

The Loveletter

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

November, 2026

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 Large Catechism
8:00 - 8:45 a.m.

Thursday Bible Class
Studying *Hebrews*
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 1st, 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 Darold Sindt, who passed away on February 9, 2026; Darlus Selken, who passed away April 20, 2026; Elaine Selk, May 5, 2026; Robert Albertsen, July 8, 2026; Yvonne Kuch, September 10, 2026; and Mardean Kromminga, who passed away on September 13, 2026. 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 Eve worship on Wednesday evening, November 25th, 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 22nd, with serving around 11:30 a.m. Our worship service will start as usual at 9:00 a.m. that morning. Then you can stay and visit for an hour, go home to pick up your food, or the best choice, attend our Adult Bible Study from 10:15 - 11:15 a.m. (For Sunday, November 22nd only, class will be held following worship from 10:15-11:15 a.m., returning to the normal time of 8:00 - 8:45 the next Sunday.) At 11:30 on the 22nd, we'll enjoy a delicious potluck. The church will be providing the turkey, table service, and drinks. (If you would be willing to roast a turkey at home, contact the church office.) Everyone else is being asked to bring their favorite side dishes to share. There will be a sign-up poster in the narthex so we get an idea of the food being brought in. We will need people to help get things prepared the morning of the 22nd, so there is a spot to sign up for that as well. Please invite others to attend with you!

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 they 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!

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Daylight Savings Time ends at 2 a.m. Sunday morning, November 1st. Before going to bed on Saturday night remember to set your clocks back one hour!

Quarterly Voters' Meeting Highlights

A Quarterly Voters' Meeting was held here at St. John at 8:15 a.m. before worship on Sunday, October 25th. On the agenda was the election for the 2027 Church Council. The terms of three council members expire at the end of this year: Richard Oehlerich, Barbara Hennings, and Kent Silhanek. They have all just served one term and could run again if they wished. Kent decided to run again with Rich and Barb choosing not to run for another term. There were no other nominees who wished to run at this time. 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 accept the ballot which added Kent to the 2027 Church Council for a second three-year term. The 2027 Church Council will start their duties in January. At that time, the council will be comprised of eight members: Jordan Silhanek, Ann Franzenburg, Byran Kimm, Doug Buch, Mary Sievers, Kent Silhanek, Brad Sievers, and Adrieonna Reddick.

Also discussed at the meeting was an update on organ repair. A message was received the middle of October that stated the unit is getting very close to being shipped. Also discussed was the need for a new dishwasher and clothes dryer in the parsonage that the church council had already approved the purchase of.

At the end of September, 2026, St. John had 360 members, of which 288 of those were confirmed. Changes in membership during the third quarter included a baptism: Ivadel Reddick baptized on July 5th; 3 deaths during the quarter: Robert Albertsen, Yvonne Kuch, and Mardean Kromminga; 3 people transferring into membership during the third quarter: Aaron Huesmann, Bruce and Velda Feuerbach.

Missions paid out to recipients for the third quarter through the Mission envelopes included Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca- \$300.00, Rev. Jason Groth, missionary to Belize - \$300.00; Lutheran World Relief - \$100.00.

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 6:00 p.m. here at the church. 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 3rd, 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!

The Funeral Committee

The Funeral Committee does such a great job every time we have a funeral dinner here at the church. There is a lot of work that goes in to serving the meal that perhaps goes unnoticed. It takes a lot of planning, purchasing of the food, preparing the food, setting up the tables and chairs, calling people to help serve, cleaning up, etc. The committee is asking for more volunteers to help, whether volunteering to bring in food (like a salad or dessert), to work the morning of the funeral, or to do both. If you would like to be part of this committee, please call the church office (319-442-3514) to volunteer.

Thank You

The family of Mardean Kromminga wishes to thank all the members of the church who provided food and kitchen help for her funeral dinner held here at the church on September 21st. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and willingness to help. It was greatly appreciated!

The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us!

Swaddling Clothes



We had a busy month of October at Swaddling Clothes. Thirty-six families came in during the month with 4 of them coming in for the first time. Fifty-one coats were taken by families who needed them! Our next shopping days will be Saturday, November 14th, with shopping from 9:00 a.m. until noon and again on Monday afternoon, November 16th, with shopping from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. We are always 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.

*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

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 prior to worship from 8 to 8:45 a.m. in the lower level fellowship hall, studying *Luther's Large Catechism*.

JESUS

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 Hebrews. Very interesting study for all!

We meet at 9:30 in the overflow area of the education wing.

Let's Get to Know Jesus Better this Year!



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 Blairstown. The pricing this year is \$15.00 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 10th. 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 23rd at the latest.

Poinsettia Order Form

Name _____

I would like to order _____ poinsettia plants
at the cost of \$15.00 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

It's hard to believe, but it's time to start thinking about the Children's Christmas Service. This year's program will be hosted by St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Van Horne. It is being planned for Sunday evening, December 20th, at 6:00 p.m. 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. 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 12th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and again on Saturday, December 19th from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at St. Andrew 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 just before 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 may 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. We will need the gifts back to the church by December 13th. 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 will be giving out the Food Baskets like we did last year. The basket will feed a family of 6 a Christmas Dinner. At this time we have enough money left from previous years plus the support of a Thrivent Action Team to help fund this cause.

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 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, especially to do some shopping!

ILSTO Update

Each child deserves access to a faith-based education, and Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization helps make that possible. Your gift provides tuition assistance to Iowa families who want a Lutheran education for their children. Give today and help a student grow in knowledge, character, and faith. Learn more at iowalutheransto.com, pick up a flier from the narthex, or contact Dewey at 712-260-2991.

We'd Like to Share

We have been blessed with the donation of 2 brand-new rollators (rolling walkers) that we would like to give away to members in our congregation who need one. These walkers have 4 wheels, hand operated brakes for slowing down or locking the wheels when sitting, and a built-in padded seat. If you are in need of one of these for your own personal use in and around your home, making it easier for you to get around, please contact the church office.

Installation Service of Rev. Mark Zieroth

The St. John Congregation is invited to the Installation Service of the Rev. Mark Zieroth as he becomes the tenth pastor at Trinity Lutheran in Vinton. The service will be held on Saturday, November 7th, beginning at 4:00 p.m., with a meal to follow in the parish hall. Hope you can attend!



Central Lutheran School, Newhall, IA, November 2026 - 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!

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, we are reminded of the many blessings our gracious God provides each day. At Central Lutheran School, we give thanks for our students, dedicated teachers and staff, supportive families, Board of Directors, and congregation members who faithfully pray for and encourage our ministry.

Most importantly, we give thanks for the greatest gift of all—our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gives us forgiveness, salvation, and the promise of eternal life.

“Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!” — Psalm 107:1

May this Thanksgiving season fill your hearts and homes with gratitude for God's abundant grace and mercy. Thank you for being part of the CLS family and for helping us share the love of Jesus with the next generation.

Wishing you and your family a blessed and joyful Thanksgiving!

BRUNCH - Thank you to 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 18 - Inviting all Veterans to chapel on November 18 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 2026 and into 2027 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. God's blessings to you! Thank you for your support!

Philippians 1:3-6

Franklin O. Parris – Principal,
Central Lutheran School, Newhall, IA,
principal@centrallutheranschool.org



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

November

Nov. 1 - All Saints Day! “Fall Back”! Change clocks back one hour.

Nov. 3 - 4:30/5:30 Cougar VB @ Heritage

Nov. 4 - 8:30 am November Baptismal Birthday Chapel Mrs. Carley; HOTM AGPS 197 Praise and Thanksgiving; 1pm dismissal; 1:15-2:30 Ag class; 1:30-3:30 Professional Development - Curriculum Mapping/NLSA Committee Work

Nov. 6 - 5th/6th grade Field trip; Cougar Volleyball at IDE VB Tournament at Heritage

Nov. 7 - IDE VB Tournament @ Heritage

Nov. 8 - 8am Jubilation Choir (5-6) @ St. John, Newhall

Nov. 11 - Happy Veterans Day! 7-8 am Donuts with Dad in Student Center; 8:30 am 6th grade leads chapel and sings; HOTM AGPS 197 Praise and Thanksgiving; 8:15 am 8th graders to Benton Community High School for Veterans Day Program; 1pm dismissal; 1:30-3:30 PD - NLSA Committees and Curriculum Mapping

Nov. 12 - 5-6:30 Family Night; 6:30PTL Meeting

Nov. 14 - Happy Anniversary to Mr. and Mrs. Runge! Mr. Runge is our 7th grade homeroom teacher.

Nov. 16 - 6pm Board of Directors Meeting

Nov. 18 - 8:30 am Mr. Parris leads Thanksgiving chapel; 5th grade class sings; HOTM AGPS 197 Praise and Thanksgiving; **After chapel - Special performance to honor our local veterans by our band!**

1pm Dismissal; 1:15-2:30 Ag class; 1:30-3:30 PD Mentor meetings, NLSA work, Curriculum mapping

Nov. 24 - 1pm Dismissal

Nov. 25-27 - No School, Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 28 - Happy Birthday Stella Wolter! Mrs. Wolter is one of our exceptional cooks in the Cougar Cafe! Belle Plaine Lighted Parade



Ushers and Greeters

- November 1 (9:00 a.m.): **Greeters:** Dan and Donna Busch. **Ushers:** Wayne Ritscher, Rick Pickering, Todd and Cheryl Hennings.
- 8 (9:00 a.m.): **Greeters:** Keith and Wendy Junge. **Ushers:** Kent Silhanek, Jim and Cathy Buch, Ben and Missy Lennie.
- 15 (9:00 a.m.): **Greeters:** Dean and Kathy Scheel. **Ushers:** Barbara Hennings, Doug and Colin Buch.
- 22 (9:00 a.m.): **Greeters:** Greg and Carlene Silhanek. **Ushers:** Eric and Ann Franzenburg, Byran and Tracie Kimm.
- 25 (6:30 p.m.): **Greeters:** Rita Pickering and Pam England. **Ushers:** Denny and Susie Albers, Brad Sievers, Colby Lennie, Aaron Huesmann.
- 29 (9:00 a.m.): **Greeters:** Dan and Donna Busch. **Ushers:** Wayne Ritscher, Rick Pickering, Todd and Cheryl Hennings.

Acolytes

- November 1 (9:00 a.m.): Cheyenne
 8 (9:00 a.m.): Meredith
 15 (9:00 a.m.): Kaylee
 22 (9:00 a.m.): Lauren
 29 (9:00 a.m.): Ciara

Videographers

- November 1 (9:00 a.m.): Dave Gahring
 8 (9:00 a.m.): Rich Oehlerich
 15 (9:00 a.m.): Jim Buch
 22 (9:00 a.m.): Dean Scheel
 29 (9:00 a.m.): Dan Busch

Altar Guild for November

Carlene Silhanek
 Missy Lennie

Hospitality Committee for November

(November 8th)

Bake: Ann Franzenburg

Bake and Serve: Susie Albers, Tracie Kimm

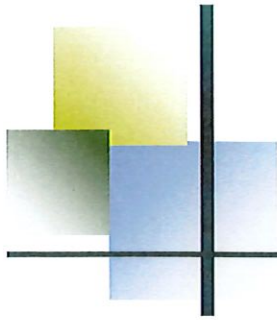
Deacons

- November 1 (9:00 a.m.): Rich Oehlerich
 8 (9:00 a.m.): Rich Oehlerich
 15 (9:00 a.m.): Kent Silhanek
 22 (9:00 a.m.): Kent Silhanek
 25 (6:30 p.m.): Doug Buch
 29 (9:00 a.m.): Kent Silhanek

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, 2026

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
All Saints' Day 1 8:00 - 8:45 a.m. - Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.—Divine Service 10:15 a.m.—Sunday School	2 9:00—noon— Pastor at First Lutheran	3 2:00 p.m. - Lutheran Communion @ KNCC	4 1:30 - 2:30 - Midweek / Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m. - Choir Practice	5 9:30 a.m.- Adult Bible Study	6	7
8 8:00 -8:45 a.m. - Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.—Divine Service 10:15 a.m.—Sunday School	9 9:00—noon— Pastor at First Lutheran	10 8:30—2:00 Pastors Winkel	11 1:30 - 2:30 - Midweek / Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m. - Choir Practice	12 9:30 a.m. - Adult Bible Study	13	14 9 a.m. - Noon - Swaddling Clothes Shopping Day
15 8:00 - 8:45 a.m. - Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m. - Divine Service 10:15 a.m.—Sunday School 1:00 p.m. - Church Council Meeting	16 9:00—noon— Pastor at First Lutheran 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.- Swaddling Clothes Shopping Day	17	18 1:30 - 2:30 - Midweek / Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m. - Choir Practice	19 9:30 a.m. - Adult Bible Study	20	21
22 9:00 a.m.—Divine Service 10:15 - 11:15—SS and Adult Bible Study 11:30 - Community/ Congregational Thanksgiving Potluck	23 9:00—noon— Pastor at First Lutheran	24	25 No Midweek / Confirmation Classes 6:30 p.m. - Thanksgiving Eve Worship	Thanksgiving Day 26 No Adult Bible Study	27	28
29 8:00 -8:45 a.m. - Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.—Divine Service 10:15 a.m.—Sunday School	30 9:00—noon— Pastor at First Lutheran					

Birthdays

November 2 - Craig Selk
 4 - Jeffrey Namanny
 6 - Denny Albers (Keystone), Mitch Brunssen
 10 - Randy Franzenburg, Mark Kromminga, Hunter Semelroth
 12 - Byran Kimm
 15 - Tracy Clemann
 16 - Dreya Chamberlin
 18 - Shelley Flack, Jonathan Oehlerich
 19 - Kaylee Balvin
 20 - Darold Junge, Paige Namanny
 21 - Gunnar Monson, Kaitlyn Sievers
 22 - Ellen Franzenburg
 23 - Helen Tecklenburg



November birthdays (continued)

November 27 - Jacob Cady, John Meyer
 28 - 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
 27 - Bruce and Velda Feuerbach
 29 - Tim and Brenda Kapucian, Dennis and Pat Pohlman