

The Loveletter

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

May, 2023

Call Meeting and Quarterly Voters' Meeting

On Sunday afternoon, April 30th, St. John held a joint Quarterly Voters' Meeting and a Call Meeting. On the agenda for the Quarterly Voters' Meeting was an update on the parsonage upgrade, and also for those who aren't aware, an update on the church repair matter. For the call meeting, a list of names was presented, some new and some we have seen before. President Saunders was present at the meeting. Thanks to those who took the time to be at the meeting. The official call documents will be sent out soon.

THE LOVELETTER

Published Monthly by

St. John Lutheran Church
(Missouri Synod)
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OUR STAFF

Rev. David Lingard
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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship
10:30 a.m.

BIBLE STUDIES

Children's Sunday School
Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study
7 p.m. at St. Andrew's

Epistle Study
9:00 a.m. on Thursdays

SWADDLING CLOTHES

Store open second
Saturday of each month
from 9 to noon.
The following Monday
evening from 4:30 - 6:00.



Mother's Day

We will be thanking God for mothers as we worship our Lord on Sunday, May 14th. There will be a special gift for all mothers in attendance along with refreshments for everyone in the narthex. Please join us!

The history of Mother's Day, as we know it, came from a humble beginning in West Virginia. During the Civil War, Ann Reeves Jarvis helped start Mother's Day Work Clubs to raise awareness of the poor health conditions in her community. After the war ended, Jarvis organized Mother's Friendship Day to promote reconciliation between the Union and Confederacy. The day we now recognize as Mother's Day came from the efforts of Ann Jarvis's daughter, Anna. She made it her life mission to get Mother's day onto the national calendar and in 1908, she sparked the first widely recognized celebration of the holiday while she held a public memorial for her mother in Grafton, West Virginia. Her campaign continued to gain popularity over the next few years and in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Mother's Day a national holiday to be celebrated every year on the second Sunday in May.

-Taken from www.spoonfulofcomfort.com

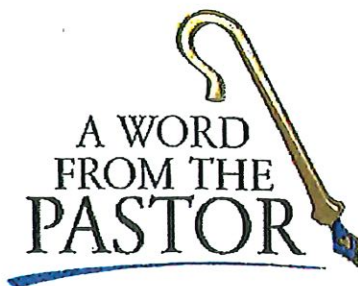
Senior Recognition Sunday – Class of 2023



This year we have two high school graduating seniors at St. John, Colby Lennie and Raegan Junge. They will be recognized on Sunday, May 28th, during our worship service at 10:30 a.m. They will be honored at a brief reception being served in the narthex area following the worship service at which time we may personally express our congratulations to them. Please keep both of them and all graduates in your prayers as they start a new chapter in their lives.

Ascension Day Service

Trinity Lutheran Church, located at 1002 East 13th Street in Vinton, will be holding an Ascension Day Divine Service including Holy Communion on Thursday, May 18th, at 6:30 p.m. We are all invited to attend.



"To the holy and faithful in Christ" (Colossians 1:2),

There is an old saying, "the times are a changing!" And while I would much rather go to the dentist or doctor today than a 100 years ago, many things in our culture, society, government and even the church are very troublesome and discouraging. From time to time I read an article that I find very encouraging and uplifting. What I am about to pass onto you is from a recent post from LCMS Pres. Matthew Harrison. I, along with pastors Woltemath (Atkins) and Preus (Vinton) met and talked briefly with Pres. Harrison a few weeks ago in Des Moines at the LCMS Pastor's Day on the Hill. Here is what President Harrison wrote recently:

"It's getting more difficult. From where I sit, I see the external challenges put to the LCMS all over the nation and the world. The geopolitical issues raise challenging, even dangerous problems as we work to place missionaries, send our seminary theologians into far-flung areas, work with our global schools, assist our partner churches and their dozens of seminaries, and so on. Governments dominated by anti-Christian religions or wokeism, communism or socialism of anti-Christian bent make the work of preaching Christ crucified ever more challenging and complex...

In the years I have served, the national debate went from whether or not states would allow same-sex marriage to the imposition of the same by the Supreme Court. Then things turned immediately and forcefully to the transgender issues, prepubescent sex change procedures and all related matters...now whether the U.S. military, the Department of Education or the EPA, the entire government has put full force against natural law and the biblical teaching of sex and marriage. That means any place our congregations, schools, universities and agencies interact with the state and federal government, we are scrutinized and even threatened.

I hear from our LCMS folks across the nation. Many walk on eggshells because of their "woke" workplaces. LCMS public school teachers and board members struggle daily. I met one the other day who felt like she was just a finger in the dam holding back a flood of unbiblical nonsense from a school board in a small community. Our precious children and grandchildren are educated in a sea of confusion. And when we proclaim the age-old biblical message for all: "Repent and believe the Gospel!" we are told, "You can't say that!" And it's going to get worse. Jesus said it would prior to his return (**Luke 21:28**).

This virulent onslaught is not new. Our preaching of Christ crucified has always been "a stumbling block," "folly," "foolishness" and "weakness" to the non-Christian world (**1 Corinthians 1:20-25**). So be it. Right in the middle of darkness, there beams a bright, unquenchable light. Right in the wreckage of sin, death and devil; right in the heart of the confusion, mental illness, delusion, addiction, depression, suicide; right in the face of all the opposition the world can throw against Christ; right where the world laughs in scorn at a dead God on a cross; right where hopelessness devours a multitudes and atheism dangles its nihilistic charades and shouts, "There is no God! Your Christ's a joke!"; right where consciences burdened so deep by lives contrary to the law of God scream the opposite of what they know to be true; right then and there we proclaim; Christ is risen, Alleluia! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

We preach Christ crucified. For you. Are you a sinner? Join us! "None is righteous, no, not one" (**Romans 3:10**). Christ came for sinners. Join us sinners. Want forgiveness? Want peace? Want life? Want a community that loves you? Join us. I look at the world's rage as a wonderful affirmation of the "foolish" Gospel we preach. God in the flesh died in our place...All the hassles, all the legal challenges, the threats, the rage against the orthodox churches and Christians, all the governments that are intimidated by this "foolishness" are nothing but confirmation of the glorious power of this blessed simple Gospel of Christ. On a cross "God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them" (**2 Corinthians 5:19**).

The darker the world, the brighter the Gospel. The more depressing the sermon of the world is, the more precious becomes the preaching of our beloved pastors...the more the world chews up and spits out its own and leaves them bruised and dying, the more our congregations...are places of refuge, places for all people, places for sinners, called to repentance and given Jesus... "We preach Christ crucified." Can't get much more "foolishness" or "folly" than that. Christ is risen, Alleluia!... "Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?" (1 Corinthians 1:20). The cross is the power and wisdom of God."

Amen! Amen! May you always look to the power and wisdom of God in the cross of Jesus Christ! Thank-you President Harrison.

Bible Studies

With the end of the school year quickly approaching, we at the church are planning a summer break from some of our education programs as well. The last day of Sunday School at St. John will be on Sunday, May 21st. The Thursday morning Epistle Bible Study will hold it's last class on May 25th at 9:00 a.m. However, Pastor Lingard is starting a new Bible Study for the month of May on Wednesday evening, May 3rd at 7:00 p.m., at St. Andrew. Vacation Bible School is planned as well with date to be announced. At the time of this writing, the topic has not been decided yet. We at St. John are invited and encouraged to attend!

Plant and Flower Sale



Central Lutheran School's annual Flower and Plant Sale is being held on Friday, May 5th (1:00 pm to 6:00 pm); Saturday, May 6th (9:00 am to 12:00 pm); and Sunday, May 7th (1:00 pm to 3:00 pm). This is being held at the CLS gym at 310 Third Street West, in Newhall. Come and check out the wide variety of flowers, plants, and vegetables. Spread the word, invite your friends and families to come.

Relay for Life Garage Sale

A Garage Sale/Bake Sale/Plant Sale to benefit the American Cancer Society/Relay for Life will be held again this year during the Keystone town-wide garage sales to be held on May 13th from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. This is being provided by the Keystone Cohorts (Keystone Care Center Employees). Cinnamon rolls/coffee available at 8:00 a.m. Lunch features pulled pork/turkey and dressing sandwiches, selling by the sandwich or container of meat. Luminaries for \$10 each. This is being held in Richard and Cindy Oehlerich's garage, 302 - 4th Avenue in Keystone. They are looking for donations. If you have donations to support this great cause, take them to the garage from May 2nd through the 6th. Questions, please contact Cindy at 319.442.3566. Sunday, June 4th, is the date for the Relay for Life in Van Horne.

Parsonage Update

The parsonage upgrade should be finished in the next few weeks. After that, the parsonage will need a deep-clean from top to bottom. The parsonage committee has received a quote of \$200, more or less; depending on how many actual hours it takes to complete the job. If the cleaner has time, she will wash some/all windows for an additional cost beyond the \$200. The committee thought this would be an efficient way to get the job completed in a timely manner. Instead of asking the congregation to donate their time to clean, we are asking if you would consider a monetary donation to off-set this expense. If so, please specify on your donation envelope that it is to be used for "parsonage cleaning". Thanks in advance!

Help Needed

Looking for a summer job? Get that and more with a summer camp experience at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca in Solon, IA is hiring **male and female camp counselors** for the upcoming summer. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to spend your summer serving as a Christian role model for youth from Eastern Iowa and beyond! Employment begins May 30 and ends August 4. All summer staff go through training in early June to be fully trained in camp activities and safety, including CPR, AED, and first aid training. Candidates should be at least 18 years old. To get started, head on over to www.nloma.org and complete a summer service profile. Please contact Alec at [319-848-4187](tel:319-848-4187) or email programdirector@iodiseca.org if you have any questions or for more information, or check out Camp's website at www.campiodiseca.org.

A mother is a multitasker with only one task in mind, to love those God has given her!

Swaddling Clothes Update

The next Swaddling Clothes "Shopping Day" will be held on Saturday, May 13th, from 9 a.m. until noon, and on Monday, May 15th, from 4:30 until 6:00 p.m. We had 40 families come in during April and took what they needed for their children, spring and summer clothing, cribs, strollers, highchairs, etc. A LOT WAS TAKEN, which is truly awesome! That being said we are in need of donations of gently used, stain-free clothing and baby care items. Without donations, this program would not be possible. Call the church office at 319-442-3514 to arrange a convenient drop off plan.

We offer gently used spring/summer clothing from sizes newborn up to size 10, along with our usual baby and motherhood items including maternity clothes. There are no income guidelines to follow, everyone is welcome to come in and shop. Everything is free! We offer a sleeve of diapers and baby wipes each month to everyone who comes in and is in need of them.

If you have adult clothing or household items to donate, why not take them to Stuff, Etc. in Cedar Rapids and have the items listed on Swaddling Clothes St. John Lutheran Church Keystone charitable account? When those items sell, our Swaddling Clothes would get the money for the items and we can use that money to purchase needed baby items from Stuff, Etc.

We want to thank all the volunteers who took baskets of clothing home to launder. We had a lot of them as we did the switch from winter to summer clothing. We are always looking for volunteers to help with Swaddling Clothes, besides doing laundry, we need volunteers to clean items that come in, and to help with the shopping days.

Lastly, you can help by telling others about our program. We have brochures in the narthex to take and share with others or you can direct them to our website at www.stjohnkeystone.org or our Facebook page Swaddling Clothes-St. John Lutheran Church, Keystone, Iowa.

*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



Swaddling Clothes Bake Sale

A bake sale is being held to benefit Swaddling Clothes during the Keystone town wide garage sales to be held at the church parsonage garage, 203 Second Avenue, on Saturday, 13th, starting at 8:00 a.m. We are hoping to have a wide variety of goodies for people to choose from as they will fill a plate for a free will donation. The proceeds from the bake sale will be used to purchase items such as diapers, wipes, baby wash, diaper rash creams, etc. that are given away on shopping days at Swaddling Clothes.

We are asking for volunteer donations of baked goods for the sale. We could use any baked bars, cookies, candy, snack mixes, cupcakes, bread, brownies, etc. We are looking for items that hold up well after slicing or that can be individually wrapped. The items would need to be delivered to the church by 3 p.m. on Friday, May 12th. Items can be dropped off in the lower level kitchen. If you could help, contact Donna at 319-721-0952 or Kelsey at 319-442-7227 as soon as possible or sign up on the sheet in the narthex. Thanks!

Help Wanted at Trinity Lutheran Preschool

Trinity Lutheran Church Preschool in Vinton is still looking for a part-time teacher for their 4 year old preschool class. Their classes are Monday-Wednesday-Friday in the morning only. Start time is the beginning in August. Please call Becky at 319-560-5340 if you are interested.

Creation Museum and Ark Encounter Bus Trip

Two bus trips June 5-9 and December 4-8 to the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter are planned for 2023. The two trips are basically the same. However, the December trip also includes an additional Imax show "The Christmas Star" and a Christmas dinner in the cafeteria and spectacular Christmas lights.

Currently there are still seats available. A \$100 deposit per person is required to reserve your seat on the bus. A deposit can be mailed to Roger and Ellen Bauer, 806 Juhl Avenue, Waverly Iowa 50677. The Bauers have been doing bus trips since 2008 and these 2 trips will be their 26th and 27th bus trips. The 56 passenger Windstar bus leaves from Waverly at 6:00 a.m. on Monday morning, making pickup stops in Waterloo, Cedar Rapids, and Iowa City on the way. The bus ride is edu-tainment to help you understand what you will be seeing. Monday is a travel day, Tuesday and Wednesday at the Creation Museum, Thursday at the Ark, and Friday we travel home. To find out more about the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter, visit their websites at creationmuseum.org or arkencounter.com. For more information about the bus trips, including costs, contact the Bauers at 319-610-2623, 319-352-5435, email them at bauerr@mchsi.com or pick up a brochure from the narthex at St. John.

Summer Camp at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca Hear Our Prayer

"Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!"

Psalms 143:1

Summer Camp will soon be starting! There are several ways in which to register for camps at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. Go to Camp's website, www.campiodiseca.org, to register online or to get a 2023 registration form that can be downloaded and mailed to the camp, or you can pick up a brochure from the card rack outside the church office here at St. John to fill out and mail in. All the information about the many different camps being offered is listed there along with the cost to attend. St. John again this year will pay 1/2 of the registration fee up to \$150 for members who attend camp.

Campers spend time every day at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca studying God's Word. Each year, their Bible study is centered around a theme from Scripture. Though every camper learns the same theme, each program's Bible study is modified to fit the age group of the program. Campers also participate in multiple devotions each day that fit our Biblical theme and teaches them about Christ.

Is your family new to Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca? Camp is offering a Family's First Camper scholarship initiative! They award camp scholarship for campers from families who have never before sent children to Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. For full week camps, you're eligible to receive \$100 off the cost of camp and \$50 off for a mini-week camp. Check it out!

Thank You

The last day of Sunday School will be Sunday, May 21st. As that date quickly approaches we would like to thank those who have so faithfully taught class this year. Amie Slapnicka teaches the younger kids, while Cindy Oehlerich teaches the upper grades. Kelly Barr is the substitute when the regulars can't be there. When you see any of these teachers, please thank them for their commitment to teaching the kiddos about Jesus! Thanks also to the parents who take the time to bring their children to Sunday School each week. Sunday School will resume again in September!

Camp Clean-Up Day Scheduled

Join in on May 6 at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca as they get things ready to go for a busy summer camp season. Scheduled is the clean up of Mary and Joseph Cabins, along with several landscaping and cleanup projects across the main site. They'll also be looking at updating several things with the Amphitheater area. That means there is plenty to do for all age groups coming out to camp. Plus, lunch is included! They are planning for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Email sitemanager@iodiseca.org to let them know that you are coming. They really appreciate your help in making Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca beautiful for the upcoming year!



Ushers and Greeters

May 7 (10:30 a.m.): Greeters: Greg and Carlene Silhanek. Ushers: Eric and Ann Franzenburg, Byran and Tracie Kimm.
 14 (10:30 a.m.): Greeters: Rita Pickering, Joyce Brunssen. Ushers: Denny and Susie Albers, Brad Sievers, Robert Albertsen, Colby Lennie.
 21 (10:30 a.m.): Greeters: Dan and Donna Busch. Ushers: Wayne and Kelsey Ritscher, Rick Pickering.
 28 (10:30 a.m.): Greeters: Keith and Wendy Junge. Ushers: Kent Silhanek.

Acolytes

May 7 (10:30 a.m.): Noah
 14 (10:30 a.m.): Deacon
 21 (10:30 a.m.): Hunter
 28 (10:30 a.m.): Deacon

Altar Guild

Kathy Scheel
 Rhonda Seeck

Videographers

May 7: Jim Buch
 14: Jordan Silhanek
 21: Dave Gahring
 28: Dean Scheel

Deacons

May 7 (10:30 a.m.): Jordan Silhanek
 14 (10:30 a.m.): Ben Lennie
 21 (10:30 a.m.): Wayne Ritscher
 28 (10:30 a.m.): Doug Buch

We Need Volunteers

We are in need of volunteers to serve as ushers, videographers, and people to serve on the altar guild. If you need more information or would like to volunteer, please contact Donna in the church office as soon as possible.





May, 2023

St. John Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 176—201 Fourth Avenue
Keystone, Iowa 52249
Church E-mail: stjnluth@netins.net
Rev. David Lingard, Vacancy Pastor
Pastor's Cell: 319-213-6970

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 9:00 - Noon— Pastor Lingard at St. John 7:00 p.m.- Bible Study at St. Andrew 9:00 a.m.— Epistle Bible Study	5	6
9:15 a.m. - Sunday School 10:30 a.m. - Divine Service	8 1:00—4:00 p.m. Pastor Lingard at St. John	9 6:00 p.m. - Constitution Work Mtg.	10 2:00 p.m. - Lutheran Communion @ KNCC 7:00 p.m.- Bible Study at St. Andrew	11 9:00 - Noon— Pastor Lingard at St. John 9:00 a.m.— Epistle Bible Study	12	13 8:00 - ??- Swaddling Clothes Bakesale 9:00 a.m. to noon- Swaddling Clothes
<i>Mother's Day</i> 14 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School 10:30 a.m.— Divine Service	15 1:00—4:00 p.m. Pastor Lingard at St. John 4:30 -6:00 p.m.- Swaddling Clothes	16	17 7:00 p.m.- Bible Study at St. Andrew	18 <i>Ascension Day</i> 9:00 - Noon— Pastor Lingard at St. John 9:00 a.m.— Epistle Study 6:30 p.m.— Ascension Day Service at Trinity—Vinton	19	20
21 8:30 a.m. - Church Council Meeting 9:15 a.m. - Last day of Sunday School 10:30 a.m. - Divine Service	22 1:00—4:00 p.m. Pastor Lingard at St. John	23	24 7:00 p.m.- Bible Study at St. Andrew	25 9:00 - Noon— Pastor Lingard at St. John 9:00 a.m.— Epistle Bible Study (last day til Fall)	26	27
28 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School 10:30 a.m. - Divine Service / Senior Recognition	<i>Memorial Day</i> 29 Church Office Closed	30	31 7:00 p.m.- Bible Study at St. Andrew			

Birthdays

May 2 - Heath Junge
 3 - Kelly Barr
 4 - Greg Werning
 6 - Mathew Pohlman
 9 - Wendy Junge
 14 - Marilyn Mittan
 19 - Mardean Kromminga, Ryan Sanderson
 20 - Shirley Peters, Daralee Schnor
 21 - James Schoenfelder
 22- Nicole Jurgens
 23 - Redgie Cady, Cathy Franzenburg, Darla Kromminga
 24 - Jared Franzenburg, Bristol Kahle
 25 - Joan Seeck, Kobe Sindt

Birthdays (continued)

26 - Sheryl Fischer, John Wild
 28 - Marissa Grace
 29 - Kyle Fintel, Sara Klocke, Phyllis Steinbeck, Brandon Venneman
 31 - Jerry Junge, Lois McManemy

Wedding Anniversaries

May 3 - Keith and Wendy Junge
 6 - Byran and Tracie Kimm, Dennis and Vicki Schwab
 11 - Tom and Julie Werning
 16 - Lucas and Hollie Garwood
 25 - Ben and Angela Pickering
 28 - Dustin and Megan Gorsch