

Pastor Luke Kuenzli

Interims -  
Pastor Sharon  
Worthington

and

Pastor Celeste  
Waymire

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

Saturday - 5:30pm

Sunday - 9:30am



**June 8 - 11**

**5:00 - 7:30pm**

**Supper served**

**June 11 is Family Night!**

\* Registration forms are on the bulletin table and on our website.

\* There is a sign up for food donations by the bulletin table.



Free Little Pantry



Restock the BLESSING BOX

Our *Blessing Box* could use a re-stock!  
Here are items you could focus on collecting:

- Meal kits;
  - can chicken, tuna, or beef
  - and boxes of meal helpers (hamburger, tuna, chicken)
- Baking items;
  - muffin / cake / brownie mixes



## Gardening Event

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### June 28

Please join **Karen Bramman**, on Sunday, June 28 at 10:45am (following worship service) in the Faith & Life Center for a **Gardening Discussion**. Multiple topics will be discussed: native plants, Master Gardener achievement, community gardens, preparing for a fall plant exchange and more!

- \* In addition, there will be perineal seeds for you to take home along with other goodies
- \* Refreshments will be served

If you have any questions, please contact one of the Service and Learning Group Committee members.



June Book: *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann

Discussion date:  
June 25 at 9:15am

The next book selection:  
July: *Molly* by our very own Edie Goodwin :)



Altar Guild will have a meeting on Friday, June 19 at 9:00am

### Joseph Kaltenborn Scholarships

are a yearly tradition at Saint John, dating back to 2008. The scholarship was established from a bequest given by Joseph Kaltenborn, a long-time member of Saint John, who hoped to encourage young members to receive a post-high school education. Moreover, it is the intent of the Church, in carrying out the desires of Mr. Kaltenborn, that the scholarship demonstrates the church's support to its younger members, hoping they might envision how their faith can be lived out in their future vocation. To date, the Kaltenborn fund has paid out \$159,000 to assist our students.

Each year high school graduates of the congregation may apply, and re-apply for up to four years.

### **Congratulations to this years recipients!:**

- Gracie Hays
- Lexie Nelson
- Avary Maas
- Tara Sadr





“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.” ~ Isaiah 40. This is exactly 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 are 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 facing exposure right here in town, 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 definitely 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 comforting donations locally through the “Takin’ It To The Streets” ministry in Council Bluffs, which serves meals and the Word to the homeless! In our ministry of serving we also set aside time to enjoy fellowship with one another with devotions and snacks! If you’ve read this far, thank you!

Save the date! Our next meeting is Wednesday, June 17, 2026. Won’t you join us? We will meet between 9:00 A.M. and Noon at Saint John, in the Faith and Life Center. We’d love to see you then! For more information, please call Sue Pagan at 712-325-0257.



Card Club will meet on  
June 4 & 18 at 6:30pm  
Come and play!



**MEN'S GROUP**

The Men’s Club meets every 3rd Thursday of the month at

11:30am at The Dock Bar & Grill. Men of all ages are welcome to join us. Next date is June 18.

**June 6 & 7**

Patricia Minchin  
Elaine von Gillern  
Carol Wood  
Andrea Hill

**June 13 & 14**

Cookie Johnson  
Becky Taylor  
Kim Pace  
Diane Hartman



**June 20 & 21**

Joyce Mlynarik  
Becky Smith  
Alan Meilike  
Margaret Schneider  
Mary Lou Burke  
Norma Jones

**June 27 & 28**

Carolyn Clark  
Sandy Cerveney  
Ruby Runte  
Sue Coe  
Barby James



\* Esther Group—  
June 9 at 9:30am  
\* Mary Group—  
June 11 at 9:00am

\* Meeting on Friday, June 19 at 9:00am



**Good Times Group**

Good Time Group will take June off, but watch for information on a July BBQ!

Ready for a good time!

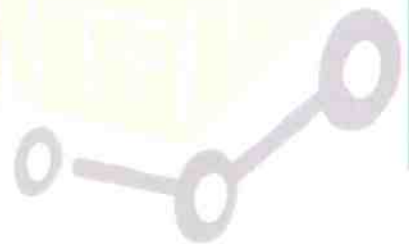


YES, there is a June meeting for the Players Dinner Group! The Players will meet at **Pizza Ranch** for dinner on **Friday, June 5 at 5:00pm.**

Hosted by Roger & Mary Burmeister. Please RSVP to Mary 402-681-9863.



We are requesting donations of **Cookies**





Monica never imagined she would become a mother.

After a childhood marked by trauma, the devastating loss of her sibling to violence, and years spent in turbulent foster care settings, she made a quiet promise to herself: she would never bring a child into a world that had caused her so much pain. But life has a way of opening doors we never expect. In her thirties, alongside her husband Tim, Monica found herself preparing to welcome a baby girl. Even then, fear and uncertainty lingered.

When Monica heard about LSI's free community baby shower in Le Mars, she hesitated. Social gatherings often triggered her anxiety, but something told her to take a chance. That decision would change everything.

At the event, Monica met Angie, a Family Support Specialist who immediately made her feel safe, seen, and supported. For the first time, Monica felt like she didn't have to navigate motherhood alone. Encouraged by that connection, she took a leap of faith and enrolled in LSI's HOPES (Healthy Opportunities for Parents to Experience Success) program. Soon after, baby Lily was born, and with her came a love that transformed everything.

Today, Monica and Tim eagerly welcome Angie into their home each week. Together they are building the kind of family Monica once believed was out of reach. Monica soaks up every parenting resource she can, applying what she learns with determination and care. Tim is a steady, patient presence. And Lily? She is a joyful, thriving toddler growing exactly as she should be.

But Monica's journey didn't begin with confidence. It began with a single moment of courage and an agency that showed up for her. Because of that one event, Monica found more than support, she found belief in herself. She found the tools to heal, to grow, and to become the loving, capable mother she once thought she could never be.

Stories like Monica's are only possible because of compassionate donors.

Community support makes it possible to host community baby showers that connect families to vital resources. It funds programs like HOPES that empower parents, strengthen families, and give children the safe, nurturing start they deserve.



# LUNCH & LEARN AT BETHANY HEIGHTS

Empowering Your Future with Knowledge & Care



**Date:** June 3rd, 2026

**Time:** 12PM - 1PM

**Location:**

Bethany Heights  
Assisted Living  
11 Elliott St

Council Bluffs, IA

**Bonus:**

All attendees receive a complimentary lunch and a free resource packet!

**RSVP by:** June 1st, 2026

**Call:** 712-328-8228

**Email:** [activitiesbh@blhs.care](mailto:activitiesbh@blhs.care)

Join us as the Jennie Edmundson Community Service Team presents on:

The Insider's Guide to the Hospital: Navigate Like a Pro

Is it an emergency or just a check-up? The hospital can feel like a maze, but you don't have to navigate it alone. Join Jennie Edmundson Community Service Team for an empowering session on how to handle hospitalizations with confidence. We'll discuss how to decide where to go for care, what really happens behind those hospital doors, and—most importantly—how to ensure you get back home with the support you need. Don't just be a patient; be an informed partner in your health!



Bethany Lutheran Home: 712.328.9500  
Bethany Heights Assisted Living: 712.328.8228



**METHODIST**  
JENNIE EDMUNDSON



	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	9:30am Worship	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	Communion 9:30am Worship	8 5:00pm VBS 	9 5:00pm VBS 	10 5:00pm VBS 	11 5:00pm VBS 	12	13 5:30pm Worship
14	9:30am Worship	15	16 9:30am Esther Group	17 9:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting Group	18 11:30am Men's Club 6:30pm Card Club 7:30pm CMA Meeting	19 Office Closed - Juneteenth	20 Communion 5:30pm Worship
21	Communion 9:30am Worship	22	23 7:00pm Church Council	24 Caller Mailed 9:00am Bible Study	25 9:15am Book Club 7:30pm CMA Meeting	26	27 5:30pm Worship
28	9:30am Worship 10:30am Gardening Event 	29	30	1 9:00am Bible Study	2 6:30pm Card Club 7:30pm CMA Meeting	3	4 Communion 5:30pm Worship

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> Zane Coonce	<b>2</b> Sue Zwicky	<b>3</b> Bret Eledge Korie Hansen	<b>4</b> Bobbette Behrens Baylor Swenson Brody Upson Giles Whitney	<b>5</b> John Sundermann	<b>6</b> Deannion Arnold Cael Malskeit Douglas Muehlig
<b>7</b> Ava Kennedy	<b>8</b> Maverick Archer Tracy Frush Curt Schulte	<b>9</b> Stephani Hansen Jenna Loose-Ives	<b>10</b> Scott Behrens Susan Malskeit Tara Sadr	<b>11</b> Renee Northwall Austin Walters	<b>12</b> Zoey Coonce Bob Kossow Lori Preston Debbie Weaver	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Kari Olson	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Avary Maas	<b>20</b> Mark Anderson Tim Ostronic
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Easton Elam Lois Jordan Megan Michael	<b>23</b> Jacob Erickson Nate Roane	<b>24</b> Mary Detro	<b>25</b> Rick Hicks	<b>26</b> Stella Stroup Barbara Vredeveid	<b>27</b> David Steck
<b>28</b> Boyd Arnold Libby Riggs Hillary Senkblie	<b>29</b> Carol Brigandi	<b>30</b> Josh Mauch Gracelyn Taylor				



*Celebrating  
-WITH-  
you*

**50th Wedding Anniversary**

Sue & Mick Coe (June 26)

**60th Wedding Anniversary**

Beth & Frank Pechacek (June 4)

**62nd Wedding Anniversary**

Diane & Cal Hartman (June 6)

**70th Wedding Anniversary**

Marie & A.J. Neal (June 17)

*IN OUR  
Thoughts and Prayers*

*Sympathy to the families of...*

Rick Boyd



*thank you*

I wanted to personally thank the scholarship committee for choosing me for the Joseph Kaltenborn Scholarship. It is an honor to be able to represent the church with this scholarship. I will use this towards my education at the University of South Dakota.

~ Avary Maas



**Saint John Lutheran Church Staff**

- Senior Pastor: Rev. Luke Kuenzli (revluke@saintjohnelca.org)
- Interim Pastor: Rev. Sharon Worthington (pastorsharon88@gmail.com)
- Interim Pastor: Rev. Celeste Waymire (interimpastor.celeste@gmail.com)
- Parish Ministry Coordinator: Patricia S. Minchin
- AV Control Center: Mack Bertelsen, Paul Schmidt
- Chancel Choir Director: Elmer Ellefson (saintjohnchancelchoir@gmail.com)
- Bell Choir Director: Laura Nelson
- Pianist / Organist: Joan Hicks
- Foundation Board President: Ross Jensen (402-681-1383)
- Nursery Attendant: Susan Stellish
- Stephen Minister Leaders: Alan Meilike (328-1671) Debbie Plugge (256-5310)
- Office Manager: Kim Malskeit (712-323-7173) info@saintjohnelca.org
- Custodian: Alicia Pigsley

**Church 712-323-7173**

**Email: info@saintjohnelca.org ~ Website: www.SaintJohnELCA.org**

**Facebook: www.facebook.com/SaintJohnCouncilBluffs**

**Saint John Lutheran Church**

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Council Bluffs, IA 51501-4242

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Permit No. 68  
Zip Plus Four

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



June 8 - 11<sup>th</sup> VBS 5:00 - 7:30pm



June 28 -  
10:30am Gardening Event