

# The Loveletter

St. John Lutheran Church, 201 Fourth Avenue, Keystone, Iowa 52249

November, 2025

## THE LOVELETTER

*Published Monthly by*

**St. John Lutheran Church**  
(Missouri Synod)  
201 Fourth Avenue  
P.O. Box 176  
Keystone, Iowa 52249  
Phone: 319-442-3514

**Church E-Mail:**  
stjnluth@netins.net

**Church Website:**  
www.stjohnkeystone.org

## OUR STAFF

Rev. Josiah Schultz  
Pastor  
Phone: 913-223-8261

Donna Busch  
Parish Assistant  
319-721-0952

Relda Pickering  
Custodian  
319-442-3742

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship  
9:00 a.m.

## BIBLE STUDIES

Sunday School  
10:15 - 11:15 a.m.

Sunday Adult Bible Class  
*The Book of Acts*  
10:15 - 11:15

Thursday Bible Class  
Studying *2 Thessalonians*  
9:30–10:30 a.m.

## SWADDLING CLOTHES

Store open second  
Saturday of each month  
from 9 to noon,  
the following Monday  
afternoon from 4:30 - 5:30.

## All Saints' Day

We will be observing All Saints' Day on Sunday, November 2nd, during our worship service at 9:00 a.m. at St. John. We will be remembering those members of St. John who died in Christ during the past twelve months. We will remember them and praise God who in Christ gives us victory over death! This year included in the remembrance are Jay Feuerbach, who passed away on December 18th, 2024; Kelsey Ritscher, who passed away January 7, 2025; Nanci Nissen, March 16, 2025; Howard Pohlmann, June 17, 2025; Ardith Junge, October 22, 2025; and Janyce Pohlmann, who passed away on October 26, 2025. We know that those we love who died in Christ are with the Lord in heaven. They are also in our hearts. Living in the Lord, clinging to His Word, we rejoice that death has lost its power over us all. Because of Christ and His work for us, those we love, who have died in the Christian faith, have received a crown of life! We are hoping you can join us for our observance of All Saints' Day.

## Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Thanksgiving is a special time for us to thank and praise the Lord for all the blessings we receive. This year we will hold Thanksgiving worship on Wednesday evening, November 26th, at 6:30 p.m., here at St. John. Please invite others to join us!

## Thanksgiving Potluck

A Thanksgiving Potluck for our congregation and community will be held on Sunday, November 23rd, with serving after our worship service (around 11:30). Our worship service will start at 10:00 that morning. After the service, we'll enjoy a delicious potluck. Several members will be smoking turkeys, and everyone is asked to bring their favorite side dishes. Table service and beverages will be provided. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex so we get an idea of the food being brought in. The church council does the serving. Invite others to attend!

## His Love - Our Response Food Drive

We will again this year be holding the *His Love—Our Response Food Drive* here at St. John. You may bring non-perishable items to the church from November 1st through Thanksgiving. Your donated food items may be left on the table in the narthex. If you'd rather make a cash donation, make your check out to St. John and mark the check and envelope with FOOD BANK and place it in the offering plate. This food drive is not only open to the congregation but also the community. Anyone may call the church office with a food donation and we will pick it up if you are unable to bring it into the church. If you would like to help deliver the food to the food bank in Belle Plaine, please contact the church office to volunteer. Delivery will be the week after Thanksgiving. Give thanks always for everything the Heavenly Father provides for us!

## Bible Studies and Classes to Learn More About Jesus!

**Sundays** - Sunday School is held immediately following worship for children pre-K through 8th grade. Adult Bible Class is held following worship in the lower level fellowship hall, studying the *Book of Acts*.

**Wednesdays** - Midweek and Confirmation Class are held from 1:30 to 2:30 for those kids in 3rd through 8th grade.

**Thursdays** - Adult Bible Class currently studying *2nd Thessalonians*. Very interesting study for all! We meet at 9:30 in the overflow area of the education wing.

**JESUS**

*Let's Get to Know Jesus Better This Year!*

### Quarterly Voters' Meeting with the Election of the 2026 Church Council

A Quarterly Voters' Meeting was held here at St. John following worship on Sunday, October 19th. On the agenda was the election for the 2026 Church Council. At the present time, we have 9 members on the church council: Jordan Silhanek, Ann Franzenburg, Barbara Hennings, Byran Kimm, Doug Buch, Mary Sievers, Richard Oehlerich, Kent Silhanek, and Adrieonna Reddick. The terms of two council members will expire at the end of this year: Ann Franzenburg and Jordan Silhanek. They have just served one term and both decided to run again. Brad Sievers was our one nominee that agreed to have his name placed on the ballot. Our by-laws state that *"the Church Council shall be comprised of not less than seven members and no more than eleven members"*. At the meeting a motion was made to have all 3 names that were on the ballot added to the 2026 Church Council. They will start serving on the Council in January.

### St. John Choir

It's not too late to join in the St. John Choir. They are always hoping that people who like to sing will come in and join them. They are under the direction of Jodi Bierschenk. They practice on Wednesday evenings at 5:45 p.m. here at the church. They are preparing music for the Advent and Christmas season. If you have questions, please contact Jodi Bierschenk or Ann Franzenburg.

### St. Andrew Election Night Soup Supper

St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Van Horne will be holding their annual soup supper on Tuesday, November 4th, with serving from 5 to 7 p.m. This will be a drive-up event only, with no indoor seating. They will be serving homemade chili, vegetable beef, and chicken noodle soups, ham salad, and egg salad sandwiches, and apple, cherry, pumpkin, and pecan pie. This is all for a free-will donation with supplemental funds provided by Thrivent. Profits will go to missions.

### Undie Sunday / Socktober

During September we held *Undie Sundays* here at the church. We were asking you to bring in new packages of underwear that would be divided between Swaddling Clothes and Orphan Grain Train depending on the size. It was a huge success, with lots of underwear donated! In October, we held *Socktober* where we were asking for donations of new socks. Just like the Undie Sundays, the donated socks will be divided between Swaddling Clothes and OGT. We thank you for your donations to help with these projects!

### Daylight Savings Time Ends

Daylight Savings Time ends at 2 a.m. Sunday morning, November 2nd. Before going to bed on Saturday night remember to set your clocks back one hour!

### Pianist Needed

Keystone Nursing Care Center is looking for a pianist to play piano during church services which would be about once every fourth Sunday. Contact Amy Sparks if interested at 319-449-6834, ext. 6.

### Soup Supper

St. John Lutheran Church in Newhall is holding a Soup Supper on Wednesday evening, November 19th, with serving from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. On the menu is homemade chili, oyster stew, and chicken noodle soup, salads, sandwiches, pie and drink. Both dine in and take-out are available. This event is sponsored by St. John's Tabitha Society. A free-will offering will go to support mission projects.

**Lord, let them see You in me! ♥**

### Swaddling Clothes



We had a busy month of October at Swaddling Clothes. 40 families came in during the month with 52 coats being taken by families who needed them! Our next shopping days will be Saturday, November 8th, with shopping from 9:00 a.m. until noon and again on Monday afternoon, November 10th, with shopping from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. With larger than normal crowds, we are in need of clothing! If you, your children, grandchildren, or someone you know may be swapping out clothing because of the change of seasons and donating children's clothing, please consider donating here at *Swaddling Clothes*. We especially need donations of gently used fall/winter children's clothing, size newborn up to size 10, along with any items used for babies and motherhood, like cribs, strollers, highchairs, etc. Please contact the church office for drop off. We are so appreciative of donations!

Don't forget to tell others about us. There are no income guidelines to follow. We just ask that to come in you have children in your custody either by birth or court order. We offer a sleeve of diapers and baby wipes for each of your children that are in need of them.

We would really like to thank our volunteers who have stepped forward to help with the many jobs within our Swaddling Clothes. Wow, it's amazing how much work gets done with volunteers stepping in to help! If you'd like to help, either contact Darla Kromminga, or Donna in the church office. Thank you for your continued support of Swaddling Clothes!

*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them,  
for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."*

Matthew 19:14

### Missions Update

At the beginning of the year, we voted at the Quarterly Voters' Meeting on what missions would receive our offerings donated through our "mission" envelopes. For 2025 those 2 missions are **Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca** and the **Rev. Jason Groth's Mission to Belize**. The "mission" envelopes offerings are divided between these two missions unless you specify differently and put the mission name on your envelope, where you'd like that money sent. For the third quarter of 2025, Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca received \$275.00 and Rev. Groth \$575.00, \$200.00 was specified to go to LCMS Disaster Relief, and \$100.00 to Orphan Grain Train.

### Poinsettias



It's hard to think about Christmas, but it's time to start planning! Time to start thinking about ordering poinsettias as we do each year here at St. John. In the past, the members of St. John have been very generous about purchasing these striking plants. We will again this year be getting our poinsettias from the *Plant and Flower Emporium* in Blirstown. The pricing this year is \$16.00 per plant. These poinsettias will be delivered directly to the church. We would love to have these beautiful traditional red poinsettia plants adorn our sanctuary with delivery expected around December 12th. Poinsettias may be purchased in a loved ones memory by letting Donna know with your order or by clipping and completing the form to the right and submitting it to the office. Payment is needed at the time of your order. If paying by check please make the check out to **St. John**. The flower shop needs to have our order by November 17th at the latest.

### Poinsettia Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettia plants  
at the cost of \$16.00 per each. Checks need to be  
made out to St. John Lutheran Church.

I would like to purchase the poinsettia in memory  
of \_\_\_\_\_.

(this will be publicized in bulletins and Loveletters)

\_\_\_\_\_ I will leave my poinsettia at the church and  
do not wish to take it home with me after the  
Christmas Day worship service.

\_\_\_\_\_ I intend to pick up my poinsettia plant after the  
Christmas Day worship service.

### Children's Christmas Service

A Children's Christmas Service is being planned for Sunday evening, December 14th, at 6:00 p.m. at First Lutheran Church, 1523 Sunset Drive., Belle Plaine. This will be a joint service between St. John - Keystone, St. Andrew - Van Horne, and First Lutheran - Belle Plaine. The kids will be telling the story of Christ's birth with many traditional Christmas hymns and light refreshments to follow. Everyone is welcome to join us for a wonderful evening of fellowship and remembering the reason for the season. That evening they will be collecting a free-will offering for *Orphan Grain Train*, which is a non-profit organization that collects items for and sends care packages all over the world.

Just a reminder to parents. Each Sunday from now until the program, the songs the kids will be singing will be practiced in their Sunday School classroom so that kids may become familiar with them. There will be a joint practice of all participating on Saturday, December 6th from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. and again on Saturday, December 13th from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at First Lutheran in Belle Plaine at which our Sunday School teachers will be there also. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher.

### The Giving Tree



Once again it will soon be time to set up our "Giving Tree". This has become a wonderful service project for St. John with the spirit of giving reaching out into the community. The tree will be set up around Thanksgiving. Our goal is to make Christmas special for those less fortunate, not only with a gift but a gift with a Christian message attached to it. We will be placing names on the tree from children around Benton County. Names of children whose parents will be struggling to provide their children with gifts. There are a few ways you can help:

- 1) If you don't care to shop, you can make a donation and have the committee do the shopping for you. If you choose this option, please DO NOT take a name from the tree. Donations may be dropped off or mailed to the church office or placed in the offering plate clearly marked with "Giving Tree".
- 2) You can take a name (or names) from the tree. On the back of the Christmas Card ornament that you take from the tree there is a pocket that contains information with gift suggestions, including sizes. These are suggestions, purchase what you wish from the list. There is also a name tag label included in the pocket which needs to be attached to your wrapped gift before it is placed back under the tree. Exact date as to when we need the gifts back isn't known yet. Watch bulletins for more info.
- 3) You can call in to the church (442-3514) and you can specify what age group, sex of child, etc. that you would like to buy for and we can pull a card off the tree for you and send a picture of it via text, email, or USPS, then you can shop and return the gift to us.
- 4) We are working on including the Food Baskets like we did last year. The basket will feed a family of 6 a Christmas Dinner. At this time we are unsure of the cost of the baskets. Watch upcoming announcements.

Each year we have helped many less fortunate individuals in the area - *Serving the Lord by serving others*. The committee will be meeting in November at a date not yet determined, to set things up. If you are interested in helping as a member of the committee, please contact Wendy Junge at 319-310-5659 or call the church office. We are always looking for people to help out!

### ILSTO Update

Students in Lutheran Schools need our help! Direct your state tax dollars to benefit Lutheran students through the Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization (ILSTO). By donating to ILSTO, students are able to receive more financial aid to enable them to attend. In addition, the benefit to you is a great tax credit of 75% on your Iowa state taxes. All donations help whether it's \$500, \$1000 or \$10,000 that you would normally pay in state tax. For further information, please contact Dewey Torkelson at 712-260-2991. You might also check the website [iowalutheransto.com](http://iowalutheransto.com).

### Part-Time Teacher Aide Needed

Central Lutheran School is looking to hire a part-time teacher aide to help mainly in the 4th grade classroom. Someone who loves children, doesn't mind sharing their faith, and looks to help a classroom teacher in the areas of reading and math. If you are interested or know of someone, have them contact Principal Frank Parris at [principal@centrallutheranschool.org](mailto:principal@centrallutheranschool.org) or call at 319-223-5271.



## Central Lutheran School, Newhall, IA,

### November 2025- Monthly Newsletter

+Providing students with a quality education built on a firm Christian foundation, so they grow in the knowledge of Jesus as their Savior and become loving servants to others.+

**CLS Motto: See Jesus, Seek Knowledge, Serve Joyfully**



Greetings from Central Lutheran School!

**BRUNCH** - I want to thank our brunch committee and 4th grade families for all the work they put into our brunch this year! Thank you to everyone who came and supported the brunch!

**November 12 - Inviting all Veterans** to chapel on November 12 at 8:30. We aren't going to have a program, but our CLS Cougar Band, under the direction of Mrs. Doreen Anderson, will play patriotic songs after chapel for your enjoyment. If we do have veterans present, we would like to acknowledge them and thank them for serving God and our country.

**Thrivent Choice Dollars** - Thank you to donors for making this program a success for Central Lutheran School. Will you help make 2025 and into 2026 an even better year in Thrivent Choice giving?

Go to <https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/> or call 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) and state "Thrivent Choice" to designate your choice dollars for Central Lutheran School today. Thank you for making Thrivent Choice a valuable stream of revenue for Central Lutheran!

Please continue to keep CLS Board members, staff, families, and students in your prayers. Stay well, stay healthy and God's blessings to you! Thank you for your support!

Philippians 1:3-6

Franklin O. Parris – Principal,  
Central Lutheran School, Newhall, IA,  
[principal@centrallutherschool.org](mailto:principal@centrallutherschool.org)

### NOVEMBER CLS EVENTS! PLEASE COME AND BE A PART OF WHAT IS HAPPENING AT CLS!

- Nov. 1 - All Saints Day! IDE Flag Football Tournament at Trinity, Davenport
- Nov. 2 - "Fall Back" Change clocks back one hour. 9am Jubilation Choir sings @ St. John's, Keystone
- Nov. 4 - 4:30 and 5:30 Cougar VB home vs. Heritage
- Nov. 5 - 8:30 am November Baptismal Birthday chapel led by our 6th graders; 1pm Dismissal; 1:30-3:30 Teacher Professional Development
- Nov. 7, 8- IDE VB Tournament here at CLS - COME CHEER ON THE JV and Varsity COUGARS!
- Nov. 11 - Veterans Day! 7th and 8th grade to Van Horne for Veterans Day program
- Nov. 12 - 7-8 Donuts with Dad; 8:30 am chapel led by Pastor Woltemath; Honor veterans after chapel with mini concert; 9:30 am 2nd/3rd grade UIHC burn unit here; 1pm Dismissal; 1:30-3:30 PD
- Nov. 13 - 6pm Board of Directors and Teachers meeting
- Nov. 14 - Happy Anniversary Dave and Jody Runge! Mr. Runge is our 7th grade homeroom teacher.
- Nov. 17 - 6pm Board of Directors meeting
- Nov. 19 - 8:30 am Thanksgiving Chapel led by IDE President Saunders; 1pm Dismissal; 1:30-3:30 PD
- Nov. 21 - 1 and 6:30pm 5th-8th grade Fall Musical
- Nov. 23 - 10:30 am Hosanna Choir sings at St. John, Newhall
- Nov. 24 - Preschool VIP Day
- Nov. 25 - 1PM Dismiss, No Preschool Classes
- Nov. 26-28 - Thanksgiving Break
- Nov. 27 - Happy Thanksgiving!
- Nov. 28 - Happy Birthday Stella Wolter! Mrs. Wolter is one of our exceptional cooks in the Cougar Cafe!
- Nov. 29 - Belle Plaine Lighted Parade



### Ushers and Greeters

November 2 (9:00 a.m.): **Greeters:** Dean and Kathy Scheel. **Ushers:** Barbara Hennings, Doug and Colin Buch.  
 9 (9:00 a.m.): **Greeters:** Greg and Carlene Silhanek. **Ushers:** Eric and Ann Franzenburg, Byran and Tracie Kimm.  
 16 (9:00 a.m.): **Greeters:** Rita Pickering, Pam England. **Ushers:** Denny and Susie Albers, Brad Sievers, Robert Albertsen, Colby Lennie.  
 23 (10:00 a.m.): **Greeters:** Dan and Donna Busch. **Ushers:** Wayne Ritscher, Rick Pickering, Todd and Cheryl Hennings.  
 26 (6:30 p.m.) **Greeters:** Keith and Wendy Junge. **Ushers:** Kent Silhanek, Jim and Cathy Buch, Ben and Missy Lennie.  
 30 (9:00 a.m.): **Greeters:** Dean and Kathy Scheel. **Ushers:** Barbara Hennings, Doug and Colin Buch.

### Acolytes

November 2 (9:00 a.m.): Noah  
 9 (9:00 a.m.): Lauren  
 16 (9:00 a.m.): Ciara  
 23 (10:00 a.m.): Nash  
 30 (9:00 a.m.): Emma

### Videographers

November 2 (9:00 a.m.): Dan Busch  
 9 (9:00 a.m.): Dean Scheel  
 16 (9:00 a.m.): Rich Oehlerich  
 23 (10:00 a.m.): Dave Gahring  
 30 (9:00 a.m.): Jim Buch

### Altar Guild for November

Carlene Silhanek  
 Ann Franzenburg

### Deacons

November 2 (9:00 a.m.): Kent Silhanek  
 9 (9:00 a.m.): Byran Kimm  
 16 (9:00 a.m.): Doug Buch  
 23 (10:00 a.m.): Kent Silhanek  
 26 (6:30 p.m.): Jordan Silhanek  
 30 (9:00 a.m.): Jordan Silhanek

### Hospitality Committee for November

(November 2nd)

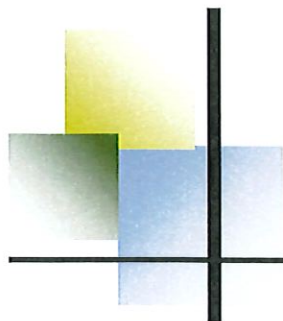
**Bake:** Eleanor Roquet

**Bake and Serve:** Deb Kromminga, Connie Pickering



### We Need Volunteers

We are in need of volunteers to serve as ushers, videographers, people to serve on the altar guild, the Hospitality Committee, etc. If you need more information or would like to volunteer, please contact Donna in the church office (319-442-3514) as soon as possible.



# November, 2025

St. John Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 176—201 Fourth Avenue  
Keystone, Iowa 52249  
Church E-mail: stjnluth@netins.net  
Rev. Josiah Schultz, Pastor  
Pastor's Cell: 913-223-8261

| Sun                                                                                                                                                           | Mon                                                              | Tue | Wed                                                                                  | Thu                                    | Fri | Sat |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----|-----|
|                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                  |     |                                                                                      |                                        |     | 1   |
| <b>All Saints' Day (Observed)</b> 2<br>7:30 a.m. - Elder's Meeting<br>9:00 a.m.—Divine Service<br>10:15 a.m.— Sunday School<br>10:15 a.m. - Adult Bible Class | 3                                                                | 4   | 5                                                                                    | 6                                      | 7   | 8   |
| 9:00 a.m.—Divine Service 9<br>10:15a.m.— Sunday School<br>10:15 a.m. - Adult Bible Class                                                                      | 10<br>4:30 to 5:30 p.m.-<br>Swaddling<br>Clothes Shopping<br>Day | 11  | 12<br>1:30 - 2:30 - Midweek /<br>Confirmation Class<br>5:45 p.m. - Choir<br>Practice | 13<br>9:30 a.m. - Adult<br>Bible Study | 14  | 15  |
| 9:00 a.m. - Divine Service 16<br>10:15 a.m. - Sunday<br>School<br>10:15 a.m. - Adult<br>Bible Class<br>11:00 a.m. - CC Mtg.                                   | 17                                                               | 18  | 19<br>1:30 - 2:30 - Midweek /<br>Confirmation Class<br>5:45 p.m. - Choir<br>Practice | 20<br>9:30 a.m. - Adult<br>Bible Study | 21  | 22  |
| 10:00 a.m.—Divine Service 23<br>No SS or Bible Class<br>(Returns next Sunday)<br>11:30 - Community/<br>Congregational<br>Thanksgiving Potluck                 | 24                                                               | 25  | 26<br>6:30 p.m. - Thanksgiving<br>Eve Worship                                        | 27<br><i>Thanksgiving Day</i>          | 28  | 29  |
| 30<br>9:00 a.m. - Divine Service<br>10:15 a.m. - Sunday School<br>10:15 a.m. - Adult<br>Bible Class                                                           |                                                                  |     |                                                                                      |                                        |     |     |

## Birthdays

November 1 - Taylor McManemy  
2 - Craig Selk  
3 - Clayton Kahle  
4 - Jeffrey Namanny  
6 - Denny Albers (Keystone), Mitch Brunssen  
10 - Randy Franzenburg, Mark Kromminga, Hunter Semelroth  
12 - Byran Kimm  
15 - Tracy Clemann  
16 - Drea Chamberlin, TJ Feuerbach  
17 - Eric Kruckenberg  
18 - Shelley Flack, Jonathan Oehlerich  
19 - Kaylee Balvin, Linda Fintel, Jodi Wild  
20 - Darold Junge, Paige Namanny

## November birthdays (continued)

November 21 - Gunnar Monson, Kaitlyn Sievers  
22 - Ellen Franzenburg  
23 - Helen Tecklenburg  
27 - Jacob Cady, John Meyer  
28 - Jessica Johnson, Adam Nelson, Vivienne Slapnicka  
29 - Logan Reddick

## Wedding Anniversaries

November 11 - Duane and Pam England  
17 - Randy and Carol Franzenburg  
18 - Brandon and Elizabeth Hartkemeyer  
22 - Rick and Penni Pickering  
29 - Tim and Brenda Kapucian, Dennis and Pat Pohlman