

August 2026

St John Messenger



CONTACT INFO

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COMMUNION

August 2, 2026
August 16, 2026
August 30, 2026

LIVESTREAM

YouTube
St John Lutheran, Athol

FACEBOOK

St John Lutheran, Athol

WEBSITE

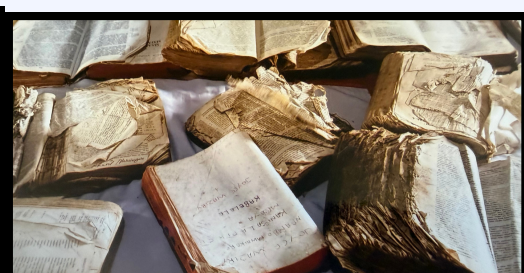
stjohnlutheranathol.com



Dear Members of St. John,

Six months ago, we began collecting bibles and Christian materials for Love Packages. On July 23rd, 1100 pounds of donations were loaded on a pickup and after driving 557 miles to a town of 165 people (Butler, IL), our materials were unloaded into a huge warehouse on their way to travel in a shipping container overseas. Love Languages has delivered the Word of God to 154 countries and so far this year 780 tons! Shipping costs are \$500,000 per year, all supported by donations and grants. Every piece of your donations can mean the difference between faith in Jesus Christ and no faith for someone. Below are pictures of Bibles that were being used by pastors in Africa, and some did not even have a Bible!. As we continue to focus on the mission of the Church to proclaim the gospel, consider supporting Love Packages with your prayers and gifts. Thank you to all who participated in this ministry! Pastor Ann

Give praise to
the Lord,
proclaim his
name; make
known among
the nations what
he has done."
Psalm 105:1



**A Gift from Our Church
is Launching on August 23rd!
Free Access to 25,000
Bible Study Videos!**

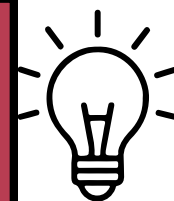


**Anytime, Anywhere, Any Device
Individual Study & Small Groups
Children & Teens & Adults**

**www.rightnowmedia.org
Check it out now and learn more
about it in August Sunday services!**



**Mission Festival
Sept. 27th
Mark your Calendars!**



Caleb Meyer will be our mission speaker from The Salt Company, a college outreach ministry of Citylight Kearney Church. Its goal is to reach university students with the gospel and train them as disciples on campus. It offers students opportunities to gather for worship, bible study, fellowship and mission. Caleb is the husband of Tayln Meyer, daughter of Jay and Penny McKenzie. We are excited to hear more about The Salt Company! Check it out at <https://www.citylightkearney.org/college-1>

Prayer Concerns this Month

**Blondina Kuhlmann
Virginia Engelke
Roy Dean Bell
Betty Kirchhoff
Deb Sinclair & Family
Pastor Doyle & Janna Karst
Mike Rice**

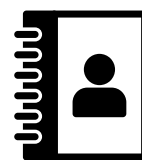
**Irish Kussmann
Dorothy Seems
Bob & Dorothy Wire
Marilyn Kramer
Larry Maninger
Maggie Nixon
Bruce Seems**

Text additions to Penny @ 785-282-0216

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR AUGUST



**Watch the
weekly bulletin
announcements.**



**Please check the
clipboard on the
kitchen counter to
update or approve
your directory
information ASAP!**

Backpack Blessing August 16th!



**Kids! Bring your backpack to the Children's Sermon!
We will pray for you
as you start a new school year!**

**Special August Offerings
Back to School
Summer Harvest Offering
Tartu Academy
More details to follow!**



Old-Fashioned Watermelon Feed -TBD

**Watermelons are GROWING!
When will they be ready to eat?
Only God Knows, but we're praying for a good harvest!**



August Upcoming Events:

August 2nd - 2:30 PM Sunporch and SCHR Church Service

August 4th - 6:30 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast

August 5th - 10:30 AM Communion at Sunporch

August 8th - 6:30 PM Walk His Way Concert

August 12th - 7:30 PM - Council Meeting

August 16th - Backpack Blessing during Children's Sermon

August 23rd - Right Now Media Kickoff Sunday

6:00 PM - Ice Cream Social

Watermelon Feed TBD

Ongoing Events:

Tuesdays: 6:30 PM Bible Study with Pastor Ann

Wednesdays: 9:00 AM Women's Morning Circle

Thursdays: 1:30 PM Bible Study at Sunporch

August Member Celebrations

Birthdays

1 - Blake Kirchhoff	17 - Brad Cole
2 - Dorothy Wire	21 - Laura Zabel
2 - Trevor Engelke	22- Brenda Frieling
6 - Blondina Kuhlmann	23 - Julie Kuhlmann
9- Kaid Lehmann	24 - Matthew Beckmann
10 - Hayden Lehmann	26 - Christina Hickert
11 - Kai Kirchhoff	27 - Bruce Seems
12 - Penny McKenzie	28 - Rhett Hickert
14 - Randy Allen	31 - Doug Gibson
14 - Gary Kirchhoff	31 - Mark Kuhlmann
17 - Lovelle Kirchhoff	

Text additions/corrections to Penny 785-282-0216

Baptismal Birthdays

1- Randy Allen
 1- Gary Gerstenkorn
 7 - Maryanne Kirchhoff
 14 - Brittany Payne
 19- Sherri Frieling
 23 - Tyce McKenzie

Anniversaries

8- Mr & Mrs Bob Wire
 24- Mr & Mrs Ray Montgomery
 24 - Mr & Mrs Gary Frieling
 30- Mr & Mrs Raegan Kirchhoff

Back to School Blessings: Rooted in Grace, Ready to Learn

As a new school year begins, we give thanks for God's faithfulness and pray for students, educators, and families stepping into fresh routines and opportunities. Learning is a gift from God, and the church gladly surrounds our community with prayer and encouragement.

A Prayer for the School Year

Gracious God, source of wisdom and keeper of our days: Bless students with curiosity, courage, and kindness. Uphold teachers and staff with patience, creativity, and joy. Surround families with peace, good rhythms, and teamwork. Guard our schools, guide our choices, and knit our community together in love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Encouragement for the Journey

Students: You are beloved before you are graded. Ask questions, include others, try again. Parents and Caregivers: Establish simple rhythms—shared meals, bedtime prayers, device-free check-ins.

Educators and Staff: Your vocation matters. We see you, we thank you, and we are praying for you.

Congregation: Be a witness of Christ's love—send a note, offer a ride, mentor, or volunteer.

Scripture for the Season

"Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth" (Psalm 86:11). "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" (Colossians 3:16).

May this school year be marked by wisdom, wonder, and the steady grace of Christ. The Lord goes with you—into classrooms, carpools, cafeterias, and beyond. God bless this season of learning!

MEMORIAL FUNDS UPDATE:

An update from the Special Funds Treasurer about how Memorial Funds are in use at St.

John starting with January 1, 2026.

New coat rack and hangers

Repair of Church Marquee Sign

"Believers for Christ" trip and donation to Crossroads

IN THE NEAR FUTURE:

Rock signs by the highway will be updated

Altar paraments to be purchased

Many projects and repairs are made possible through the memorials given in honor of loved ones. Your gifts are much appreciated!

IN THE NEWS

MEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Let's celebrate our youth and adults in the news! Bring clippings from your paper and hang them on our "In The News" bulletin board! This is a great way to give thanks for our blessings and encourage each other!

August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 ■ 9:30AM Worship ■ 10:30AM Sunday School	27 ■ 6:30PM Adult Bible Study	28 ■ 6:30PM Adult Bible Study	29 ■ 9:00AM Morning Circle ■ 9:00AM Pastor's Office Hours ■ 12:00PM Bulletin Deadline	30 ■ 1:30PM Bible Study at Sun Porch	31	1
2 ■ 9:30AM Worship ■ 10:30AM Sunday School ■ 2:30PM Sunporch & SCHR Church Service	3 ■ 6:30AM Men's Discipleship Breakfast ■ 6:30PM Adult Bible Study	4 ■ 6:30AM Men's Discipleship Breakfast ■ 6:30PM Adult Bible Study	5 ■ 9:00AM Morning Circle ■ 9:00AM Pastor's Office Hours ■ 10:00AM Communion at Sunporch ■ 12:00PM Bulletin	6 ■ 1:30PM Bible Study at Sun Porch	7 ■ 6:30PM Walk His Way	8
9 ■ 9:30AM Worship ■ 10:30AM Sunday School	10 ■ 6:30PM Adult Bible Study	11 ■ 6:30PM Adult Bible Study	12 ■ 9:00AM Morning Circle ■ 9:00AM Pastor's Office Hours ■ 12:00PM Bulletin ■ 7:30PM Council	13 ■ 1:30PM Bible Study at Sun Porch	14	15
16 ■ 9:30AM Worship – Backpack blessing ■ 10:30AM Sunday School	17 ■ 6:30PM Adult Bible Study	18 ■ 6:30PM Adult Bible Study	19 ■ 9:00AM Morning Circle ■ 9:00AM Pastor's Office Hours ■ 12:00PM Bulletin Deadline	20 ■ 1:30PM Bible Study at Sun Porch	21	22
23 ■ 9:30AM Worship – Right Now Media ■ 10:30AM Sunday School ■ 6:00PM Ice Cream Social	24 ■ 6:30PM Adult Bible Study	25 ■ 6:30PM Adult Bible Study	26 ■ 9:00AM Morning Circle ■ 9:00AM Pastor's Office Hours ■ 12:00PM Bulletin Deadline	27 ■ 1:30PM Bible Study at Sun Porch	28	29
30 ■ 9:30AM Worship ■ 10:30AM Sunday School	31 ■ 6:30AM Men's Discipleship Breakfast ■ 6:30PM Adult Bible Study	1 ■ 6:30AM Men's Discipleship Breakfast ■ 6:30PM Adult Bible Study	2 ■ 9:00AM Morning Circle ■ 9:00AM Pastor's Office Hours ■ 12:00PM Bulletin Deadline	3 ■ 1:30PM Bible Study at Sun Porch	4	5