

May 2026

St John Messenger



COMMUNION

May 3, 2026
May 17, 2026
May 31, 2026

LIVESTREAM

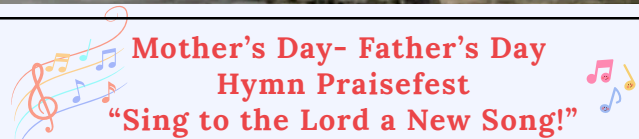
YouTube
St John Lutheran, Athol

FACEBOOK

St John Lutheran, Athol

WEBSITE

stjohnlutheranathol.com



Dear Members of St. John,

The newness of spring reminds us of the risen Christ and the promise of eternal life for us! One way to praise God for all that he does for us is to sing! And we sing even more joyfully when we sing a favorite song! On Sunday, May 3rd, you will each be asked to write down five of your favorite hymns or praise songs. On Mother's Day, we will sing the women's favorite songs and on Father's Day, the men's. I will continue to use this list throughout the summer!

On Thursday, July 23rd, we will be taking our love packages to Butler, Illinois. This trip will combine youth and adults on mission. Once we know how many are going, we will plan our trip accordingly and will come back either Saturday or Sunday. Come join us!

Another opportunity for you this summer is to attend the Hearland District Gathering in Fremont, Nebraska. It's theme is "Back to the Basics." Julie Smith, the LCMC service coordinator will be our guest speaker! Dates for this event are July 17th-18th. I will be presenting a session on connecting children's ministry to worship. Prayerfully consider attending this special event!

Please welcome two new members to St. John who are renewing their memberships: Laura Zabel and Cindy Ring. Both were previous members in the past. Welcome back Laura and Cindy!

In His Love,
Pastor Ann

Prayer Concerns this Month

Blondina Kuhlmann
Virginia Engelke
Darlene Haun
Jenny Kramer
Bob Caspers
Roy Dean Bell
Betty Kirchhoff
Pastor Bob & Deb Sinclair
Pastor Doyke & Janna Karst

Irish Kussmann
Dorothy Seems
Bob and Dorothy Wire
Bruce Seems
Troy Blubaugh
Kayleen Heller
Gracie Kirchhoff
Connie Francis
Family of Kaden Sites

Please note:
The prayer chain has two purposes: to pray for our members who need them, and to make important announcements such as canceling church. If you are not on the prayer chain, please contact Pastor Ann. The Council's goal is to have all members on the chain. Thank you!

Please let Penny know if anyone needs added.
penny.mckenzie@yahoo.com



Save the Date!
Sunday-May 17th
VBS Kickoff Picnic - 5:00 PM
Smith Center Park
May 18-21 - 2026 VBS

Mission Opportunities



Food Pantry
Donations Needed

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR MAY: Cereal, Oatmeal, Hamburger or Tuna "helper meals", Peanut butter, Toilet paper and Soups. Any food you bring will be put to good use and will honor God as an offering gift.

July 23-25

**Love Packages Mission Trip
Butler, Illinois**

We will sort, pack, and ship bibles and other Christian materials that God is using in amazing ways on the mission field. We also hope to stop in Kansas City or St. Louis on the way home for fun! More information to follow!

Check out our newly organized library!

There will be a designated share section. Bring books to share or check one out!

Bring your donations to our Love Packages Wagon in the Parish Hall!

Bibles



Tracts



Reference
Materials



Books



SS
Materials



Puppets
Nativity Sets



Magazines and
Devotionals



CD's
DVD's
Blue Ray





May Upcoming Events:



- May 3 - 9:30 AM Confirmation - Blaine Lehmann & Brinley Hicker
- May 5 - 6:30 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast
- May 6 - 10:30 AM Communion at Sunporch
- May 10 - Mother's Day Hymn Praisefest
- May 17 - Graduation Sunday - Gavin Hickert and Kharson Montgomery
VBS Picnic - 5:00 PM - Smith Center Park
- May 18-21 - VBS 9:00 - 11:30 AM
- May 24 - 9:30 AM - VBS Sunday Program
- May 20 - 7:30 PM - Council Meeting
- May 31 - 5th Sunday Lunch Fellowship



Ongoing Events:

Tuesdays: 6:30 PM Bible Study with Pastor Ann
Book of Acts Study

Wednesdays: 9:00 AM Women's Morning Circle
"Experiencing God"

Thursdays: 1:30 PM Bible Study at Sunporch



May Member Celebrations

Birthdays

- 5 - Chrys Engelke
- 8 - Greg Zabel
- 10 - Regan Kirchhoff
- 14 - Amanda Lehmann
- 15 - Chris Barnes
- 24 - Gavin Hickert
- 29 - Charles Timmons
- 29 - Sharol Meyer
- 30 - Glenn Timmons
- 30 - Karen Cole
- 30 - Mike Hutchison

Baptismal Birthdays

- 1 - Amy Timmons
- 4 - Brody Frieling
- 6 - Bethany Cole
- 6 - Jett Vigil
- 15 - Penny McKenzie
- 19 - Chris Barnes

Anniversaries

- 17 - Mr & Mrs Duane Engelke
- 22 - Mr & Mrs Bard Cole
- 22 - Mr & Mrs Jay McKenzie

Confirmation: The Beginning of a Lifelong Journey of Faith

Confirmation is often seen as a milestone—an important day when young people stand before the congregation to affirm their faith. It is a moment filled with joy, pride, and a sense of accomplishment. Yet, in the life of the Church, confirmation is not an ending. It is a beginning.

In the Lutheran tradition, confirmation marks a deeper step into a lifelong relationship with God. Through study, prayer, and learning, confirmands come to better understand Scripture, the Catechism, and the promises made at their baptism. But faith is not something that is completed in a classroom or sealed in a single ceremony. Faith grows, changes, and deepens over time.

Life will bring moments of certainty and moments of doubt, times of joy and times of struggle. Through it all, God remains faithful. Confirmation equips young people with a foundation, but the journey ahead invites them to continue asking questions, seeking understanding, and trusting in God's grace.

As a congregation, we are called to walk alongside those who are confirmed—not only celebrating their milestone but supporting their ongoing journey. Faith is nurtured in worship, in service, in community, and in daily life. Confirmation, then, is not a finish line. It is a step forward—a commitment to continue growing in faith, trusting in God's promises, and living out that faith in the world.

Let us celebrate this beginning and encourage one another as we walk together in Christ, today and always.



LCMC Annual Heartland District Gathering

BACK 
TO THE BASICS 

What Does it Mean to be Lutheran
in a Changing World?

JULY 17-18

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
2102 N County Road 26
FREMONT, NE

***All sessions are open to
clergy & church members!*

*To register:
Mail attached form with
\$20 check or register online.*

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
JULIE SMITH - LCMC Service Coordinator
BACK TO BASICS: THE INTERSECTION OF THE SMALL
CATECHISM AND OUR CORE VALUES



Crossroads Mission Youth
*Brinley and Gavin Hickert
*Blaine Lehmann
*Confirmation Class

If you are interested in attending the District Gathering, please let Pastor Ann know. Our church pays for your registration and overnight stay. It will be a "back to the basics" meaningful experience!

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Sunday School	27 6:30PM Adult Bible Study	28 9:00AM Morning Circle 9:00AM Pastor's Office Hours 12:00PM Bulletin 6:00PM Confirmation	29 1:30PM Bible Study at Sun Porch	30	1	2
3 9:30AM Worship (Confirmation) 10:30AM Sunday School	4 6:30AM Men's Discipleship Breakfast 6:30PM Adult Bible Study	5 9:00AM Morning Circle 9:00AM Pastor's Office Hours 10:30AM Communion at Sunporch 12:00PM Bulletin 6:00PM Confirmation	6 1:30PM Bible Study at Sun Porch	7	8	9
10 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Sunday School	11 6:30PM Adult Bible Study	12 9:00AM Morning Circle 9:00AM Pastor's Office Hours 12:00PM Bulletin 6:00PM Confirmation	13 1:30PM Bible Study at Sun Porch	14	15	16
17 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Sunday School	18 2:00PM Afternoon Circle	19 9:00AM Morning Circle 9:00AM Pastor's Office Hours 12:00PM Bulletin 6:00PM Confirmation	20 1:30PM Bible Study at Sun Porch	21	22	23
24 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Sunday School	25 6:30PM Adult Bible Study	26 9:00AM Morning Circle 9:00AM Pastor's Office Hours 12:00PM Bulletin 6:00PM Confirmation	27 1:30PM Bible Study at Sun Porch	28	29	30
31 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Sunday School	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 6:00PM Confirmation	3 1:30PM Bible Study at Sun Porch	4	5	6