



Pastor Jon Benson

Interim Pastor -  
Pastor Sharon  
Worthington

*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

### Saint John Lutheran Church Pastoral Call Committee Update for the Caller 03-20-2024

Your Pastoral Call committee has been very busy carrying out what I refer to as the “pre-work,” of the call process. We began meeting in October. Early on a meeting with Pastor Judith Johnson was held via “Zoom.” Pastor Johnson is the Synod representative that coordinates Pastoral call processes. She educated our committee as well as the Church Council members on the call process according to the Synod guidelines.

In December the congregational forums were conducted and the results were documented and discussed. The congregation indicated the call needed to be for a new Senior Pastor.

In January and February we have been preparing the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). This is a thirteen page document used as a recruitment tool by the Synod and us to showcase our church and our congregation. It is a lengthy and detailed document that must be approved by our Church Council and the Synod.

In February and March we prepared and launched a separate survey to be completed by the congregation to further determine what characteristics best define our church as well as the person we will ultimately call as our next Senior Pastor

Still to come: we must achieve approval of the MSP by the Council of St. John (hopefully this will happen at the March Council meeting) and the Western Iowa Synod. Once approval is given the MSP will be posted on-line through the Synod office and the actual Call process will begin. The profiles of candidates will be received and reviewed by the committee. The best candidates will be brought in for interviews and, once the call committee selects a candidate, his or her name will be voted on by the council. The council, then in turn, will present the candidate to the congregation for a vote to issue a call to that pastor.

It is important for you to know that our MSP will be including an outline for the transition plan. This plan will include some of the steps of allowing Pastor Jon to gradually move all of the parts of his ministry to our new Pastor. This will also allow our new Pastor to more easily assume all of the essential aspects of the ministry at St. John as well as identify opportunities for the initiation of the new person’s ministry that may be different from what we currently experience. With an end point identified Pastor Jon will step away and our new Pastor will continue on. We ask for your prayers as we strive to discern where God is leading us in this process and for us to be able to bring a new Pastor to our service that will continue to lead St. John forward as God has planned. If you know a Pastor who might be interested in this position, have them go to the Western Iowa Synod website and fill out an application.

Blessings to you all,  
Becky Henkel, Call Committee Chairperson



April 7 - Class 9:45am

April 14 - Class 9:45am

April 21 - Class 9:45am

April 28 - Class 9:45am

COF sings at 11:00am



Choir on Fire will sing at the 11:00 service on April 28.



April 3 - Lent project presentations 6:30

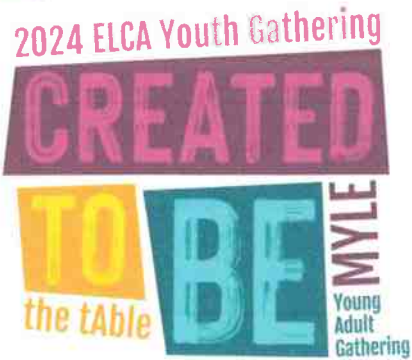
April 10 - Lent project presentations 6:30

April 17 - 8th grade Confirmation Banquet and rehearsal 6:30 (6 & 7th graders serve)

April 21 - 11:00am, 8th grade Confirmation



April 3 & April 10 - Attend lent project presentation for companions



Watch for the next fundraising opportunity to support our Youth who are attending the National Youth Gathering.

**Kaltenborn Scholarship**

**APPLICATIONS** for the **Joseph Kaltenborn Scholarship** for 2024-2025 are due by **April 15**.



We welcomed new members on March 24

Matt & Janet Perrone  
Donavon Perrone  
Adam & Sarah Kuenning and Amelia



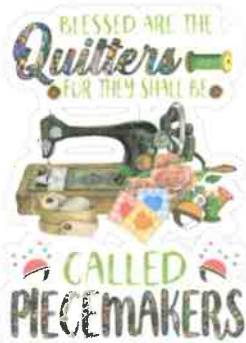
**VBS DATES:**  
**June 24 - 27,**  
**5:00 - 8:00pm**

**Mark your calendars!**

**SYNOD ASSEMBLY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - APRIL 19 3:00 - 7:00pm**

Saint John is the location for registration, a meal, and worship for the Synod Assembly on Friday, April 19. We need volunteers to point people in the right direction of areas of the church and help serve the provided meal. Please sign up on the clipboard located on the welcome table.





“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.” ~ Isaiah 40. This is why we make quilts. 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 in need.

All are 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, delivering warmth and comfort. *“And I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then I said, ‘Here I am; send me.’”* Isaiah 6:8

Come as you are able; experience is not required. The Saint John Quilting Group family wishes to welcome you! If you are thinking about it, please know we will make you feel very much at home as we tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief! In this ministry of serving, we also set aside time to enjoy fellowship with one another with devotions and snacks!

Next meeting is Wednesday, April 17, 2024! You’re most welcome to join us. We will meet between 9:00am and Noon at St. 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 Time Group will meet at Pizza King in Council Bluffs on Friday, April 12 at 6:00pm.  
**RSVP by Wednesday, April 10** to Barb Vredeveld at [barbvredeveld@cox.net](mailto:barbvredeveld@cox.net) or call 712-323-2993. We hope you can join us.



Players Group

The Players will meet at Tish’s Restaurant on Friday, April 5 at 5:00pm.  
 Contact Marlys Lien if interested in attending.



<b><u>April 6 &amp; 7</u></b>	<b><u>April 13 &amp; 14</u></b>	<b><u>April 20 &amp; 21</u></b>	<b><u>April 27 &amp; 28</u></b>
Mary Lou Burke	Marlys Lien	Patricia Minchin	Cookie Johnson
Norma Jones	Mary Jensen	Elaine von Gillern	Becky Taylor
Joyce Mlynarik	Debbie Plugge	Carol Wood	Kim Pace
Alan Meilike	Sandy Cervený	Andrea Hill	Diane Hartman



\* Esther Group—April 9 at 9:30am  
 \* Mary Group—April 11 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 April 18.



We are requesting donations of spaghetti, dry pasta, and ramen noodles.

## SHARE THE WORD: Pastor's discretionary account at work -

Many of you in the congregation contribute to Pastor's discretionary account. Some of you probably don't know that you do, but all 'loose' money in the collection plate on the first of each month gets deposited into that account as well as other designated contributions. Pastor puts the money to good use helping people in our community with rent, energy bills, gas, and groceries.

In January, Pastor also sent some funds to our neighbors in the Nebraska Synod who specifically work with people to build homes for the poor in Tanzania. Below is a report of the recipient of this home.

1/28/2024

Pastor Jon and all at St John Council Bluffs, Salaam.

This is Bob Kasworm at Machame Lutheran Hospital in Kilimanjaro Tanzania.

I received a report from the Nebraska Synod regarding a kind donation from St John's to build a House for Health in Tanzania.

We recently began your house...which will be House #186 in this long running program.

The recipients of your home are Simbo Martin Swai a widower of age 63 and his two daughters Hollynness 10 and Gertruda 16. They live in the Machame subvillage of Masoma Mbosho. The wife died some ten years ago from leukemia. Mr Swai has a severe asthmatic condition. As the pictures of their current house below show, their need for improved shelter is great.

To get started, we met with the family, clan elders, neighbors, village/church leaders and others who all signed a document stating that when we build a house on this site for this family, it will belong to them. We then signed a contract with our builder who uses all local labor, including that from the nearby neighborhood, and 100% Tanzanian materials.

This house will be a sign to the family and community that through God someone cares, that good things can happen, and there is hope. In this case especially, having a better house will likely attract extended family to assist Simbo far into the future.

We have had several months of rain (unusual at this time of year) but building conditions are improving and we are making good progress. You will hear from me again with pictures of the finished house in about a month. Thank you for thinking of the very poor in Tanzania.

3/25/2024

Dear Pastor Jon and all at St John CB, Salaam.

We have finished your House for Health for Mr Simbo Swai and his daughters. As the attached pictures show, this will be quite an improvement. We are entering into our long rainy season and a dry, solid house will make a real difference in their lives.

**Our sincere thanks to all at St John who helped make this possible.**

All the best,  
Bob Kasworm  
Machame Lutheran Hospital, CHI Health/Immanuel Tanzania



**NEW HOME**



**OLD HOME**





*Celebrating  
-WITH-  
you*

**94th Birthday**  
Anna Giroux (April 19)

**50th Wedding Anniversary**  
Roger & Mary Burmeister (April 13)

*Sympathy to the families of...*

- ~ Kevin Kraft,  
cousin of Karen Bramman
- ~ Rex Farris,  
son of Barb Farris
- ~ David Capel,  
brother of Mary Stellish
- ~ Kathy Dierks,  
aunt of Sue Bentz
- ~ Mark Whitney,  
brother of Giles Whitney
- ~ Jim Sedivy,  
brother-in-law of Jay & Karen Bramman



Thank you to all the groups and their helpers who put on our Wednesday night Lenten Meals: Confirmation students, Seekers ChristCare, Goodtime Group, Chancel Choir, and Church Council members.

Thank you to Margaret, Sandie, Tucker, Elmer and Art who gave wonderful meditations at our Wednesday night services.

Thank you to Phyllis, Pastor Sharon and many other volunteers who helped make the family Easter event a success!

230 people were served pancakes

120 children came for the Easter egg hunt

Thank you to our always helpful volunteers who cleaned while Debbie was out.



**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**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 - Communion - 5:30pm Worship
7 - Communion - 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship	8 6:45pm Seekers ChristCare	9 9:30am Esther Group 7:00pm Praise Team	10 9:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm High school youth 7:30pm Chancel Choir	11 9:00am Mary Group	12 6:00pm Good Time Group	13 5:30pm Worship
14 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship	15	16 7:00pm Praise Team	17 9:00am Quilting 9:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm 8th Grade Banquet 6:30pm High school youth 7:30pm Chancel Choir	18 11:30am Men's Club	19 Western Iowa Synod Assembly at Saint John 3:00pm—10:00pm	20 - Communion - WISYNOD Assembly 5:30pm Worship
21 - Communion - 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 8th grade Confirmation	22 6:45pm Seekers ChristCare	23 7:00pm Council Mtg. 7:00pm Praise Team	24 9:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm High school youth 7:30pm Chancel Choir	25 <i>Caller Mailed</i>	26	27 5:30pm Worship
28 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship	29	30 7:00pm Praise Team				

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
	<b>1</b> Madi Carstens Ellie Casey Alan Meilike Samantha Nation	<b>2</b> Dale Dorris Sophia Weltz	<b>3</b> Madison Baxter Elizabeth Hansen Traci Wilken	<b>4</b> Cookie Johnson	<b>5</b> Nicki McIntosh	<b>6</b> Sean Sahl Heather Thompson
<b>7</b> Debby Michael	<b>8</b> Kimberly Sieck	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Janice Girtton Noah Hahn Jonah Harris Maya Humlicek Reese Ruzicka	<b>11</b> Amanda Clanton Elias Petersen Aubrey Stark	<b>12</b> Jacob Andersen	<b>13</b> Andrea Nebel Laurie Stogdill Kim Townsend
<b>14</b> Cooper Manson	<b>15</b> Kala Bramman Connie Brougham	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Lisa Doffin	<b>18</b> Angie Bramman Leslie Hansen	<b>19</b> Anna Giroux Barbara Kricsfeld Claire Ruzicka	<b>20</b> Ella Humlicek Norma Jones
<b>21</b> Emma McCool	<b>22</b> Olivia Simpson	<b>23</b> Brogan Burdick Heather Nano	<b>24</b> Will Prime Sheryl Stanfel	<b>25</b> Bonnie Dunkelberger	<b>26</b> Karen Bramman	<b>27</b> Bradley Bogardus August Johnson
<b>28</b> Christy Benson Marlys Lien	<b>29</b> Kris Anderson Dana Hansen	<b>30</b> Sharon Worthington				



## Saint John Lutheran Church

633 Willow Avenue  
Council Bluffs, IA 51501-4242

Non Profit Organization  
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If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter,  
please email us at [info@saintjohnelca.org](mailto:info@saintjohnelca.org)  
Thank you.



### April

17 - 8th grade Banquet, 6:30pm

19 & 20 - WI Synod Assembly

21 - 8th grade Confirmation

11:00 service

### May

12 - High School Senior

Recognition, 8:30 service