

St. John's Lutheran Church



Newsletter

Pastor

November, 2025

Have you remembered St. John's in your will?

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Spiritual Reflections on the Fall Season

As the leaves turn and the air grows crisp, the fall season invites us into a time of spiritual reflection, new beginnings, and intentional growth in discipleship. The visible changes in nature remind us of deeper, spiritual truths and offer an opportunity to realign our hearts with God's purpose.

Embracing Change-Fall is a vivid reminder that change is both inevitable and purposeful. Just as trees release their leaves in preparation for a new season, we too are called to trust God in the midst of life's transitions. The shifting landscape serves as a beautiful illustration of God's design—inviting us to surrender control, embrace transformation, and deepen our reliance on Him.

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." — Ecclesiastes 3:1

Gratitude and Harvest-Traditionally a time of gathering crops, fall is a season rich with the theme of thanksgiving. It reminds us to pause and reflect on the many blessings God has provided. Whether in physical provision or spiritual fruit, the "harvest" in our lives is a testament to God's goodness and grace.

"The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us." — Psalm 67:6

This is also a powerful time for outreach—to share from the abundance we've been given, planting seeds of kindness and faith in others.

Letting Go-The falling leaves mirror the spiritual act of releasing what no longer serves us—whether it be sin, old habits, unforgiveness, or fear. Just as the trees shed to prepare for renewal, we too are invited to lay down our burdens and trust in God's process of pruning and growth.

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!" — Isaiah 43:18-19

Reflection Questions:

- What changes are happening in your life that God may be using for your growth?
- What "leaves" do you need to let go of this season?
- In what ways can you cultivate gratitude and share your harvest with others?

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Solar Project

We are still accepting pledges toward the Solar Project. Pledges may be made by filling out the forms on the table by the Narthex.



Radio Ministry November 2025



Nov 2	Church Funds
Nov 9	Darrell & Jolayne Winkie, listeners from Decorah
Nov 16	Church Funds
Nov 23	Church Funds
Nov 30	Church Funds

THANK YOU!

Thank You to Our Veterans

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the brave men and women of St. John's Church who have served in the armed forces. Your courage, sacrifice, and dedication to protecting our freedoms are deeply appreciated.

Today and every day, we honor your service and pray for your continued peace and well-being.
Thank you, Veterans.

Your St. John's Church Family



Trustee Meeting

October 20, 2025

- Solar Project almost completed.
- Authorized a third check signer.
- Security Camera to be repaired once solar project is complete.
- Next Trustee Meeting is Tuesday, November 18 @ 6:00 pm
- Full Council Tuesday, November 18 @ 7:00 pm

****SEE NARTHEX BULLETIN
BOARD for details****

Looking for Volunteers

Advent is coming soon! The Deacons are preparing for the candle lighting at the beginning of each worship service with short readings and are looking for volunteers. If you or your family would like to take part in this short ceremony, please contact Linda Groe (568-1449 or groeeldg@gmail.com). ~Submitted by the Deacons

A Note from The Call Committee

The Call Committee met for the first time with Pastor Brackett from the Northeast Iowa Synod. We will be starting the process by working on the Ministry Site Profile. We will be keeping the congregation informed throughout the process. ~ Submitted by The Call Committee

To Receive the Word ...

Sunday morning worship services are on the local radio station. Dial in 103.5 FM (KNEI) at 8:30 am or log into www.kneiradio.com to worship with St. John's. We also are video streaming on Facebook Live.

You may now receive the newsletter via email as a PDF document. Contact the church office if you would like to be on this email list.

St. John's is on the web at

www.stjohnswaukon.net

and Facebook [stjohns@waukon](https://www.facebook.com/stjohns@waukon)



Sunday School News

We are in full swing with our Sunday School teachings.

Reminder, children's worship bulletins and activity bags are available each Sunday on the table by the Narthex. Grab one on your way in for services.

November

2025

BE THANKFUL.
BE
Grateful
&
BE BLESSED.

sunday	monday	tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Daylight Savings Time - Clocks go back 1 hour Worship 8:30&10:30am w/comm 9:30 Sunday School & Sr Choir 7pm Ecumenical Choir 8pm Men's Choir	3	4 	5 6pm Youth Bell Choir 7pm Sr Bell Choir	6	7	8
9 Worship 8:30&10:30am 9:30 Sunday School & Sr Choir 7pm Ecumenical Choir 8pm Men's Choir Pennies for Presents	10	11	12 6pm Youth Bell Choir 7pm Sr Bell Choir	13	14	15
16 Worship 8:30&10:30am w/comm 9:30 Sunday School & Sr Choir 7pm Ecumenical Choir 8pm Men's Choir	17	18 6pm Trustee Mtg 7pm Council Mtg	19 6pm Youth Bell Choir 7pm Sr Bell Choir	20	21	22
23 Worship 8:30&10:30am 9:30 Sunday School & Sr Choir	24	25	26 6pm Youth Bell Choir 7pm Sr Bell Choir 7pm Thanksgiving Eve	27 	28	29
30 Worship 8:30&10:30am 9:30 Sunday School & Sr Choir						

Music Ministry

November is a short month and filled with many activities in preparation for advent and Christmas. The rush is on with music to learn and extra rehearsals. Following is a reminder of the change in schedule of rehearsals for the month of November.

Sundays; 9:30 am Senior Choir

7:00 pm Ecumenical Choir

8:00 pm Men's Choir

Wednesdays; 6:00 pm Youth Bell Choir

7:00 pm Senior Bell Choir

Upcoming events include the Ecumenical Choir Christmas Concert Sunday, December 14 at 7:00 pm.

*Submitted by
James H. Bieber / Director of Music*



CIRCLE NEWS November 2025

SARAH Circle: will meet Nov. 11 at 9:15 am at the church with hostess Betty White. The Bible study will be session 2 on pg 24 of the Sept/Oct/Nov issue of Gather magazine.

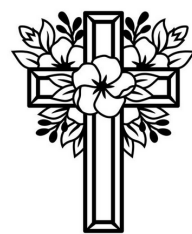
DORCAS Circle: Will meet virtually on November 11 at 7pm. Contact Linda Groe to join.

October 2025

Baptisms:

Wedding: None for October

Deaths:



Did You Know? Daylight Savings Time Information

It's getting dark around 6 p.m., the temperatures are crisper and the leaves are turning — signs that we are about to fall back. Here's what to know about the end of daylight saving time 2025.

In 2025, daylight saving time ends on Sunday, November 2, 2025, when clocks will "fall back" one hour from 2 a.m. to 1 a.m. This means you will gain an extra hour of sleep.

The purpose of daylight saving time is to make better use of natural daylight in the evenings, though its energy-saving benefits are debated.

Key dates: Ends: Sunday, November 2, 2025, at 2 a.m. (clocks set back one hour)

Starts again: Sunday, March 8, 2026, at 2 a.m. (clocks set forward one hour)

Important facts: "Fall back": On November 2, clocks will be turned back one hour at 2 a.m., resulting in earlier sunrises and sunsets.

"Spring forward": The last "spring forward" was on March 9, 2025, when clocks moved ahead one hour at 2 a.m.

Common practice: The change to standard time happens on the first Sunday in November, and the switch to daylight saving time occurs on the second Sunday in March.

Health and productivity: Some studies indicate a temporary increase in heart attacks and strokes, along with a decline in productivity, in the days following the spring time change.

Health impacts: Some research suggests a link between the time change and health issues like seasonal depression and increased car accidents.

Energy savings: Studies suggest that modern electricity savings from daylight saving time are minimal and may be offset by other factors.

Automatic vs. manual clocks: Most phones and computers will change automatically, but you'll need to manually adjust non-smart devices like microwaves and analog clocks.

Historical context: The practice was first implemented in the U.S. in 1918 to conserve fuel and was popularized by Germany during World War I to save coal.

Not for farmers: Daylight saving time was not created to help farmers; it's more of a modern concept.

Exceptions: Some states, like Hawaii and parts of Arizona, do not observe daylight saving time.

Coping tips: To adjust to the time change, try to gradually shift your sleep schedule, get morning light, limit caffeine, and maintain a consistent routine.



St. John's Women Serving and Socializing

WELCA news for October

Wow! 2025 is going fast! Soon it will be Christmas! Speaking of Christmas, we are still collecting Pennies for Presents. We collect money the third Sunday of each month for this worthy cause. So we will collect money in October and November for this year to buy presents for a few children. Cindy Wuebker will use that money to buy Christmas presents for a few boys and girls. Last year she was able to purchase gifts for three boys and three girls. Please donate to this

worthy cause. You may also drop a donation off at the church office if you choose.

The quilting ladies have been busy this fall and are still working hard on quilts. They will be stopping soon. If you are interested in joining them, please contact Mary Lou Sorum or Kathy Murray to check and see if they are still finishing up some quilting projects before they stop for the year.

Nona Sawyer has set up a display table at the top of the stairs across from the elevator featuring items that are needed for the baby kits. Please check that table out and see if you can contribute any items for the baby kits.

The produce table has been a big hit! It is located in the basement right by the elevator. Thank you to all who donated their bounty from their gardens. It was very much appreciated!

We will be working on the new booklets for WELCA for the coming year. If you have any suggestions for changes in the booklets, please let us know. Also, if we have skipped anyone, please let us know that as well.

Enjoy what is left of fall! Hopefully we will have some pretty trees to look at.

Respectfully, Karen Stamper

St. Johns November Hymns

Nov 2 Time After Pentecost

No. 422 For All The Saints

First Lesson: Isaiah 1:10-18

Second Lesson: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12

Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

No 423 Shall We Gather at the River

During Distribution 414 & 415

No 418 Rejoice in God's Saints

Nov 9 Time After Pentecost

No. 628 Jerusalem My Happy Place

First Lesson: Job 19:23-27a

Second Lesson: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 13-17

Gospel: Luke 20:27-38

No. 629 Abide with Me

No. 638 Blessed Assurance

Nov 16 Time After Pentecost

No. 796 How Firm a Foundation

First Lesson: Malachi 4:1-2a

Second Lesson: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Gospel: Luke 21:5-19

No. 785 When Peace Like a River

During Distribution 789 & 790

No. 632 O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Nov 23 Last Sunday After Pentecost

No. 434 Jesus Shall Reign

First Lesson: Jeremiah 23:1-6

Second Lesson: Colossians 1:11-20 Gospel: Luke 23:33-43

No. 432 The Head That Once Was Crowned

No. 855 Crown Him with Many Crowns

Nov 26 Thanksgiving Eve Service

No. 693 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

First Lesson: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Second Lesson: Phillippians 4:4-9

Gospel: John 6:25-35

No. Sing to the Lord of Harvest

During Distribution No. 689 & 881

No. 679 For the Fruit of All Creation

Nov 30 First Sunday of Advent

No. 436 Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

First Lesson: Isaiah 2:1-5

Second Lesson: Romans 13:11-14

Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44

No. 253 He Came Down

During Distribution 254 & 256

No. 246 Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding!



Happy Birthday

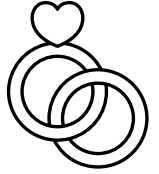
November Birthdays

Ashley Horgen	1	Linda DeBuhr	16	James Lomen	23
Bill Halvorson	4	Emma Palmer	16	Care McCartney-Vincent	23
Frederick Oelberg	4	McKinley Rostvold	16	Larry Dundee	25
Reed Bosley	5	Jacob Dougherty	18	Sarah Christen	26
Braylon Emerson	5	Adalyn Leiran	18	Braden Hermann	26
Dan Treangen	6	Renee Martin	18	Vickie Larson	26
Ken Beardmore	7	Heidi Ryan	18	John Miller	26
Gary Houg	9	Brenda Dougherty	19	Tucker Garthoff	27
Kathy Hay	10	Avery Frommelt	19	Jean Stone	27
Holly Smith	10	Delilah Jones	19	Connie Delaney	28
Lyla Urmanski	11	Annette Stock	19	Isabella Gordon	28
Cody Cook	11	Mason Jones	21	Jennifer Wittrock	28
John O'Neill	11	Mya Jones	21	Brad Yohe	29
Russell Meyer	13	Bruce Barr	23	Betty White	30
Pamela Dundee	15				

Happy Anniversary

November Anniversaries

Joe & Sarah Jackson	4
Lee & Rachel Moser	4
Gary & Marlene Houg	4
Thomas & Sandy Fink	26
Tharin & Bailey Benson	27
Bruce & Rhonda Barr	29



St. John's Volunteer Duty List

Nov	Service	Greeters	Readers	Comm. Asst.	Comm. Prep.	Acolytes	Ushers
2	8:30AM 10:30AM	Todd & Marlene Hills	Blake Roe Lori Hesse	Bailey Benson Randy Hesse Vickie Larson Lori Hesse	Dawn Teslow Chris Ellickson Wendy Bucheit		Linda/Dennis Debuhr Fred Oelberg
9	8:30AM 10:30AM	Sherry Knudtson Ed & Karen Stamper	Sarah Bieber Carrie Niehaus				Same
16	8:30AM 10:30AM	Dave & Wendy Sanderson	Dan Treanger Sadie Bucheit	Dennis/Linda DeBuhr Bonnie Roe Sadie Bucheit	Ron Dahlstrom Linda Groe Evonne Kistler Jill Kistler		Same
23	8:30AM 10:30AM	Geralyn Smith	Mary Jo Meyer Linda Groe				Same
26	7pm Thanksgiving Eve		Vickie Larson	Chris Stuckman	Linda Groe		Matt Teslow
30	8:30AM 10:30AM	Jeff & Diana Johnson	Diana Johnson Linda Groe	Dave & Wendy Sanderson Ron Dahlstrom Linda Groe	Altar Guild Altar Guild		Same

Looking for something more in your journey with your faith?

To deepen your faith journey, focus on building a more intentional relationship with God through practices like prayer and reading scripture, and seek community with others who share your interests. Consider reflecting on your personal journey, seeking guidance from different resources, and maintaining a perspective of trusting God's plan even when things are unclear.

Personal practices

- Engage with scripture: Read the Bible consistently, perhaps with a devotional or a reading plan, to find passages that speak to you and to learn about God's promises.
- Pray consistently: Pray in whatever way you can, even simple prayers like "Help me feel you again," can open your heart.
- Listen to inspiring content: Listen to spiritual podcasts or worship music during your commute to help focus your mind and heart.
- Focus on your assignment: Concentrate on the specific work or path God has given you, rather than comparing yourself to others, which can weaken your faith.

Community and perspective

- Connect with others: Find a supportive community, whether online or in person, to share insights and experiences, which can encourage both your own growth and that of others.
- Shift your perspective: View your struggles through the lens of faith, understanding that God is with you through challenges, not just during easy times.
- Re-examine what you seek: Reflect on what you are seeking in your faith, a question Jesus asked his disciples in the Bible.

Mindset and guidance

- Walk by faith: Trust in God's promises and plans, even when you cannot see them clearly. This is a journey of faith, not sight.
- Embrace the journey: Understand that faith is an evolving journey with ups and downs. The goal is to embrace the journey God has you on, not to chase a perfect life.

Unbridled Prayers App

Busy parents and other primary caregivers may feel overwhelmed by the idea of developing a daily prayer practice. Unbridled Prayers can help! This easy-to-install app posts a prayer a day that parents can view. Prayers offer support, understanding, and a touch of humor.

Parents can choose from prayers for early childhood, elementary, and preteen to match their kids' ages. Go to unbridledprayers.app to download.



St. John's Youth.....

Confirmation Group Participated in Fields of Faith



Special Music



Elsa Thorstenson