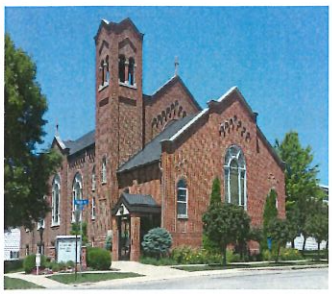

The Loveletter

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

May, 2022

THE LOVELETTER
Published Monthly by

St. John Lutheran Church
(Missouri Synod)
201 Fourth Avenue
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OUR STAFF

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m.

BIBLE STUDIES

Sundays at 8:45 a.m.
Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m.
Thursdays at 9:00 a.m.

SWADDLING CLOTHES

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

Mother's Day

We will be thanking God for mothers as we worship our Lord on Sunday, May 8th. There will be a special gift for all mothers in attendance along with refreshments for everyone. 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 2022

This year we have just one high school graduating senior at St. John, Colin Buch. He will be recognized on Sunday, May 15th, during our worship service at 10:00 a.m. He will be honored at a brief reception being served in the narthex area following the worship service. Please keep Colin and all graduates in your prayers. We ask for God's continued blessings for all graduates as they start a new chapter in their lives. Congratulations!

VBS at St. John

St. John has not been able to hold Vacation Bible School since 2019, first because of the Covid pandemic and then because our church was in repair from the Derecho. For many years we had Camp Okoboji lead our VBS for us. They are not able to do that this year, so we are going to do something a little different. We are teaming up with the members at St. Andrew to hold an early evening (possibly 6:00 to 8:15) VBS here at St. John hopefully from Sunday, July 24th through Thursday, July 28th. So, please save the date! The pastors have found a great curriculum to use that offers materials for all ages and is very complete, right down to possible snacks to serve! It's called *The Tree of Life—God's Promise of Salvation.* We need volunteers to help make this possible. If you'd be willing to help or need more information, please contact pastor or the church office as soon as possible. We are organizing a planning meeting to be held very soon (within the next couple of weeks), so please consider!

Summer Break

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 Wednesday Confessions Bible Study will hold it's last class on May 18th at 8:00 a.m. Later that day the last midweek/confirmation class will be held from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. The Pericope Study will hold it's last class before summer break on Thursday, May 19th. Sunday School and Sunday morning Adult Bible study will meet on May 22nd and then will break until Fall. Even though these classes are not being held again until Fall, please do not take a break from worship during the summer!

Ascension Day Service

Trinity Lutheran in Vinton will be holding an Ascension Day Divine Service on Thursday, May 26th, at 6:30 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Easter Thank You!

We want to thank everyone who helped out with the Holy Week/Easter services in any way. Whether you were an usher, organist, deacon, acolyte, altar guild member, choir member, decorator, etc. or perhaps you just attended worship services, we thank you. All was greatly appreciated as we observed Holy Week and the celebration of Christ's victory over the grave! Those who purchased flowers to adorn our sanctuary included:

- Tim and Jay Feuerbach, 2 Easter lilies, in memory of loved ones.
- Mike and Rhonda Seeck, 1 Kalanchoe plant, in memory of loved ones.
- Dennis Andresen, 1 Easter lily, in memory of beloved wife, Joyce Mae.
- Darlys Rusk, 1 tulip plant, in memory of Ray and Doris Junge, and Tim Pickart.
- Yvonne Kuch, 2 Easter lilies, in memory of Lee Kuch and Alec Brackelsberg.
- Kent Silhanek, 1 tulip plant, in memory of Wayne and Jean Silhanek.
- Denny and Susie Albers, 1 Easter lily, in memory of loved ones who have passed.
- Thelma Kusel and Family, 1 Easter lily and 1 Hyacinth plant, in memory of Loren, Peggy, Phil, Stacey, Max, and Lois.
- Ray and Alice Junge, 1 Easter lily in memory of Carl and Viola Roehr, Ray and Doris Junge, and Ruth Albers.
- Joan Seeck, 1 Easter lily in memory of John and Ray and Doris Junge.
- Connie Allers and Michael Allers, 1 Easter lily, in memory of their parents.
- Don and Eleanor Roquet, 2 tulip plants, in memory of Donald W. and Carol Roquet, and Herbert and Edna Bauer.
- Darlene Harder, 1 Hydrangea, in memory of husband, Roger.
- Dan and Donna Busch, 1 Cyclamen plant, in memory of loved ones.
- Keith and Wendy Junge, 2 Hyacinth plants, in memory of Milford and Ethel Wardenburg and Curtis and Ruth Junge.

The flowers were absolutely gorgeous and adorned our sanctuary so beautifully. Thank you for purchasing them!

He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor's Trip to South Africa

Pastor Wright has been invited to teach at a seminary in South Africa that is in fellowship with the LCMS. He will be there teaching for 2 weeks on *The Formula of Concord*. He will be flying out early on May 28th and will be returning the afternoon of June 12th. It is a real honor for him to have been asked to teach, and the seminary will be blessed by his sharing of knowledge with the seminary students there. Please keep Pastor in your prayers as he has some long flights and layovers.

For the first Sunday that Pastor is gone, we are excited to have our own member, Seminarian Zachary Johnson and wife Hannah, back in Iowa. They will be spending some time in Keystone with Hannah's parents, Byran and Tracie Kimm. Zach, who is a seminary student at Fort Wayne, will be preaching and leading us in a Matins worship service on Sunday, May 29th. Our worship time that day is at 10:00 a.m.

The following two weeks, June 5th and June 12th, we are invited to attend worship back at St. Andrew in Van Horne. Pastor Lingard and the St. Andrew congregation have been receptive to the idea of having us worship with them much like when we worshiped there when St. John was in repair. Their service time on Sunday mornings will be at 9:00 and on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

When Pastor Wright returns, starting on Sunday, June 19th, we will be holding worship on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. and on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. throughout the rest of the summer, ending on September 4th.

Plant and Flower Sale

Central Lutheran School's Flower and Plant Sale is being held on Friday, May 13th (1:00 pm to 6:00 pm), Saturday, May 14th (9:00 am to 12:00 pm) and Sunday, May 15th (1:00 pm to 3:00 pm). No pre-sales this year. Come and check out the wide variety of plants and flowers including 4-pack annuals, perennials, containers and baskets! Spread the word, invite your friends and families to come.

Your Christian testimony may be someone's future.

Swaddling Clothes

The Benton Zone LWML held their Spring Rally at St. John on Saturday, April 30th. Swaddling Clothes was the recipient of the ingathering for the event. We were blessed by the many donations of items, both new and used that were brought in. Here is a picture of a portion of the items:

We would like to thank everyone from the Benton Circuit who attended and made a donation to the ingathering. We are truly grateful for all the items and have worked on getting them displayed for our next shopping day which will be on Saturday, May 14th, from 9 until noon and also on Monday, May 16th, from 4:30 until 6:30 p.m. for those who can't make it on Saturday. 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.

Without donations, this program would not be possible. At our last shopping days on April 9th and 11th, after having 39 families come in to shop, we were really low on inventory and were wondering if we'd have enough for May. We had 2 very large donations from Grace Community Church in Belle Plaine who were discontinuing their clothing give-away and then later in the month we received a very generous clothing donation from Raining Rose, Inc. in Cedar Rapids, along with various other donations from our communities. If you have any donations, call the church office (319-442-3514) to arrange a drop off time.

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.

Another way to help would be to change your Amazon account to an AmazonSmile account. You purchase the same products at the same prices as you would on Amazon but you can choose a non-profit organization to receive a .5% donation because of your purchase. Choose Saint John Lutheran Church Keystone Iowa (you will need to scroll a bit to find us) as the recipient and Swaddling Clothes will receive that .5% donation on qualifying purchases.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with Swaddling Clothes. We need people to wash laundry, to clean items that come in, and to help with the shopping days. On one Sunday during the month of April, we had around 14 clothes baskets setting in the narthex with clothing that needed to be laundered. In no time it was all taken and is now returning, all clean and ready to be hung up! If you'd like to volunteer in any way, please contact Kelsey Ritscher, Rebekah Wright, Amie Slapnicka, or Donna Busch. Without donations and volunteers, this program would not be possible!

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.

Swaddling Clothes Bake Sale

A bake sale is being held to benefit Swaddling Clothes during the Keystone town wide garage sales to be held here at St. John on Saturday, May 7th, 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 6th. 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.

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 7th 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. 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.

King's Kids Christian Childcare

St. John is looking to reopen our King's Kids Christian Childcare after it being closed for over 2 years. We are asking you to prayerfully consider serving parents and children by helping us provide a safe, caring, Christ-focused daycare. We want every child to know how much God loves them. If you would enjoy spending a few hours or more per week sharing giggles and hugs with the children in our daycare, we would love to hear from you! Of course, you would be paid for the hours you are here. Please contact the church office at 319-442-3514.

Dorcas Guild Meeting

04/04/2022

We opened our meeting with Pastor Wright leading us in a bible study on Baptism.

The meeting was brought to order by President Janyce at 2:00 p.m. with 6 members present. Janyce read the minutes from the Fall Rally in Blairstown.

We focused on plans for the LWML Rally to be held here at St. John's on April 30. Kelsey Ritscher will speak to the group about Swaddling Clothes and the ingathering and half of the offering will benefit this program.

Our next meeting will be May 2. All ladies of the congregation are welcome.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Albers, secretary

Ushers and Greeters

May	1 (10:00 a.m.)	Greeters: Rita Pickering, Joyce Brunssen. Ushers: Denny and Susie Albers, Jordan Silhanek, Brad Sievers, Robert Albertsen, Colby Lennie.
	8 (10:00 a.m.):	Greeters: Dan and Donna Busch. Ushers: Wayne and Kelsey Ritscher, Rick Pickering.
	15 (10:00 a.m.):	Greeters: Keith and Wendy Junge. Ushers: Ray and Alice Junge, Bryce Ferguson, Jacob Bierschenk.
	22 (10:00 a.m.):	Greeters: Dean and Kathy Scheel. Ushers: Bill and Barbara Hennings, Doug Buch, Colin Buch.
	29 (10:00 a.m.):	Greeters: Greg and Carlene Silhanek. Ushers: Eric and Ann Franzenburg, Byran and Tracie Kimm.

Acolytes

May 1: Noah
8: Hunter
15: Amanda
22: Ragan
29: Sophia

Altar Guild for May

Eleanor
Donna / Carlene

Deacons

May 1: Rich
8: Kent
15: Rich
22: Doug
29: Kent

Videographers

May 1: Dave
8: Jacob
15: Jordan
22: Dean
29: Jim

May, 2022

St. John Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 176—201 Fourth Avenue
Keystone, Iowa 52249
Rev. Andy Wright, Pastor
Pastor's Cell: 319-488-0758
E-mail: pastornaut@gmail.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:45 a.m. - Sunday School 8:45 a.m. - Bible Study 10:00 a.m. - Divine Service	2	3	4 8:00 a.m. - Confessions Bible Study 12:45 - 1:45 p.m. - Midweek/ Confirmation	5 9:00 a.m. - Pericope Bible Study	6	7 8:00 a.m. - ?? Swaddling Clothes Bake Sale
8 8:45 a.m. - Sunday School 8:45 a.m. - Bible Study 10:00 a.m.– Divine Service	9	10	11 8:00 a.m. - Confessions Bible Study 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. - Confirmation	12 9:00 a.m. - Pericope Bible Study	13	14 9:00 to noon- Swaddling Clothes Shopping Day
15 8:45 a.m. - Sunday School 8:45 a.m. - Bible Study 10:00 a.m. - Divine Service 11:15 a.m. - Church Council Meeting	16 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. - Swaddling Clothes Shopping Day	17	18 8:00 a.m. - Confessions Bible Study 2:00 p.m. - Communion @ KNCC 4:00 -5:00 p.m. - Confirmation	19 9:00 a.m. -Pericope Bible Study	20	21
22 8:45 a.m. - Sunday School 8:45 a.m. - Bible Study 10:00 a.m. - Divine Service	23	24	25	*Ascension Day* 26 6:30 p.m.—Ascension Day Divine Service at Trinity - Vinton	27	28
29 10:00 a.m. - Worship Service	30	31				

Birthdays

May
2: Heath Junge
3: Kelly Barr
4: Greg Werning
6: Matt Pohlman
9: Wendy Junge
14: Marilyn Mittan
17: Carol Junge
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: Cheryl 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 Vicky Schwab
11: Tom and Julie Werning
16: Lucas and Hollie Garwood
22: Pastor and Rebekah Wright
25: Ben and Angela Pickering
28: Dustin and Megan Gorsch