

St. John's Lutheran Church



Newsletter

Bryan Robertson, Pastor

September, 2020

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

8 Fifth Street S.W. P.O. Box 403
Waukon, IA 52172-0403

Phone 563.568.3623
Fax 563.568.3922

stjohnswaukon@gmail.com
www.stjohnswaukon.net

If I knew where somebody would run a stop sign this morning, I'd take a different route. If I knew what physical ailments would afflict me in the future, I could change some eating or exercise habits now.

It would be nice if our Lord Jesus gave us a script of our days and weeks ahead, giving us at least some sense of control while we're driving to work or going to the doctor.

But Jesus doesn't give us a detailed description of our futures. Instead, Jesus gives promises.

Here's a famous promise he gave to a man named Saul, also known as St. Paul.

Acts 9: 3 Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' 5 He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. 6 But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.

On his way to imprison people who believed in Jesus, Saul was knocked off his feet and struck blind by a light.

And if that were not terrifying enough, he heard a voice speaking in a way that let him know that this

wasn't a regular person talking. The voice he heard was the voice of Jesus.

Saul was trying to destroy the memory of Jesus, by destroying His believers. But all of a sudden, Jesus' voice told Saul that he wasn't acting for God, but was acting against God.

This must have been devastating. And while lying sprawled on the ground and blind, Jesus' next words to him should have been a detailed description of the miserable life he would suffer in the future.

But instead of describing Saul's future life of damnation, Jesus simply gives Saul a promise: go to Damascus, "and you will be told what you are to do."

Saul may have been a complete screw-up, but Jesus was still willing to make and keep a promise to him. And being taken in and loved by the Christians in Damascus, St. Paul found a Godly love there that he never could have imagined in his wildest dreams.

We have a God, Jesus Christ, who does not turn his back on sinners. Instead, we have Jesus, who promises us more goodness than we could ever imagine or deserve.

We do not have a detailed script of the future, either as individuals or as a church. But we do have our Lord Jesus, who died for us on cross, and who makes you this promise: "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:20)."

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Peace,

Dr. Bryan

DB Acoustics, the company that installed our current system around 20 years ago, has recently done service work for us. **They have noted some faults and under performance in our sound system and have recommended the following:**



a new equalizer with a digital processor;

four new microphones to serve the choir, lectern and pulpit;

an impaired hearing system that will connect with hearing aids, cell phones, and belt packs;

and a cordless handheld microphone.

One of our families has already made a commitment to donate the microphones mentioned above. If you are interested in receiving further details on these improvements or would like to aid in their purchase, please contact me or our office for further information.

VICE PRESIDENT

St. John's is currently looking for a **Vice President of the Congregation** to fill out the remainder of the year **2020**. This position could turn into the President position for 2021, if he or she so desires. Please contact a member of the Nominating Committee if interested: Bill Roe, Matt Teslow or Arica Grimstad.



Thank you to the volunteers who have quietly slipped onto the church property to repair a window well on the west side of the church. Thank you to the Dahlstrom's for doing a great job mowing our lawn and weed wacking around the church. Thanks to those spraying weeds in the parking lot. Thank you to those who checked the exit lights and battery lights to make sure they are in compliance for insurance purposes. We appreciate everything you have done for us and thank you for your service to our church!

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.

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



Derecho Response

A new website has been launched where you have the opportunity to give, to volunteer and to receive assistance following the recent storm;

<https://siowa.org/disasterrelief/>

Church Council Highlights



Youth and Family Coordinator Position

Our **LYO recommended** to our Congregation Council that we work to hire a Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator. Noting that our Trust Fund set aside \$6,500.00 to help fund this position, our Congregation Council voted to follow our LYO's recommendation. Your gifts and pledges made specifically to support this new ministry will help us to begin it and sustain it in the future. A job description is available for anyone who wants to know more about this ministry.

Our New Seminarian: Kristin Kopperud-Stinn

Kristin Kopperud-Stinn has been approved by our Northeastern Iowa Synod to begin preparations for the ordained ministry. She has been accepted as a Master of Divinity student at Luther Seminary in St. Paul. Luther Seminary is a leader in distance learning, and Kristin will be able to do much of her class work in Waukon and her contextual learning at Washington Prairie Lutheran Church. Your financial gifts to support her will extend St. John's ministry to wherever she will serve as a seminarian and as a pastor in the future.

2020

<- AUGUST

OCTOBER ->

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	31	1	2 8:45am-noon Do Day, potluck at noon 6:15pm Youth Bells 7:15pm Sr Bells 8:15pm Sr Choir	3	4	5
6 Worship 8:30am with communion	7	8	9 6:15pm Youth Bells 7:15pm Confirmation Orientation 7:15pm Sr Bells 8:15pm Sr Choir	10	11	12
13 Worship 8:30am	14	15 Circles Meet	16 6:15pm Youth Bells 7:15pm Confirmation, Sr Bells 8:15pm Sr Choir	17	18	19
20 Worship 8:30am with communion	21	22	23 9am Assemble Newsletter 3pm-4pm communion Evergreen Crt, Good Sam. ?? 6:15pm Youth Bells 7:15pm Confirmation, Sr Bells 8:15pm Sr Choir	24	25	26
27 Worship 8:30am	28	29	30 6:15pm Youth Bells 7:15pm Confirmation, Sr Bells 8:15pm Sr Choir	1	2	3

Radio Ministry



- Sept 6 Given by faithful listener from Decorah
- Sept 13 In gratitude for St. John's ministry (anonymous listener)
- Sept 20 In honor of Tom & Bev Leiran's 50th wedding anniversary by Family & Friends
- Sept 27 Given by member

August Statistics

Baptisms: Hudson Hills (July)



Funerals: Dorothy Wandling

Weddings: none

Music Ministry



Thank you to the Men's Choir, Greg Hagensick, and our Girls' Trio for providing special music in August to complete our summer music program at St. John's.

A big thank you to our Girls' Trio consisting of Peyton Verthein, Hailey Houg, and Hannah Teslow along with Sarah Bieber who all cleaned and polished both sets of handbells in August. The bells are sparkling and ready to be played.

Youth Bells, Senior Bells, and Senior Choir will begin their fall schedule of rehearsals on Wednesday, September 2, with the following times.

6:15 p.m. – Youth Bell Choir

7:15 p.m. – Senior Bell Choir

8:15 p.m. – Senior Choir

Wearing a mask is not required, but any choir member feeling more at ease wearing one is certainly welcome to do so.

I am truly looking forward to seeing all of our choir members again so that we may make beautiful music together for our St. John's Sunday services.

James H. Bieber – Organist/Director of Music

Jeremy, Heather and Hudson Hills, along with sponsors Josh Hills, Tanner Creery & Bridget Strohmman.



Jim, Hannah, Hailey and Peyton cleaning the bells!



Date	Service		Greeters	Readers	Comm. Asst.	Comm. Prep.	Acolytes	Ushers
9/6/20	8:30 AM	E W	X	X	X	Linda Groe	Ushers	TBD
9/13/20	8:30 AM	E W	X	X	X			
9/20/20	8:30 AM	E W	X	X	X	Linda Groe		
9/27/20	8:30 AM	E W	X	X	X			

Volunteer duties have changed due to the safety concerns during this pandemic.

St. John's Women Serving and Socializing



It does not seem possible that we are almost into September at the time of this writing. Hope we can do a little more serving at St. John's if we cannot do the socializing.

We will begin quilting on Wednesday, September 2, if those who normally take part in this service feel comfortable about returning to this activity. Also, you may wear a mask if you wish to do so.

Circles may meet on September 8, if they make that choice to gather together. Please discuss this matter with your Circle President or Lesson Leader. Also, contact the Church Office before your meeting if you want to meet in an area in the church.

It has been decided by our St. John's WELCA Executive Board members to cancel our FALL SALAD LUNCHEON AND BAKE SALE for this year. Some other local organizations are not having their special fall activities take place because of the grouping together and going through a food line. We would be following a similar procedure at our indoor setting. Therefore, this is what we will do instead. Since in the past, all of the proceeds have been given to different organizations, we would like to do this again. Our women will not have to work at the event, they will not have to fix a salad, they will not be asked for a food donation if we have everything we need so they would be asked for a cash gift to help pay for the food items we purchase, they will not be asked for a baked item for the bake sale, and they will not be encouraged to come to eat at the Luncheon. **INSTEAD THIS SEPTEMBER**, we are asking all of our St. John's Women to give a donation so we can still send a gift of money to the organizations we have sent to

for several years. They have included: Bremwood (Lutheran Services in Iowa), Allamakee Co. Substance Abuse, St. John's Food Basket, St. John's General Fund, Cresco Midwest Mission Bible Training Center, LWR Mission Projects Postage, Helping Services for Youth & Families, and Allamakee Comm. School District Children's Health Fund. Our proceeds have totaled over \$1,000 ever year, and we have added a few more hundred dollars from our general fund when we could. Last year we donated a total of \$1,700 to the above organizations.

ALL LADIES OF ST. JOHN'S DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, please give a donation of \$6 (that would have been a ticket price) or more if you wish to St. John's WELCA (cash or check). You may place your donation in a special container at church (cash in an envelope that is marked for St. John's WELCA or a check made out to St. John's WELCA) or mail your check (made out to St. John's WELCA) to St. John's Lutheran Church. We all can still be of SERVICE this year even though we will not be able to SOCIALIZE as when we would have worked together and would have eaten together at our luncheon. We hope that by October 8, when we had planned to have our Luncheon, that we have collected a great total to be given away once again. Thank you for being of SERVICE!!

Please pray for peace, for the safety of our military men and women, for people suffering from natural disasters all over the world, for people suffering from Coronavirus, and for Christians everywhere.

Thank you for MAKING TIME and TAKING TIME for our privileges and responsibilities at

St. John's.

Sue Bieber, President

2020

<- AUGUST

OCTOBER ->

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	31	1 Dawson Bauers Darrell Jahnke Mitch Roe Darren & Kelly O'Connor (A)	2	3 Austin Hansen Maxwell Lograsso Alissa Smith Bob Joachim & Kathy Hay (A) Adam & Amanda Leiran (A) Dustin & Carissa Otto (A)	4 Mary Lynn Jenkins Colton O'Neill Shawn & Karna Schroeder (A)	5 Wyatt Iverson Jim & Janice Allison (A)
6 Drew Bell Jack & Diane Allison (A) Brock & Kasey Iverson (A) Dave & Wendy Sanderson (A)	7 Sheryl Evanson Meghan Halvorson Mazie Miller Brent Ziegler Greg & Marlene Palmer (A)	8 Kayla Leiran	9 Earl Haas Marian Hesla Todd & Marlene Hills (A)	10 Soren Benson Ron Jahnke Amanda Leiran	11 Keeran Barr Josiah Stammeyer Sherry Tuttle Becky Welper	12 Irv Fosaaen Michael Halvorson Al Hanson Emily Libbey Jonathan & Christina Williams(A)
13 Jillian Fish	14 Tom Leiran Leone McKee LaVonne Palas Norman Peterson	15 Darren O'Connor	16 Nathan Iverson Trent Jacobs Marlene Palmer Chris & Jill Kistler Mirich (A) Steve & Becky Welper (A)	17 Ethan & Kari Harrington (A) Marv & Anita Petersen (A)	18	19 Greg Gordon Bailey Sherman Irene Tweit
20 Corbin Snitker	21 Dawson Dietrich Dalton Ellickson Virgil & Deb Thorstenson (A)	22 Stacy Wyninger	23 Gordon & Louise Ellingson (A)	24 Jared Soper Dawn Thorsten	25 Carter Cook Ben Larkin Cody & Annette Cook (A)	26 Rhonda Barr Kenric Christen Ann Hart Emma Johnson
27 Olivia Heydn	28 Arlene Beisker Jaxon Hills Ron & Marilyn Jahnke (A)	29 Oaklyn Allison Dean Jackson John O'Neill David & Cheryl Fetketter (A)	30	1	2	3

****Hymns for September at
St. John's****



Sept 6 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

No. 864 Praise My Soul, the God Heaven

First Lesson: Ezekiel 33:7-11

Second Lesson: Romans 13:8-14

Gospel: Mathew 18:15-20

No. 374 Day of Arising

During Distribution No. 465 & 466

No. 836 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Sept 13 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

No. 834 Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise

First Lesson: Genesis 50:15-21

Second Lesson: Romans 14:1-12

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

No. 482 I Come with Joy

No. 665 Rise, Shine You People!

Sept 20 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

No. 557 Awake My Soul, and with the Sun

First Lesson: Jonah 3:10--4:11

Second Lesson: Philippians 1:21-30

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

No. 818 O Master, Let Me Walk with You

During Distribution No. 494 & 497

No. 537 On Our Way Rejoicing

Sept 27 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

No. 878 Soli Deo Gloria

First Lesson: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Second Lesson: Philippians 2:1-13

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

No. 712 Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

No. 845 Voices Raised to You

**Board of Education Looking
for Feedback on Sunday School**

The Board of Education has put together two short surveys that we are asking parents of Sunday School age children and potential Sunday School volunteers to take. Links to these surveys will be available on the church's Facebook page. If you prefer to take a survey a different way, please contact Kevin Stinn at 563 568-8225 or kevin.stinn@gmail.com. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

Book Nook

"Reluctant Bride" by Jodi Hedland



Living in London's poorest slum, Mercy harbors little hope for a better life - so when she's offered the opportunity to join a bride ship sailing to British Columbia, she agrees.

Joseph leaves everything behind and takes to the sea to escape the pain of losing his family. As the ship's surgeon he has no immediate intention of settling down, but when Mercy becomes his assistant, the two must fight against a forbidden love.

"Sophie's Heart" by Lori Wick

After the tragic death of his wife, Alec Riley struggles to put his life back together. He and his three children are lost in their grief...until Sophie walks unexpectedly into their lives. Having left her native Czechoslovakia, Sophie has discovered the land which seemed so bright with promise is far from her dream. Sophie, a highly educated woman, now finds herself keeping house for Alec and his family. How can Sophie find peace in her new job? Will God use her gentle spirit to help heal this family's broken hearts.

Submitted by Joan Moody

Circle News



SARAH Circle

MARY Circle

RACHEL Circle

DORCAS Circle



**Circles can meet.
Contact your Circle President for details.**

ALL OF ST. JOHN'S WOMEN DURING SEPTEMBER

Please give a donation of at least \$6

(the price of a ticket to the Fall Salad Luncheon & Bake Sale that will not take place this fall).

We still want to be of SERVICE by sharing all that we collect with the organizations that we have given to for many years. Checks should be made out to St. John's WELCA or cash should be placed in an envelope marked to go to St. John's WELCA. Bring your donations to church or mail them to St. John's Lutheran Church. **THANK YOU !!!**

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8 Fifth Street, S.W. Box 403
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

.....and finally

General & EPIC Scholarships

The following members of St. John's will be attending post high school education institutions this fall. Those who are attending ELCA colleges will receive a \$100 EPIC Scholarship that is matched by the college. All students receive a \$50 General Scholarship.

These gifts are funded through proceeds from the Youth & Education portions of St. John's Trust Fund. Please keep all these young people in your thoughts & prayers. Godspeed to these young men & women as they begin or continue their journey in schooling.

Jillian Fish	Kirkwood	Nathan Johnson	Buena Vista
Travis Fish	U of IA	Haylee Rathbone	ISU
Allison Hagensick	UNI	Olivia Rathbone	ISU
Kathie Hagensick	UNI	Aaron Sherman	U of IA
Logan Houg	UNI	Alison Sherman	UNI
Emma Johnson	UNI	Gavin Smith	ISU

Fields of Faith

Wednesday, October 7 at the Waukon High School football field at 7:00pm