



Pastor Jon Benson

*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**

### TAKK FOR ALT

She was not quite ninety-seven  
when she died.  
One who waited at her side  
heard her say it:  
"Takk for alt" "Thank you for everything."  
It was her home-going word to God.

Like a good guest  
she addressed her Host.  
She spoke as one well-taught,  
well-taught by life,  
by memory and expectation!

To be gift-conscious is to be wise;  
to know whom to thank is grace indeed.  
To know the gift and love the Giver,  
to have learned life's dearest lesson,  
is to be rich toward God.

*From Bless My Growing  
By Gerhard E. Frost*

In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus exhorts us that our alms giving, praying and fasting be done "in secret" (i.e., without making a big production for everybody to see); in so doing, Jesus says, our "Father who sees in secret will reward you" (Matthew 6:4, 6 and 18). Following this exhortation, Jesus then encourages us not to lay up "treasure on earth... but lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven," and that "where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:19-21). Not surprisingly, there are some who take these words as "proof" that, in heaven, God will reward each Christian differently – some receiving more "treasure" than others, depending upon how "faithful" one is on earth. But, is this actually what Jesus means?

From my perspective, Gerhard Frost comes closer to what Jesus means by "treasure in heaven," that is, being "rich toward God" – life's dearest lesson. Truth be told, this is not only life's "dearest," but also its most difficult lesson. There is this tendency in all of us to "love the gift," sometimes more than the Giver. This is what Jesus warns us of, "laying up treasure on earth." But, to have treasure in heaven is to love the Giver, the One who is more precious than all other gains.

Once again this fall, members of Saint John will take time in their daily devotions to make entries into their "Gratitude Journal." It is, if you will, a daily reminder for us to be "gift-conscious," to know the gift and love the Giver. Gratitude Journals can be picked up at worship services on the weekend of October 28-29 or any time after. If you are not able to get out, contact the church office and one will be mailed to you. On the weekend of November 18-19, Stewardship Weekend, members will have the opportunity to make and "estimate of giving" for the upcoming year, 2024. As always, one of the many blessings for which I am grateful is YOU, the members and your ongoing commitment to the ministry and work of Saint John.

Pastor Jon

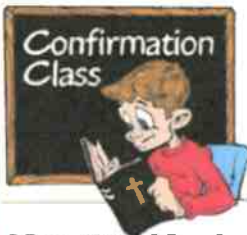


Nov. 5 - Class 9:45am  
Nov. 12 - Class 9:45am

Nov. 19 - Class 9:45am; COF sings at 11:00am  
Nov. 26 - NO Sunday School



Choir on Fire will sing at the 11:00 service on November 19.



Nov. 1 - Companion Night, 6:30pm

Nov. 8 - Small Group

Nov. 15 - Service project

Nov. 22 - No class. Thanksgiving Eve 7:00pm

Nov. 29 - Large group



Nov. 1 - Companion Night, 6:30pm

Nov. 8 - T.B.D. Think. Believe. Do. Prayer

Nov. 15 - Service project

Nov. 22 - No gathering. Thanksgiving Eve

Nov. 29 - Prime Rib talk



**Pastor Sharon Worthington**

Pastor Sharon's duties will be:

- Coordination of Confirmation instruction
- Coordination of Sunday school instruction
- Full time worship leader with Pastor Jon, to include preaching 50% of the time
- Hospital visitation in Pastor Jon's absence



\* Monday - 9:00 - 12:00  
 Wednesday - 9:00 - 12:00  
 Thursday - 9:00 - 12:00 \* if did not preach  
 and Weekends as assigned

First Communion Classes:

November 12, 12:00 - 2:00pm

November 19, 12:00 - 2:00pm

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

First communion will take place on November 22 at Thanksgiving Eve Service, 7:00pm



We welcomed New Members on October 8.

Brian Chandler

Michael Reed & Chris Johnson  
 Zoey

Lindsay Traeger  
 Ellie & Bodie

Nick & Alisha DelSignore  
 Christian, Bella and Luca

Scott & Tawni Stenberg

Harold & Ashley Waddell  
 Marlee

Todd & Jennifer Hayes  
 Carly, Max and Will

Adam & Jen Stroup  
 Parker, Beran and Stella

Kathe Weihs



**From the Quilting Group:**

“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.” ~ Isaiah 40. It’s 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, November 15, 2023! All are most welcome to join in. We will meet between 9:00am and Noon at Saint 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 Times Group will meet on Friday, November 10 at 6:00pm at the home of Becky Henkel (remember she has a new address). Here is what you can bring: If your last name begins with A - J please bring a side dish; K - S please bring a salad; and T - Z please bring a dessert.

- RSVP to Becky by Monday, November 6



**Players Group**

The Players Group will meet on Friday, November 3 at 5:00pm at Tish’s Restaurant.

Please RSVP by Monday, October 30 to Elaine von Gillern or Cookie Johnson.



<u>November 4 &amp; 5</u>	<u>November 11 &amp; 12</u>	<u>November 18 &amp; 19</u>	<u>November 25 &amp; 26</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

\* Altar Guild meeting—November 27 at 9:30am



\* Esther Group—November 14 at 9:30am

\* Mary Group—November 9 at 9:00am

\* Women’s Board meeting—November 28 at 9:30am



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 16.

**TAKING IT TO THE STREETS**

Help us to feed the ones in need Donations needed:

- 80% Hamburger
- Hotdogs (all beef)
- Velveeta cheese or equal
- Coffee / Coffee creamer
- American cheese slices

- Vegetable oil
- Spaghetti sauce
- Bulk & Link sausage
- Pancake mix
- Pink lemondade

- Bacon
- Syrup
- Blueberries
- Sugar
- Napkins

- Coffee cups (12oz)
- Drink cups (16oz)
- Plastic forks, spoons, knives
- Paper plates & bowls

\* The list is also on the bulletin board





November 2023,

LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

November is National Adoption Month, a time to honor families who have opened their hearts and homes to children and teens. This month at LSI, we celebrate the families we support through Foster Care and Adoption and raise awareness for the hundreds of Iowa children needing a safe, healthy home.

Iowa foster families, like the Smiths\*, raise the bar by opening their loving households to children and teens in need of a place to call home.

At LSI, we understand the importance of keeping youth in their communities to help maintain connections and stability during times of transition. So, when our staff received a referral for a teenage girl needing foster care placement, they looked inward toward the community.

At the time, homes in the area were either full or not open to accepting teenage placements. Coincidentally, the Smiths were present at a meeting the same night the referral came in. When they heard about Rebecca's situation, they immediately knew who the child was and wanted to help in any way they could.

The Smiths were already over their licensing capacity, having been granted a variance to accept a sibling group. To be able to bring Rebecca\* into their home, they would need to be given another variance, which was almost unheard of.

"It was by chance, or the grace of God, that the Smiths were able to accept another child, and give Rebecca a stable placement with a family in her community," said Dawn Luetje, LSI Director of Resource Family Licensing and Support, working in conjunction with Four Oaks Family Connections.

Thanks to the combined support of the Smiths, LSI staff, and the community, Rebecca was placed in the foster home, where she could maintain her daily activities with the teachers, coaches, and friends she was comfortable with. Rebecca continues to thrive in a stable, loving foster home environment and a caring community.

\*Names have been changed to protect client privacy.

**THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE!** *Make a difference with the things that make YOU different*

We were born for this. God made us all uniquely different so that we could find our way towards making many contributions to one another in His name.

The 'More than Quilts Silent Auction' (September 23-24, 2023) was a great success! Thank you so very much to all who participated! Your very generous contributions of time, talent, and energy, along with donations, will help to make a great difference through outreach to feed, share the Word and provide Hope to the troubled homeless and near homeless in our community. Proceeds were presented to and graciously accepted by the President of the 'Taking It To The Streets Ministry' of Council Bluffs at the monthly gathering of the quilt group, and, with the help of God, they will be used to *Feed, Share the Word, and Help people in our community*, by connecting them with various local agencies.

*"Cast your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will find it again..."*




~ Ecclesiastes 11-1. Deliver hope and share the Word! What an inspirational message! Again, thank you ever so kindly to all who gathered in God's name to take part!

\*Check out the pictures on the bulletin board





# November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p> - Communion - <b>All Saints Day</b> 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship</p>			<p>1 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</p>			<p>4 - Communion - <b>All Saints Day</b> 5:30pm Worship</p>
<p>5 - Communion - <b>All Saints Day</b> 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship</p>	<p>6 6:45pm Seekers ChristCare</p>	<p>7 7:00pm Praise Choir</p>	<p>8 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</p>	<p>9 9:00am Mary Group</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 5:30pm Worship</p>
<p>12 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:00pm First Communion Class w/ lunch</p>	<p>13 6:45pm Seekers ChristCare</p>	<p>14 9:30 Esther Group 7:00pm Praise Choir</p>	<p>15 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</p>	<p>16 11:30am Men's Club</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 - Communion - <b>Stewardship Sunday</b> 5:30pm Worship </p>
<p>19 - Communion - <b>Stewardship Sunday</b> 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship, COF sings 12:00pm First Communion Class w/ lunch </p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 7:00pm Praise Choir</p>	<p>22 9:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Thanksgiving Eve (First Communion) * Annual Pie Social</p>	<p>23 - Office Closed -</p>	<p>24 - Office Closed -</p>	<p>25 <b>Thanksgiving for Global Missions</b> 5:30pm Worship </p>
<p>26  <b>Thanksgiving for Global Missions</b> 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship</p>	<p>27 9:30 Altar Guild 6:45pm Seekers ChristCare</p>	<p>28 9:30 Women's Board 7:00pm Council Mtg. 7:00pm Praise Choir</p>	<p>29 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</p>	<p>30 <i>Callers Mailed</i></p>		

Saint John Lutheran Church  
**Birthdays**

**November 2023**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
			<b>1</b> Jeyda Alderton Robertta Califf Sandra Newberg Laura Sales Jocelyn Silva-Kleckner	<b>2</b> Molly Fellows Roman Townsend	<b>3</b> Jacob Nation	<b>4</b> Amy Gann Luke Harm Caitlin Pestel
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Jeff Hamling Aiden Kennedy Brienne Schneider	<b>7</b> Ian Hurnlicek Cora Pestel	<b>8</b> Kristy Harm Ron Neal	<b>9</b> Denise Fischer LaDonna Jeffrey Beth Pechacek Madeline Rindone	<b>10</b> Christina Hotchkiss Bev Solilday	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Cheyenne Hill Dave Johnson	<b>13</b> Audrey Clanton	<b>14</b> Jacqueline Boyesen	<b>15</b> Art Hill	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Erin Schultz Vivian Townsend	<b>18</b> Jared Koesters Laura Nelson Cyle Plumer Norma Pope Cathy Sahl Beran Stroup
<b>19</b> Mackenzie Frush	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Richard Clausen Julie Ruzicka Burke Swenson	<b>23</b> Darryl Delfs Lucy Knudsen	<b>24</b> Tammy Burdick Marjorie Giles	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Blaire Burdick Scott Hartman Grant Muehlig	<b>27</b> Joe Bertelsen Dennis Gunderson James Senkblie	<b>28</b> Jordan Besco Megan Petersen	<b>29</b> Lori Thomas	<b>30</b> Linda Hoel Alice VanderMeulen		





*Celebrating  
-WITH-  
you*

**85<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

Norma Pope (November 18)

**74<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary**

Roy & Lois Adams (Nov. 12)

**Annual  
Thanksgiving Eve  
Pie Social**

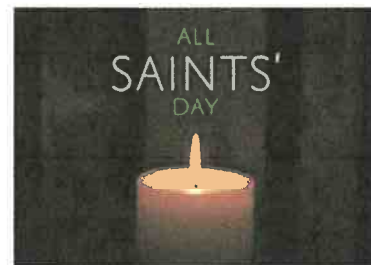
Wednesday, November 22  
after the 7:00pm service.  
Please bring a pre-cut pie  
to share!



**THANKOFFERING –**

The Women's Board will  
be collecting a free will  
Thankoffering on the  
weekend of  
**November 25 & 26.**

All offering collected will be sent to ELCA  
Global Missions. Checks can be made payable  
to Global Missions.



All Saints' Day Worship Service Nov. 4 & 5



*Sympathy to the families of...*

~ Bea Bixler

~ Laurie Lemaster

daughter of Jeanne Blunk

**Baptism**



*Preston Xavier Junior*  
Baptized on October 21



**FALL BACK...**

Daylight saving time  
ends on Sunday,  
November 5

**Saint John Lutheran Church Staff**

Senior Pastor: Rev. E. Jon Benson (JonBenson@SaintJohnELCA.org)

Interim Pastor: Rev. Sharon Worthington

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](mailto:info@saintjohnelca.org)  
if you no longer wish to  
receive this newsletter.  
Thank you.

### Gratitude Journals

Pick up your gratitude journals  
and begin your reflections during  
the month of November.

### Stewardship Sunday

November 18 & 19

### Thankoffering to Global Missions

November 25 & 26

**REJOICE**  
ALWAYS,  
**PRAY**  
CONTINUALLY,  
**GIVE THANKS**  
**IN ALL**  
CIRCUMSTANCES.

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