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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



Welcome New
Members Dan,
Smokey, Janice, Duane



Why Make Time for Church?

As the air cools and the seasons again bring change, we gather each week to “refill our vessels” as my dear spouse Nancy says. What is it about church that draws us to be there? When the bell rings and the lively conversation quiets, as everyone turns toward the cross, there is an air of expectation and a bit of excitement as worship begins.

Worship in God's house is an ancient and yet ever new practice, centuries in the making, yet fresh as the morning dew each week on the Lord's Day. There is something about gathering together; people young and people old, people who live nearby and people who travel some miles to become a congregation, the only time during the week that we particular people in this particular place become one.

At this occasion on the Lord's day, we set aside ongoing duties and responsibilities, schedules and activities to come together to sing songs we did not choose to sing, to listen to scripture and a message that we did not choose to hear, to pray for matters that we did not select. We gather in a building filled with symbols, paintings and other elements that turn our insights toward the holy. All of which brings an expectation of experiencing the immeasurable gift of God touching our souls.

We come on Sunday at times with hearts heavily laden by earthly concerns for family or friends or our own challenges. We come at other times bewildered by current events in our world, and we seek consolation from what overwhelms us. We come at other times with light hearts and remarkable joy and gratitude that life has brought blessings beyond measure. We come at other times still, putting one foot in front of the other, tending to our little corners of the world and the paths that we each must walk.

Throughout life, we find the church to be a rock-solid foundation that we return to again and again, for refreshment, renewal, encouragement and hope. We hear the ancient and ever new words that feed our hungry souls through liturgy, prayers, bible readings and songs. We come because we need to connect with our Creator and we need to support our neighbor. We come and we are not disappointed because God is God and we are God's people responding to God's invitation to “refill our vessels” as stated at the beginning of this message.

Thanks be to God for this immeasurable gift of life! I'll see you in church!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Mark

“Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life?” - Matthew 16:24-26a

Sunday School Teachers Needed

God needs you and so do the kids!

We are looking for volunteers to help teach Sunday school!

If you have been hesitant because you have limited time to prepare, team teaching may be a great option. Two teachers can share a class and teach every other Sunday, making the time commitment more manageable.

You don't have to do it alone. Partner with another willing teacher, share the preparation, and encourage one another as you help our children grow in faith.

You won't have to start from scratch! The curriculum and teaching materials are already organized and prepared for you, making it easy to know what to teach each week.

If you would be willing to volunteer or would like to learn more about team teaching, please call Mary Jo Meyer at 563-568-1796. Thank you for considering this important ministry!

Sunday School Scoop

Growing in Faith, Serving Others, and Having Fun!

Sunday, September 13 – 9:30 Sunday School Registration and Service Projects – Register your children and also make a kit for the Food Shelf, Kids backpacks and supplies, and/or a nursing home resident birthday cups. Supply materials will be ready to be put together. It will be fun! Your noisy offering hard at work!

Sunday, September 20 – 8:30 and 10:30 worship services – Blessing of the Backpacks. Bring your backpacks to church and Pastor Mark will bless them for a safe and meaningful school year.

Sunday, September 20 – 9:30 First Day of Regular Sunday School growing in faith.

Sunday, September 27 – 9:30 Regular Sunday School

Sunday's, October 4, 11 and 18 – 9:30 Regular Sunday School

Sunday, October 25 – No Sunday School

Wednesday, October 28 – 5:30 Wednesday Evening Sunday School Halloween Party! Light meal, party and Bible study.

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

Please bring your children and grandchildren to Sunday School!

Let's encourage the next generation to learn about God's Word, grow in faith, serve others, and enjoy being part of our church family.

Supporting Our Students Through Trust Fund Scholarships

St. John's is pleased to award **Trust Fund Scholarships** to children of parishioners who enrolled in an institution of higher learning. These scholarships are made possible through the generosity of donors who support the Trust Fund Scholarship Program. We are grateful for the opportunity to encourage and support our students as they continue their educational journeys. Congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients!

- **Trudy Baxter** – Northeast Iowa Community College, Nursing
- **Olivia Dougherty** – Grand Canyon University, Youth Ministry
- **Danielle Ellinghuysen** – Kansas State University, PhD
- **Hailey Houg** – Palmer College of Chiropractic
- **Lynsey Houg** – University of Northern Iowa
- **Jacob Jones** – University of Northern Iowa, Secondary Education
- **John Marti** – Des Moines Area Community College, Automotive Tech
- **Brent Roe** – Cornell College, Sports Journalism
- **McKinley Rotsvold** – Hawkeye Community College, Teaching
- **Brandon Teslow** – Hawkeye Community College, Site Surveying

We celebrate the dedication and accomplishments of each of these students and wish them continued success in their studies. We also extend our sincere thanks to everyone whose generosity helps make these scholarships possible.



Feed The Kids Report

The “Feed the Kids” program in Waukon completed its fourth July of feeding lunches and grab-and-go breakfasts to children 18 years and younger. The program grew by 14% this year, serving 3071 lunches and 2589 breakfasts in 23 days.

The Allamakee Community School District (ACSD) provides breakfasts and lunches during June and August to local children. The “Feed the Kids” program was created to fill the July gap. The planning team started meeting in April. Local volunteers organized by five local churches; St Paul's Methodist Church, St Patrick's Catholic Church, Zion United Church of Christ, St. John's Lutheran Church, and the First Presbyterian Church helped prepare and serve hot lunches and grab-and-go breakfasts to mimic what was being done at the school. The meals were served at Zion United Church of Christ. A “Feed the Kids” Facebook page was added this year to share menus and highlight all of the volunteers.

This was a true community effort with support from local banks, businesses, organizations, and individuals. Donations of groceries, meat, beef, pork and dairy products were made. Thanks to individuals in our community who provided monetary donations and local produce such as cucumbers and eggs. Special thanks to the following organizations: Allamakee Dairy Association, Allamakee County Pork Producers, Allamakee County Cattleman, and PEO.

Special thanks to the following businesses: Freedom Bank, Kerndt Brothers State Bank, People's State Bank, Waukon State Bank, the Waukon Standard, KNEI, Lid's, Fareway, Quillins, Dollar Fresh, WW Homestead Dairy, Fiesta Vallarta, Hardee's, Epic Wear, Jet's Meat Processing, S&D Cafe, and the Town Theater.

“Feed the Kids” would not have been possible without the help of so many! Thank you to all who contributed in any way! **Also, the program will need a new planning team in order to continue serving Waukon kids in July 2027. Please contact one of the 2025-26 team members listed that you are ready to serve: Sue Clark, Kathy Hay, or Peggy Stock**

2026

Week 1: Average 137 lunches/day

Week 2: Average 147 lunches/day

Week 3: Average 143 lunches/day

Week 4: Average 122 lunches/day

Week 5: Average 124 lunches/day

	2023	2024	2025	2026
Lunches served	1399	1974	2849	3071
Breakfasts served	Did not track	2367	2383	2589
Most (lunches) in one day	119 (chicken strips)	156 (first day, walking tacos)	213 (first day, tacos)	210 (first day, tacos)
Least (lunches) in one day	40 (rainy day)	64 (Friday of fair)	69 (last day, pizza)	85 (cold meat sandwich - last Thursday)
Average lunches per day	77.7	109.7	130	143

Solar Panels Are Soaking up the Rays!

Our solar panels are working great and soaking up the sunshine! According to Alliant Energy, we have used **127.5% less electricity than during the same billing period last year.**

This incredible energy savings is helping St. John's save an average of **\$400 per month.** Even better, we are able to bank solar credits that can be used during the winter months when we need more energy.

We're grateful to see our investment in solar making such a positive impact—both for our budget and our stewardship of God's creation! **We are currently awaiting receipt of the IRS Energy Credit.**

Confirmation Ministry

Parents and youth in **7th, 8th, and 9th grades** are invited to an orientation and registration meeting on **Wednesday, September 16, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.**

This year, confirmation classes will explore **Luther's Small Catechism** and a **Faith Foundations** series that connects faith with everyday life. Our first class is **Wednesday, September 30, at 7:00 p.m.**

Ninth graders preparing for confirmation will have opportunities to make their Confirmation stoles and write their statements of faith. **Confirmation Sunday will be October 25 (Reformation Sunday).**

Families are also invited to **Worship in the Valley** at Village Creek Bible Camp on **September 20.** Meet in the church parking lot at **5:00 p.m. to carpool.** The free Christian concert accepts free-will donations for the camp's scholarship fund.

Trustee and Council Meeting See the Narthex Bulletin Board for details

Board of Trustees Update: The Board of Trustees met on **Monday, August 17**. The full meeting minutes are posted and available for review.

Highlights: Allamakee Community Players contract update, church repair and maintenance projects, **Chicken Dinner** date of **September 11**, building repairs, job descriptions.

The next **Board of Trustees** meeting will be held on **Monday, September 21, at 5:30 p.m.**, followed by the **Congregational Council Meeting** at **7:00 p.m.**

Congregational Council Update: committee reports, Glenwood church sharing of pastor, church repairs, the part-time youth coordinator position.

Call Committee Update

The committee has been in recent contact with the Northeastern Iowa Synod and is continuing to move forward with the steps in the call process. We appreciate your continued prayers and support as we continue to work through this process.

Library News - Submitted by the Library Committee

The St. John's Library is making room for new materials by removing all VHS (VCR) tapes from its collection. Throughout the month of August, these tapes will be available in the narthex for anyone who would like them. Please feel free to take as many as you wish.

Any tapes remaining at the end of the month will be recycled.

If you have suggestions or requests for new books or other library materials, please contact Vickie Larson or Linda Groe. We always welcome your ideas!

The library is located across from the lounge and is always open. We invite you to stop in and browse!

St. John's Rieck's Chicken Dinner

Join Us! St. John's Rieck's Chicken Dinner on Friday, September 11, from 4:00–7:00 p.m.

Dine-in and carry-out meals are available for \$15.00.

Dinner Includes

- 3-piece chicken dinner
- Seasoned potato wedges
- Baked beans
- Roll
- Bar



Dine-in beverages: Coffee, milk, and bottled water will be available.

Volunteers Needed Please see the **2026 Supper Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet** in the narthex for a list of volunteer opportunities, duties, and bars.

Help Spread the Word! Please grab a colored flyer from the Narthex and help promote the event by sharing it with family, friends, neighbors, or posting it around town or at a local business.

Thank you for helping make this event a success! Funds raised from this event will be used to support church updates, including boiler and building repairs.

Postville Fire Relief Effort

Following the recent fires at the AgriStar processing plant in Postville, the Northeastern Iowa Synod is working with local congregations to support those affected.

Needed items: diapers (all sizes), infant formula—especially sensitive-stomach varieties, baby wipes, and toilet paper. (Updated lists may be found in the Narthex)

Donations may be dropped off at **St. Paul Lutheran Church in Postville** or **St. John's Lutheran Church in Waukon**, where we will coordinate delivery. Monetary donations are also being accepted through the Northeastern Iowa Synod for immediate and long-term needs, checks made out to the Synod. Our congregation's support was delivered the week of August 19, including both monetary donations and donated items. Thank you to everyone who contributed and helped support our neighbors affected by the fires.

Please keep our neighbors, the affected families, and all those impacted by the fires in your prayers.

Radio Ministry

Our September broadcasts are generously sponsored by Church Funds, along with contributions from **Ella Mae Dvorak Estate**, in memory of **Irv Fosaaen** for the September 13 broadcast and **Dixie Libbey** for the September 27 broadcast.

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. Please contact the church office at **563-568-3623** or [**stjohnswaukon@gmail.com**](mailto:stjohnswaukon@gmail.com) for more information.

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



WELCA officers met for the first time after summer break and discussed the following items.

This year we are concentrating on putting together Personal Care Kits. 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 as follows:

- 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. Toothbrush multi-packs may be donated. We will divide up the packs of multiple toothbrushes to be used in the kits
- One sturdy comb. There are many different types of hair texture, so no picks or fine-toothed combs, remove packaging
- One metal nail clipper (attached file optional), remove packaging

Quilting is in full swing. The quilters meet on Wednesdays at the church from 8:45 to noon. Coffee and refreshments will be shared. Please come and join in the quilting fun! No experience is necessary.

WELCA ladies served at five funerals. Thank you to all who have volunteered to bring food and help out at those funerals.

Judith Engle continues to share her artistic ministry talents by sending cards to congratulate accomplishments and to say thank you to those who have helped out our church. Thank you, Judith, for sharing your talents by making and sending beautiful cards!

As we get closer to the holiday shopping season, we are looking for donations to Pennies for Presents. Look for the jar at the back of the church. You can also make a donation at the church office. We have more of a need this year to help out local families. Thank you for supporting this needed service.

Sending Quilts

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 made by several churches in our area. It is our turn to provide volunteers to help with the unloading and loading happen. The volunteers will unload quilts from vehicles and load those quilts into a semi. Please contact the church office to get your name on the volunteer list. There are also volunteer jobs to fill out forms as well. Thank you for your help!



Ice Cream Pails Needed!

Do you like ice cream as much as we do?! We are looking for **clean, empty ice cream pails** to keep in the church kitchen for storing leftovers from funerals and other events.

If you have any to donate, please **clean them and place them in the kitchen**.

Thank you for helping us keep things organized and make good use of those ice cream pails!

August Music Notes – James H Bieber

Thank you to Sarah Hagen and Randy Johnson for providing special music on August 2 and 9, respectively, and to Kathy Murray for accompanying on August 9.

Our choirs resume their fall rehearsal schedule on **Wednesday, September 2:**

- **Youth Bell Choir:** 6:00 p.m.
- **Senior Bell Choir:** 7:00 p.m.
- **Senior Vocal Choir:** TBA

We look forward to welcoming everyone back as we prepare for several special events, including **Choir Dedication Sunday on September 27**, 8:30 service and the **50th Anniversary Allamakee Ecumenical Choir Concert on Sunday, December 13.**

50th Anniversary Handbell Choir Reunion: We are already planning for the reunion, scheduled for the last weekend of June 26-27 2027. We hope to reconnect with 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.**

Everyone who contacts us will be added to the reunion email list for invitations, updates, and RSVP information. Thank you!

Worship With St. John's

Join us for Sunday morning worship in a way that works best for you!

- **Radio Broadcast:** Tune in to **KNEI 103.5 FM at 8:30 a.m.** each Sunday, or listen online at **www.kneiradio.com.**
- **Facebook Live:** Worship with us through our live video stream at **<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnswaukon/>.**
- **Service Bulletins:** Bulletins for each worship service are available on our website at **www.stjohnswaukon.net.**

Stay Connected Receive the monthly newsletter by email as a PDF. If you would like to be added to the email list, please contact the church office.

Visit us online at **www.stjohnswaukon.net** and follow us on Facebook at **<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnswaukon/>** for worship updates, announcements, and church news.

If you experience any interruptions with the Sunday radio broadcast or the Facebook Live stream, please notify the church office so we can address the issue as quickly as possible.

Thank You to Our Congregation

Thank you to all of our congregation members for the many ways you support St. John's. Whether it's reading Scripture, making monetary donations, changing light bulbs, replacing signs, or helping with countless other tasks, you always step up when needed. We are truly grateful for all you do to care for and support our church!



September 2026 Hymns – Hymns subject to change

Sunday, September 6 –

716 Lord of All Nations

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-11

Psalm: Psalm 119:33-40

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-14

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

678 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

Communion – 466 In the Singing

467 We Place Upon Your Table

543 Go, My Children, With My Blessing)

Sunday, September 13 –

864 Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

Psalm: Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13

Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

779 Amazing Grace

544 Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing

Sunday, September 20 –

845 Voices Raised to You

First Reading: Jonah 3:10—4:11

Psalm: Psalm 145:1-8

Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

765 Lord of All Hopefulness

Communion – 659 Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

685 Take My Life That I May Be

669 Rise Up, O Saints of God

Sunday, September 27 –

836 Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee

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

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-9

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

818 O Music Let Me Walk With You

876 Let the Whole Creation Cry



Dates & Events

September at St. John's

August Highlights

As summer begins to wind down, August brings opportunities for fellowship, learning, and service. Mark your calendars for upcoming gatherings and activities, and join us as we continue to grow together in faith and community. **September 2026** brings a fresh set of awareness days and cultural calendar dates to plan around: back to school, autumn beginnings, and a run of global observances. It's also a genuine sporting month in its own right, with the start of the NFL season.

World Suicide Prevention Day | 10 September

Patriot Day | 11 September A Day of remembrance for the victims of the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks.

World Alzheimer's Day | 21 September Raises awareness and challenges stigma around Alzheimer's disease.

Autumn Equinox | 23 September Marks the first day of autumn in the Northern Hemisphere.

Wed, September 2

8:45-12 Quilting in Fellowship Hall

6pm Youth Bell Choir, 7pm Sr Bell Choir

Thurs, September 3

WIC here

Sun, September 6—Pastor Mark Oehlert

8:30am Service W/Comm *Noisy Offering

10:00am Service W/Comm *Noisy Offering

Mon, Sept 7 – OFFICE CLOSED Labor Day

Tues, September 8

9:15am Sarah Circle, church lounge

7pm Dorcas Circle Virtual

Wed, September 9

8:45-12 Quilting in Fellowship Hall

6pm Youth Bell Choir, 7pm Sr Bell Choir

Fri, September 11

4-7pm Riecks Chicken Dinner – Fellowship Hall

Sun, September 13—Pastor Mark Swanson

8:30am Service

9:30am Sunday School Family Service project, Sr Vocal Choir

10:30am Service **Service Time Changes**

7pm Men's Choir

September 15

Newsletter article deadline: All submissions are due to the office

Wed, September 16

8:45-12 Quilting in Fellowship Hall

6pm Youth Bell Choir, 7pm Sr Bell Choir

7pm Confirmation Mtg Fellowship Hall

Sun, September 20—Pastor Mark Oehlert

8:30am/10:30am Service W/Comm, *Pennies for Presents; Blessing of the backpacks

9:30am Sunday School, Sr Vocal Choir

7pm Men's Choir

Mon, September 21

5:30pm Board of Trustee Mtg

7:00pm Congregational Council Meeting

Tues, September 22—Nursing Home Visits

1pm Northgate Care Center

2pm Good Samaritan Society

2:45pm Evergreen Court

Wed, September 23

8:45-12 Quilting in Fellowship Hall

6pm Youth Bell Choir, 7pm Sr Bell Choir

Sun, September 27 - Pastor Waldemar Gies

8:30am/10:30am Service

9:30am Sunday School, Sr Vocal Choir

7pm Men's Choir

Wed, September 30

8:45-12 Quilting in Fellowship Hall

6pm Youth Bell Choir, 7pm Sr Bell Choir

7pm Confirmation in Fellowship Hall

OCTOBER

Sun, October 4—Pastor Mark Oehlert

8:30am/10:30am Service W/Comm, *Noisy Offering; Coffee Treats served after 1st service

9:30am Sunday School, Sr Vocal Choir

7pm Men's Choir

Sun, October 11—Pastor Waldemar Gies

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

Sun, October 18 - 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 25—Pastor Mark Oehlert

Reformation Sunday & Confirmation Sunday

8:30am Service W/Comm, Confirmation

Reception in Fellowship Hall following 8:30 services for Confirmands

10:30am Service W/Comm,

9:30am Sr Vocal Choir

7pm Men's Choir

Pastors subject to change with scheduling

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



August 2026

Baptisms: None

Weddings: None

Deaths: None

September Anniversaries

3—Robery Joachim & Kathy Hay

3—Dustin & Carissa Otto

5—James & Janice Allison

6—John (Jack) & Diane Allison

6—Brock & Kasey Iverson

6—David & Wendy Sanderson

7—Gregory & Marlene Palmer

9—Todd & Marlene Hills

16—Steven & Rebecca Welper

21—Virgil & Debra Thorstenson

24—Devin & Heidi Ryan

25—Cody & Annette Cook

29—David & Cheryl Fetketter

1—Mitchell Roe	12—Michael Halvorson	24—Dawn Thorsten
4—Mary Lynn Jenkins	13—Jillian Fish	25—Carter Cook
5—Wyatt Iverson	14—Thomas Leiran	25—Benjamin Larkin
6—Scotti Hagensick	14—LaVonne Palas	26—Rhonda Barr
6—Kailey Smith	14—Norman Peterson	26—Kenric Christen
7—Sheryl Evanson	15—Elsie Dougherty	26—Ann Hart
7—Mazie Miller	16—Trent Jacobs	26—Emma Johnson
8—Kayla Leiran	20—Corbin Snitker	27—Olivia Heydn
11—Soren Benson	21—Dawson Dietrich	28—Jaxon Hills
11—Keeran Barr	21—Dalton Ellickson	29—Oaklyn Allison
11—Sharon Tuttle	22—Stacy Wyninger	29—Charlene West
11—Rebecca Welper	24—Jared Soper	30—Gus Benjegerdes

September—St. John's Volunteer Duty

	Service	Greeters	Readers	Comm. Asst.	Comm. Prep.	Acolytes	Ushers
Sept 6	8:30AM	Meyer Family	Diana Johnson Melissa Clarke	Dennis & Linda DeBuhr, Joan Moody	Jeff & Diana Johnson	Ushers	Russ & Mary Jo Meyer Family
	10:00AM			Melissa Clarke	Linda Groe		
13	8:30AM	Ken & Rose Beardmore	Ann & Heath Hagensick			Ushers	Same
	10:30AM		Lori Hesse	*Time Change			
20	8:30AM	Dan & Lori Treangen	Dan Treangen	Nona Sawyer, David & Wendy Sanderson	Cindy Barness, Jane Kallevang	Ushers	Same
	10:30AM		Linda Groe	Linda Groe	Alta Guild		
27	8:30AM	Virgil & Deb Thorstenson	Linda Halverson			Ushers	Same
	10:00AM		Vickie Larson				
Oct 4	8:30AM	Dave & Wendy Sanderson	Karen Grimstad	Matt & Dawn Teslow, Rhonda Barr	Sue Blagsvedt, Bonnie Roe	Confirmation	Mark & Stacy Stock, Jon Payne
	10:30AM		Jill Kistler	Jill Kistler	Linda Groe		Lyle & Brenda Kurth

St. John's Collection Counters for August

3- Nona, Chris 10- Lori, Mary 24-Sue, Linda 31- Jane, Karen

Counters for September

8- Lori, Mary 14-Sue, Linda 21- Jane, Karen, 28- Nona, Chris

Good Directions

I really like this one. Someone **spent a lot of time on this...** As for me and my house, we **will** serve the Lord,
DIRECTIONS TO OUR FATHER'S HOUSE.

Make a **Right** onto Believeth Blvd.

Keep **straight** and **go through** the Green Light, **which is, Jesus Christ**

There, **you** must turn **onto the Bridge of Faith, which is over troubled water.**

When **you get off the bridge, make a Right turn** and Keep **Straight.**

You are on the King's Highway - Heaven-bound.

Keep **going** for **three miles: One for the Father, One for the Son, and One for the Holy Ghost.**

Then **exit off onto Grace Blvd.**

From there, make a **Right** turn on **Gospel Lane.**

Keep **Straight** and **then make** another **Right** on **Prayer Road.**

As you go on your way, Yield Not to the traffic on Temptation Ave.

Also, avoid SIN STREET because it is a DEAD END.

Pass up Envy Drive, and Hate Avenue.

Also, pass Hypocrisy Street, Gossiping Lane, and Backbiting Blvd.

However, **you have to go down** Long-suffering Lane,

Persecution Blvd and Trials and Tribulations Ave.

But **that's all right,** because **VICTORY Street** is straight ahead!

SHARE THESE DIRECTIONS TO **YOUR FRIENDS** SO **THEY** WILL **NOT** GET LOST. — Author Unknown



Sometimes we feel lost, but there is always hope in Christ Jesus. At every crossroads in life, He points us in the right direction. Even more comforting is His invitation: **"Follow Me."**

There are also seasons when Jesus calls us to remain where He has placed us while He prepares us, teaches us, or strengthens our faith. At times, we may wander from His path and find ourselves in need of His guidance once again. Yet His love never fails, and He is always ready to lead us back.

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." — **Isaiah 41:10 (KJV)**

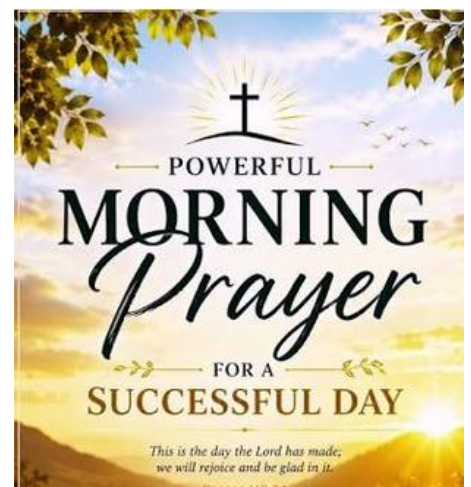
What a powerful promise to nourish the heart! Because God is with us, we do not need to live in fear. He promises to strengthen us, help us, and uphold us through every challenge. Whatever path lies before you, step forward in faith, trusting that the Lord will guide your way.

A New Season of Faith Begins

Summer has its own rhythm. Vacations, lighter schedules, and groups that pause for a few months often leave us scattered. Now, as fall comes into view, it's a wonderful time to reconnect—with one another, with God's Word, and with your church family.

Whether you're returning to a Bible study, beginning a new one, or simply looking for a fresh resource for your faith journey, this season offers a new beginning.

Most importantly, we invite you to come to church. Join us for worship, fellowship, and opportunities to grow in faith together. There's a place for you here, and we'd love to welcome you as we begin a new season together.



Rituals For Transition

Do you dread the end of summer as the calendar turns from August to September? How can we support ourselves through these moments with God's help? Ritual helps us navigate transitions and reminds us of God's presence in times of change. Rituals already abound: Labor Day barbeques mark summer's end, Sunday worship starts the week, and first day of school photos mark a new academic year.

What might it look like in your life to lean into a small, simple ritual in the transition from one thing to the next? To remind yourself and your family that God supports your movement through change?

Keep it simple. A Sunday night ritual might be doing a puzzle together as a family, before the bustle of the week. A back-to-school ritual might be going around the dinner table, sharing gratitude from the summer and an intention for the academic year. A getting-out-the-door ritual might be singing a silly song with your kids. The key is that your ritual moment returns you to your body and the present. It returns you to relationship, with yourself and your loved ones, and with God.

A few possible ways to apply the idea:

- **At the end of summer:** Share a favorite summer memory and one thing you're looking forward to in the fall.
- **Before a new week:** Gather for a simple meal, prayer, puzzle, or family activity on Sunday evening.
- **At the start of a school year:** Invite each family member to name something they're grateful for and something they hope for in the year ahead.
- **During daily transitions:** Pause for a brief prayer, song, breath, or moment of gratitude before moving on to the next task.

The beauty of the reflection is its reminder that **God is present not only in the big moments of life, but also in the small transitions that happen every day.**

This message is excerpted from "God's help during transitions" by Crystal L. Hall in the August 2025 [Café](#) online magazine.

Remembering, Honoring, and Serving

September 11, 2001–2026

September 11, 2026, marks the 25th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. As our nation remembers the nearly 3,000 lives lost, we honor the courage and sacrifice of first responders, members of the armed forces, volunteers, and countless others who served their neighbors and communities in the aftermath.

A Vow to Never Forget

The 25th anniversary is an opportunity to remember the lives and stories of those we lost, recognize the bravery of those who responded, and reflect on the unity and resilience that emerged from tragedy.

It is also a time to pass these stories on to younger generations. Millions of Americans were born after September 11, 2001. By sharing the history, personal stories, and lessons of that day, we help ensure that its significance is not forgotten.

From Remembrance to Service

9/11 Day of Service invites people of all ages and backgrounds to honor those we lost through acts of service and kindness. Community service provides a meaningful way to remember their lives and carry forward the spirit of compassion, courage, and service that was so evident in the days following the attacks.

Consider participating in a service project in your community on or around September 11.

Together, we can honor their memory, serve others, and help carry the spirit of unity forward. Never Forget.

25 Years Remembering and Still in Our Hearts.



Prayer of 9/11 Remembrance:
God of love, we remember the thousands of innocent souls that were lost the morning of September 11, 2001. We remember the shock, the sorrow, the fear, and the pain, especially from the families whose lives were changed forever.

We put into your hands all who stand and live alone without spouses, parents, children or friends. Comfort each and every one who suffers from that day.

We remember also those who responded as helpers. We know some suffer to this day from their service. Be with anyone affected by the horrors of the day. Grant your mercy, hope and healing for anyone in need.

~Amen~

