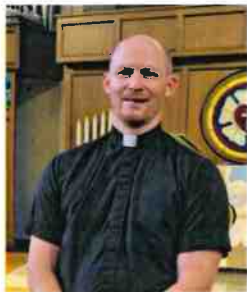


JULY
• 2026

The Caller

Saint John Lutheran Church 2026



Pastor Luke Kuenzli

Interims -
Pastor Sharon
Worthington

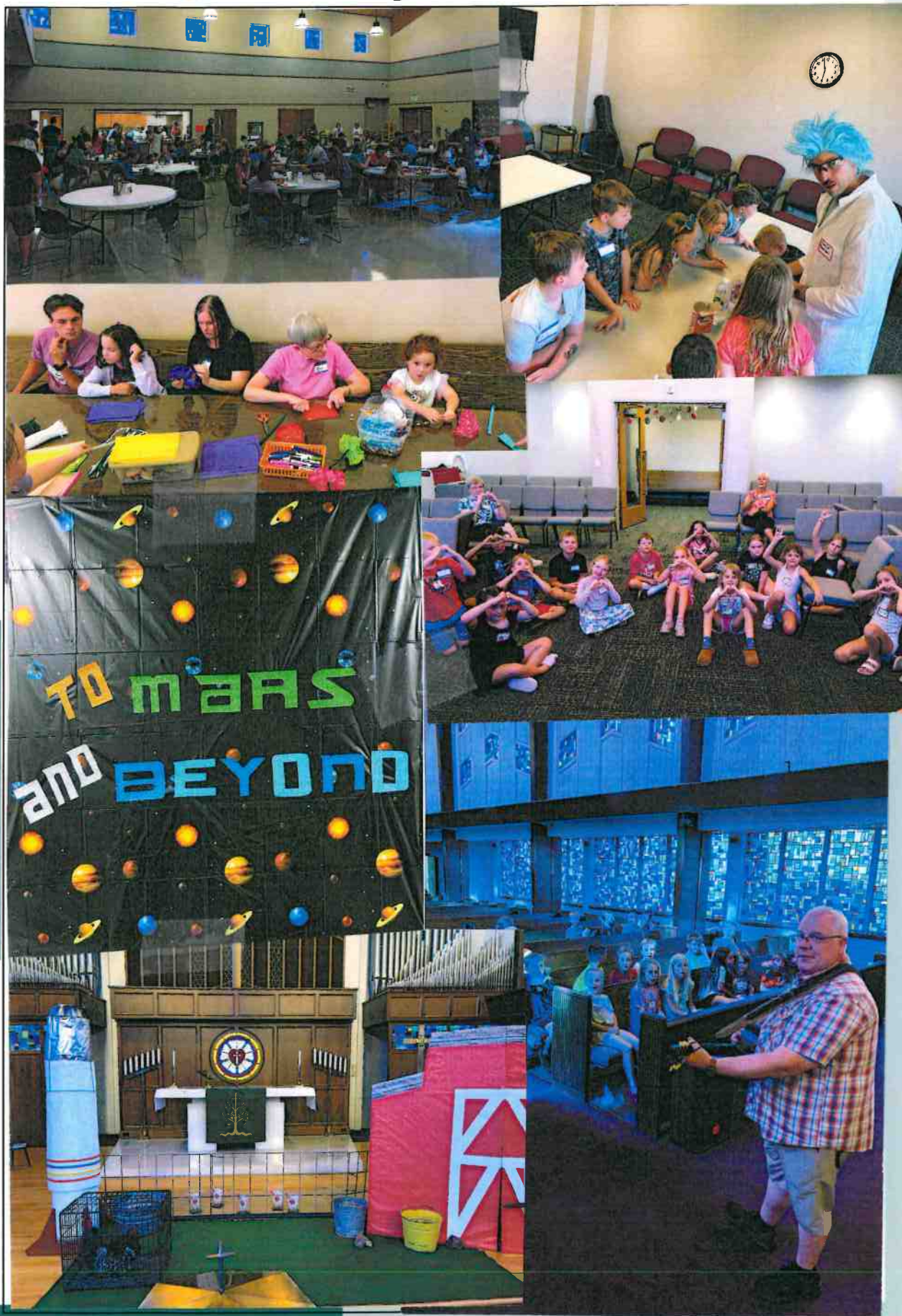
and

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





We've ended our Firm Foundation capital campaign this spring. In fact, that was our last campaign and we will be able to pay off our building loan!! Any further capital campaign contributions received after June 30 will be directed into our contingency fund.



Watch for upcoming details for a congregational meeting and a **CELEBRATION!!**



Each night of VBS increased by numbers, which was an awesome thing to see! Kids got treated to many fun activities, crafts, science, music, skits, supper and snacks. In total 40 kids participated and on family night on Thursday, we had over 120 people! Many of you helped with a piece of the 'spacey' fun! * Thank you to Phyllis for all the planning, and to everyone who lent a helping hand with all the pieces that made a successful week!



July Book:
Unidentified Woman #15
by David Housewright

Discussion date: July 23
at 9:15am

The next book selection for August will be
Educated by Tara Westover

CELEBRATE LOTTIE TAWZER'S 100th BIRTHDAY - Please come and celebrate with Lottie on her 100th Birthday!
Saturday, July 25 from 2:00 – 4:00pm in the Faith & Life Center.

CALLING ALL GARDNERS! Do you have extra produce you would like to donate? To supplement the Saint John Blessing Box Pantry, The Service & Learning Committee would like to offer a Produce Pick-Up for those in need.

**Bring your extra produce to church on either
Saturday or Sunday, July 4 & 5 or August 1 & 2**

and leave it in the designated bin near the Blessing Box Shopping Cart. We will bag and distribute it the next week during a designated pick-up time! If you find yourselves with extra produce before this date that you would like to donate, please feel free to contact either Toni Wilson: 402-639-7858, Joyce Mlynarik: 712-326-5368, or Kristy Harm 712-310-5979 Thank you for your generosity!





"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 is a 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 welcomes you! We will make you feel 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, July 15, 2026. Won't you join us? We 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
July 2, 16 & 30 at 6:30pm
Join us!

July 4 & 5

Patricia Minchin
Elaine von Gillern
Carol Wood
Andrea Hill

July 11 & 12

Cookie Johnson
Becky Taylor
Kim Pace
Diane Hartman



July 18 & 19

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

July 25 & 26

Carolyn Clark
Sandy Cerveney
Ruby Runte
Sue Coe
Barby James



* Esther Group—
July 14 at 9:30am
* Mary Group—
July 9 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. Men of
all ages are welcome to join us.
Next date is July 16.



Good Times Group

Ready for a
good time!

Please join us for burgers, brats, beans and beverages at **5:00pm on Friday, July 10.** Please bring a side dish or dessert to go along with the meal. This fun time will be hosted by Bob Kossow and Keith & Peggy Tye at the Bob Kossow home. Please RSVP by Tuesday July 7 to Peggy 712-308-1203. If you know of a potential guest that would like to join us, please let them know they are welcome! (21622 Greenview Road)



Players will get together in
August. Watch for updates in
the bulletin and the next
Caller.



We are requesting
donations of
Baked beans
Pork & beans



Join Us!



Without Amy's support, I would still be an addict, and I wouldn't be where I am today,"

Michelle was struggling with substance abuse, legal issues, and mental health issues when she found LSI therapist Amy Davis back in 2021.

"God helps us in ways we don't always want him to," said Michelle. "When the coronavirus pandemic hit, I lost my job. The unemployment lines were long at the time, so we went several months without a paycheck, so I decided to get creative with my finances. I started selling drugs and was later arrested. They came in, took my kid, and I went to jail. After that, I was referred to work with Amy at LSI."

Michelle and Amy worked through Michelle's childhood trauma, processing the significant losses in her life due to drug overdose and death. Amy helped Michelle work on building a positive support system, a list of future goals, and a relationship with her daughter, Rachel.

"Rachel and I had a lot of problems when we entered therapy because I was a drug addict, and there was a lot of broken trust between us," said Michelle. "LSI therapists helped us rebuild that trust and helped show her the progress I had made when she couldn't see it herself."

Rachel, in therapy as well, has been seeing LSI Therapist Chelsea Zaragoza since 2019. In addition to one-on-one therapy sessions with their respective therapists, they also do family therapy sessions with Amy and Chelsea. These sessions help the mother and daughter have time set aside to talk about issues they are having in a healthy, productive way.

"Michelle has had a lot of struggles, loss, and a lot of people who didn't believe in her, and her daughter was one of them," said Amy Davis, LSI Therapist. "We have worked hard doing family and individual therapy to bring those two back together, and it has worked. Where they are now, I don't think I've seen a mother-daughter relationship as healthy as the two of them are."

"To see how far Michelle has come since I met her is truly remarkable," said Amy. "She built the ladder, and she climbed out."

"I was a mess when I first came to LSI," said Michelle. "Now, I'm sober, in college, have a high-paying job, and have my daughter back. Amy believed in me when no one else did, not even myself. She gave me hope."



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

WE NEED YOU—JOIN OUR MISSION TODAY! TOGETHER, WE CAN DO MORE!



Contact Angel or Sarah (712) 328-9500
or activitiesbh@blhs.org

LUNCH & LEARN AT BETHANY HEIGHTS

Empowering Your Future with Knowledge & Care

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 29th, 2026

Call: 712-328-8228

Email: activitiesbh@blhs.org

Area Agency on Aging presents on:

Aging with Confidence: Financial Protection and Long-Term Planning and Support

Join us for an informative discussion on planning for the future with confidence. Learn the importance of establishing a Power of Attorney (POA), protecting yourself from common scams targeting older adults, and exploring caregiving resources and support options available to individuals and families. Gain practical knowledge to help safeguard your wishes, finances, and well-being.



Bethany Lutheran Home: 712.328.9500
Bethany Heights Assisted Living: 712.328.8228



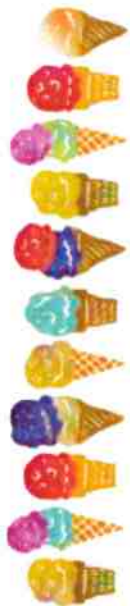
Saint John Lutheran Church



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Charles Pedersen Paul Schmidt	2	3 Rylee Loose-Ives Jordyn Schulte Teresa Walters	4 Jodi Arnold Adam Roane
5 Kelly Gerhardt William Jones Jan Moxley Graci Roberts	6	7 Presley Danker Christensen Jessica Maas David Solon	8 Katie Comley Cindy Krauss	9 Jaxson Archer Claudia Besco Will Hayes Kristi Koopmeiners	10 Joni Rasmussen	11
12 Brett Ensick Jerika Koopmeiners Justin Koopmeiners Carrtie Nepple	13 Brenden Ferck Rosalie Hansen	14 Kelly Prine Janna Thomas	15 Nora Reber Mickey Stogdill	16 Connie Bogardus Ben Brougham Shelly Hovey Casey Malskeit Alex Michael Kyla Penney	17 Becky Smith	18 Michael McIntosh Richard Schneider
19 David Craighill	20 Seth Frush Diane Hartman Ashley Waddell Barbara Woods	21 Jake Brainard Celeste Waymire	22 Sara Conahan Jess Weltz	23 Thomas Hamm Henry Urtaub	24 Matt Malskeit Ellie Traeger	25 Bonnie Archer Lottie Tawzer
26 Brady Hansen Barby James Greg Reinders	27 Brycen Chandler Christine Sundermann Cookie Wood	28	29 Presley Canon Grant Carstens Linda Geer Kathy Nelson	30 Theodore Carstens Debbie Hamling Doug Thompson	31 Karen Meilke	





Celebrating -WITH- you

85th Birthday

Charles Pedersen (July 1)

85th Birthday

Barb Woods (July 20)

100th Birthday

Lottie Tawzer (July 25)

thank you

Thank you for the generous gift. It will be very useful as I study engineering at Iowa State.

Thanks again!

~ Brody Upson

(re: Kaltenborn Scholarship award)

Thank you for the gift and for thinking about me.

~ Darren Warner

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers
Sympathy to the families of...

Ed Nemecek

Marie Neal

Rose Benson, aunt of Neil Wilson



Baptisms

Rhett Allen, son of Jace & Jessalyn Cochran was baptized on June 14.

Leo Mathew, Annie Rose and Cooper Justin, children of Phil & Janelle Harm will be baptized on June 28.

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

633 Willow Avenue
Council Bluffs, IA 51501-4242

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



Let's help our neighbors!

During the months of July and August the Service & Learning Committee will be collecting school supplies for the children & teachers at **Bloomer Elementary School**. Please see the list below for some requested items, and return them to the marked bin in the lobby. If you prefer not to shop for listed items and wish to donate a scrip card for teachers to purchase items, please return those gift cards to Joyce Mlynarik, Kristy Harm or Toni Wilson and they will be added to the donations.

Thank you for your generosity!

Crayons (24 ct.)
BLACK Expo dry erase markers
Washable markers
Colored pencils
#2 yellow pencils
Large, pink eraser
Pencil topper erasers
Glue sticks
Rounded-tip scissors

Yellow highlighter
Colored highlighters
Composition notebooks
Two-pocket folders
Sticky note pads
12oz. hand sanitizer
Gallon / Sandwich bags
Kleenex