

# The Mustard Seed\*

Newsletter for members and friends of  
St. John's Lutheran Church, Waterloo  
(Bennington) ELCA



2026

## From the Pastor



God's grace has been on display in recent months as you've continued to care for each other in many and various ways. The mission collection bench is full of items that will be delivered to the food bank in June. Plans are in place already for summer mission collections, too.

You've shown up for family and friends in difficult times. You've taken time to celebrate graduations, birthdays, memories, anniversaries and more. The community has prayed and played together, laughed and cried together, taught and learned together, worked and cheered together, worshiped and given thanks together. This is what we do as God's people.

As summer beckons, being community together may take different shapes and occur in different places, but the reality is unchanged: God will be there with you in the midst of it all.

### June: Mission Collection: Snacks for Alive and Running

- 6: 9-3 NE Iowa Synod Gathering, Waverly
- 7: 9 AM Worship with Communion/Fellowship
- 12: 5 PM Sage-Neil Vow Renewal Rehearsal
- 13: 3 PM Sage-Neil Vow Renewal Worship
- 14: 9 AM Worship/Fellowship
- 18: ALIVE AND RUNNING TREATS TO CHURCH
- 19: 10:30 Perlick Funeral Service
- 20: 7:30 AM Alive and Running 5K
- 21: 9 AM Worship with communion  
Council  
Father's Day
- 28: 9 AM Worship/Fellowship  
Upper Elementary Sunday School Meeting

### July: Mission Collection: School Supplies for LWR Kits

- 5: 9 AM Worship with communion
- 12: 9 AM Worship/Fellowship  
Semi-Annual Meeting
- 18: 10 AM Dunkerton Days Parade—float riders needed!
- 19: 9 AM Worship with communion
- 26: 9 AM Worship/Fellowship  
1 PM SJB Kayaks at George Wyth

### August: Vacation Bible School: TBD

- 2: 9 AM Worship with communion
- 9: 9 AM Worship/Fellowship
- 16: 9 AM Worship with communion
- 23: 9 AM Worship/Fellowship
- 30: 9 AM Worship/Fellowship

### June 19-20: Alive and Running Events

Again this year, we will provide treats for the June 20 Alive and Running 5K.

Please have your treats to church by Thursday noon on June 18 OR take them directly to the Baptist church on June 19.

Grab and go foods such as cereal bars, granola bars and other treats are welcomed, as are homemade cookies and bars.

Monetary donations are also used to help buy things like fruit and water.

The race itself begins at 7:30 on Saturday at the Gospel Hall.

Friday evening from 6-8 pm at the high school track includes a remembrance ceremony, luminary display and rock decorating.



**\*Why "The Mustard Seed?\*"** In Matthew 17 and Luke 17, Jesus said that mustard seed size faith is enough. God is the one who makes things happen! Even a little belief is enough from us! This newsletter is a little glimpse into life here at SJB. Enjoy! We're also on Facebook! Look for the church page and the youth and Sunday school page.

# WORDS THAT HONOR DAD!

Create this artwork to show your love and appreciation for your dad or another special man this Father's Day.



## What you need:

- A white painting canvas, foam-core board or poster board
- Letter stickers or letter stamps

## What you do:

1. Using the letters, spell out words that describe your dad's character (loving, honest, godly, etc.) and/or his roles (protector, provider, mentor, etc.).
2. Arrange the words in a crossword-style design, placing them both horizontally and vertically.
3. Once you're happy with the layout, stick the words onto the canvas or board.
4. Decorate the canvas as you like, then present it as a meaningful reminder of your love and appreciation for who he is.

**Above:** A creative artistic expression of love and appreciation to make for Father's Day!

## Worship Update

The chalice we've been using on communion Sundays is Pastor Beth's; she purchased it on a 3 week trip to Jordan and Israel in January 1990. It's small and somewhat hard to see.

At last month's council meeting, it was agreed that we could get something larger and more visible.

In a different congregation, PB worked with a local potter, Angie Sorrell. The new chalices for SJB are done by the same person. (See below)

A helpful feature of these chalices is that they are split: juice can be on one side and wine on the other if we ever use wafers.



## Newsletter Format Note

Just as we had to rework the bulletin because Publisher will no longer be available this fall, so we also have to rework the newsletter format. This is a work in progress!

Thanks for your patience as we switch things over this summer.

## Council Updates

Church council did not meet in May. Next meeting is June 21.

SJB Semi-annual meeting is slated for July 12.



## St John Kayaks!

Mark your calendars for July 26. Dan and Deanne are organizing an afternoon of kayaking on one of the lakes at George Wyth State Park.

We'll meet at the park at 1 (directions to where we'll gather will be coming.)

Salisburys have a number of kayaks for folks to use if they don't have their own.

Lifejackets required.

Bring whatever snacks or beverages you and your family may need.

Come for an afternoon of fun on the water—leave when you need to if you can only come for a shorter time.

Rain date is Aug. 2.

## July-August Newsletter

The next newsletter will be a combined July-August one. Special mission collection will be school supplies for LWR backpacks. Items needed will include:

- 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper. (NO loose leaf paper)
- Centimeter rulers, or rulers with centimeters on one side/inches on the other.
- Pencil sharpeners
- Blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- Black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- Boxes of 16 o
- 2 1/2" erasers (like the pink ones)





**Congratulations to the Class of 2026!** SJB 2026 grads who were able to join us on Senior Recognition Sunday for the WELCA-hosted reception included Kristen, Colin, Aidan and Alex.

**A prayer for the journey.** Known as the “Ventures Prayer” it seems appropriate: *O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### ***Lutheran Services in Iowa: Your gifts help make healthier families possible!***

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.

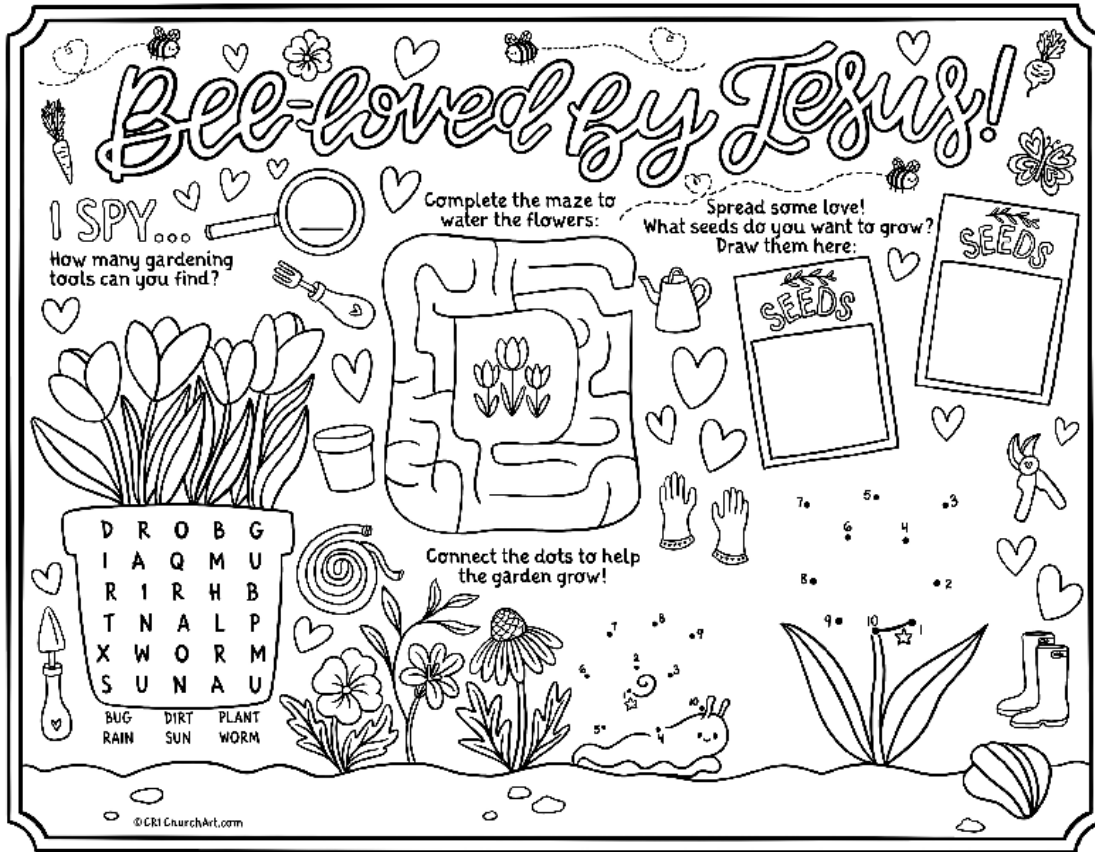
When Monica heard about LSI’s free community baby shower in Le Mars, she hesitated. Social gatherings often triggered her anxiety, but something told her to take a chance. That decision would change everything. At the event, Monica met Angie, a Family Support Specialist who immediately made her feel 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.

And Monica’s story is just one example of many. Thank you.



***BEE-loved by Jesus***

Thank you for the ways you've helped share the news that all creation is "Bee-loved" by Jesus.

SJB encourages regular, faithful and generous offerings all year round. Please remember the church in your giving whether you are at home or away.

YOU make a difference in the lives of many, and we are grateful for you!



**The Mustard Seed**

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