

St. John's Lutheran Church Newsletter—June 2026

**Interim Pastor
Mark Oehlert**



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Dear friends in Christ,

“Life is full of change. Seek the angel of the Lord in every one.”

I am not recalling the writer of the quote above, so I am not able to give credit to its author. The wisdom the quote presents, however, is timeless and appropriate as we enter fully into the growing season all around us. So too, do we grow as humans created by God. And growth requires change.

Change brings new perspectives, ventures and opportunities. Change can be and often is uncomfortable. Change can be and often is difficult. And yet change is life. From the time we are born and take our first breath, to our first steps, to our first words, to first grade, to our first bicycle ride, to our first communion, to confirmation of faith, to a first date and or crush on another person, to our first job, to our first drive in a car, to graduation, to our first year of college or employment, to our first on our own apartment or home, to the first time married, to the first time we lose loved ones, to the first we are terminated at a job, to a first time our health is challenged, to our first child to our first son or daughter in law, to our first grandchild and on it goes- all the way to when our time on earth is done- change is constant.

Interestingly, many of us find change difficult in spite of the fact that life is change from start to finish. It is good that one thing that never changes is God! God, who gives life and breath, is there as we begin, walks with us throughout our entire lives and holds us close in the palm of God's hands when we take our last breath. What a profound and all encompassing gift!

And so, when life brings change that challenges us, it is good to consult our instruction manual- the holy bible! Many are the verses that remind us to “not fear” and to “cast all our anxieties upon God” and remind us that “we walk by faith and not by sight” as we face the ever changing realities of life on earth.

Truly it is a wise person who receives and believes God's promises given us in our baptism when God claims us as God's own. That is a claim not just for the day or a claim that comes and goes. No, God claims us for all times and all places as we journey the road of life.

Thankfully, God sent Jesus the Christ who shows us, teaches us and through the Holy Spirit inspires us to learn his ways as we live our lives each moment, each day, each month, each year, each decade and ultimately for the entirety of our lives- all the way until we are blessed to meet God face to face!

And so as you live each day remember, “life is full of change. Seek the angel of the Lord in every one!” Thanks be to God!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Mark

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.

Contact Information: Pastor Mark Oehlert | pmsoth@gmail.com |

Circle News

Sarah Circle will meet Tuesday, June 9 at 9:15 am at Sarah Sweeney's home (see church directory or contact the office for address). Host Joan Moody.

Dorcas Circle will meet virtually at 7 pm on Tuesday, June 9 .

All are welcome—come grow in faith and fellowship with us!



LYO Youth Ministry Team

Congratulations to all our graduates! Trudy Baxter, Taylor Jackson, Jacob Jones, Keigan Leiran, Johnathan Marti, Marshall Moe, Brent Roe. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Thank you to everyone who attended the senior reception, and a special thank you to the parents who helped serve and make the event a success. Enjoy your summer!

Youth News!

Vacation Bible School will be at Village Creek Bible Camp For more details, please see the registration forms available in the Narthex or download the forms off of our Sunday School webpage. VBS is open to all students preschool age and older (preschoolers must be accompanied by an adult chaperone).

Date: Wednesday, June 3 **Location:** Village Creek Bible Camp **Cost:** \$20 per child

We will meet in the church parking lot at **7:45 AM** and return around **4:50 PM**.

Forms and payment due Wednesday, May 27. Contact Brandi Neuzil or Mary Jo Meyer for any questions.

We hope your child can join us for a fun and meaningful day!

Camperships will be handed out at the 8:30 service on May 31. Camperships were generously donated by St. John's Trust Fund, WELCA, and member Bev Haas. We are truly grateful for their support of our youth as they follow and grow in their faith this summer through their camp experiences.



St. John's Website

Have you checked out our St. John's Lutheran Church website? Stay connected with all that's happening—Bible study, bulletins, newsletters, weekly devotions, and more! We'd love for you to pause your scrolling and check us out today. Visit us here: <https://stjohnswaukon.net/>

To Receive the Word

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

We also are video streaming on Facebook Live. <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnswaukon/>

Bulletins for the service can be found on our web page www.stjohnswaukon.net

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 <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnswaukon/>

Please inform the church office of any interruptions to the radio broadcast or Facebook Live stream.

Radio Ministry

Our June radio ministry broadcast is generously sponsored by Church Funds and June 21 by Trent & Lori Jacobs. Thank you for your support! We are thankful for the opportunity to share God's Word through this ministry.

If you would like to sponsor a future broadcast in honor or memory of someone, or simply to support the ministry, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the church office at **563-568-3623** or email stjohnswaukon@gmail.com.

When you sponsor a broadcast, you are invited to choose a favorite hymn to be included in that service — a meaningful way to share a song that is special to you.



WALKING BY FAITH
tripping constantly

Trustee Meeting **SEE NARTHEX BULLETIN BOARD for details**

The Board of Trustees and Church Council met Monday, May 18 and the full minutes are posted.

Key updates: Spring clean up day, June 13 at 9:00 am, Internet/phone provider change -expect delays on June 1, Boiler updates and inspection, Second service surveys due May 31, New cushions for the Communion rail, Next meeting June 8 at 5:30 pm.

Call Committee Update

As we continue moving forward in the process, it may seem slow at times, but important work is happening. We have been working closely with the Northeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA as we proceed through the next steps.

St. John's Women Serving and Socializing

The ladies of St. Johns have been busy! The Wednesday quilting ladies have made 28 quilts this year. They will be shipped out in the fall. Lutheran World Relief (LWR) quilts are sent to people in need around the world—and in the U.S.—who are facing poverty, conflict, or natural disasters. As of 2025, the quilts are distributed across 15+ countries, including hotspots like Ukraine, Tanzania, and Haiti, as well as American communities hit by hurricanes and wildfires. Please feel free to join them in the fall as they work on putting together many quilts for a worthy cause.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the baby kit project. The committee was able to put together 38 kits. Baby Care Kits are distributed globally to mothers and newborns in need. The kits help in areas experiencing strife such as poverty, conflict, or natural disasters. Please watch the newsletter in the fall as we will shift our focus to another project. (see page 7 for more about these service projects)

We were able to support students of our congregation by giving out 12 camperships to our youth for bible camp this summer. We hope that they enjoy camp and have fun learning about God.

We hope that everyone has a enjoyable and safe summer!

Respectfully, Karen Stamper

Keeping God in Your Summer Activities

Stay connected with God during the summer by integrating prayer into outdoor activities, maintaining consistent morning routines, and using leisure time for spiritual reflection. Prioritize church attendance, utilize audio Bibles during commutes, and use nature walks to practice gratitude.

Practical Daily Habits

***Leverage Technology:** Listen to the Bible on your phone or use apps for devotionals while traveling or relaxing.

***Micro-Habits:** Read one Psalm with morning coffee or pray while getting dressed.

***Switch to "Breath Prayers":** Inhale a petition ("Lord Jesus have mercy") and exhale a phrase of thanks ("Thank you, Lord").

***Car Prayer:** Use driving time for prayer instead of the radio.

Maintain Spiritual Structure

***Keep Your Routine:** Resist the temptation to let Bible reading and prayer slide; maintain a consistent schedule.

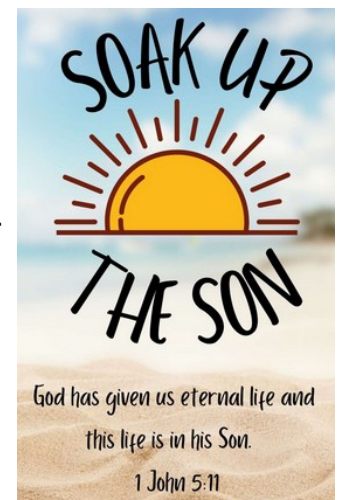
***Prioritize Sunday Service:** Make every effort to attend church, even while traveling.

***Find Accountability:** Check in with a friend weekly to discuss your faith.

Family and Service

***Summer Service:** Actively look for ways to serve your community, acting as God's hands and feet.

***Worshipful Activities:** Make memories with family, and find creative ways to worship, such as creating a family playlist of worship songs



Solar Panels

We are working with Hacker Nelson on the next steps to receive the energy credit. This process will take time, and we will keep you posted along the way.

Plans for installing a fence/barrier around the solar equipment are underway and are expected to be completed in the coming month.

We're seeing cost savings each month for our church and look forward to continuing to 'bank' energy. The banked energy will be used at night, cloudy days and the winter months.

Thank you for your continued support as we move forward with this project.

St. John's Hymns

June 7 Second Sunday after Pentecost

No. 858 Praise to the Lord

First Reading: Hosea 5:15—6:6

Psalm: Psalm 50:7-15

Second Reading: Romans 4:13-25

Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

No. 556 Morning Has Broken

Communion: 758, 759

No. 722 O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate

June 14 Third Sunday after Pentecost

No. 526 God Is Here

First Reading: Exodus 19:2-8a

Psalm: Psalm 100

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-8

Gospel: Matthew 9:35—10:8 [9-23]

No. 579 Lord, You Give the Great Commission

No. 661 I Love to Tell the Story

June 21 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

No. 876 Let the Whole Creation Cry

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-13

Psalm: Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18

Second Reading: Romans 6:1b-11

Gospel: Matthew 10:24-39

No. 812 Faith of Our Fathers

Communion: 781, 798

No. 810 O Jesus I Have Promised

June 28 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

No. 729 The Church of Christ in Every Age

First Reading: Jeremiah 28:5-9

Psalm: Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

Second Reading: Romans 6:12-23

Gospel: Matthew 10:40-42

No. 719 Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

No. 676 Lord Speak to Us that We May Speak



Music Ministry

Thank you to all of our choirs — vocal and handbells alike — for another successful year of providing music for our Sunday worship services, as well as additional services during Lent.

On Sunday, May 10, we were pleased to present a brass-engraved graduation bell to high school senior Johnathan Marti in recognition of his 6 years of service in the Youth Bell Choir and 2 years in the Senior Bell Choir.

Sarah Sweeney also received a 10-year brass-engraved bell for her dedication to the Senior Bell Choir. Sarah's handbell journey began in the Junior Bell Choir, continued through the Youth Bell Choir, and later included participation in the Luther College Bell Choir, as well as directing handbell choirs for the Luther College Summer Music Camp — totaling 24 years of handbell experience.

The Men's Choir will perform on Memorial Day Sunday during the 8:30 a.m. service and again on Sunday, July 5. They will also perform at the Harpers Ferry Summer Festival on Saturday evening, June 20.

We welcome vocal soloists, ensembles, and instrumentalists to share their talents during Sunday services throughout June, July, and August. Please contact Jim Bieber at 563-380-5355 or the church office at 563-3623 for more information. ~ *Jim Bieber*





Dates & Events

June at a Glance

Tues, June 2

Primary Election—Fellowship Hall

Wed, June 3

Vacation Bible School to Village Creek Bible Camp meet at 7:45am in the parking lot

Sun, June 7—Pastor Mark Oehlert

8:30am Service W/Comm *Noisy Offering

9:30am Bible Study

10:00am Service W/Comm *Noisy Offering

Mon, June 8

5:30pm Board of Trustee Mtg

Tues, June 9

9:15am Sarah Circle @ Sarah Sweeney home—Joan Moody Hosts

7pm Dorcas Circle Meet Virtually

Thurs, June 11

WIC here

Sat, June 13

9:00am Spring Clean Up Day (rescheduled from May)

Sun, June 14—Pastor Waldemar Gies

8:30am Service-

9:30am Bible Study

10:00am Service

Mon, June 15

Newsletter article deadline: All submissions are due to the office

Marian Hesla visitation 9am-11am; Funeral 11am

Sun, June 21—Pastor Mark Oehlert

Happy Father's Day

8:30am Service W/Comm, *Pennies for Presents, this service will be on the church lawn, Please bring a lawn chair and get comfortable as we gather outside to hear God's Word.

9:30am Bible Study

10:00am Service W/Comm (inside), *Pennies for Presents

Tues, June 23—Nursing Home Visits

1pm Northgate Care Center

2pm Good Samaritan Society

2:45pm Evergreen Court

Sun, June 28 - Pastor Charis Combs—Lay

8:30am Service-

9:30am Bible Study

10:00am Service

Pastors subject to change with scheduling

July Highlights

National Ice Cream Month: The entire month is celebrated in the US, with **National Ice Cream Day** falling on the third Sunday of July

Awareness Campaigns: July serves as UV Safety Month and National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month.

*Free Lunches weekdays in JULY at Zion United Church of Christ from 11am-12:30pm. Grab and go breakfast available each day.

Fri, July 3—Louise Ellingson visitation & funeral

Sun, July 5—Pastor Mark Oehlert

8:30am Service W/Comm *Noisy Offering

9:30am Bible Study

10:00am Service W/Comm *Noisy Offering

Sun, July 12 - TBA

8:30am Service-

9:30am Bible Study

10:00am Service

CHURCH OFFICE

Lana will be on Faircation from July 14-16.

Sun, July 19—Pastor Mark Oehlert

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

9:30am Bible Study

10:00am Service W/Comm,

*Pennies for Presents

Sun, July 26 - Pastor Charis

Combs—Lay

8:30am Service-

9:30am Bible Study

10:00am Service



St. John's Collection Counters

JUNE

1 Jane, Karen
8 Nona, Chris
15 Lori, Mary
22 Sue, Linda
29 Jane, Karen

JULY

6 Nona, Chris
13 Lori, Mary
20 Sue, Linda
27 Jane, Karen



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

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|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1—Olivia Dougherty | 13—Brysen Hills | 25—Nolan Hanson |
| 1—Marilyn Henkels | 15—Creed Nuehring | 26—Lyle Stock |
| 1—Brent Roe | 16—Adrick Christensen | 27—Nathan Meyer |
| 2—Janice Allison | 16—Beth Heydn | 28—Hillary Cook |
| 2—Carl Thornton | 18—Alexis Martin | 28—Douglas Joachim |
| 4—Benny Emerson | 19—Kayden Copp | 28—Ann Rademaker |
| 4—Marissa Martins | 20—Sandra Deal | 29—Joseph Jackson |
| 4—Brandon Urmanski | 20—Chris Engstrom | 29—Steven Welper |
| 5—Stacy Stock | 20—Olivia Rathbone | 30—Sadie Bucheit |
| 6—Emily Baade | 20—Derek Wicks | 30—Gloria Payne |
| 6—Ivy Urmanski | 21—Kirby Jones | 30—Deborah Sickles |
| 7—Joyce Thornton | 21—Bradley Larkin | |
| 9—Ava Bossom | 22—Randall Johnsen | |
| 9—Olivia Bossom | 23—Karen Soper | |
| 9—Ernest Osland | 23—Alan Tweedy | |
| 10—Jean Bossom | 24—Darrell Stone | |
| 12—Jerry Goeke | 24—Ann White | |

Happy Anniversary June Anniversaries

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Darold & Debra Berger | Tom & Bev Leiran |
| Glenn & Karen Grimstad | Ken & Rose Beardmore |
| Daren & Jenny Dietrich | David & Rhonda Bahr |
| Brad & Kim Yohe | Lyle & Brenda Kurth |
| James & Melynda Emerson | Mathew & Allison Rottink |
| Gregory & Ann Hagensick | Ernest & Donnalee Osland |
| Michael & Scotti Hagensick | Harlan & Carole Yohe |
| Richard & Kathy Murray | John & Sharon Roe |
| Brandon & Eva Urmanski | |

May 2026

Baptisms: None
Weddings: None
Deaths: Marian Hesla, Bernard Pausch

JUNE—St. John's Volunteer Duty List

	Service	Greeters	Readers	Comm. Asst.	Comm. Prep.	Aco-lytes	Ushers
7	8:30AM	Marilyn Henkels	Ann Hagensick	Greg & Ann Hagensick, Chris Stuckman	Mary Jo Meyer, Bailey Benson	Ushers	Bill & Becky Roe Family
	10:00AM		Lori Hesse	Jill Kistler	Lori Hesse		Eric Kirkeby
14	8:30AM	Dan & Lori Treangen	Dan Treangen			Ushers	Same
	10:00AM		Wendy Bucheit				
21	8:30AM	Bill & Becky Roe	Linda Groe	David & Wendy Sanderson, Dan Treangen	Ron Dahlstrom, Vickie Larson	Ushers	Same
	10:00AM		Melissa Clarke	Melissa Clarke	Evonne Kistler, Jill Kistler		
28	8:30AM	Lee & Chris Ellickson	Linda Halver-son			Ushers	Same
	10:00AM		Vickie Larson				
July 1	8:30AM	Jens & Jane Kallevang	Mary Jackson	Dennis & Linda DeBuhr, Cindy Bar-ness	Ann Hagensick, Allie Rottnick	Ushers	Steve & Sheryl Evanson
	10:00AM	Sandy Deal	Linda Groe	Wendy Bucheit	Wendy Bucheit		

Video Security System

We are now one month into using our new video security system! This upgraded system features color video, playback capability, and expanded coverage throughout the church and parking lot—helping us create a safer environment for everyone.

The total cost of this improvement was approximately \$11,000. If you would like to support this important church upgrade, donations may be directed to the church office. We are grateful to everyone who has already contributed toward our goal.

Please make checks payable to St. John's and note "Security System" in the memo line.

Thank you for helping us keep our church a safe, secure, and welcoming place for all.



2026 Stewardship Projects

The spring quilting session will wrap up at the end of May. We'll be taking the summer off and will start again in the fall.

In May, we delivered 28 quilts and 38 baby kits. With your help, we hope to make even more quilts and kits this year. Our primary focus will be on assembling personal kits, though we will also continue putting together baby kits.

Items needed for personal kits include soap, toothbrushes, combs, nail clippers, and bath towels. More details can be found in your WELCA events booklet, and there is also a green notice posted on the bulletin board.

Thank you again for supporting this important mission!



Thank You—St. John's

In April 2026, St. John's Trust Fund distributed funds to several area organizations. Thank-you acknowledgements from these organizations may be viewed on the church bulletin board.

Recipient thank-you's included Lutheran Services in Iowa, Corner of Hope Growing Project, and the Allamakee County Food Shelf, Synond, Veteran's Memorial Hospital-Postville Clinic.

Through these contributions, St. John's continues to support and strengthen our community in meaningful ways.

Oakland Cemetery

The Oakland Cemetery Board of Directors has sent St. John's a letter, which may be viewed on the church bulletin board. The letter highlights improvements made over the past year, plans for future needs and improvements, annual expenses, and plans to honor veterans on Memorial Day. If you are interested in contributing to this year's fund drive, please note that Oakland Cemetery is a 501(c)(3) corporation, and your donation may be tax-deductible. Donations may be mailed to:

Oakland Cemetery

c/o Diane Oesterle

1013 2nd St. SW

Waukon, IA 52172



Feed the Kids Representative

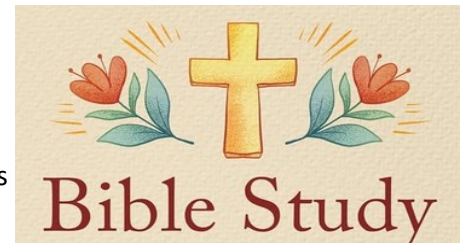
Feed the Kids Representative for 2027: Responsibilities are securing donations and volunteers for the third week of July. Cindy Wuebker has the experience to ease the transition. Please contact her at 712-661-9149 if interested or have any questions. This is a 2-year term, so it is time to find someone new to serve in this position.

Laura Ingalls Wilder Park & Museum

Presents 50th Anniversary of Laura Days on June 27. Special guest appearance by Alison Arngrim (Nellie Olson) in the Little House on the Prairie TV series. See the bulletin for more information on the schedule of activities or their website at www.lauraingallswilder.us

Bible Study, what can it do for YOU!?

Bible study offers significant spiritual, mental, and relational perks, including deeper wisdom, strengthened faith, and reduced stress. Regular engagement—is associated with a 228% increase in sharing faith, and 30% less loneliness. It fosters community, provides accountability, and offers guidance.



Key Spiritual and Personal Perks

- **Deepened Relationship with God:** Studies reveal God’s character, fostering love and intimacy with Him.
- **Wisdom and Guidance:** Scripture acts as a guide, providing practical wisdom for daily decisions, relationships, and life's challenges.
- **Spiritual Growth & Protection:** It strengthens faith, acts as a shield against temptation, and helps navigate difficult times.
- **Correction and Transformation:** The Bible highlights areas needing change, training believers in righteousness.
- **Peace and Stability:** Regular engagement reduces stress and provides a solid foundation, offering a "calm" in life.

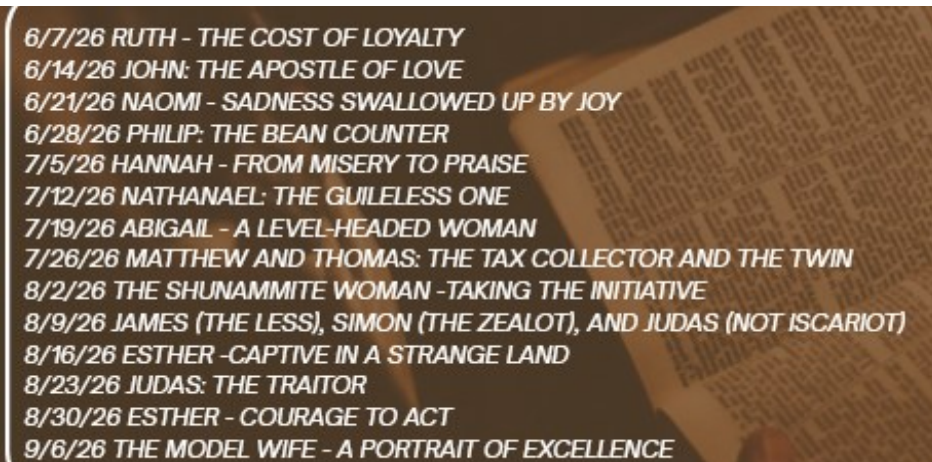
Key Community and Group Perks

- **Accountability & Community:** Small groups provide a supportive environment for sharing struggles and growth.
- **Meaningful Relationships:** Studies create opportunities to build lasting friendships with fellow believers.
- **Diverse Perspectives:** Group studies offer fresh insights into Scripture that may not be apparent in personal study alone.
- **Enhanced Critical Thinking:** Discussing Scripture encourages deeper exploration and questioning.

Everyone Is Welcome

Come as you are and feel free to bring a friend or family member. We look forward to growing together in faith. **Get Involved**—For more information, including meeting times and location, please contact us or check our [Bible Study Resources page](#) on our website.

Every Sunday from now—September 6 at 9:30 am in the lounge studying the men and women of the Bible.



St. John’s 2026 High School Graduates were honored on May 17. Congratulations to: Trudy Baxter, Taylor Jackson, Jacob Jones, Keigan Leiran, Johnathan Marti, Marshall Moe, Brent Roe.