

December

The Caller

2023

Saint John Lutheran Church



Pastor Jon Benson



December 2 5:30pm
December 3 8:30am / 11:00am

December 6 7:00pm Wednesday night Advent service



December 9 5:30pm Celebration of Life Choir
December 10 8:30am Special Music Festival
11:00am Sunday school Christmas Program

December 13 7:00pm Wednesday night Advent service



December 16 5:30pm
December 17 8:30am / 11:00am Choir Cantata

December 20 7:00pm Wednesday night Advent service



December 23 5:30pm
December 24 9:30am (one service)

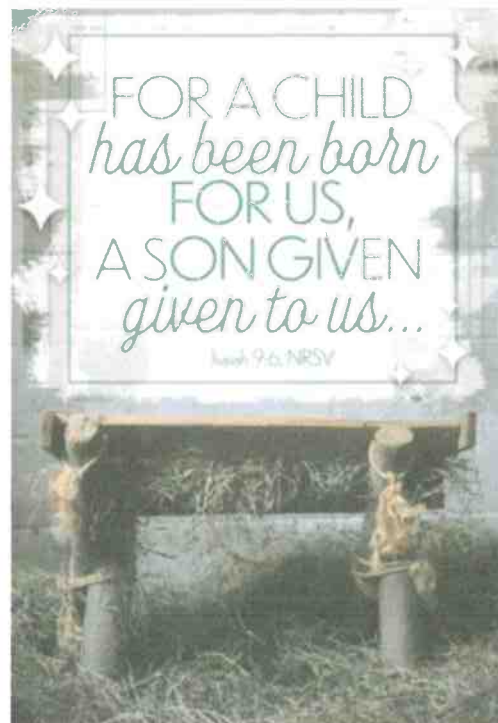
*Followers of
Christ
who seek to
HEAR
the Word,
LIVE
the Word
and
SHARE
the Word.*

Worship Times

Saturday - 5:30pm

Sunday - 8:30 am &
11:00am

Sunday school
9:45am



Christmas Eve Services

December 24
3:30 ~ 5:30 ~ 10:30

December 30 5:30pm
December 31 9:30am
(one service)



Dec. 3 - Class 9:45am
Practice for program

Dec. 9 - 11:00am
Practice for program
(Pizza lunch provided)

Dec. 10 - Class 9:45am;
Christmas Program at
11:00am Service



Dec. 17 - Class 9:45am

Dec. 24 - NO Class,
Christmas break

Dec. 31 - NO Class, Christmas break



Dec. 6 - Companion Night,
6:30pm & Advent Service

Dec. 13 - Small group
6:30pm & Advent Service

Dec. 20 - No Class, Advent Service 7:00pm

Dec. 27 - No Class, Christmas break

Jan. 3 - *Companion Night 6:30pm



Dec. 6 - Companion
Night, 6:30pm

Dec. 13 - Meet at 6:30,
Advent service at 7:00

Dec. 20 - No gathering, Advent service 7:00

Dec. 27 - No gathering, Christmas break



First Communion
November 22, 2023

Sarah Burianek
Brady Hansen
Kyla Penney
Stella Stroup
Jacob Warner

Zelda Christensen
Grant McCool
Liviana Riggs
Ellie Traeger
Sophia Weltz

CALL COMMITTEE FORUMS -

Please plan to attend a forum to share your thoughts and opinions regarding what the Call Committee should be looking for in our next Pastor.

Forum times:

Dec. 2, Saturday following the 5:30pm service

Dec. 3, Sunday between services

Dec. 6, Wed. following the 7:00pm Advent service

Dec. 7, Thursday at 2:00pm

Dec. 9, Saturday following the 5:30pm service

Dec. 10, Sunday between services

* A printed survey will be available for you to take home and fill out .



~ Making Communion Bread ~





From the Quilting Group:

“Nobody starts out as the perfect quilter” ~ Sandara Dallas
 “Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.” ~ Isaiah 40. This is what we do. 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, December 20, 2023! If you can, please bring a holiday treat to share. You’re 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 Time Group will meet for a holiday gathering on Saturday, December 9, 6:30 p.m. at the church. Please bring your own drink and a snack food to share. Everyone is welcome. Join us as a prospective member or a onetime visitor for an evening of conversation and relaxation.



Players Group

The Players will meet on Thursday night - December 7 at 5:00pm at Church for a Potluck! Everyone is welcome, please bring something to share.



<u>December 1 - 7</u>	<u>December 8 - 14</u>	<u>December 15 - 21</u>	<u>December 22 - 28</u>
<u>Dec. 29 - Jan. 4</u>	Cookie Johnson	Mary Lou Burke	Marlys Lien
Patricia Minchin	Becky Taylor	Norma Jones	Mary Jensen
Elaine von Gillern	Kim Pace	Joyce Mlynarik	Debbie Plugge
Carol Wood	Diane Hartman	Alan Meilike	Sandy Cerveny
Andrea Hill			



- * Esther Group—December 12 at 9:30am
- * Mary Group—December 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 December 21.



A special request for our pantries this month is **soup**.



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

Merry Christmas from LSI!

At LSI, we recognize that the holiday season can be a challenging time for many, especially for the populations we serve throughout the year.

We know parents who feel hopeless, with few resources to raise their young children. We know adults with disabilities who feel voiceless, with no support system or connection to their community. We know immigrants and refugees working to become U.S. citizens, with little community support or help along the way. We know teens who are aging out of foster care, fearing they will never have a forever home.

In the spirit of giving, the spirit of love, and the spirit of working together, let us stand with them and lift them up this Christmas season.

As we reflect on the past year, we thank you — our generous supporters and community partners — for stepping up to give and help the people LSI is privileged to serve. We are grateful for your contribution in bringing the light of Christ to your neighbors who rely on these essential services.

LSI wishes you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

LSI's annual matching gift campaign is currently active, and those making a new or increased financial gift can double their impact through the end of the year. If you would like to learn more about how you can support Iowa children and families, contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Senior Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

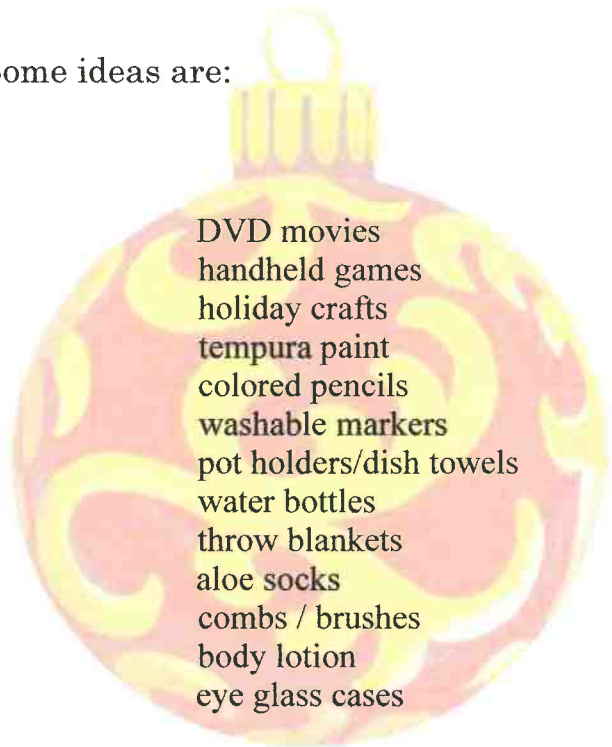
Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people 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



Bethany Lutheran Health Services will be operating their annual Christmas Store.

The residents are able to shop and get gifts for their family and friends.

Some ideas are:



- DVD movies
- handheld games
- holiday crafts
- tempura paint
- colored pencils
- washable markers
- pot holders/dish towels
- water bottles
- throw blankets
- aloe socks
- combs / brushes
- body lotion
- eye glass cases

Donations can be brought to Church and placed in the wrapped box labeled for Bethany.

Thank you to all who help the residents get gifts for their families during the holidays.





*Celebrating
-WITH-
you*

80th Birthday

Cal Hartman (December 19)

90th Birthday

Beverly Jensen (December 9)

92nd Birthday

Catherine Sundermann (December 29)

95th Birthday

Roy Adams (December 4)

96th Birthday

Maxine Carlson (December 13)

99th Birthday

Walt Sherman (December 15)



We are so thankful to Pastor Jon and to our St. John Lutheran Prayer Chain & our church family for all the kind & caring words, and especially all the prayers that have definitely been a help & comfort to Paula & to us during Paula's brain surgery, radiation treatments & her recovery over these past few months. Thank you all so very much!

Debbie & Giles Whitney

Dear Members of St. Johns,

Thank you so much for recognizing and celebrating with me the 35th Anniversary of my Ordination. The reception, the financial gift from you all, the cards and well wishes meant so much to me. I am grateful to be a partner with you in living as followers of Christ who hear, live, and share these Gospel Words.

*Your sister in this household of faith,
Pastor Sharon*

Baptism



Jonah Harris
Baptized on November 18



Sympathy to the family of....

*~ Pam Ross
sister-in-law to Debbie Baird*

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: Debbie Baird

Church 712-323-7173 ~ Fax 712-323-7174

Email: Info@SaintJohnELCA.org ~ Website: www.SaintJohnELCA.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SaintJohnCouncilBluffs

December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>3 - <i>Communion</i> -</p> <p>8:30am Worship</p> <p>9:45am Sunday School</p> <p>9:45am Call Comm. Forum</p> <p>11:00am Worship</p>	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p>10</p> <p>8:30am Music Festival</p> <p>9:45am Sunday school</p> <p>9:45am Call Comm. Forum</p> <p>11:00am Sunday School Christmas Program</p> 	11	12	13	14	15	16
<p>17 - <i>Communion</i> -</p> <p>8:30am Worship</p> <p>9:45am Sunday School</p> <p>11:00am Worship</p>	18	19	20	21	22	23
<p>24</p> <p>9:30am Advent Worship</p> <p>Christmas Eve Services</p> <p>3:30 ~ 5:30 ~ 10:30</p>	25	26	27	28	29	30
<p>31</p> <p>9:30am Worship (one service only)</p>						

Saint John Lutheran Church
Birthdays

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Rick Graham Wadie Thomas	4 Roy Adams	5 Phillip Harm Mike Hartenthoff Hudson Maas	6 Nolan Phillips Margaret Schneider	7	8 Larry Califf Maddie Sleck	9 Beverly Jensen Carole Tallman
10 Brock Vandevanter	11	12 Henry Gerhardt Rick Nickerson Peggy Tye	13 Maxine Carlson Cami Townsend	14 Ruby Fellows	15 Andrea Alderton Kristen Gerhardt Richard Neal Walter Sherman	16 Stephanie Urbanek Jacob Warner
17 Dick Comley	18 Kelly Kleckner-Silva	19 Alisha DeSignore Cal Hartman	20 Megan Elam Susan Hartman Addison Naho Nancy Sales	21 Angela Elam Trevor Petersen Paige Ruzicka	22 Steve Hansen	23 Janet Butts Jen Uriaub Steve Vander Helm
24 Luke Northwall	25	26 Curtis Pestel	27	28 Greg Brougham Joshua Burianek Carrie Solon	29 Catherine Sundermann	30 Lindsay Besco Jake Taylor Keith Tye Nolan Wendl
31 Jane Lando						



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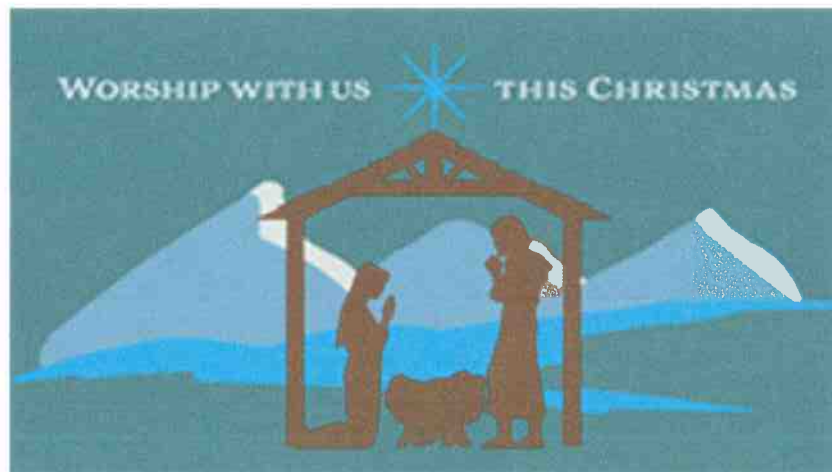
633 Willow Avenue
Council Bluffs, IA 51501-4242

Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Council Bluffs, IA
Permit No. 68
Zip Plus Four
Change Service Requested



SAVE A TREE

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



Christmas
Eve
Services

3:30pm

5:30pm

10:30pm