



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 - 9:30 am

Editor's Note: We found this in our Caller archives from 2018. We thought this message is still appropriate for us today as we kick off the summer.

He gives to His beloved sleep.....

I trust that your summer is going well, hopefully with your schedules becoming less hectic and your "load" a bit lightened. God did not create us to be going 24/7, 365 ¼ days a year. This means rest (and worship) every Sabbath and time for recreation (or, better yet, "re-creation"!!!) at various seasons of the year. Such rest and re-creation is good for the family and good for the soul. Not only is rest commanded by God, it is a gift from God. As Psalm 127:2 reminds weary sojourners: "It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for He (God) gives to his beloved sleep."

For this reason, I am concerned by recent reports that an increasing number of American workers are not taking some (or any) of their earned vacation. What the English poet and author, George MacDonald, wrote over a hundred years ago is still applicable today: "Work is not always required of man. There is such a thing as sacred idleness, the cultivation of which is now fearfully neglected." No doubt, the reasons for this are varied: perhaps there are those who cannot afford it financially; or, perhaps, others have the mistaken notion that things at the office just can't go on without them; or any number of other such excuses we tell ourselves.

Clearly with Psalm 127 in mind, Charles Peguy writes a poem entitled, "Sleep." In the poem we hear God speak:

Sleep is perhaps the most beautiful thing I have created.
And I myself rested on the seventh day....
Poor people, they don't know what is good.
They look after their business very well
during the day.
But they haven't enough confidence in me
to let me look after it during the night.
As if I wasn't capable of looking
after it during one night.....
And I say Blessed, blessed is the man
who puts off what he has to
do until tomorrow.
Blessed is he who puts off.
That is to say, Blessed is he who hopes.
And who sleeps.

God bless all of you in your rest and re-creation this summer. Take the time to enjoy your family, friends and loved ones; and take the time to nurture your faith.

Pastor Jon



CHORAL DIRECTOR NEEDED –
Sam Schroeder has resigned as our Choir Director. If you have a degree in music, or know someone who does, we are looking for a new Choir Director. Anyone interested can contact the office at 712-323-7173.



“Summer Kick-Off”

Please join us for a youth mission trip potluck fundraiser! Come enjoy yard games, a good meal, and fellowship.

When: Sunday, June 18
Where: Bayliss Park
Time: 11:00am - 1:00pm



⇒ Bring your own chair and a side dish.
(Hotdogs and hamburgers provided).



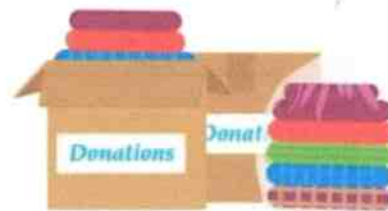
**FOOD TRUCK PARTY
JUNE 12 -15
5:00-8:00pm**

- ⇒ Turn in your registration form
- ⇒ Sign up to be a VBS volunteer (on the board near the library table)
- ⇒ Sign up to donate a food item (also on a board by the table)



Confirmation was held on May 7 at 11:00am

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Easton Elam | Reese Ruzicka |
| Rylee Loose-Ives | Josie Solon |
| Emma McCool | Adam Solon |
| Caden Nepple | Samantha Urbanek |
| Catherine Perfect | Grace Warner |
| Brody Phillips | |



SJL Quilting Group is asking for donations of cotton fabric to make comforting quilts with. Please deliver just outside the church office. Thank you so much for your generosity!

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, June 21, 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. *** DONATIONS of cotton fabric are needed ***



The Players will meet on Thursday, June 1 at 5:30pm at the Dew Drop Inn in McClelland. There will be a carpool available if wanted.

RSVP to Andrea & Art Hill by May 30. Email - hill.andrea.a@gmail.com



June 3 & 4

Mary Lou Burke
Norma Jones
Joyce Mlynarik
Alan Meilike

June 10 & 11

Marlys Lien
Mary Jensen
Debbie Plugge
Sandy Cerveney

June 17 & 18

Patricia Minchin
Elaine von Gillern
Carol Wood
Andrea Hill

June 24 & 25

Cookie Johnson
Becky Taylor
Kim Pace
Diane Hartman



* Esther Group - June 13 at 9:30am
* Mary Group - June 8 at 9:00am



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. Call the office or sign up on the attendance sheet if you plan to attend. Next lunch is June 15.



A special request for our pantries this month is creamy peanut butter.



June 2023,

LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story
Happy Father's Day!

At LSI, we strive to empower and celebrate fathers and father figures in every stage of their life. This Father's Day, take some time to celebrate and show appreciation to all the male role models in your life.

Through our Early Childhood Services, we provide fathers with the education and resources they need to become the best parents and caregivers they can be. In our Clinical Services Department, we support fathers and father figures by providing individuals with mental health counseling and the tools they need to create bright futures for their families.

Many Iowa children entering foster care need a positive male role model in their lives. In our Foster Care and Adoption services, we support male individuals through the process of expanding their families, or becoming a new parent altogether.

We are able to provide these services to fathers of young children with the generous support from people like you! Thank you for responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service!

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

Providing Support for First-Time Parents

Brandon and Nevaeh first heard about LSI's Early Childhood services at the hospital, following the birth of their first child. As many first-time parents, they were looking for support and guidance through this exciting time in their life.

"I'm really glad that we took the leap and chose to participate in LSI's Early Childhood program. This program has taken a lot of stress off of us by providing us with resources that walk us through the developmental process, and to know where our baby is at through each stage," said Brandon.

Brandon and Nevaeh work with Erica, an LSI Family Support Worker in our Early Childhood department. "The home-visits with Erica have been extremely beneficial," expressed Brandon. "The resources and educational materials she provides us help us to understand the developmental milestones that we should be expecting at every stage of our child's life."

"Our baby is 10 months old now, and we are still learning a lot through LSI's Early Childhood program. Having support groups and people that you can reach out to with questions is essential," said Brandon. "To any first-time parents, I'd definitely recommend LSI's Early Childhood program."

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.



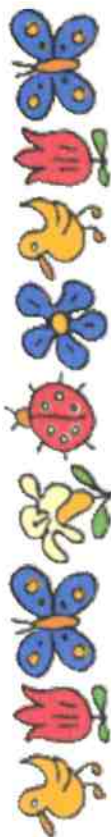
June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 5:30pm Players 5:30pm Grief Group	2	3 - Communion - 5:30pm Worship <i>Baptism</i>
4 - Communion - 9:30am Worship <i>Baptism</i>	5	6 7:00pm Praise Team	7 9:00am Bible Study	8 9:00am Mary Group 5:30pm Grief Group	9	10 5:30pm Worship
11 9:30am Worship <i>Baptism</i> * Decorate for VBS	12	13 9:30 Esther Group	14 9:00am Bible Study	15 VBS - 'FOOD TRUCK PARTY' 5:00 - 8:00pm (light supper will be served) 11:30am Men's Club	16	17 - Communion - 5:30pm Worship
18 - Communion - 9:30am Worship 11:00 -1:00pm 'Summer Kick-off' Bayliss Park cook out	19	20	21 9:00am Quilting Group 9:00am Bible Study	22 5:30pm Grief Group	23	24 5:30pm Worship
25 9:30am Worship	26	27 7:00pm Council Mtg.	28 9:00am Bible Study	29 <i>Caller Mailed</i> 5:30pm Grief Group	30	

Saint John Lutheran Church
Birthdays

June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 Bobbette Behrens Amy Brandt Arran Nailor Baylor Swenson Brody Upson Giles Whitney	5 John Sundermann	6 Deamion Arnold Cael Malskett Douglas Muehlig Devin Nailor Allison Steppuhn	7 Jill Drustrup Ava Kennedy	8 Maverick Archer Tracy Frush Curt Schulte	9 Akyra Freeman Stephani Hansen Jenna Loose-Ives	10 Scott Behrens Braylyn Huffman Susan Malskeit Mackenzie Manson Tara Sadr
11 Stephanie Coats Taylor Nickerson Renee Northwall Austin Walters	12 Zoey Coonce Robert Kossow Lori Preston Debbie Weaver	13	14 Camryn Moon	15 Colleen Murphy-Hertz Kari Olson Lexie Sieck	16 Taylor Wilken	17
18	19 Ryan Behrens Carina Ceballos-Kleckner Avary Maas	20 Mark Anderson Tim Ostronic	21 Brynna Huffman James Vandevanter Emilia Wylor	22 Easton Elam Lois Jordan Megan Michael	23 Jacob Erickson Jesse Hall Marbeth Hamilton Nate Roane	24
25 Patricia Nemecek	26 Jean Hornback Barbara Vredeveid	27 Marylin Covalciuc Emily Hovey David Sieck	28 Boyd Arnold Jon Benson Ashelynne Fisher Libby Riggs Hillary Senkbile McKenna Wigen Elijah Wylor	29 Carol Brigandi Debbie McAtee Michael Northwall	30 Jacob Goulet Suzanna Goulet Josh Mauch Lindsey Northwall Gracelyn Taylor	



*Celebrating
-WITH-
you*

80th Birthday

Pat Nemecek (June 25)

92nd Birthday

Marbeth Hamilton (June 23)

93rd Birthday

Jean Hornback (June 26)

50th Wedding Anniversary

Lane & Debbie Plugge (June 2)

67th Wedding Anniversary

AJ & Marie Neal (June 17)



June 18



Baptisms

Nathan Taylor, and daughter Gracelyn were baptized on May 13.

Hattie Rindone was baptized on May 28.



Sympathy to the families of...

~ Donna Rathje
Grandmother of Pastor Lisa

The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quite alone with the heavens, nature and God.



Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be and that God wishes to see people happy, amidst the simple beauty of nature. As long as this exists, and it certainly always will, I know that then there will always be comfort for every sorrow, whatever the circumstances may be. And I firmly believe that nature brings solace in all troubles.

—Anne Frank, *Diary of a Young Girl*

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:
- 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

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Council Bluffs, IA 51501-4242

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SAVE A TREE

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

VBS FOOD TRUCK PARTY



June 12 - 15th
5:00 - 8:00pm



Other summer youth activities:

Confirmation Camp at Carol Joy Holling - July 16 -21 at the Springs

High school mission trip - July 23 - July 29