



Pastor Jon Benson

ANNUAL MEETING

Date: January 28, 2024 at 9:45am (between services)

The property committee has brought a concern to the church council about our south parking lot. It shows a lot of wear and tear. Holes are forming and it is difficult to navigate by foot. We are feeling that it needs to be re-surfaced to avoid further erosion and decay. We see areas that might be considered tripping hazards.

Trying to fix the cracks and holes would result in a fairly high expenditure and not last very long. The board and committee have done some research and the council has decided to contract to re-surface the south parking lot. We have received a number of contractor bids.

Re-surfacing the south lot will give us an updated infrastructure to go with our updated church campus. A lot of people use our church and we are a strong local community supporter. Looking good and having a safe area to park is key to our church and the local community.

The expense of re-surfacing is around \$78,000. If you would like to take a look at the Pavement Maintenance Proposal with the cost break down, a couple of copies are located on the welcome table by the library.

The church council will put this matter before the congregation for a vote at the Annual Meeting on January 28. In addition, this matter will be discussed at the Budget Forum on January 14, along with the 2024 budget.

Please prayerfully consider supporting this valued item. We all want to be safe coming and going from our church home.

Your Saint John Church Council



*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



Jan. 7 - Class 9:45am

Jan. 14 - Class 9:45am

Jan. 21 - Class 9:45am
COF sings at 11:00am



Jan. 28 - Class 9:45am

Choir on Fire will sing at the 11:00 service on January 21.



Jan. 3 - Companion Night 6:30pm

Jan. 10 - Small group 6:30pm

Jan. 17 - Large Group 6:30pm

Jan. 24 - Small Group 6:30pm

Jan. 31 - Companion Night 6:30pm



Jan. 3 - Companion Night, 6:30pm

Jan. 10 - T.B.D Prayer

Jan. 17 - T.B.D. Prayer

Jan. 24 - T.B.D. Prayer

Jan. 31 - Companion Night, 6:30pm



Support the Youth at the

Prime Rib Dinner
February 10

Ticket sales will start on January 20.

Deadline to buy tickets will be February 4.

Cost is \$25.00/ticket

ANNUAL MEETING

There will be a **budget forum** on Sunday, January 14 at 9:45am between services.

The **Annual Meeting** will be on Sunday, January 28 at 9:45am between services.



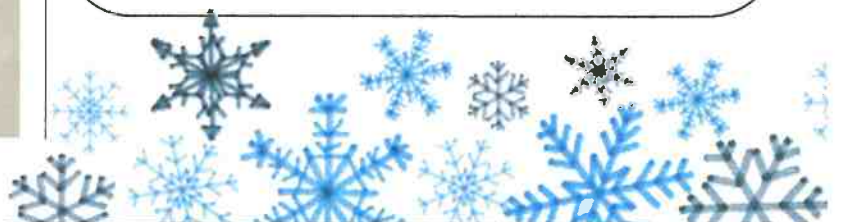
To a Church near you...

Watch for information on a Family FUN Night!



WEATHERALERT

When schools close, any **youth** Church activities scheduled for that day are canceled also.





“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.” ~ Isaiah 40. This is why we make quilts for comfort. We make them from the repurposed scraps of 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 and comfort. *“I am here, Lord. Send me!”* Let us respond as we are able. *“[Let us] be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of [God’s word].”* ~ Goran Persson (with a slight Lutheran paraphrase!)

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, January 17, 2024! You’re most welcome to join in. We will meet between 9:00am and Noon at St. John, in the Faith and Life Center. All ages are welcome! See you then! Blessings to all this Happy New Year! For more information, please call Sue Pagan at 712-325-0257.



Good Times Group

The Good Time Group will go to Pizza King, 1101 N. Broadway, on Friday, January 12 at 6:00pm. If you would like to attend please respond by Tuesday, January 9 to Mike and Diane Ashbaugh at mdash66@cox.net or call 712-323-3234. Everyone is welcome. Hope to see you there.



<u>January 6&7</u>	<u>January 13 &14</u>	<u>January 20& 21</u>	<u>January 27 & 28</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 Cerveney



- * Esther Group—January 9 at 9:30am
- * Mary Group—January 11 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. Next lunch is January 18.



We are requesting donations of canned corn for January.

** Thank you for all the donations this past year. **



January 2024

LSI Newsletter Article

Amplifying the Voices of Iowa Children and Families

Individuals struggle without access to critical healthcare and family support services. Human service providers are overworked and underpaid. Former refugees and immigrants strive to build new lives in the U.S.

These are all issues faced by Iowans from all different walks of life. Join Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) to advocate for our community members at Lutheran Day on the Hill (LDH) on Monday, February 19, 2024.

In partnership with the three Iowa synods of the ELCA, LDH is LSI's biggest day of advocacy. Over 150 participants gather at Capitol Hill Lutheran Church in Des Moines to learn about critical issues Iowa children, adults, and families are facing. You'll learn more about the legislative process, the issues impacting your neighbors, and your role as a citizen in helping to amplify their voices.

After learning how to advocate for our neighbors, the group heads to the Iowa State Capitol to talk directly with legislators.

For more information and to register for this year's Lutheran Day on the Hill, visit LSIowa.org/LDH.



December 2023

Bethany Newsletter Article

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Bethany Lutheran Health Services!!

The Home and the Heights were busy decorating the halls and spaces. Many Christmas craft projects like making Gingerbread houses and ornaments with the residents bring joy.

Churches and Community Groups have been in to provide musical performances for the residents at both buildings. Michael and Angel purchased Christmas presents for each of our residents and community members.

Michael and Angel prepared the annual Christmas Parties and the Dietary staff cooked and served a delicious Holiday Meal.


Cece planned Christmas Eve Services at the Heights and Home.

Hope you had a beautiful celebration of Christ's birthday.



JANUARY



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
7 - Communion - 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship	1 Office Closed 	2 7:00pm Praise Team	3 9:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm High school youth 7:30pm Chancel Choir	4 9:00am Mary Group	5 6:00pm Good Time Group	6 - Communion - 5:30pm Worship
14 Budget Forum 8:30am Worship <u>9:45am Budget Forum</u> 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship	15 Seekers ChristCare	16 5:00pm Council Mtg. 7:00pm Praise Team	17 9:00am Quilting Group 9:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm High school youth 7:30pm Chancel Choir	18 11:30am Men's Club	19	20 - Communion - <i>Prime Rib Tickets sold</i> 5:30pm Worship
21 - Communion - 8:30am Worship <i>* Prime Rib Tickets sold</i> 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship	22 Seekers ChristCare	23 7:00pm Praise Team	24 9:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm High school youth 7:30pm Chancel Choir	25 <i>Caller Mailed</i>	26	27 <i>Prime Rib Tickets sold</i> 5:30pm Worship
28 ANNUAL MEETING 8:30am Worship <i>* Prime Rib Tickets sold</i> <u>9:45am Annual Meeting</u> 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship	29	30 7:00pm Praise Team	31 9:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm High school youth 7:30pm Chancel Choir			

Saint John Lutheran Church
Birthdays

January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Katie Brougham	2	3 Bella DeSignore Keith Thompson	4	5 Ayden McIntosh Jackie Reinders Heath Schneider	6 Harold Waddell
7 Carol Denker	8 Julie Jensen Ian Swenson	9	10 Morgan Fast Hailey Hansen Nynette Wilcox	11 Gloria Hunt Kitty Richardson	12 August Freerk Don Nelson Mandy Stark	13 Kevin Bogardus Tim Gue Carolyn Hotchkiss Sara Schneider
14 Hannah Jensen Amasa Smith	15 Derek Archer Glen Campbell Cynthia Doffin Mike Nebel Mark Preston	16 Ronald Mowery Micah Petersen	17 Will Sadr	18	19 Becky Taylor	20 Sue Pagan
21 Phyllis Blumhagen Mike Hahn Jared Harris Vicki McCallen Mandy Stogdill	22	23 NIKI Roberts	24 Kara Applegate	25 Harper Campbell Mike Damgaard Luca DeSignore Kim Malskeit Alexa Murphy Ronald Vredeweld Jill Wells	26 Bryanna Freeman Mary Madison Joyce Mlynarik Thomas Stuart Jacob Walker	27 Eathan Achenbach
28 Tim Clark	29 Shannon Moon	30	31 Nancy Chew			





*Celebrating
-WITH-
you*

80th Birthday

Amasa Smith (Jan. 14)

91st Birthday

Gloria Hunt (Jan. 11)

99th Birthday

Kitty Richardson (Jan. 11)

61st Wedding Anniversary

Robert & Linda Hansen (Jan. 25)



A big Thank You to the congregation for your generous donations to the Women of the Church during the Thankoffering collection. \$566.00 was collected for the various missions the Women of the Church support.

- Women of Saint John

Thank you to all who contributed to New Visions Homeless Services 'Give Hope' Christmas gift drive. They have many, many families that appreciate these gifts.

- New Visions Homeless Services

Dear Saint John,
Thank you so much for your generous donation of coats, hats and gloves. We have so many students who will benefit from your kindness.

Sincerely,
Kim Kazmierczak, Bloomer Principal



Sympathy to the family of....

~ Cody Mitchell

Baptism

Harry Beauchamp was baptized on December 16.



Edwin Thomas was baptized on December 17.

Parker Reid was baptized on December 30.

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

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.



January

- 14th - 9:45am Budget Forum
- 20th - Prime Rib Tickets on sale
\$25.00/ticket
- 28th - 9:45am Annual Meeting

February

- 10th - Prime Rib Dinner
- 14th - 5:30pm Lenten Meal
7:00pm Ash Wednesday
- 21st & 28th { 5:30pm Lenten Meal
7:00pm Lenten service

