



Pastor Jon Benson

Interim Pastor -
Pastor Sharon
Worthington

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

Call Committee Update:

The Call Committee of Saint John has interviewed another candidate for the position of Senior Pastor. I am excited to inform you that, after numerous meetings with the candidate, the committee has voted to refer the name to the church council. Since then, the candidate has met with Scott Hartman (Treasurer), Kim Townsend (Council President), and myself to negotiate a compensation package that is in line with synod guidelines and agreeable to the candidate.

In accordance with our constitution, the next step in the call process required a vote by the church council to refer the candidate's nomination, along with the compensation package, to the congregation for its approval. In accordance with this process, various members of the Call Committee met with the council at its October meeting and, after considerable discussion, the council voted unanimously to refer the candidate's nomination and the compensation package to the congregation.

The final step in the call process involves you, the members of Saint John. A special congregational meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, November 9 at 5:00pm. At this meeting the congregation will vote to extend (or, not to extend) a letter of call to this pastor. Out of respect for this pastor and the congregation this pastor currently serves, the candidate's name will remain confidential until the "meet and greet" scheduled one half hour prior (at 4:30pm) to the congregational vote. Please plan to attend this final and exciting step in this call process.

As you may well know, the Call Committee has spent much time and effort in this call process. In the surveys that were conducted to identify what you wanted us to look for in our next pastor you asked for someone with strong preaching skills, good communication, someone that is authentic, affirming and available, someone that is interested in helping us build our youth program and someone that works with us but doesn't necessarily do things for us. This candidate presents as having many of these attributes as strengths and areas of expertise. Please come and meet our candidate on November 9 and prepare to vote.

Lastly, I want to express my gratitude to the Pastoral Call team for all their work. This has been a long and difficult process and they have stayed the course. I also want to thank you, members of Saint John, for your input and prayers during the last year.

Blessings to each of you,
Becky Henkel
President of the Pastoral Call Committee

Special Congregational Meeting:

As Council President, I invite you to a Special Congregational Meeting on **Saturday, November 9, 2024 at 5:00pm** to vote to extend, or not to extend, a letter of call to a Pastoral candidate to be named at the meeting, along with the compensation package agreeable to the candidate.

On Saturday, prior to the vote, a "meet and greet" with the candidate has been scheduled from 4:30 – 5:00pm here at Saint John. You are all invited and encouraged to come and meet the candidate and ask questions. The candidate will then leave, and a Congregational meeting will start at 5:00pm and conclude before the 5:30pm worship service. Please join us on the 9th!

Kim Townsend
Council President

Saturday - 5:30pm

Sunday - 8:30 am
& 11:00am

Sunday school -
9:45am



Sundays at 9:45am
Pre-K - 5th grade

Kids Singing -
Nov. 17 at 8:30

SAVE THE DATE!!
Sat., December 7.

Kids will practice for the Christmas program, then families are invited to join in for some fun! More details to come!



Annual Thanksgiving Eve Pie Social

Wednesday, November 27 after the 7:00pm service. Please bring a pre-cut pie to share!



Welcome to Saint John!

The following members were received into our care on October 27. Please welcome them!

Barby James

David & Rev. Celeste Waymire

Jordan & Chelsey Hirt and Leightynn

Jace Cochran & Jessalyn Brockman and Reid Brockman, Rory Cochran

Brian & Brandy Danker Christensen Sophia, Scarlett, Presley and Carter



LECTOR / COMMUNION / GREETER SIGN UP

Please consider being a steward of Live the Word by signing up to Lector, be a Communion Assistant or a Greeter. The sign-up sheet is located on our website! Go to the "SERVE" tab, then click on 'DURING WORSHIP' you'll see the button for Lector sign up. Pick a date that works for you! (Lector readings are mailed to you a week in advance).

NEW VISIONS - 'GIVE HOPE' GIFT TAGS

Our annual gift tags will be out during most of November! They are collecting the gifts early this year. Last date to donate: **December 1**



COMMUNITY-WIDE THANKSGIVING DINNER

Volunteers are needed for various preparations and for help on Thanksgiving Day. There is more information on the bulletin board outside the office. You can contact cbthanksgivingdinner@gmail.com

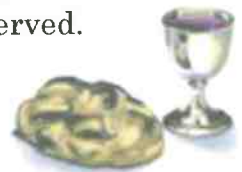
First Communion Classes:

November 17, 12:00 - 2:00pm

November 24, 12:00 - 2:00pm

Classes are for all current 5th graders, and those older who have not yet received communion. Lunch will be served.

First communion will take place on November 27 at Thanksgiving Eve Service, 7:00pm



SAINT JOHN FOUNDATION GRANTS

Saint John Foundation grant applications will be accepted from October 1 through December 1. An application form is available outside the office door; or if you would like one sent to you, email or call the church office.





“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 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!

Save the date! Next meeting is Wednesday, November 20, 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 on November 9 at Tish’s Restaurant, 1207 S. 35th Ave., at 6:00pm.

Please make reservations with Mike and Phyllis by Nov. 5. You can call or text 402-319-2190 or email pedamgaard@hotmail.com

We’re always glad to welcome new members. Please join us on the 9th!



Players Group

The Players Dining Group will be meeting at the Olive Garden on Friday, November 1 at 5:00pm. Roger and Mary Burmeister are hosting.

Any new members who would like to join, please let Roger or Mary know.



November 2 & 3

Patricia Minchin
Elaine von Gillern
Carol Wood
Andrea Hill

November 9 & 10

Cookie Johnson
Becky Taylor
Kim Pace
Diane Hartman

November 16 & 17

Mary Lou Burke
Norma Jones
Joyce Mlynarik
Alan Meilike

November 23 & 24

Thanksgiving Eve
Marlys Lien
Debbie Plugge
Carolyn Clark
Sandy Cerveny



* Esther Group—November 12 at 9:30am

* Mary Group—November 14 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 November 21.



We are requesting donations of canned tuna and ramen noodles.



November 2024: National Adoption Month

November is National Adoption Month! Lutheran Services in Iowa has served adoptive and foster families for decades, helping to ensure every child has a safe and loving home. For over a year, we joined with Four Oaks Foster and Adoption Services to better serve the families of Iowa. As a subcontractor, we continue to train and support foster, adoptive, and kin families in the western side of the state. Our team has served over 700 families through assistance during the licensing process and by providing on-going support and development in the past fiscal year.

To learn more about our Foster Care and Adoption services, please visit www.lsiowa.org/foster-care-adoption.

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

LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and facebook.com/LSI.iowa.



Celebrating 50 Years of Service at Bethany Lutheran Health Services!

As we approach the 50th year of serving our community, Bethany Lutheran Health Services is excited to announce a series of special events throughout 2025, marking this important milestone. We invite you and your congregation to join us in celebrating our rich history and continued legacy of serving the community.

Kick-off Celebration: Sunday, January 12, 2025

We'll start the year with a 50th Year Kick-off Celebration, beginning with a business meeting at 1:30PM, featuring key presentations by Chaplain, Board President, Administrator, Foundation President, and Auxiliary President. While everyone is welcome, board delegates and pastors are especially invited to attend the business meeting. At 2:00PM, we'll have entertainment, snacks, and an opportunity to celebrate. This will be a great opportunity to reflect on the journey of Bethany and look forward to its bright future. We hope everyone is able to participate in the celebration.

- Location: Bethany Lutheran Home, Upper Dining Rm
- Time: 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

50 Years of Service Celebration: Sun., June 1, 2025

Join us as we commemorate 50 years of service to the community. Mayor Matt Walsh will speak on the impact Bethany has made in the region. We'll have activities for all ages, including games and entertainment. We'll also be hosting a silent auction to raise funds for our new buses as part of our Capital Campaign. These buses will ensure that residents and tenants can continue to participate in enriching activities throughout the community, enhancing their quality of life.

- Location: Bethany Lutheran Health Services
- Time: 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM

We encourage you to consider joining us for these special events. Your support has been invaluable to Bethany, and we look forward to celebrating with you as we honor our past and build our future.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>3 - Communion - 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 9:45am Fellowship Event - 'Table Topics' 11:00am Worship</p>	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p>10 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship</p>	11 6:45pm Seekers ChristCare	12 9:30am Esther Group 5:30pm Grief Group Graduates 7:00pm Praise Choir	13 9:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm High school youth 7:30pm Chancel Choir	14 9:00am Mary Group	15	16 - Communion - 5:30pm Worship
<p>17 - Communion - 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:00 First Communion Class</p>	18	19 7:00pm Praise Choir	20 <i>Caller Mailed</i> 9:00am Quilting 9:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm High school youth 7:30pm Chancel Choir	21 11:30am Men's Club	22	23 5:30pm Worship
<p>24 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:00 First Communion Class</p>	25 6:45pm Seekers ChristCare	26 7:00pm Praise Choir 7:00pm Council Mtg.	27 7:00pm Thanksgiving Eve Service & Pie Social 	28 <i>Office Closed</i> <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i> 	29 <i>Office Closed</i>	30 - Communion - 5:30pm Worship
					1 5:00pm Players Dining Group	2 - Communion - 5:30pm Worship
						<p>4:30pm Meet & Greet 5:00pm Congregational Meeting 5:30pm Worship 6:00pm Good Time Group</p>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Jeyda Alderton Roberta Califf Sandra Newberg	2 Molly Fellows Roman Townsend
3 Jacob Nation	4 Amy Gann Luke Harm Caitlin Pestel	5 Chloe Perfect	6 Jeff Hamling Alden Kennedy	7 Ian Humlicek Cora Pestel	8 Kristy Harm Ron Neal	9 Denise Fischer Labonna Jeffrey Beth Peckacek
10 Christina Hotchkiss Bev Sollday	11	12 Cheyenne Hill Dave Johnson	13 Audrey Clanton	14 Jacqueline Boyesen	15 Art Hill	16
17 Erin Schultz Vivian Townsend	18 Laura Nelson Norma Pope Cathy Sahl Beran Stroup	19 Mackenzie Frush	20	21	22 Richard Claussen Julie Ruzicka Burke Swenson	23 Darryl Delfs
24 Tammy Burdick Marjorie Giles	25	26 Blaire Burdick Scott Hartman Grant Muehlig	27 Joe Bertelsen Dennis Gunderson James Senkbile	28 Megan Petersen	29 Lori Thomas	30 Linda Hoel Alice VanderMeulan



YOU ARE INVITED TO

75th

ANNIVERSARY
NOVEMBER 12TH,
1949

IN HONOUR OF

**ROY & LOIS
ADAMS**

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16TH
2PM-4PM


3000 RISEN SON BLVD.
IN THE GATHERING PLACE

NO GIFTS PLEASE!

WITH Sympathy

Sympathy to the families of...

- ~ Mike Sales
- ~ Lucille Engebretson,
Grandmother of
Carrie Solon



*Celebrating
-WITH-
you*

99th Birthday
Marjorie Giles (Nov. 24)

75th Wedding Anniversary
Roy & Lois Adams (Nov. 12)

Congratulations to Ted Roberts on his promotion to the rank of Captain in the Council Bluffs Police Dept. We are grateful for his service.

Thank you to everyone for all the phone calls, texts, cards, words of encouragement and food. It's so nice to be in the Saint John Family.

Peggy Tye

Words cannot express how thankful I am for my Saint John family. Thank you so much for the flowers, food deliveries, cards, texts, and most of all your prayers for my recovery following my back surgery on Oct. 3. The first couple of weeks were a little rough but I am moving better and feeling better every day. I am so thankful to have it over and to be on the recovery side. Thank you again for all that you provided during my recovery. Blessings to each of you,

Becky Henkel



THE BEST OF IRELAND
11 Days: July 21 - 31, 2025

Visiting Waterford, Killarney, Cliffs of Moher, Galway, Connemara, Sligo, and Dublin.

Registrations are being taken now. Forms can be found on the welcome table and in the office.

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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Council Bluffs, IA
Permit No. 68
Zip Plus Four
Change Service Requested

PLEASE NOTE:

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING on NOVEMBER 9 at 5:00pm.
(Please refer to the front page of the Caller).



Collecting hats, gloves, scarfs and coats until November 17.



New Visions
'Give Hope' gift tags will be out on the coffee bar soon.
Last day to bring a gift: Dec. 1

November

9th - 4:30pm "Meet & Greet" with candidate
5:00pm Special Congregational Meeting

17th - 12:00pm 5th grade First Communion Class
& 24th (lunch served)

27th - 7:00pm Thanksgiving Eve
Service
& Annual Pie Social



SAVE THE DATE - December 7th
Practice for 'Christmas Roadtrip',
the Sunday School Christmas
program, followed by
Cookies, Cocoa & Jesus family
event. More details to come.

