



The Caller

Saint John Lutheran Church



Pastor Jon Benson



Pastor Lisa Johnson

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

**Saturday - 5:30pm
&
Sunday - 8:30 am
& 11:00am**

**Sunday school -
9:45am**



Carol Joy Holling

Camp, Conference & Retreat Center

Confirmation Student get a summer experience to remember. The theme for camp this year is (un)Equal. As students get to experience high ropes, team building, music, worship, Bible Study, Gaga ball, games, boating, archery, and so much more they will also explore different parts of the Holy Trinity. "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." Revelation 22:13. God shows up in our lives through many different ways. Students will not only explore who they are, but who God is in their lives forever. What a gift to join together July 16-21, at the Springs Site, in God's creation. The Holy Spirit is at work through every voice, every song, and every game. Any other youth or child who would like to attend camp they will enjoy a similar theme with unique activities for each age group. Saint John covers \$150/camper. Please see the camp website for more information. <https://www.caroljoyholling.org/>



Vacation Bible School this summer has a menu full of fun, learning, and worship. What a joy to gather June 12-15th to play games, eat together, enjoy Bible Study, create crafts, and sing and dance together. Keep an eye out for registration which will be online and there will be paper copies as well. Vacation Bible School this year invites children PreK-5th graders to get on a roll with God in Matthew 6:11;

"Give us this day our daily bread." Children will learn that everything we have comes from God – and our daily needs are met by God. Children will learn to pray daily while exploring stories in the Old and New Testaments. What a Food Truck Party this will be! Spread the word for this fun community VBS.

The High School Mission focus on God's creation. exploring the world in



MOSAIC

will serve at Mosaic. Who according to their website serve by empowering people to live as independently as possible from serving senior care, behavioral health and autism, and intellectual and developmental disabilities. God has created a beautiful and expansive world with beautiful and creative people. What a joy it will be to focus on what God has given us all and what that means for our lives. Keep your eyes open for the date of this great adventure. All current 8th graders through 12th graders are eligible for this experience.

Trip this summer will While camping and which we live in youth

Joyfully,
Pastor Lisa



March 5 - Class 9:45am

March 12 - Class 9:45am

March 19 - Choir on Fire Singing at 8:30am Service
- Class 9:45am



March 26 - Class 9:45am
Practice for Palm Sunday



March 1 - No class, work on Lent project;
7:00 Service

March 4 - Sledding at Mt. Crescent 6:00-9:00pm
(adult must be present)

March 8 - March 15 - March 22 - March 29

- ⇒ No Classes, work on your Lent projects;
- ⇒ Services at 7:00pm



March 1 - 6:00pm gathering

March 4 - Sledding at Mt. Crescent 6:00-9:00pm

March 8 - 6:00pm gathering; 7:00 Service

March 15 - 6:00pm gathering; 7:00 Service

March 22 - 6:00pm gathering; 7:00 Service

March 29 - 6:00pm gathering; 7:00 Service




SJ - 101 (New Member Orientation)

Sundays at 9:45am on February 26, March 5 and 12.
New Members will be received on March 19.

Please call the church office if you want more information, 323-7173.

Wednesday nights in March.
March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29



Meal - 5:30pm

Lenten Series:

How Firm a Foundation

7:00pm Service,
Wednesday nights in March



How Firm a Foundation Capital Appeal Happenings:

March 4 / 5 - Kick-off Weekend!

You should receive a mailing this week, and you can pick up a devotion booklet at Church.

March 18 / 19 - Join us for Mission Fest!

March 18 (after 5:30 service) and March 19 (between services), come and see all the people and places that Hear, Live, and Share the Word with Saint John. Visit their tables and learn more about the groups within our Church and the groups in our community.

- ⇒ Lord of Love Brass playing at all services
- ⇒ New Member Reception on Sunday

April 1 / 2 - Commitment Sunday!

We will have the in-gathering of pledges at all services. There will be a meal served after the Saturday night service. The **Pancake Man** will be here on Sunday morning.





From the Quilting Group:

“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.” ~ Isaiah 40. This is what we do. Why we quilt... We make quilts to comfort people. We make them from the repurposed scraps 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 distressed and in need of shelter.

You're 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, and it delivers warmth and comfort to those who need it most.

Come as you are able. The Saint John Quilting Group wants to welcome you! If you are thinking about it, please know we will make you feel welcome as we tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief! Experience not required. In this ministry of serving, we set aside time each time we meet to enjoy fellowship, devotions, and snacks!

Next meeting is Wednesday, March 15, 2023! You're most welcome to join in. We meet between 9:00am and Noon at Saint John, in the Faith and Life Center. All ages are welcome! See you then! For more information, please call Sue Pagan at 712-325-0257.



Good Times Group

The Good Times Group will meet on March 10 at 6:30pm at the Twisted Tail in Beebeetown.

* Please RSVP to Claudia & Andy Besco 712-366-4507.

Call or text Phyllis at 402-319-2190 if you want to know more about the Good Times Group.



March 4 & 5

Cookie Johnson
Becky Taylor
Kim Pace

March 11 & 12

Mary Lou Burke
Norma Jones
Joyce Mlynarik
Alan Meilike

March 18 & 19

Marlys Lien
Mary Jensen
Debbie Plugge
Andreia Nebel

March 25 & 26

Patricia Minchin
Elaine von Gillern
Carol Wood



* Esther Group—March 14 at 9:30am

* Mary Group—March 9 at 9:00am



The Men's Club meets every 3rd Thursday of the month at 11:30am. **NOTE new location:** 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. Call the office or sign up on the attendance sheet if you plan to attend. Next lunch is March 16.



A special request for our pantries this month is Ramen Noodles.



March 2023

LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article

March is National Professional Social Work Month

March is National Professional Social Work Month! Take time this month to recognize social workers in your life and thank them for all they do. At Lutheran Services in Iowa, we want to give thanks to all our social workers who do such important work every single day. Without you, LSI wouldn't be able to provide the essential services that Iowa families need.

Our social workers provide a variety of services to families in Iowa, such as crisis child care, in-home programs and classes for parents. These services provide families the support and education they need to care for their young children.

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

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. 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](https://facebook.com/LSI.iowa).



Bethany Auxiliary News

The Auxiliary meeting was held on January 9 at the Heights. Officers were elected: President – Jan Stone (Emanuel), Vice President – Sylvia Lilly (St. John Mineola), Secretary – Rose Hansen (St. John CB), Treasurer – Norma Vorthmann (St. Paul Treynor). Reports were given by Tracey Gebehart, Director at the Home, CeCe Mickells, Spiritual Advisor, Angel Watts, Activities at the Home and Michael Thomas, Activities at the Heights. Old business discussed duties of the Key Ladies and balance to keep in checking account. New business discussed the possibility of bringing back the ice cream social this summer.

Remember that the Auxiliary membership “shall consist of every person who is a member of a congregation affiliated with Bethany Lutheran Health Services”. The Purpose shall be “to promote love in action, to assist with leisure time activities and projects, and to promote volunteer services at the Home and the Heights by serving in areas that otherwise would require paid staff.” Each congregation is represented by a “Key Lady” but we are always looking for others to join our meetings. If interested, contact the Key Lady at your church.

Activities at the Home and the Heights are so much more than just bingo and birthday parties.....church services & communion, walking club, cards & board games, entertainment like Elvis, movies, tailgate parties and the Super Bowl, Valentine Party and crafts and exercise classes The Heights will be making trips to Pizza King, Farmhouse Café, Henry's Diner to name a few and a drive in the country, Valentine's Day party & Mardi Gras party. In February Michael will be smoking a Pork Shoulder for pulled pork sandwiches and also making chili for the residents.

March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>5 - Communion - How Firm a Foundation Kick-off! 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship</p>	6	7	<p>1 9:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Lenten Meal 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Lenten Service 7:45pm Chancel Choir</p>	2	3	<p>18 - Communion - How Firm a Foundation Kick-off! 5:30pm Worship</p>
<p>12 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship</p>	<p>13 6:45pm Seekers ChristCare</p>	<p>14 9:30am Esther Group 7:00pm Praise Team</p>	<p>8 9:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Lenten Meal 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Lenten Service 7:45pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>9 9:00am Mary Group 5:30pm Grief Group</p>	<p>10 6:00pm Good Times Group</p>	<p>11 5:30pm Worship</p>
<p>19 - Communion - *MISSION FEST* 8:30am Worship Choir on Fire Singing Baptism - Frerck 9:45am New Member Reception 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship</p>	<p>20 6:45pm Seekers ChristCare</p>	<p>21 7:00pm Praise Team</p>	<p>15 9:00am Quilting Group 9:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Lenten Meal 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Lenten Service 7:45pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>16 11:30am Men's Club 5:30pm Grief Group</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 - Communion - *MISSION FEST* 5:30pm Worship Baptism - Wigen</p>
<p>26 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship</p>	<p>27 6:45pm Seekers ChristCare</p>	<p>28 7:00pm Council Mtg. 7:00pm Praise Team</p>	<p>22 9:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Lenten Meal 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Lenten Service 7:45pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>23 5:30pm Grief Group</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 5:30pm Worship</p>
	<p>29 9:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Lenten Meal 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Lenten Service 7:45pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Matt Conahan Ron Hansen Bruce Rasmussen Douglas Smith	2 Kyle Gann Aaron Pedersen	3	4 LoriAnn Brougham Beth Myre Anaka Speer
5 Morgan Malskeit Tyler Messenger Lynn Pukall Steven Simpson Toni Wilson	6 William Hansen	7 Barbara Farris Kelvin Nelson Kristin Nelson Ashley Plumer	8 Dana Doebelin Edward Nemecek Charles Tawzer	9 Linda Sorensen	10 Linda Muehlig	11 Britney Cates Tracy Doebelin Sydney Meyer
12 Nathan Schulte Samantha Urbanek	13 Heidi Hansen	14	15 Bruce Anderson Cailey Hartenhoff Marcia Rodgers	16 Betty Freeiland Randy Roenfeld	17 Joy Fedson Eric Hansen Pam Schulte	18 Andrew Besco Becky Versch
19 Addison Archer Zackary Archer Mike Ashbaugh	20	21 Marlene Hansen	22	23 Grayson Schneider Jeanna Steppuhn	24 Julie Boggs Amy Malskeit	25 Beckie Gue Diane Jacobsen Sarah Koesters Debbie Plugge
26	27 Thorin Boysen Lenny Burke Tasha Konfrst Adam Solon Josie Solon	28 Kelsey Meyer	29 Tye Nebel Donna Riggs	30 Anders Boysen	31 Paul Lien Kerri Nelson Evan Solon	

HAPPY
Birthdays
FROM YOUR
CHURCH FAMILY



92nd Birthday

Ron Hansen (Mar. 1)
135 McKenzie Circle
Council Bluffs, IA 51503

93rd Birthday

Barb Farris (Mar. 7)
3205 7th Avenue
Council Bluffs, IA 51501

96th Birthday

Chuck Tawzer (Mar. 8)
458 Huntington Ave.
Council Bluffs, IA 51503

57th Wedding Anniversary

Mike & Diane Ashbaugh (Mar. 12)
15154 Pine Terrace Dr.
Council Bluffs, IA 51503

76th Wedding Anniversary

Chuck & Lottie Tawzer (Mar. 29)
458 Huntington Ave.
Council Bluffs, IA 51503



Many thanks to my friends at Saint John for the cards and flowers following my recent heart attack.

~ Terri Damgaard



Altar Flowers

If you would like to provide altar flowers in memory of, or in honor of someone, please call the church office to order.

Sympathy to the families of....

- ~ Larry Gittins
- ~ Steven Docken, son of Kris Docken
- ~ Jean Kraft, aunt of Karen Bramman
- ~ Donna Holly
- ~ Lynn Meyer step-sister of Jamie Loose-Ives
- ~ LaVonne Miller



Saint John Lutheran Church Staff

Senior Pastor: Rev. E. Jon Benson (JonBenson@SaintJohnELCA.org)
 Pastor Children, Youth & Family: Rev. Lisa Johnson (lisajohnson.saintjohn@gmail.com)
 Parish Ministry Coordinator: Patricia S. Minchin
 Sound Booth volunteers: Mack Bertelsen, Paul Schmidt
 Chancel Choir Director: Sam Schroeder
 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: Debbie Baird

Church 712-323-7173 ~ Fax 712-323-7174
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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SAVE A TREE

**Please call us
(712-323-7173)
if you no longer wish to
receive this newsletter.
Thank you.**



March

Wednesday Nights - 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

5:30pm Lenten Meal / 7:00pm Lenten Service

4/5th - Capital Campaign kick-off!

18/19th - Mission Fest & New Member Reception

April

1/2nd - Palm Sunday

'How Firm a Foundation' Commitment Sunday
(Pancake Man 9:30am - 12:45pm)

6th - Maundy Thursday Service 7:00pm

7th - Good Friday Service 7:00pm

8th - Holy Saturday Service 5:30pm

9th - Easter Services 6:30, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am

