



Pastor Jon Benson

As most of you know by now, Pastor Lisa has submitted her resignation as Pastor for Children, Youth and Families, with her last Sunday being September 24. Initially, she intends to do an interim “solo” pastorate for a few churches in and around the Shenandoah area. Ultimately, however, she would like possibly to find a church in the Denver, Colorado area, so that she may join her husband, Lamy. We certainly wish Pastor Lisa our best, as she makes this next step in her journey. Moreover, we are grateful for these last six years of her ministry at Saint John, the first four years as a deacon, and the last two years as an ordained pastor. Her ministry at Saint John has made an impact on our congregation, one that will continue to be felt for years to come.

As you may also know, this puts Saint John at a bit of a “crossroad,” with all sorts of conversations, decisions and planning needed for the future direction of our congregation and its ministry. **Most pressing** among these, of course, is to **identify a person who might serve as an interim**, one who would help with preaching duties and provide leadership for our confirmation and Sunday school ministries. The Executive Committee of our church council will be working with the Western Iowa Synod staff to address this immediate need. **Rest assured: every effort will be made to maintain the ministerial duties that were the responsibility of Pastor Lisa.**

Just as significant (though less pressing) is the need for members of Saint John to **engage in conversation about the future direction of our congregation and its ministry**, what some have referred to a “Phase III.” For that purpose, a number of congregational forums will be scheduled, not just on Sunday morning between services, but also on Saturday evening following 5:30 worship. All members of Saint John will be encouraged to attend. **Your thoughts and ideas (even “dreams”), as well as your prayers, will be highly valued and important as we discern the leading of the Holy Spirit for the future of Saint John.**

In tandem with these conversations and discernment will be the **formation of a Call Committee**. According to our constitution, this call committee is to be “**elected by the Congregation Council**” (C9.02.). Ideally, the Call Committee should be a cross-section of our congregation, representing the various ages and ministries of Saint John. Part of this committee’s responsibility will be to develop a congregational profile, some of which will reflect our conversations about the future ministry of Saint John. Once this Call Committee is elected and begins its work, the congregation will be asked for even more input. When the time comes, this committee, with the help of the Western Iowa Synod staff, will begin the interview process.

As with the departure of any pastor, the next number of months will be a time of grieving and transition, perhaps even a bit of “handwringing.” Even so, the departure of a pastor can also provide a congregation with new possibilities and directions for its future. In such times, **things like prayer, conversation and listening (both to one another and to God) become all the more important.** To that end, we invite you, members of Saint John, to keep our congregation and its leadership in your prayers, as well as to share your questions, ideas and thoughts, as we together discern the Spirit’s leading for the future ministry and mission of Saint John Lutheran Church.

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

Worship Times

Saturday - 5:30pm

Sunday - 8:30 am &
11:00am

Sunday school
9:45am



Oct. 1 - Class 9:45am

Oct. 8 - Class 9:45am

Oct. 15 - Class 9:45am; COF sings at 11:00am
* 3yr. & 3rd grade Bibles at any service

Oct. 22 - Class 9:45am

Oct. 29 - Trunk or Treat
9:45am, wear your costumes!



NEW Sunday school notes:

1. We are going to collect offering during the opening exercises. Money collected will be used for a service project in the near future.
2. Choir on Fire will sing at the 11:00 service. Dates can be found on the schedule handout.
3. We want to celebrate children's birthdays. Please fill out the registration form.



Oct. 4 - Companion Night,
6:30pm

Oct. 7 - Family Campfire
and Hot Dog Roast at Doug
& Pat Thompson's,
3:30 - 5:30pm

Oct. 11 - No Class (due to activity on Oct. 7)

Oct. 18 - Small Group, 6:30pm

Oct. 25 - Large Group



Oct. 4 - Companion
Night, 6:30pm

Oct. 11 - T.B.D.
Think. Believe. Do.
Mission

Oct. 18 - T.B.D. Think. Believe. Do. Mission

Oct. 25 - Work on a fundraiser



Musical
Weekend
October 21
& 22

On Saturday, October 21 at 7:00pm, the **Cornerstone Chorale & Brass**, a widely acclaimed professional touring ensemble, will present a new concert production here at Saint John. The program features a unique and powerful combination of traditional choral and instrumental music with narration. The concert offers a unique faith experience and focuses on the message that 'perfect love casts out fear.'

On Sunday, October 22 at 7:30pm, **Council Bluffs Evening Musicale** will be holding a public event at Saint John Lutheran Church. It's an evening of musical performances by members and guests of Evening Musicale. Rem Kutchara, Bonnie Dunkelberger and Joan Ebersold will be three of the performers. Everyone is invited to come enjoy a variety of selections both sacred and secular, vocal and instrumental. There will be light refreshments following.



GRATITUDE JOURNAL - Part II Deadline extended! We are moving stewardship month from October to November. We will be accepting journal entries until Sunday, October 22.

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.



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 and 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 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, October 18, 2023! Happy Halloween! Please bring a trick-or-treat candy to share! All are most welcome to join in. We will 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 gather on Friday, October 13 at 6:00pm (note time) at The Cabin Bar & Grill, 9226 Mormon Bridge Rd. in Omaha.

- RSVP to KatieRN15@gmail.com by Monday, October 9



Players Group

The Players will be gathering at Pizza Ranch, eating their buffet and using their side room to gather. Join us on Friday, October 6 at 5:00pm.

Hosts are Sue & Dale Haven. Call them so we can get a head count for seating.



<u>October 7 & 8</u>	<u>October 14 & 15</u>	<u>October 21 & 22</u>	<u>October 28 & 29</u>
Patricia Minchin	Cookie Johnson	Mary Lou Burke	Marlys Lien
Elaine von Gillern	Becky Taylor	Norma Jones	Mary Jensen
Carol Wood	Kim Pace	Joyce Mlynarik	Debbie Plugge
Andrea Hill	Diane Hartman	Alan Meilike	Sandy Cerveny



* Esther Group—October 10 at 9:30am

* Mary Group—October 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 October 19.



Care and Share would appreciate donations of spaghetti for the month of October.



**October 2023,
LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article**

At LSI, we celebrate all the ways professional caregivers help children and adults achieve their goals and build meaningful connections in their communities. LSI's Host Homes program is an innovative way Direct Support Professionals serve adults with disabilities.

Through this program, an individual moves from Supported Community Living into a private family home with a carefully selected Host Homes Provider who provides 24/7 support for the client.

“Working directly with my clients to help them complete goals and work around obstacles is my favorite part of my job,” said Erica Hill Murray, a Host Homes Provider at LSI. “I enjoy showing them that there are people in their lives who care about them, are proud of them, and proud to help them.”

Erica has helped many clients in the five years she has provided care at LSI, but one client, in particular, has made great strides under her care.

“I worked with a client who wanted to find a job or volunteer position, but she had two obstacles in her way: she had trouble using a computer, and she wasn't confident in her ability to speak in an interview,” said Erica. “I offered to look for positions on the computer with her and to call potential employers to explain what she was looking for. After working with her, we found her a volunteer position for a couple of days a week, and she was delighted.”

“She thanked me for helping her and said that she was happy that, for once, someone understood her drive to want to work,” said Erica. “I like to make a difference – even if it is small. Helping others, no matter at what level, is impactful. I love working at LSI, and I believe my position as a Host Homes Provider has been my favorite position in life.”

Stories like these are possible through our many community partners and generous donors. If you would like to learn more about how you can support crucial programming like LSI Host Homes, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Senior Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.



Bethany Lutheran Health Services will be hosting an

OPEN HOUSE

at the Heights

Thursday

October 19

4:30 - 7:30pm

Outdoor music, s'mores and appetizers.

All are Welcome!

Check out the Bethany Facebook page in October for more information. If you have questions, please contact Cece at mickells@blhs.care or call 712-328-9500.



October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 - Communion - 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 9:45am SJ -101 11:00am Worship	2	3	4 9:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Adult Bible Study 6:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm H.S. youth group 7:30pm Chancel Choir	5	6	7 5:30pm Worship
8 New Member Reception 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship	9 6:45pm Seekers ChristCare	10 9:30 Esther Group 7:00pm Praise Choir	11 9:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Adult Bible Study 6:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm H.S. youth group 7:30pm Chancel Choir	12 9:00am Mary Group	13	14 - Communion - 3 yr. & 3rd grade Bibles 5:30pm Worship
15 - Communion - 3 yr. & 3rd grade Bibles 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship	16	17 7:00pm Praise Choir	18 9:00am Quilting Group 9:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Adult Bible Study 6:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm H.S. youth group 7:30pm Chancel Choir	19 11:30am Men's Club	20	21 5:30pm Worship 7:00pm Cornerstone Chorale & Brass
22 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 7:30pm Council Bluffs Evening Musicale	23 6:45pm Seekers ChristCare	24 7:00pm Council Mtg. 7:00pm Praise Choir	25 9:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Adult Bible Study 6:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm H.S. youth group 7:30pm Chancel Choir	26 <i>Caller Mailed</i>	27	28 5:30pm Worship
29 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship	30	31 7:00pm Praise Choir				

Saint John Lutheran Church
Birthdays

October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Alysen Hansen Hayley Hartman John Myre Michael Sletsema Krista Upson	2	3 Diane Ashbaugh Mackenzie Koesters	4 Barbara Johnson Brynn Neppie Isaac Petersen	5	6	7 Michael Hoel Becky Nickerson Jaxon Roberts Reegan Swenson Louis Uhlau
8 Patricia Mirdin	9 Larry Gann Tricia Satriano Carol Wood	10 Eliyanah Koesters Gary Woods	11 Curtis Fischer Todd Michael Brooks Rasmussen	12 Connor Gann	13 Kim Bryan Kathryn Graham Alayna Murphy Carl Rogers	14 Marilyn Burke Norma Gahm Paul Geer Jennifer Miller Marie Neal Maverick Vorce
15 Carter Conahan Lana Cruz Cody Fischer Lois Haines Elizabeth Roane	16 Mack Bertelsen Mark Hansen	17 Henry Townsend	18 Alexandria Crum Ethan Dahlke Beth Rapalje Derrick Williams	19 Conner Hansen Hayden Jensen Brian Solon Scott Steppuhn Jack Stogdill	20	21 Chris Brandt
22 Blakeley-Jo Hassay Carolyn Rasmussen-Clark Brian Rasmussen	23 Judd Manson Mark Meyer Dustin Townsend	24 Shelly Graham	25 Taylor Elam Sarah Ingwersen Michele Johnson	26 Lydia Erickson Laura Hansen Allison Johnson Carolyn Nelson Gracelyn Sales Lydia Weltz	27	28 Deb Ingwersen Allison Nelson
29 Sandra Bronson Kristine Docken Dale Vorce	30 Edie Goodwin Cheryl Heiningger	31 Lanelle Rogers				





*Celebrating
-WITH-
you*

80th Birthday
Carl Rogers, Jr. (October 13)

*Thank
you*

Pastor Jon, thank you for your 20+ years at Saint John! May God continue to bless you as you have blessed us.



“The function of prayer is not to influence God but rather to change the nature of the one who prays.”

—Søren Kierkegaard



“THE HOLY LAND”

JULY 9-18, 2024

Registrations are being taken for this NAWAS trip to Caesarea, Haifa, Nazareth, Tiberias, Sea of Galilee, Bethlehem, Jericho and Jerusalem. If you are planning on going on this wonderful adventure, get your registration into Pastor Jon.

Baptism

Theodore James
Baptized on September 10



Taylor Marie
Baptized on September 17

Shawn Taylor
Baptized on September 19

Sympathy to the families of...

~ Lynn Mowitz
brother of Linda Hahn

~ Rita Epperson

~ Eldon Phillips,
father of Jodi Arnold

~ Shawn Taylor,
nephew of Bill Taylor



~ Diane Phillips, mother of Amy Malskeit

~ Fred Lainson

~ Gen Reinders, mother of Greg Reinders

Saint John Lutheran Church Staff

- Senior Pastor: Rev. E. Jon Benson (JonBenson@SaintJohnELCA.org)
- 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: 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 email us
info@saintjohnelca.org
if you no longer wish to
receive this newsletter.
Thank you.**



3 yr. & 3rd grade bibles - October 14 & 15

Cornerstone Chorale & Brass - October 21, 7:00pm

Council Bluffs Evening Musicale - October 22, 7:30pm



Stewardship month - moving to November
In-gathering of pledges November 18 & 19