family BBQ on Saturday, September 7, 4:00 - 6:00pm. There will be food, games, a bouncy house and FUN!!



SJ - 101 (New Member Orientation) will be held in October. Classes will be at 9:45am (between services) on October 6, 13, & 20. New Members will be received on October 27 and there will be a reception between services for all to attend.



Funeral Luncheon

FUNERAL LUNCHESES - We are looking for a new funeral luncheon coordinator (or co-coordinators). If you are interested in helping with this ministry of Saint John, please call or email the church office.

The Quilters and Crafters "Takin' It to the Streets" Fundraiser is quickly approaching...Saturday, September 21, 5:00 to 7:00 pm and Sunday, September 22 8:00 am to 12:30 pm. We will have quilts, table toppers/runners, themed baskets, embroidered towels, animal totes, covered clothes hangers, potholders, small paintings, iris bulbs, afghans, hats, scarves, fingerless mittens, dish-cloths, Swiffer fabric covers, wine-cork pumpkins, and more! In addition, there will be a bake sale with lots of tempting goodies and even cookie dough that you can bake at home.

You can pay with cash or check. No credit cards. Write your check to St. John Lutheran Church and write *Quilts* on the memo line. Silent auction winners will be announced at 12:30 on Sunday. You don't have to be present to win; we can call you and tell you the good news. Pay for your Silent Auction item when you pick it up.



“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 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 definitely 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, September 18 2024! You’re most welcome to join us. We will meet between 9:00 A.M. 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 Time Group will meet at Barley’s on Saturday, September 14. Arrive between 6:30 - 7:00pm for a ‘good time’ on Saturday night!

RSVP to Art or Andrea Hill. Please join us!



The Players will again be at Pizza Ranch on Friday, September 6 at 5:00pm, hosted by Dale and Sue Haven. Call if you are interested in visiting with the Players Dining Group of St. John.



Sept. 7 & 8

Patricia Minchin
Elaine von Gillern
Carol Wood
Andrea Hill

Sept. 14 & 15

Cookie Johnson
Becky Taylor
Kim Pace
Diane Hartman

Sept. 21 & 22

Mary Lou Burke
Norma Jones
Joyce Mlynarik
Alan Meilike
Carolyn Clark

Sept. 28 - 29

Marlys Lien
Debbie Plugge
Sandy Cerveny
Andreia Nebel



* Esther Group—September 10 at 9:30am

* Mary Group—September 12 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 Highway. Men of all ages are welcome to join us for a good lunch and great conversation.

Next lunch is September 19.



We are requesting donations of canned fruit & tuna.



A Ministry of Lutheran Churches in SW Iowa

John 14:2-3 New International Version

“My Father’s house has many rooms...I am going there to prepare a place for you...”

Did you know that Bethany Lutheran Home and Bethany Heights Assisted Living (now operating under the name of Bethany Lutheran Health Services or BLHS) are facilities that began as a ministry of your church and others in Southwest Iowa?

In the early 1970’s, the Council Bluffs area experienced a need for affordable housing and care for the elderly. Recognizing the need and answering the call, 15 area Lutheran Churches, individuals and businesses raised funds to construct a 121-bed nursing home care facility to meet those needs. Bethany Lutheran Home named after the village of Bethany in the Bible was established to meet the physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual needs in a faith-based setting. Bethany Lutheran Home opened its doors in 1975.

The 15 Lutheran Churches- Our Savior’s, St. Paul, Timothy, Emanuel, Saint John’s, Faith and Shepherd of the Valley merged with Our Savior’s in Council Bluffs; St. Paul’s Treynor, St. John’s Mineola, St. John’s Hastings, Underwood, St. John’s Honey Creek, St. Paul’s Neola, Trinity and St. John’s in Persia have been the cornerstone of Bethany for many years. Bethany welcomes individuals of all faiths. Our sponsoring congregations as well as Bethany’s Chaplain provide opportunities for spiritual growth through Bible Study, Communion and Worship services and meet the on-going needs of the residents, tenants and staff.

Social needs are met through a variety of activities and programs through the Activities Department. Bingo, crafts, special music programs, socials and monthly Birthday parties by the sponsor congregations are a few of the ways residents, tenants & staff connect.


The Bethany Auxiliary has also played a key role in the history of Bethany. From early rummage sales, bake sales and donut days to ice cream socials and miscellaneous fundraisers today, the Auxiliary has provided funding and various equipment to enhance the lives of those living at Bethany and provide support to the staff. During the pandemic, the Auxiliary purchased tablets to allow residents and tenants to remain connected to their families.

In 1991 the Bethany community expanded. Bethany Heights opened as an independent living facility. Individuals who were not yet ready for nursing home care, but would benefit from a community setting quickly called Bethany Heights home. Studio, one and two bedroom apartments offered something for everyone. Meals served in a dining room, activities and transportation allowed independence and peace of mind. As the physical needs of those residing at Bethany Heights increased, many did not want to leave the place they called home. In 2008, Bethany Heights went through renovations to become a licensed assisted living facility adding in-house nursing care. Unlike other assisted living facilities in the area, Bethany Heights does not have designated independent and assisted living apartments. Couples can move into the facility and remain together. If one needs nursing services and the other does not, care is provided to the individual in their same apartment. Individuals and couples continue to be surrounded by familiarity and friends.

Next year, Bethany will celebrate the 50th anniversary of first opening its doors. Watch your newsletters and bulletins, as we will be observing this significant milestone and we want you to join our celebration of this momentous occasion!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OCTOBER 5.


We’re seeking volunteers of all skills sets to come and help us with a fall clean up. Your participation would be greatly welcomed. More details to come!



Your Church Council Members are hosting a three-part series called *"How Well Do You Know Your Council Members?"*! This event will allow us all to obtain deeper connections with one another as the Council Members will reveal fun facts about themselves in an interactive environment.

The events are to be held on September 15, September 29 and October 6 in the Faith & Life Center between worship services.

Please plan to join us to learn more about this ministry and the active council members. The sessions will prove to be informative and fun!



fall events



Part 1: Sept. 15 at 9:45am

Part 2: Sept. 29 at 9:45am

Part 3: Oct. 6 at 9:45am

JOIN US!!





**Kiewit Luminarium -
Saint John day at Kiewit Luminarium is September 21**

We are thrilled to invite St. John Lutheran Church to a Special Prototyping Event at the Luminarium on Saturday, September 21, 2024. This event is designed to bring together community groups like yours, to explore and engage with newly designed exhibits and interactives in the Luminarium’s collaborative and creative environment. We very much believe that the insights and perspectives from your congregation would greatly heighten and enrich the experience for all future participants.

This Special Prototyping Event is centered around a new and upcoming initiative, which seeks to foster curiosity, dialogue, and respect. Our recently designed prototype exhibits inquire about essential tools for making meaning of the human condition. As a token of our appreciation for your involvement, we are pleased to offer free admission to all members of St. John Lutheran Church who attend this event. This is an excellent opportunity for your congregation to experience our museum's offerings in a new and innovative way, or for the first time!

Your participation will also contribute to the development of future exhibits and engagements within our organization. This event is specifically designed for you and your community to engage with the Luminarium through:






- Playing with exciting exhibit prototypes
-
- Providing valuable feedback
-
- Exploring our entire museum space

Watch the weekly bulletin for more details. There will be a registration link coming and information on where to park and what we will be exploring.

Event Details:

- **Date:** Saturday, September 21, 2024
-
- **Time:** 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
-
- **Location:** Kiewit Luminarium, 345 RiverFront Drive, Omaha, Nebraska
-
- **Activities:** Interactive prototyping sessions, Play with exhibits, Fill out comment cards, Leave comments and thoughts, Have the opportunity to be interviewed onsite for thoughts and feedback



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 - Communion - 9:30am Worship	2 Office Closed 	3	4 9:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Confirmation Student/ Parent Information Mtg. 7:30pm Chancel Choir	5	6 5:00pm Players Dining Group	7  4:00pm Back-to-Sunday School Family BBQ 5:30pm Worship
8  8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School & Parent Meeting 11:00am Worship	9 6:45pm Seekers ChristCare	10 9:30am Esther Group	11 9:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm High school youth 7:30pm Chancel Choir	12 9:00am Mary Group	13	14 - Communion - 5:30pm Worship 6:30pm Good Time Group
15 - Communion - 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 9:45am Part 1 "How well do you know your Council Members" 11:00am Worship	16	17	18 9:00am Quilting Group 9:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm High school youth 7:30pm Chancel Choir	19 11:30am Men's Club	20	21 10:00am Kiewit Luminarium 5:00pm Quilters & Crafters 5:30pm Worship 
22  8:00am Quilters & Crafters 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship	23 9:30am Altar Guild Meeting 6:45pm Seekers ChristCare	24 9:30am Women's Board Meeting 7:00pm Council Mtg.	25 9:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm High school youth 7:30pm Chancel Choir	26 Caller Mailed	27	28 5:30pm Worship
29 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 9:45am Part 2 "How well do you know your Council Members" 11:00am Worship	30					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Elora Simpson Becky Wegner	2 Becky Krauel-Henkel	3 Amy Pedersen Jennifer Pedersen Addilyn Schneider	4 Malachi Hansen	5 Zoey Johnson Angela Nelson Ross Nickerson Colton Pestel Levi VanderMeulen	6	7 Sandy Cerveny Nick DelSignore Judith Fox-Schwabauer Grant McCool Gloria Olson Jack Pope Joyce Steppuhn
8 Lindsay Traeger	9 Phil Hansen Anna Roane	10 Russell Barker Alicia Steppuhn	11 Jill Applegate	12 Katie Warner	13 Anne Benson Thomas Graham Todd Hayes	14 Mary Burmeister Timothy Cash, Jr.
15 Stevi Brougham Eric Haitz Evan Nano Diane Welch	16 Megan Eledge Jason Maas Dallis Thompson Rebecca Thompson Darren Warner	17 Garry Malskeit	18 Pamela Pick Carolyn Wellman	19 Joan Ebersold Max Hayes	20 Mary Lou Burke Chloe Conahan Diane Walters	21 Richard Heiningger Sonya Weltz
22 Beth Matters Tracy Simpson Ryan Vander Helm	23 Sydney Frush Jeri Gardner Tim Means	24 Andrea Hill Pam Wilson	25 Joyce Murphy Rob Riggs	26 Abrams Alderton	27 Wade Taylor	28
29 Kellie Doffin Margaret McCool	30 Valerie Moore Jeanne Trachta					





80th Birthday

Mary Lou Burke (Sept. 20)

91st Birthday

Jack Pope (September 7)

*(Apologies to Jack, who's 90th birthday was mis-labeled last year).

62nd Wedding Anniversary

Gary & Sandy Bronson (Sept. 2)

68th Wedding Anniversary

Earl & Janice Myers (Sept. 29)



Thank you to the Kitchen Committee and Crew who cleaned the kitchen / coffee bar area. (Thanks to Peggy T. for organizing the day).

Dear Saint John family, many, many thank yous for your prayers and concern as expressed by the cards, phone calls, and personal visits. Your love and concern have gotten me this far on the road to recovery. As soon as I have my stamina back, I'll be in church.

~ Patricia

Thank you for the cards & calls I received while I was in the hospital and since returning home. I appreciated all of your thoughts and prayers. A special thank you to Pastor Jon & Marcia for their visit.

Sincerely,
Lana Cruz



Sympathy to the families of...

- ~ Michele "Mikki" Chew
daughter of Tim & Nancy Chew
- ~ Tim Ring, brother of Sue Coe
- ~ Delores Claussen,
mother of Richard Claussen



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

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



SAVE A TREE

Please email us
(info@saintjohnelca.org)
if you no longer wish to
receive this newsletter.
Thank you.



Reminder:

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

September 3

Praise Choir at 7:00pm

September 4

Bell Choir at 6:30pm and Chancel Choir at 7:30pm
Confirmation Mtg. at 6:30pm for all 6th–8th grade
Students & Parents

September 7 - Back-to-Sunday School Family BBQ

4:00 - 6:00pm Games, Food, Bouncy house & FUN!!

September 8 - Rally Sunday

9:45 Sunday school starts! Parent meeting during Sunday
school. Please meet in the chapel.

September 11

Wednesday Night Bible Study at 6:30pm
High school Youth at 6:30pm

September 15

How Well Do You Know Your Council Members? at 9:45am

September 21

Kiewit Luminarium Day 10:00 - 11:30am

September 21 & 22

Quilters and Crafters Fundraiser