



The Loveletter

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

February, 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
10:15 - 11:15

Wednesday Bible Class
Studying *1 John*
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

SWADDLING CLOTHES

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

2025 Church Council to be Installed

The 2025 Church Council was installed on Sunday, January 12th, during our worship service. At the church council meeting later that morning, the specific offices and positions of responsibility for each council member were determined. Richard Oehlerich is now president; Kent Silhanek is vice-president; Doug Buch remains secretary; and Jordan Silhanek remains treasurer. Other positions, Membercare, Assimilation, Fellowship and Evangelism - Barbara Hennings; Stewardship of Life, Bible Studies, Training and Assimilation - Mary Sievers; Worship and Prayer - Ann Franzenburg; Children's Spiritual Growth - Mary Sievers; Staff and Facilities - Byran Kimm and Doug Buch; Teen Connection and Spiritual Growth - Adrieonna Reddick; Missions - Kent Silhanek. Please keep our council members in your prayers as they begin their duties for 2025. Our sincere thanks to Wayne Ritscher and Justin Slapnicka who have both served 2 three-year terms and are leaving the council. A job well done!

Quarterly Voters' Meeting

A Quarterly Voters' Meeting was held on Sunday, January 26th, following the worship service that day. The budget for 2025 was presented and approved. (If you weren't able to attend and would like a copy of the budget, please contact the church office.) A vote was held as to where the donations in our 2025 "mission" envelopes should go. Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca was chosen as our local mission, and supporting the Rev. Jason Groth, missionary to Belize, will be our international mission. Each will receive 1/2 of our mission offerings this year. Please note that if you would like your mission offerings to go to other places, you may note that on your missions envelope. The third item on the agenda was the congregation's vote on elections at the IDE Convention to be held in July.

Contribution Statements

If you haven't already done so, please pick up your 2024 Contribution Statement. They are located in the southeast corner of the sanctuary. If you would like to have your statement sent to you via mail or e-mail, please contact the church office. There are also a few boxes of offering envelopes there that have not yet been picked up.

St. John Choir

The choir took a short break after the Christmas season and will soon be back to practice for Lent and Easter. They could really use some more voices to join them. If climbing the stairs to sing from the balcony is an issue holding you back from participating, please know that the choir will be singing from the main floor of the sanctuary. Please consider joining in, what a great way to glorify our God!

St. John Board of Elders

St. John has a Board of Elders in place. The purpose of the Board of Elders is to be a liaison between the church and our pastor. Of course, Pastor Schultz is available anytime to meet with you about issues in the church. If you need to speak with someone other than pastor about issues that need attention, please contact one of the elders, knowing that matters of a private nature are kept strictly confidential. Members of the Board of Elders include Jim Buch, Dave Gahring, Bill Hennings, Bob Albertsen, Dan Busch, Dennis Schwab, and Richard Oehlerich. Their next meeting is Sunday, March 2nd, at 7:30 a.m. in the overflow area of the education wing.

Central Lutheran School Registration for 2025-2026 School Year

We are excited to share the registration dates for the 2025-2026 school year at Central Lutheran School! Here's everything you need to know:

February 3-7: For current CLS families

February 10-28: For families of supporting congregations of St. John Newhall, St. Stephens Atkins, or St. John Keystone

March 3: Open to all families

All CLS students receive fully covered tuition in the 2025-2026 school year thanks to the ESA program!

Mark your calendars and get ready for an amazing school year at CLS! Contact the CLS office at (319) 223-5271 for your registration packet, or email principal@centrallutheralschool.org. We also have enrollment forms in the church office here at St. John. Families may begin enrolling during Early Registration if they are from one of the 3 supporting churches (St. Stephen in Atkins, St. John in Newhall, or St. John in Keystone) on February 10th at 8:00 am. Registration fees are \$80 for 3 year old preschool, \$300 for K-8th Grade and there is no fee for 4 year old preschool.

Sewing for World Relief

Sewing for World Relief takes place each Tuesday during the winter months in the lower level here at St. John, working from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. If you'd like to help, bring a scissors, needle with a large eye for tying, and a sack lunch if you plan to stay over the noon hour. Come for as long as you'd like. Invite others, they could use more hands to help out! Questions, contact Cindy Oehlerich or Susie Albers.

Dorcas Guild Card Shop

The Dorcas Guild Card Shop, located outside the church office in the overflow area of the education wing, has available cards for all occasion—birthday, get well, anniversary, sympathy, baby, baptism, wedding, confirmation, and more. These beautiful cards are available for just 50¢ per card or \$5.00 per box of 12 cards. Check it out!

Cancellation of Services

Here's a reminder of our policy on cancelled services if the weather gets bad. Services will be held if at all possible; however, if you are in doubt about whether services will be held call the church office at 319-442-3514 and listen to the message there. If it is the normal message, there will be services held as planned; otherwise a cancellation message will be heard. The cancellation message will be recorded at least one hour before the scheduled service. The cancellation will also be posted on the KCRG website (www.kcrg.com) and television station (channel 9), on our Facebook page (St. John Lutheran - Keystone), and on our webpage at stjohnkeystone.org. Pastor Schultz should be able to get to the church no matter what the weather; however, if you feel it is unsafe to come in person because of the weather the service can be watched online.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

If you have Thrivent Choice Dollars to direct, the deadline to do so is March 31st. Don't let the deadline pass and miss the chance at free money to the organization of your choice. Here's how:

Online:

- 1) Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.
- 2) Click on "log in" at the top right of your screen and enter your MyThrivent user ID and password. (If you haven't registered on Thrivent.com, click on "register" to register.)
- 3) Look for your designated Choice Dollars on the right side of the screen.
- 4) Click on "Direct Choice Dollars" in the Thrivent Choice box on your MyThrivent page.
- 5) Search the catalog of organizations to find the organization you want to select.
- 6) Click on "Direct Choice Dollars Now" to direct your designated Choice Dollars to benefit that organization.

By phone:

- 1) Call 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice"
- 2) When prompted, say "Choice Dollars."
- 3) Say or enter your Social Security number.
- 4) Press 1 to direct Choice Dollars or press 2 to hear the Thrivent Choice program terms and conditions.
- 5) A representative will then work with you to direct Choice Dollars.



Central Lutheran School, Newhall, IA

February 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. +



Greetings from Central Lutheran School!

It is that time of year! Valentines, candies, jewelry commercials, and....

Central Lutheran School Registration for the 2025-2026 School Year - Enrollment for current families will be Feb. 3rd-February 7th for the 2025-26 school year. Registration papers were sent home January 23. Current families can return the form to the office beginning February 3rd at 8:00 am. Please have your form filled out along with your registration fees of \$80 for 3 year old preschool and \$300 for each K-8th grade child. You may list all of your current students on the one sheet. Any new 3 or 4 year old who currently does not attend CLS this school year, that is a member of your family, should fill out the New Student Enrollment. There is not a registration fee for 4 year old preschool. Forms are also on the CLS website. Open enrollment for community members begins on March 3.

Placement is determined on a first-come, first-served basis. This is especially important if your child is in a classroom that is at or near capacity (24 students for K-8 classrooms).

All families attending CLS will need to apply for ESA funds starting April 15. The final day to apply is June 30.

If there are any questions about the application process, (ILSTO, ESA, SPICE) or affording to attend CLS, please don't hesitate to contact Mr. Parris at principal@centrallutherschool.org or 319-223-5271. He will be more than happy to work with you so your child or children will hear about Jesus every day and receive a Christ centered quality education.

Please help us out in spreading the word and encouraging your neighbors and friends to contact the school for a tour!

MY IDENTITY IS IN CHRIST! 2 Cor. 5:17

Philippians 1:3-6,

Franklin O. Parris – Principal,

principal@centrallutherschool.org

Bible Studies at St. John

**Sunday Mornings from 10:15 - 11:15 - Philippians*

**Wednesday mornings at 10:00 - 1 John*

Please join us for these interesting and informative studies.

Let's get to know Jesus better this year!

IDE Today Publication

The *IDE Today* newsletter/magazine is published 2 times a year for the enjoyment of the members of the congregations of Iowa District East of the LCMS. Previously, the publication was sent to the church and we would hand them out with the bulletins on Sunday mornings. They are no longer sending copies to churches, but if you wish to receive a digital copy via email, we can get that to you. The latest edition was received last week. It includes a picture of Pastor Schultz' installation and much more. If you would like a copy via email, let Donna in the church office know.

Faith is not knowing what the future holds, but knowing who holds the future. ♥



Swaddling Clothes

Our next Swaddling Clothes Shopping Day will be held on Saturday, February 8th, with shopping from 9 a.m. until noon. If you can't make it then, we will also be open on Monday, the 10th, from 4:30 until 6 p.m. There are no income guidelines to follow. We just ask that you have children in your custody either by birth or court order. 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 donations, please give us a call at the church (319-442-3514) and we can set up a drop off plan for you. We appreciate children's clothing sz. newborn to sz. 10, and any items that would be used for raising children, like strollers, cribs, pack n' plays, highchairs, car seats, blankets, sheets, pacifiers, etc. We aren't taking any toys at this time! If you'd like to donate but don't have the clothing, baby items, etc., here are some other needs we have. We need zipper bags sandwich through jumbo size, batteries (AA, AAA, C, and D), baby wipes, diapers, Pull-Ups for both boys and girls, baby wash, and diaper cream. Swaddling Clothes has a wish list gift registry for non-profits at <http://www.myregistry.com/organization/swaddling-clothes-keystone-ia-keystone-ia/4144665>

Here are a few other ways to help out our Swaddling Clothes program:

*Drop off unwanted household items and furniture at Stuff, Etc. Consignment Store in Cedar Rapids. Swaddling Clothes has a "charitable store account" there. What this means is that you can bring in your gently used, unwanted items to the Stuff, Etc - Cedar Rapids location and donate your items under Swaddling Clothes-St. John Lutheran Church, Keystone account #36081. This is an opportunity for you to purge unwanted household items, and furniture and help Swaddling Clothes raise money for ongoing expenses. After your items are sold, a portion of each sale is deposited into the Swaddling Clothes consignment account. We can use the money as store credit at Stuff, Etc to purchase needed items or withdraw the money to purchase needed items elsewhere. Keep in mind that we still need your newborn thru size 10 children's clothes and any baby-care related items to be brought here to the church for our "shopping days".

*Pass along unwanted gift cards and coupons to Swaddling Clothes. We may be able to use them to benefit Swaddling Clothes.

*When out shopping, ask yourself if Swaddling Clothes could benefit from some of the sale, clearance items.

*Use your reward points or rebate cash to purchase baby-care items. A couple of great examples of this is something like Kohl's Cash. Rather than letting it expire without using it, perhaps pick up something that Swaddling Clothes could use or Menard's 11% rebate that provides in store credit to make purchases. That could be used to purchase toothbrushes or stocking hats, etc.

*If you are a Thrivent member, perhaps you can form a Thrivent Action Team to purchase items needed by Swaddling Clothes.

*Ask to become part of the volunteer group that comes in to sort clothing, prepare diaper packages, display clothing, clean items, etc. They are truly a blessing!

*Most of all, please pray for the Swaddling Clothes program that we may continue to provide items that some can't afford to purchase on their own.

If you have any questions about the above information, please feel free to ask a member of the committee or contact the church office.

We'd like to share some fun stats with you from Swaddling Clothes 2024. Over the year we had a total of 471 families visit our Swaddling Clothes, of which 49 were new families. We gave away lots of clothing, including 110 winter coats! We also gave away 753 packets of baby wipes and 719 sleeves of diapers, that's 14,380 diapers for the year! Our busiest month was September when 52 families came in. During December, we gave away a new toy or game to 78 kids. Our thanks to all the volunteers who help make this happen. To God be the glory as we serve Him by serving others!

*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

Orphan Grain Train

There is a large donation box located in the narthex where we are collecting men's and women's clothing for Orphan Grain Train. The clothing must be clean and in good condition. The clothing will be delivered to Orphan Grain Train at a later date. Visit www.ogt.org to find out what Orphan Grain Train is all about. If you can help with donations, it would be greatly appreciated!

CHRIST LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL**Comments & Updates***(Mark Mueller, Chairman-Board of Directors)*

*For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son,
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)*

"The price of anything is the amount of life you exchange for it." (Henry David Thoreau)

It's a new year and students are back in school...

Nobody's birthday celebration gets kids out of school for almost two weeks...except the birthday celebration of Christ Jesus.

We celebrated the birth of Jesus because of the reason He came to earth to be born; to reconcile us with God. This reconciliation had a very steep price: the life of Jesus. Jesus gave up His life for the forgiveness of our sins. And He didn't stop there; He rose from the dead, and in doing so overcame death.

All of this means our reconciliation with God is complete. We are reunited with Him.

We want to open Christ Lutheran High School so that we can partner with parents, churches, and the surrounding communities in sharing this great message of reconciliation with young people at a critical time in their lives. And we want to assist these students in the discovery and development of their unique skills and abilities so that they in turn will be equipped to share this Good News in the vocations God has planned for them.

Starting Christ Lutheran High School comes with a price. We have been blessed that early start-up costs have been covered by donations large and small.

The start-up process is underway. Christ Lutheran has retained the law firm of Hagenow, Gustoff, Karas, and Ridgway in Des Moines in its efforts to become a registered 501(c)(3) organization. Becoming a registered non profit entity can take up to six months. Hagenow et al. represents over 30 Christian schools in Iowa and has helped a dozen schools get started.

The Board of Directors will finalize vision, mission, and purpose statements at its January 27 meeting.

At this time, donations To Christ Lutheran will be handled in this way:

- Make a donation to Iowa District East and put Christ Lutheran High School on the memo line. IDE will hold the money until 501(c)(3) status is achieved. The donation will then be directed to CLHS and become a tax deductible gift.



Ushers and Greeters

- February 2 (9:00 a.m.): **Greeters:** Rita Pickering, Pam England. **Ushers:** Denny and Susie Albers, Brad Sievers, Robert Albertsen, Colby Lennie.
- 9 (9:00 a.m.): **Greeters:** Dan and Donna Busch. **Ushers:** Wayne Ritscher, Rick Pickering, Todd and Cheryl Hennings.
- 16 (9:00 a.m.): **Greeters:** Keith and Wendy Junge. **Ushers:** Kent Silhanek, Jim and Cathy Buch, Ben and Missy Lennie.
- 23 (9:00 a.m.): **Greeters:** Dean and Kathy Scheel. **Ushers:** Bill and Barbara Hennings, Doug and Colin Buch.

Acolytes

- February 2 (9:00 a.m.): Emma
 9 (9:00 a.m.): Noah
 16 (9:00 a.m.): Lauren
 23 (9:00 a.m.): Hunter

Videographers

- February 2 (9:00 a.m.): Dave Gahring
 9 (9:00 a.m.): Rich Oehlerich
 16 (9:00 a.m.): Jordan Silhanek
 23 (9:00 a.m.): Dan Busch

Altar Guild for January

- Connie Pickering
 Jacque Jones

Deacons

- February 2 (9:00 a.m.): Rich Oehlerich
 9 (9:00 a.m.) Doug Buch
 16 (9:00 a.m.) Kent Silhanek
 23 (9:00 a.m.): Rich Oehlerich

Hospitality Committee for January

(February 2)

- Bake:** Amie Slapnicka
Bake and Serve: Tracie Kimm
 Beth Hartkemeyer



We are always in need of volunteers to help on various committees, if you'd like to help or need more information, please contact the church office at 319-442-3514.

February, 2025

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00 a.m. - Divine Service 10:15 a.m. - Sunday School 10:15 a.m. - Bible Class	3 10:30 - 11:15 - Pastor teaching at CLS	4 9 a.m. -2 p.m. - Sewing for World Relief 2:00 p.m. - Lutheran Communion at KNCC	5 10:00 a.m. - Bible Class 1:30 - 2:30 - Midweek Class	6 10:30 - 11:15 - Pastor teaching at CLS	7	8 9:00 a.m. to noon-Swaddling Clothes Shopping Day
9 9:00 a.m. - Divine Service 10:15 a.m. - Sunday School / Adult Bible Class 11:00 a.m. - Church Council Meeting	10 10:30 - 11:15 - Pastor teaching at CLS 4:30 to 6 p.m. - Swaddling Clothes	11 9 a.m. -2 p.m. - Sewing for World Relief	12 10:00 a.m. - Bible Class No Midweek Class	13 10:30 - 11:15 - Pastor teaching at CLS	14	15
16 9:00 a.m.—Divine Service 10:15 a.m.— Sunday School / Adult Bible Class	17 10:30 - 11:15 - Pastor teaching at CLS	18 9 a.m. -2 p.m. - Sewing for World Relief	19 10:00 a.m. - Bible Class 1:30 - 2:30 - Midweek Class	20 10:30 - 11:15 - Pastor teaching at CLS	21	22
23 9:00 a.m.—Divine Service 10:15 a.m.— Sunday School / Adult Bible Class	24 10:30 - 11:15 - Pastor teaching at CLS	25 9 a.m. -2 p.m. - Sewing for World Relief	26 10:00 a.m. - Bible Class 1:30 - 2:30 - Midweek Class	27 10:30 - 11:15 - Pastor teaching at CLS	28	

Birthdays

- February
- 1 - Meredith Slapnicka
 - 3 - Jacob Allen, Dennis Junge
 - 5 - Nicholas Nelson
 - 7 - Jena Assman, Joyce Feuerbach
 - 8 - Grant Franzenburg, Rachelle Kies
 - 9 - Wayne Junge
 - 10 - Nathan Albers, Ray Junge
 - 11 - Karen Noe, Trinity Schnor, Jessica Thomas
 - 12 - Rhonda Seeck
 - 13 - Taytin Chamberlin
 - 14 - Jerald Fintel
 - 15 - Doug Silhanek
 - 16 - Brandon Hartkemeyer, Hunter Kupka

Birthdays (continued)

- 17 - Andrew Enderle, Will Hennings, Colby Lennie
- 18 - Ben Lennie
- 19 - Amy Ledvina, Dorothy Selk
- 20 - Allen Albers
- 22 - Pat Pohlman
- 23 - Jared Allen, Jessica Allen
- 27 - Pam Jurgemeyer, Drew Rusk
- 28 - Elizabeth Hartkemeyer

Anniversaries

- February
- 4 - Duane and Darlus Selken
 - 6 - Robert and Phyllis Ritscher
 - 8 - Bill and Barbara Hennings
 - 10 - Paul and Jodi Bierschenk
 - 12 - Kenneth and Elaine Selk
 - 13 - Doyle and Cindy Reinberg
 - 19 - Robert and Carla Albertsen
 - 20 - Dennis and Wendy Albers

