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Email

stjohnswaukon@gmail.com

Website

www.stjohnswaukon.net

Church Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday
8:00 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Pastor Mark's Office

Hours: Mondays following the first and third Sundays from **9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.**, with adjustments as needed. Appointments at other times—at church, in homes, or at other mutually agreed-upon locations—are always welcome. You may call the church office 563-568-3623 to schedule a time.

Church Services



St. John's Lutheran Church Messenger

October 2026

Why Make Time for Church?

Did you know that 83% of people came to church because a friend or relative invited them to come? Invitation is far and away the best way to share our faith with others. Recently we received several new members at St. John's. THANK YOU to those who have welcomed them and made them feel at home. It has been a joy to meet guests who have come to see what St John's is all about. Truly the vibrant atmosphere, the care and compassion shared from one to another, faithful worship of Jesus Christ Son of God including the ever ancient and new reading of the bible, singing beautiful songs of faith, hope and love, receiving God's gift of Holy Communion where the physical and spiritual come together to feed our souls in ways the world cannot; all of these ways and more are the elements of coming together each week on Sunday. All of these ways and more are what strengthen us in mind, body and spirits and send us with hope, faith and love to live our lives each day as God's people. Truly, in this our day and time, the church is more relevant than ever with God's ancient but new message of hope, faith and love. God gives us 168 hours of life each week. God asks that we slow down, come together for an hour or two to hear words from scripture we do not choose, hear sermons on topics we did not pick out, sing songs we did not select and join together with people we most likely will not see during the week. This is the treasure God offers us in God's church- to step away from never ending chores and work and responsibilities so that we may gain a fresh perspective as we live each day. Here in God's house, we find forgiveness, we find hope, we find compassion, we find love in ways we never knew existed and our faith in God grows so that we may bear fruit for the good of all. That dear friends in Christ, is why we invite friends to worship with us on Sunday. Come each week as God gives you life so that you may have life that is life!! Invite a friend so that your friend may have life that is life! Remember to also invite friends from St John's you may have not seen for a while. Truly we need each other. Truly we are more together than ever we would be apart! I'll see you in church! Grace and peace,
Pastor Mark

"I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5

Getting to Church on Time

SET YOUR ALARM CLOCK

PLAN OUTFITS IN ADVANCE

Prepare an easy breakfast

MAKE SATURDAY NIGHT BATH NIGHT

WRITE TITHE CHECK IN ADVANCE

Place everything you're bringing by the door

PLAN TO ARRIVE 20 MINUTES EARLY

PRAY. A LOT.

Why Do You Come to Church?

- * Some come to church because it is their weekly routine.
- * Some come to meet friends or fulfill responsibilities.
- * Some come because their family expects them to.
- * But the greatest reason is to worship God, grow in His Word, and allow Him to change our lives.

Sunday School Scoop

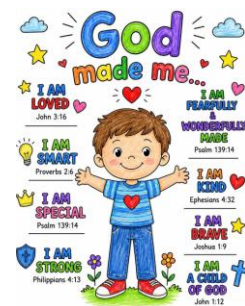
Growing in Faith, Serving Others, and Having Fun! Sunday School is a wonderful opportunity for our children to learn about God's Word, grow in faith, serve others, and enjoy being part of our church family.

October Schedule:

- **Sunday, October 4, 11 & 18:** Regular Sunday School at 9:30 AM
- **Sunday, October 25:** No Sunday School
- **Wednesday, October 28:** 🎃 Wednesday Evening Halloween Party at 5:30 PM — Enjoy a light meal, fun, a Halloween party, and Bible study!

More to Come! Additional schedules and special events will be announced soon.

Please bring your children and grandchildren to Sunday School! Let's encourage the next generation as they grow in faith and discover the joy of following God.



Confirmation Ministry

This year, confirmation classes will explore **Luther's Small Catechism** along with our **Faith Foundations** series, which connects faith with everyday life.

Our first class will be **Wednesday, September 30, at 7:00 p.m.**

Ninth graders preparing for confirmation will also have opportunities to create their **Confirmation stoles** and write their **statements of faith**.

Confirmation Sunday will be October 25 (Reformation Sunday) at 10:30 a.m. service.

Share Your Musical Gifts 🎵

St. John's Lutheran Church is seeking **individuals or groups of any age** who would like to share their musical talents during our church services.

Whether you sing, play an instrument, or have another musical gift to share, we would love to hear from you! This is a wonderful opportunity to use your talents to **worship, inspire, and bless our congregation**. If you are interested in participating, please contact the church office for more information.

50th Anniversary Handbell Choir Reunion 🔔

Plans are already underway for the **50th Anniversary Handbell Choir Reunion**, scheduled for **June 26–27, 2027!** We look forward to reconnecting with current and former youth and adult handbell choir members and celebrating the many years of music and memories shared at St. John's.

If you were a handbell choir member—or know someone who was, including those who have moved away—please help us update our contact list. **With their permission**, please send their email address to **Jim Bieber** at bieberinsre@gmail.com or call/text **563-380-5355**.

Please help us spread the word so we can reach as many former members as possible. We hope to see you at this special reunion!

Thank You – from Pastor Mark Oehlert

Dear friends in Christ, I do not think there are any get well or congratulations cards left in Waukon! Thank you thank you, for the words of encouragement following my illness and the wonderful remembrance of my 25th year of ordination including Nancy's amazing support all these years! You are truly a blessing to us as we share this faith journey together! We look forward to seeing what God has in mind as the days unfold! Grace and peace and my gratitude to one and all, Pastor Mark ~



Shining a Light on Our Solar Success!

Welcoming Fall with Solar Power! As the leaves change and the days grow shorter; our new solar panels are still hard at work! While fall brings fewer hours of daylight, our system is designed to keep drawing clean, sustainable energy for our church even on crisp, autumn days. We are so grateful to everyone who helped us capture the sun's blessings this year—ensuring our building stays powered and efficient through every season ahead.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported our church's solar panel project! Because of your incredible generosity, we are successfully bringing sustainable, clean energy to our building.

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the following donors and supporters who helped make this project a reality: Marilyn Anderson, Bill & Sue Blagsvedt, Dennis & Linda Dennis DeBuhr, Dennis & Sandra Deal, Jane Dietrich, Lee & Chris Ellickson, Gordon Ellingson, Bev Haas, Dr. Gregory & Ann Hagensick, Richard Hermeier, Randy & Lori Hesse, Jens & Jane Kallevang, Richard & Joan Leiran, Russell & Mary Jo Meyer, Lee McGovern, Kathy Murray, Greg & Marlene Palmer, Ann Rademaker, Bill & Becky Roe, Wayne & Nona Sawyer, Thomas & Carol Schreiber, Kyle Selberg, Fred & Geralyn Smith, David & Mary Lou Sorum, Ed & Karen Stamper, Lyle & Annette Stock, Chris Stuckman, Maudie Syhlman, Virgil & Deb Thorstenson, Mary Timmerman, Dan & Lori Treangen, Visitors to our church. Your stewardship and generosity help ensure that our church continues to thrive, serve our community, and care for our environment for generations to come. We are so grateful for your continued faith, support, and partnership!



BIG ANNOUNCEMENT! We are excited to share that **we received our IRS tax credit!** 🙌🙌

Thank you to everyone who helped make this possible through your generosity, prayers, and continued support. This is wonderful news for our church and an important step forward as we continue our mission together! **Thank you for being a part of our church family!**

2026 Baby Bottle Campaign - Waukon St. John's Lutheran Church

We are excited to announce that we have reached our goal of \$55,000 for the 2026 Baby Bottle Campaign (BBC). Currently this is the amount we have received from churches, individuals, and businesses who have donated to the 2026 BBC.

We accept money for this campaign all year so some churches and people continue to give to this campaign throughout the year so hopefully we will reach \$60,000 by the end of the year.

Thank you for your generosity so that we can continue to expand our free services and locations in Northeast Iowa. Your gift is changing lives of one baby, one mother, one family at a time.

We want to thank your congregation for the financial support and prayer for the ministry our organization offers to the unborn, unplanned pregnancies and building healthy families.

This year your church was one of 60 churches who participated in the BBC.

Your CHURCH donated a total of \$715.82 to date.

A thank you may be seen on the bulletin board from the BBC.

Church Library News - Submitted by the Library Committee

The church library is getting an update! We are looking at the entire collection and carefully selecting titles that will stay on the shelf for your reading pleasure. Many of the other titles are out of date or worn. The good news is these books may be something that will fit in your personal libraries. Find your adventure during the month of October on the table in the narthex – take and read!

Suggestions are being requested for what types of books you would like to see in the library. We do have budgeted funds to add to the collection. Contact Vickie Larson or Linda Groe with your wish list.



Trustee and Council Meeting *See the Narthex Bulletin Board for details*

Board of Trustees Update: The Board of Trustees met on **Monday, September 21**. The full meeting minutes are posted and available for review.

Highlights: Solar project update, adopt a project, building repairs on hold till after holidays, Chicken Dinner report, running water (toilet and faucet), video for pastoral candidate.

The next **Board of Trustees** meeting will be held on **Monday, October 19, at 5:30 p.m.**, followed by the **Congregational Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.**

Congregational Council Update: committee reports, change term length of President/Vice President, video for pastoral candidate, council focus, video/audio online services.

Call Committee Update

The Call Committee met on and discussed creating a video to be shared on the Synod website as part of the pastoral call process.

- **JN Byrnes Photography** has been contacted, and the committee will meet with her.
- Members of the **Congregational Council and congregation** will be interviewed for the video.
- The video will include photos of church events, activities, and organizations, as well as local attractions within 30 minutes of Waukon.
- The committee will continue exploring other options if the cost of the video is prohibitive.

Sunday School – “Putting Our Faith Into Action”

On Sunday, September 13, our Sunday School students and their families put their faith into action through a special day of service. Funded by the Sunday School’s monthly Noisy Offering, the students completed several projects to support people in our local community.

Together, the students and their families created:

- 22 meal kits for the local food shelf, totaling an incredible 98 pounds of food!
- 15 backpacks filled with school supplies to be distributed to students at the elementary and middle school buildings.
- 100 care bags containing word search books, coloring books, chapstick, candy, pencils, and lotion. These will be shared with residents at local nursing homes, Evergreen Court, and patients receiving infusions at the hospital.

The students also used Noisy Offering funds to make monetary donations toward fire relief efforts in Postville, and to help a family with a short-term wheelchair rental.

This special service day coincided with the ELCA’s annual “God’s Work.... Our Hands” service emphasis, providing a wonderful opportunity for our students to live out their faith by serving others.

The Sunday School students extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributes to the Noisy Offering on the first Sunday of each month. Your generosity makes these service opportunities possible and allows our students to see firsthand how their gifts can make a difference in the lives of others. They are already looking forward to more service projects in the months ahead!

A special thank-you also goes to the Board of Deacons for providing and serving treats during our service project workday. Your kindness helped make the day even more enjoyable for our students and families. Thank you to everyone who helped make this meaningful day of service possible!



Radio Ministry

Our October broadcasts are generously sponsored by Church Funds, along with contributions from the Ella Mae Dvorak Estate and Maudie Syhlman, sponsoring the October 4 broadcast in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness.

These generous gifts help make it possible to share God's Word each week through our radio ministry. We sincerely thank each sponsor and everyone who faithfully supports this important outreach.

Would you like to sponsor a future broadcast? You may sponsor a broadcast in honor or memory of a loved one, to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion, or simply to support this ministry. For more information, please contact the church office at 563-568-3623 or stjohnswaukon@gmail.com.

As a broadcast sponsor, you are also invited to select a favorite hymn to be included in that Sunday's service. It is a meaningful way to share a song that is special to you while blessing those who worship with us both in person and over the air.

WELCA News – Submitted by Karen Stamper



Fall is in full swing and WELCA has started up again. Our quilting ladies have been busy working on the quilts. They are looking for anyone who would like to come and help them. The quilters work from 8:45 – noon on Wednesdays. Don't forget that coffee and refreshments will be served.

Items for the Personal Care Kits are being gathered this year. These kits will be sent along with the quilts in November. If you are collecting items for school kits or baby kits, those items can also be brought into the church. We will save those items until we concentrate on making those specific kits. Items needed for the personal care kits are one lightweight cotton or cotton blend bath-size towel (20" to 27" x 40" to 52") dark color recommended, two or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz. any brand, in original wrapping: no mini or hotel size bars, one adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging, one sturdy comb, and one metal nail clippers. Please drop the items off at the church. You don't need to have enough for a whole kit. We are thankful for whatever you can donate.

WELCA will have an Executive Committee meeting on October 13. We are looking for ideas or suggestions for new activities. Please feel free to attend our meeting or talk with someone on the Executive Committee.

Quilt & Personal Care Kit Shipment

On **Saturday, November 7**, our quilts and personal care kits will be shipped to Minneapolis by Olson Explosives out of Decorah, Iowa.

These quilts are lovingly made by several churches in our area. It is now our turn to provide volunteers to help with the unloading and loading.

Volunteers will help unload quilts from vehicles and load them into a semi-trailer. There are also volunteer opportunities available to help fill out the necessary forms.

Please contact the church office to have your name added to the volunteer list. **High school students:** This is a wonderful opportunity to earn Orange Cord hours while helping with a meaningful community project! Thank you for your time, energy, and willingness to help!

Adopt a Church Project



The **Adopt a Church Project** program is designed to help with special projects around our church. I take a look at the available tasks on the board in the Narthex and see if you or your family would like to adopt a project. We have a variety of opportunities, big and small, and **every helping hand makes a difference!** Choose a task that works well for you and your family and help us care for and improve our church together. **High School Students:** This is a wonderful way to earn **Orange Cord hours!**

Help Support Our Projects - Financial contributions to help offset the cost of these projects are greatly appreciated. Your generous donation helps make these improvements possible and **may be tax-deductible**. Please make checks payable to **St. John's Lutheran Church** and write "**Adopt a Project**" in the memo line. Thank you to everyone who generously shares their **time, talents, and skills** to help care for and maintain our church facilities. Your hard work and dedication are deeply appreciated and help keep our church a welcoming place for all.

October Music Notes – James H Bieber

Our summer special music activities concluded on Sunday, September 6, with a beautiful piano solo by Ila Johnson. We extend our sincere thanks to Ila and to all our summer music participants who generously shared their time and talents.

Our fall music schedule is now underway. Bell Choir rehearsals began September 2, Senior Choir rehearsals began September 13, and the Senior Choir sang during worship on September 20.

Choir Dedication Sunday is scheduled for September 27. We look forward to celebrating the gift of music and recognizing our dedicated musicians!

Reminder: We are already planning for the 50th Anniversary Handbell Choir Reunion, scheduled for June 26-27, 2027. We hope to reconnect with all current and former youth and adult handbell choir members.

If you were a member—or know someone who was, including those who have moved away—please help us update our contact list. With their permission, send their email address to Jim Bieber at bieberinsre@gmail.com or call/text 563-380-5355.

Three Ways to Worship With Us!

Join us for Sunday morning worship in the way that works best for you.

-  **In Person & Radio:** Join us in the sanctuary or tune your radio to **KNEI 103.5 FM at 8:30 a.m.** each Sunday. You can also listen online at www.kneiradio.com.
-  **Facebook Live:** Watch our live video stream at facebook.com/stjohnswaukon.
-  **Service Bulletins:** Follow along with the service! Bulletins are available on our website at www.stjohnswaukon.net.

Stay Connected: Want to receive our monthly newsletter as a PDF email? Contact the church office to be added to the mailing list. You can also visit us online or follow our Facebook page for daily announcements and worship updates.

Tech Note: If you experience any stream interruptions on the radio or Facebook Live, please notify the church office so we can look into it right away.

A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Helping Hands

We are truly blessed at **St. John's** to have such a dedicated church family. Thank you to all of our congregation members for the many ways you support our community! Whether it's **painting, replacing broken windows, replacing equipment**, or helping with countless other tasks, you always step up right when needed. You are deeply appreciated, and we are truly grateful for all you do to care for, beautify, and support our church!

October 2026 Hymns – Hymns

subject to change

Sunday, October 4 –

803 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

First Reading: [Isaiah 5:1-7](#)

Psalm: [Psalm 80:7-15](#)

Second Reading: [Philippians 3:4b-14](#)

Gospel: [Matthew 21:33-46](#)

785 When Piece Like a River (*radio ministry*)

Communion – 595 Jesus Loves Me, 598

For By Grace

729 The Church of Christ

Sunday, October 11 –

553 Christ Whose Glory

First Reading: [Isaiah 25:1-9](#)

Psalm: [Psalm 23](#)

Second Reading: [Philippians 4:1-9](#)

Gospel: [Matthew 22:1-14](#)

873 Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

547 Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Sunday, October 18 –

825 You Servants of God

First Reading: [Isaiah 45:1-7](#)

Psalm: [Psalm 96:1-9 \[10-13\]](#)

Second Reading: [1 Thessalonians 1:1-10](#)

Gospel: [Matthew 22:15-22](#)

685 Take My Life That I May Be

Communion – 691 Accept, O Lord the

Gifts We Offer, 696 Jesus Calls Us

705 God of Grace

Sunday, October 25 –

504 A Mighty Fortress

First Reading: [Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18](#)

Psalm: [Psalm 1](#)

Second Reading: [1 Thessalonians 2:1-8](#)

Gospel: [Matthew 22:34-46](#)

517 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast

Communion – 515 Break Now the Bread

of Life, 516 Almighty God, Your Word is

Cast

645 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation



Dates & Events

October at St. John's

September Highlights

September marks the end of summer, beginning with the celebration of Labor Day. This month, we also pause to remember and honor those affected by the events of September 11, 2001. With school back in session, families are once again bustling with activity. Youth are busy with sports, 4-H, FFA, FBLA, rehearsals, and many other activities and commitments. In the midst of our busy schedules, may we remember to **keep God at the center of our day**. Take time to pray, give thanks, and seek His guidance as we move into this new season.

October Awareness -October is Breast Cancer, ADHD, and Domestic Violence Awareness Month. We also observe World Mental Health Day on October 10. May we use this month to increase awareness, offer support, and show compassion to those in need.

Thurs, October 1

WIC here

Sun, October 4—Pastor Mark Oehlert

Wear Pink to services for Breast Cancer Awareness

8:30am Service W/Comm *Noisy Offering

Coffee Treats served after 1st service

9:30am Sunday School, Sr Vocal Choir, Bible Study

10:30am Service W/Comm *Noisy Offering

Wed, October 7

8:45-12 Quilting downstairs of church

6pm Youth Bell Choir, 7pm Sr Bell Choir

5:30-6:30 LYO at WWC pizza before Fields of Faith

Sun, October 11—Pastor Waldemar Gies

8:30am/10:30am Service (Baptism at 10:30)

9:30am Sunday School, Sr Vocal Choir, Bible Study

7pm Men's Choir

Mon, October 12

7pm Music Committee Mtg Lounge

Tues, October 13

9:15am Sarah Circle, Lounge, Host Gloria Payne

1:30pm WELCA Lounge

7pm Dorcas Circle Virtual

Wed, October 14

8:45-12 Quilting in Fellowship Hall

6pm Youth Bell Choir, 7pm Sr Bell Choir

7pm Confirmation Fellowship Hall

October 15

Newsletter article deadline: All submissions are due to the office

Sun, October 18—Pastor Mark Oehlert

8:30am/10:30am Service W/Comm, *Pennies for Presents (Baptism at 10:30)

9:30am Sunday School, Sr Vocal Choir

7pm Men's Choir

Mon, October 19

5:30pm Board of Trustee Mtg

7:00pm Congregational Council Meeting

Wed, October 21

8:45-12 Quilting in Fellowship Hall

6pm Youth Bell Choir, 7pm Sr Bell Choir

7pm Confirmation Fellowship Hall

Sun, October 25—Pastor Mark Oehlert

Reformation Sunday/Confirmation @ 10:30

8:30am/10:30am Service W/Comm

9:30am Sr Vocal Choir

7pm Men's Choir

Tues, October 27—Nursing Home Visits

1pm Northgate Care Center

2pm Good Samaritan Society

2:45pm Evergreen Court

Wed, October 28—Church Office Hours 8-10:45am

8:45-12 Quilting in Fellowship Hall

5:30pm Sunday School Halloween Party

6pm Youth Bell Choir, 7pm Sr Bell Choir

7pm Confirmation in Fellowship Hall

November

Sun, November 1—Pastor Mark Oehlert

Daylight Savings Time Ends - All Saints Day

8:30am/10:30am Service W/Comm, *Noisy

Offering, Blessing of the Quilts; 9:30am Coffee

Treats served after 1st service, Sunday School, Sr Vocal Choir 7pm Men's Choir

Sun, November 8—Pastor Waldemar Gies

8:30am/10:30am Service

9:30am Sunday School, Sr Vocal Choir

7pm Men's Choir

Sun, November 15 - Pastor Mark Oehlert

8:30am/10:30 am Service W/Comm, *Pennies for Presents

9:30am Sunday School, Sr Vocal Choir

7pm Men's Choir

Sun, October 22—Pastor Waldemar Gies

8:30am/10:30am Service, Thankoffering

9:30am Sunday School, Sr Vocal Choir

7pm Men's Choir

The names listed are those currently recorded as active members in the church CDM+ directory. If your name was inadvertently missed or any of your information is incorrect, please contact the church office at 563-568-3623 or stjohnswaukon@gmail.com

October Anniversaries



September 2026

Baptisms: None

Weddings: None

Deaths: Pamela Dundee, Allen Goeke

1-Mary Sorum	10 - Cindy Barness	19 - Kashton Copp	27 - Sarah Sweeney	1 - Russell & Mary Jo Meyer
2 - Oliver Bailey	12 - Dennis DeBuhr	20 - Karen Grimstad	28 - Kade Halse	3 - Bill & Susan Blagsvedt
2 - Kloe Leiran	12 - Heath Hagensick	21 - Dennis Lyons	29 - Cameron Emerson	5 - Jeremy & Lana Troendle
3-Wendy Bucheit	12 - Oliver Hagensick	22 - Ila Johnsen	30 - Joplin Nuehring	8 - Brian & Denise Wullner
4 - Steve Evanson	12 - Jan Piffner	22 - Bristol Wilkes	31 - Michah Burrow	11 - David & Renee Martin
4-Brock Iverson	13 - Craig Yohe	23 - Eve Hill		13 - Al & Ann Hart
4 - Tyler O'Neill	14 - Gregory Hagensick	23 - Shelby Wyninger		17 - Kevin & Trish Martin
5 - Grant Nuehring	17 - Chris Ellickson	24 - David Sorum		18 - Zach & Melissa Clarke
8 - Alaina Emerson	18 - Barbara Hill	25 - Travis Fish		18 - Steven & Sheryl Evanson
8 - Annabelle Marti	18 - Kathy Murray	25 - Ed Stamper		18 - Jeff & Diana Johnson
9 - Sheylenn Neuzil	18 - Mike Neuzil	27 - Ron Dahlstrom		19 - Lee & Chris Ellickson
10 - Darrel Wicks	19 - Tharin Benson	27 - Heather Nuehring		20 - Eric & Stacy Wyninger
				22 - Scott & Brenda Houg
				23 - Fred & GERALYN Smith
				26 - Matt & Emily Baade
				26 - Justin & Ashley Jones
				28 - Bill & Becky Roe
				28 - Carl & Joyce Thornton
				30 - Mark & Stacy Stock

October-St. John's Volunteer Duty List

	Service	Greeters	Readers	Comm. Asst.	Comm. Prep.	Acolytes	Ushers
Oct 4	8:30AM	Dave & Wendy Sanderson	Matt Teslow	Matt & Dawn Teslow, Rhonda Barr	Sue Blagsvedt, Bonnie Roe	Kashton	Mark & Stacy Stock
	Wear Pink						
	10:30AM		Jill Kistler	Jill Kistler	Linda Groe		Lyle & Brenda Kurth
11	8:30AM	Tom & Bev Leiran	Dawn Teslow			Joseph	Mark & Stacy Stock, Dan Low
	10:30AM		TBA				Lyle & Brenda Kurth
18	8:30AM	Sherry Knudtson	Linda DeBuhr	Sherry Knudtson, Nona Sawyer, Sara Sweeney	Vickie Larson, Bonnie Roe	Kashton	Same
	10:30AM		Karen Stamper	Karen Stamper	Evonne & Jill Kistler		
25	8:30AM	Ann Rademaker	Dave Sanderson	Greg & Ann Hagensick, Ann Rademaker	Altar Guild	Joseph	Same
	Reformation						
	10:30AM		Linda Groe	Randy & Lori Hesse, Jill Kistler	Altar Guild		
	Confirmation						
Nov 1	8:30AM	Steve & Sheryl Evanson	Sarah Sweeney	Bailey Meyer, Joan Moody, Vickie Larson	Chris Ellickson, Dawn Teslow	Henley	Dennis & Linda DeBuhr, Donna Wood
	All Saint's Day						
	10:30AM		Lori Hesse	Linda Groe	Lori Hesse	Mya	

St. John's Collection Counters for October

5- Lori, Mary 12-Sue, Linda 19- Jane, Karen,
26- Nona. Chris

Counters for November

2- Lori, Mary 9-Sue, Linda 16- Jane, Karen,
23- Nona, Chris 30 - Lori, Mary

Finding Prayer in Our Everyday Lives

Sometimes we may feel that our lives are chaotic, but there is often a rhythm and order to our everyday routines. Those routines can become reminders to pause and pray.

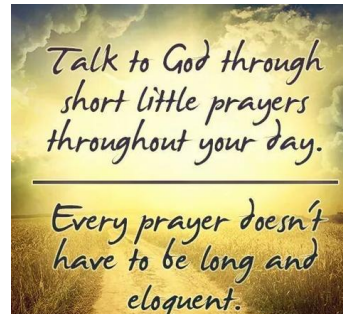
I have found ways to make prayer part of my everyday routine. When students head to class or practice, I pray silently that they will have a productive and meaningful time. When I get home, I pray as I prepare dinner. I also try to begin each day with prayer, asking God to help and guide me in whatever the day may bring.

I have found that my days go more smoothly when I take time to ask God for His help and guidance. Prayer doesn't have to be something we set aside for a particular time or place. We can pray in the ordinary moments of our lives—while we work, cook, drive, walk, or simply pause.

The Apostle Paul reminds us, **“Pray without ceasing.”** (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

What would it look like for each of us to find small moments throughout our day to turn our thoughts toward God? Perhaps the routine of signing a letter, beginning a task, preparing a meal, or welcoming someone into our day can become a simple reminder: **Pause. Pray. Trust God.**

My prayer for all of us is that we would become more aware of God's presence in the ordinary moments of our lives and invite Him to guide us through each day.



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: Our Children's Policy

We wanted to make sure everyone is aware of our policy regarding children in church:

If your kids are loud, please still come to church.

If you're running late because getting everyone out the door was a battle, please still come to church.

If your toddler won't sit still, please still come to church.

If your baby needs to eat, please still come to church.

If your child asks questions at the least convenient time, please still come to church.

If someone cries, drops a toy, needs a snack, or has to make their third trip to the bathroom, please still come to church.

If your child doesn't know all the words, all the prayers, or exactly when to sit and stand, please still come to church.

If you feel like you spent the entire service managing your children and heard approximately 12% of the sermon, please still come to church.

If Sunday morning feels messy instead of peaceful, please still come to church.

If you're worried your children are distracting the people around you, please still come to church.

Because children do not learn how to be part of the Church by staying home until they can sit quietly. They learn by being here.

They learn the hymns by hearing us sing them.

They learn the prayers by hearing us pray them.

They learn to worship by watching us worship.

They learn that church is home because we make room for them here.

The wiggles, whispers, dropped crayons, crying babies, and little voices are not interruptions to the life of the Church.

They are evidence that the Church is alive.

So bring the babies. Bring the toddlers. Bring the big kids. Come late. Sit in the back. Sit in the front. Step out when you need to and come right back in. Just come.

Children are not simply the future of the Church. They are part of the Church right now. And at St. John's Lutheran Church there is a place for them here. At services, children are not a distraction. They are a gift. Their voices, their questions, even their wiggles are part of a living, joyful Church. We know that bringing little ones can sometimes feel challenging, and we want to support you. Be sure to pick up a Kids Bulletin and visit our Kids Color Corner for resources to help your children stay engaged as they grow in understanding and love for Jesus. You are always welcome. Your children are always welcome. This is their Church, too.

LET THE *little* CHILDREN COME
TO me, & DO NOT STOP THEM; FOR
IT IS TO SUCH AS *these* THAT
THE Kingdom OF HEAVEN BELONGS.
matthew 19:14

Bible Study Is Starting Again!

We have another wonderful Bible study lined up, beginning **October 4 between services!**

We will be working our way through *The Mothers and Daughters of the Bible Speak: Lessons on Faith from Nine Biblical Families*. The lessons will be available on the lounge table the Sunday before we study them together.

So, the lesson on **Jochebed and Miriam** will be available on **September 27**.

If you have any questions, please contact **Gloria Payne or Mary Jackson**.

Mothers and Daughters

- **October 4:** Jochebed and Miriam
- **October 11:** Ruth and Naomi
- **October 18:** Elizabeth and Mary
- **October 25:** No Bible Study — Confirmation Sunday

Mothers and Sons

- **November 1:** Rebekah
- **November 8:** Bathsheba
- **November 15:** Mary, the Mother of Jesus

After that, we will take a break and begin the **Advent series from the NE Iowa Synod**. This will give us an opportunity to dig deeper into the service and themes we hear on Sundays.

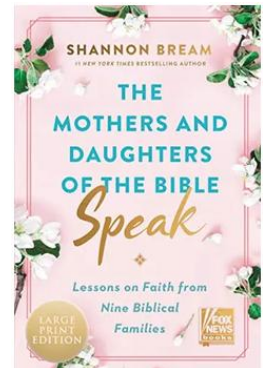
Continuing in January

In January, we will finish our study of the book with:

- **January 3:** Dinah
- **January 10:** Esther
- **January 17:** Michal
- **January 24:** Miracles for Mothers and Daughters Too

We would love for you to join us whenever you can! We are a very easygoing group, and as the weather gets colder, **we'll have coffee!** ☕

Come when you can, bring your Bible, and enjoy some time learning and visiting together.



Breast Cancer Awareness: Hope, Support, and Prayer

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month—a time to remember those whose lives have been touched by breast cancer and to encourage greater awareness, early detection, and support for those facing this disease. While breast cancer is more common in women, **breast cancer can also affect men**. Although it is less common, men can develop breast cancer and may face many of the same challenges of diagnosis and treatment. Awareness is important for everyone.

This month, we especially remember those who are currently battling breast cancer, those who have overcome it, and the families and friends who walk alongside them. We also remember those we have lost and give thanks for the lives and memories they have shared with us.

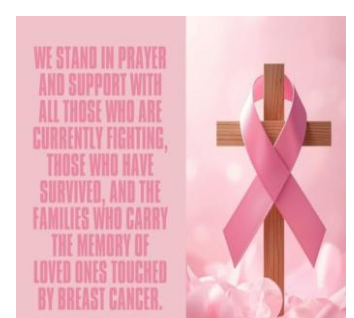
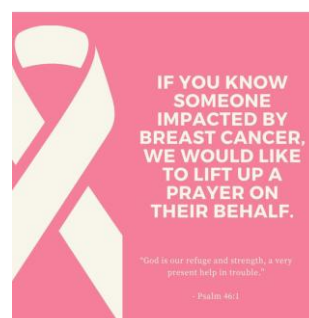
As a church family, we can offer encouragement in many ways—through prayer, a listening ear, practical support, and simply letting someone know they are not alone. We pray for strength and healing for those undergoing treatment, comfort for families, wisdom for medical caregivers, and hope for all who are affected.

“The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.” — Psalm 34:18

May this Breast Cancer Awareness Month remind us to care for one another, to lift one another up in prayer, and to extend Christ's love and compassion to everyone whose life has been touched by cancer.

Wear Pink! ❤️ Join us on **Sunday, October 4**, and wear **pink** in support of **Breast Cancer Awareness**.

Let's come together as a church family to show support, honor those affected, and spread hope and awareness. ❤️



St. John's Leadership Duties

Congregational President

Presides over church and Council meetings, works with the Pastor and Secretary on agendas, ensures church policies are followed, represents the congregation in business matters, and serves as a liaison with the Synod when needed.

Vice-President

Assists the President, presides in their absence, helps recruit volunteers for church events, and prepares to serve as President the following year.

Financial Secretary

Reviews income, deposits, and financial records for accuracy and provides an annual report.

Secretary

Records and maintains meeting minutes, distributes minutes, and maintains and archives important church records.

Treasurer

Oversees bookkeeping and financial records, provides monthly financial reports, signs authorized checks, and prepares year-end financial reports.

Board of Trustees- 3 year term

Oversees the church's finances, budget, property, building maintenance, insurance, contracts, facility use, and employees.

Board of Education- 3 year term

Oversees Christian education, Sunday School, youth ministry, Vacation Bible School, Christmas programs, youth/family worship, and educational activities.

Board of Deacons- 3 year term

Supports worship, spiritual growth, pastoral care, evangelism, new-member outreach, and the Altar Guild and Music Committee.

If you are interested in serving in any of these leadership roles at **St. John's Lutheran Church** for 2027, please contact the church office.

Have questions? Feel free to speak with a current board member. A list of current members is available in the narthex.

Time & Talent Sheets

Remember the **gold Time & Talent sheets**? They're coming back—this time in a convenient **Google Doc** where you can sign up for a day and time to help with our worship services.

We are looking for volunteers to serve as:

- **Greeters** – Welcome people as they arrive for worship and hand out bulletins.
- **Readers** – Read the Scripture readings and morning announcements.
- **Communion Assistants** – Assist with Communion on Communion Sundays.
- **Communion Preparation** – Prepare Communion for worship on Communion Sundays.
- **Ushers** – Assist with the offering during worship.

Watch your email for the online sign-up!

Hard copies will also be available at church so everyone has an opportunity to participate.

Thank you for sharing your **time and talents with St. John's!**



It's Officially Soup Season 🍲🍂

There's just something about a cool fall day that makes a warm, comforting bowl of soup sound so good. Whether you're using the last of your garden vegetables, trying a new seasonal recipe, or making a family favorite, fall is the perfect time to get a big pot simmering! It's soup season here in the Midwest. Looking for some recipe inspiration? 🍲 We've gathered some delicious soup recipes from Eat Smart. Spend Smart.: <https://spendsmart.extension.iastate.edu/recipe.../soup/> that are perfect for cozy fall meals. From hearty and filling to light and veggie-packed, there's something for everyone. What's your go-to fall soup? Share it with us in the comments! 🍁



Vegetable Soup for the Soul

"Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart..."
— Jeremiah 15:16

"Vegetable Soup for the Soul" is a beautiful Christian metaphor for the way God works in our lives. Just as a hearty pot of soup brings together many different ingredients to create something nourishing, God uses His Word, the Holy Spirit, and the experiences of our lives to strengthen, shape, and nourish us in faith.

The Devotional Reflection: In Chef Jesus' Kitchen

Have you ever looked into your refrigerator and felt like you only had random leftovers? A bruised celery stalk, a lone carrot, or a half-empty can of beans. On their own, they do not look like much. But in the hands of a skilled chef, those scattered pieces are chopped, simmered, and transformed into a rich, comforting vegetable soup.

Our lives often feel exactly like those scattered ingredients. We experience fragmented days, bruised spirits, and raw trials. Sometimes, we feel like we are sitting in a pot of hot water, wondering why the heat is turned up so high.

But God is the Ultimate Chef.

The late theologian Christopher Stendahl once remarked that Scripture is like a *fine vegetable soup*. It is not a bland, blended puree. Instead, it is a rich broth filled with distinct textures, different historical books, and unique flavors—all held together by the ultimate seasoning of Jesus Christ's love.

When we give our raw, unfinished pieces to God, He doesn't discard them. He tosses us into the diverse pot of the Church, pours out the living water of the Holy Spirit, and seasons us with the Holy Bible. Through the heat of life's trials, He brings out our best flavor. He takes what feels messy and blends it into a masterpiece designed to feed a spiritually hungry world.

Just as soup warms the body, **God's Word warms and nourishes the soul.**