

The Loveletter

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

October, 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 *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.

Real Grief, Real Comfort After Miscarriage

October is Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month. We invite you to a special evening service to remember those who have experienced miscarriage, stillbirth, or infant loss. All are welcome to join us as we turn to God's Word for comfort.

Monday, October 20th, 2025

6:00 p.m.

St. John Lutheran Church, Keystone, IA



Fall Worship / Bible Study / Weekly Events Schedule

Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - Divine Service

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

Sunday, 10:15 a.m. - Adult Bible Study on the *Book of Acts*

Wednesday, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. - Midweek/Confirmation Class

Wednesday, 5:45 p.m. - Choir Practice

Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study on *Thessalonians*

Join Us! Invite Others!

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class

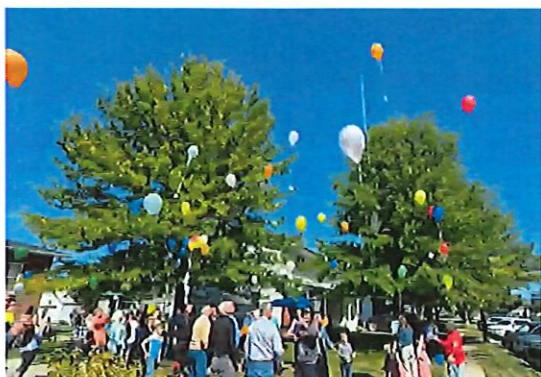
Our Sunday School has started up after a short summer break. Sunday School is held from 10:15 - 11:15 on Sunday mornings. Children age 3 through kindergarten meet in the lower-level Sunday School room (northwest corner of the basement), their teacher is Hannah Schultz. Kids in first and second grade meet in the library, with their teacher, Jacque Jones. Kids 3rd through 8th grade meet in the Sunday School room next to the church office, with their teacher, Cindy Oehlerich. At the same time as Sunday School, Pastor Schultz leads an Adult Bible Class in the lower level fellowship hall. We are currently studying the *Book of Acts*. Please join us as we learn more about Jesus this year!

Reformation Day

We will be observing Reformation Day on Sunday, October 26th, here at St. John. Here is a bit of history about Reformation Day.

On October 31, 1517, an Augustinian monk posted ninety-five statements for discussion on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. Dr. Martin Luther hoped that posting his theses would bring about an academic debate regarding repentance, the sale of indulgences, and other matters of concern within the Roman Catholic Church. However, Rome eventually excommunicated Luther, judging him to be a heretic. Luther's reforms, centered on the teaching that a believer is justified by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, sparked religious reforms not only in the German states but also in many European countries. In 1667, Elector John George II of Saxony standardized the custom of observing Luther's October 31 posting of the Ninety-five Theses.

--*Treasury of Daily Prayer* page 868



Rally Day Balloon Launch

On Sunday, September 7th, following our worship service we held a cookout complete with hamburgers, hotdogs, and lots of great food brought in to share by the congregation. We also held a balloon launch. Each balloon had a tag attached that told the date that the balloon was let go from St. John's, and instructions about letting us know if the balloon was found. We only had one callback about someone finding a balloon. That was the next morning after release when a gentleman near Kalona called the church to say he had found a balloon about 4 p.m. on that Sunday afternoon of the launch. It was a fun time for all who attended!

Pastor Appreciation Month

Did you know that October is Pastor Appreciation Month? Pastor Appreciation Month (originally called Clergy Appreciation Month) was established in 1992 by a group of pastors and church leaders to honor those who serve in ministry. They grounded the celebration in Paul's words to Timothy: "The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching" (1 Tim. 5:17). No, it's not an official holiday, but it is nationally recognized, like Boss Appreciation Day and Administrative Assistant Day. And chances are, most pastors are thinking about it this month. Pastors who serve with proper motives feel like they can't say anything about Pastor Appreciation Month—especially to those in their own churches. Doing so would seem grossly self-serving. So, this is being written by Donna, without Pastor's knowledge. Can you imagine our pastor stepping up to the pulpit on Sunday and saying, "Good morning, church. Before I begin my sermon, I want to remind you this month is Pastor Appreciation Month. And, if you're wondering, I'd love some gift cards to Starbucks"? Of course not. Most pastors are trying their best to serve and lead and pray and listen and preach and love as faithfully as they can. Everyone needs a little encouragement now and then. That includes our pastor.

Undie Sundays / 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 big success, with lots of underwear donated! Now, as we enter the month of October, we will hold *Socktober* where we are asking for donations of new socks. Just like the Undie Sundays, the donated socks will be divided between Swaddling Clothes and OGT depending on the sizes that are donated. The socks can be any type, any color, any size. We thank you for your donations to help with these projects.



**To guide your children in the right path,
make sure you go that way to.**

2026 Church Council Election

Our election for the 2026 Church Council is quickly approaching. The election will be held during the Quarterly Voters' Meeting to be held here at St. John on October 19th. At the present time, we have 9 members on the church council, Jordan Silhanek, Ann Franzenburg, Doug Buch, Mary Sievers, Richard Oehlerich, Kent Silhanek, Barbara Hennings, Byran Kimm, and Adrieonna Reddick. The terms of two council members expire this year: Jordan Silhanek and Ann Franzenburg, both have served one 3-year term and can run again if they wish. Our by-laws state that *"the Church Council shall be comprised of not less than seven members and no more than eleven members"* which means that if these 2 council members decide to run again we still have room to elect up to as many as two more members. If Jordan and Ann decide not to run again, we would have room for four new members.

While people may express their desire to serve, having you nominate people allows you to identify those whom you think would serve well. Of course, people who are nominated will be asked if they would like to serve if elected.

We are therefore seeking your suggestions or nominations. Pray about these positions. Perhaps encourage the people whose names you wrote and explain why you nominated them. The Nominating Committee will contact all nominees to get their approval to have their names submitted for the election in October.

Following is the form on which to submit your nominees. Please drop your completed nomination form in the box located in the narthex or mail it back to the church at P.O. Box 176 before the October 11th deadline!

NOMINATIONS FOR CHURCH COUNCIL

(Please Print)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Swaddling Clothes



We had a busy September at Swaddling Clothes with 44 families came in during the month to pick up clothing and items that their families could use. Our next shopping days will be Saturday, October 11th, with shopping from 9:00 a.m. until noon and again on Monday afternoon, October 13th, with shopping from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

We have found ourselves getting extremely low on good, used clothing. If you or someone you know has donations, please consider donating them to Swaddling Clothes. We are now taking donations of gently used children's clothing, size newborn up to size 10, along with maternity clothing or any items used for babies and motherhood, like cribs, strollers, highchairs, etc. Please contact the church office for drop off.

During October we will be featuring our coats, hats, boots, and gloves along with our other usual items. 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 is 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. Thank you for your 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

The Annual Central Lutheran School PTL Fall Brunch

Central Lutheran is holding their Annual PTL Fall Brunch on Sunday, October 19th, from 9 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., at the school's Student Center, 310 Third Street, Newhall. It's a complete brunch with pancakes, eggs, fruit salad, ham, sausage, and donuts, all for a free-will donation. Supplemental funds are being provided by Thrivent Financial. St. Stephen's Nimble Fingers Quilters have donated a quilt for a raffle- \$1.00 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$5.00. Stop by after your church service and make sure to bring your appetite!

October Senior and Junior Youth Activity

Calling all high school senior youth (9th – 12th grade) and junior youth (6th-8th grade) of the congregation: It's time to take a break from practices and homework for some fun and fellowship with other Christian friends in the area. Just as you strengthen your athletic skills, fine tune your musical talent, and study to add knowledge to your brain, we want you to make a point to join a fun crowd from church for some soul rejuvenation. (We are inviting other congregations' youth as well.) The best way to make it fun is to bring a fun friend!

We'll have a bonfire, and a hayrack ride, along with food and time in God's word. Our first St. John youth event of the new school year is happening on **Sunday, October 19th from 5:00pm-7:00pm at Scott & Becky Thompson's farm located at 2469 - 71st St., Newhall.**

Dress for the weather and bring along one thing that tells us something unique about you. We can't wait to spend time together under the colored leaves and fresh air. Hope to see you there!

If you have any questions, please contact Brad or Stephanie Williamson (614-257-7992).

Garden Blessings Table



Check out the Garden Blessings Table that is located on the table in the narthex. We are hoping that if you have an abundance of garden produce, you may wish to share it with others. Simply put it on the table on the landing in the narthex as you enter for the worship service and as others exit they may take what they wish. This is a great way to share what God has provided! Thank you in advance!

ILSTO - Iowa Lutheran Student Tuition Organization

The ILSTO is an excellent way to help make Lutheran Education possible for more children in Iowa. By giving to ILSTO, you help families, who otherwise couldn't afford tuition, send their children to a Christ-centered school. Beyond the benefit of knowing your gift is growing the faith of youth in Iowa, you'll receive a 75% Iowa state income tax credit for your gift. Additionally, grain and stock donations are included in the program. That means your generosity has a huge impact for students and families, while also being a wise use of your resources.

Save the Date!

The date of the Children's Christmas Service has been set. This year the program will be hosted by First Lutheran Church in Belle Plaine on Sunday, December 14th, at 6:00 p.m. This joint Children's Christmas Service includes children from St. John - Keystone, St. Andrew in Van Horne, and First Lutheran in Belle Plaine.

Quarterly Voters' Meeting

A Quarterly Voters' Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 19th, following worship. On the agenda is the election of the 2026 Church Council. At the time of this printing there are no other agenda items, but please watch the upcoming bulletins for any updates.

We have been doing some sorting through items within the church. Following the Quarterly Voters' Meeting, we invite members of the congregation to look through those items and take what they would like before the items get donated to places like Goodwill, etc.

Missions Update

At the beginning of the year, we voted at our January 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 **Pastor Groth's Mission to Belize**. The "mission" envelope 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, the mission payouts were: Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca—\$275.00; Pastor Groth's Mission to Belize—\$575.00; LCMS Disaster Relief—\$200.00; Orphan Grain Train—\$100.00.



Central Lutheran School, Newhall, IA

October 2025- Monthly Newsletter

Central Lutheran School provides 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.

Motto: See Jesus, Seek Knowledge, Serve Joyfully



Reformation Greetings from Central Lutheran School!

October is the month we remember Martin Luther and the Reformation. We thank God for all that Martin Luther did to establish - Grace Alone, Scripture Alone, and Faith Alone. We look forward to sharing this important message with the students at CLS! We also remember all of our Pastors during this month - Pastor Appreciation Month! We appreciate their spiritual guidance as well as how they continue to shepherd their flock!

October 12 - ILSTO Sunday - Look for Board members, Pastors, or me to talk to your congregation about ILSTO and how it helps students attend not only our Lutheran School, but all Lutheran Schools across the state of Iowa. If you have any questions, please ask!

October 19 - BRUNCH!! - Our annual PTL fall fundraiser, BRUNCH, will be held on Sunday, October 19 from 9-1. We are also selling tickets for the raffle of a quilt made by the Nimble Fingers group from St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Atkins. The brunch will be held in the Student Center and gym. I hope to see you here for our brunch on Sunday, October 19! Thank you in advance for your support of the ministry at Central Lutheran School!

October 27-Oct. 31 - Red Ribbon Week! Our Cougar Student Council (CSC) will be celebrating Red Ribbon Week with CLS students and staff. The theme for this year is "Life is a Puzzle, Solve it Drug Free!"

Many activities and lots of fun for the staff and students during this week!

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



Ushers and Greeters

October 5 (9:00 a.m.):	Greeters: Greg and Carlene Silhanek. Ushers: Eric and Ann Franzenburg, Byran and Tracie Kimm.
12 (9:00 a.m.):	Greeters: Pam England and Rita Pickering. Ushers: Denny and Susie Albers, Brad Sievers, Robert Albertsen, and Colby Lennie.
19 (9:00 a.m.):	Greeters: Dan and Donna Busch. Ushers: Wayne Ritscher, Rick Pickering, Todd and Cheryl Hennings.
26 (9:00 a.m.):	Greeters: Keith and Wendy Junge. Ushers: Kent Silhanek, Jim and Cathy Buch, Ben and Missy Lennie

Acolytes

October 5 (9:00 a.m.):	Nash
12 (9:00 a.m.):	Emma
19 (9:00 a.m.):	Kenna
26 (9:00 a.m.):	Hunter

Videographers

October 5 (9:00 a.m.):	Dean Scheel
12 (9:00 a.m.):	Richard Oehlerich
19 (9:00 a.m.):	Dave Gahring
26 (9:00 a.m.):	Jim Buch

Deacons

October 5 (9:00 a.m.):	Byran Kimm
12 (9:00 a.m.):	Rich Oehlerich
19 (9:00 a.m.):	Jordan Silhanek
26 (9:00 a.m.):	Kent Silhanek

Altar Guild for October

Rita Pickering
Tracie Kimm

Hospitality Committee for October

(October 12th)

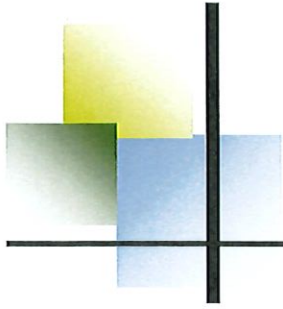
Bake: Connie Allers

Bake and Serve: Wendy Junge, Tracie Kimm



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.



October, 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 1:30 - 2:30 - Midweek/ Confirmation Class 5:45 p.m. - Choir Practice	2 9:30 - Adult Bible Study	3	4
7:30 a.m.—Elder's Meeting 9:00 a.m.—Divine Service 10:15 a.m.—Sunday School 10:15 a.m. - Adult Bible Class	6 <Iowa District East Fall Pastor's Conference>	7	8 1:30 - 2:30 - Midweek/ Confirmation Class 5:45 p.m. - Choir Practice	9 9:30 - Adult Bible Study	10	11 9 a.m. - Noon - Swaddling Clothes Shopping
9:00 a.m.—Divine Service 10:15 a.m.—SS and Bible Class 11:00 - Church Council Mtg.	13 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.- Swaddling Clothes	14 3:00 p.m. - Lutheran Communion @ KNCC	15 1:30 - 2:30 - Midweek/ Confirmation Class 5:45 p.m. - Choir Practice	16 9:30 - Adult Bible Study	17	18
9:00 a.m. - Divine Service 10:15 a.m. - Sunday School; No Bible Class 10:15 a.m. - Qtrly	20 6:00 p.m.—Special Service of Comfort	21	22 1:30 - 2:30 - Midweek/ Confirmation Class 5:45 p.m. - Choir Practice	23 9:30 - Adult Bible Study	24	25
Reformation Day (observed) 9:00 a.m.—Divine Service 10:15a.m.— Sunday School 10:15 a.m. - Adult Bible Class	27	28	29 1:30 - 2:30 - Midweek/ Confirmation Class 5:45 p.m. - Choir Practice	30 9:30 - Adult Bible Study	31	

Birthdays

October 1 - Jackson Mather
2 - Amanda Schnor
3 - Sara Mathis
4 - Cheryl Selk
5 - Sawyer Skoneczka
6 - Jacob Mather
7 - Janice Sievers
8 - Anastasia Brunssen, Megan Gorsch
10 - Jake Johnson
11 - Brad Sievers
12 - Doug Buch, William Thacker
13 - Roslyn Slapnicka, Kolby Wenger
14 - Jennifer Cady, Jessica Pierce
15 - Dorothy Wild

October birthdays (continued)

16 - Hannah Schultz
17 - Cathy Buch, Seth Wild
20 - Sylvia Christy, Joelah Oehlerich
21 - Colin Buch
22 - Shane Gronemeyer, Brenda Junge
23 - Greg Franzenburg, Abbie Nelson
25 - Richard Oehlerich, Steve Teneyck
27 - Ardie Junge, Scott Kusel, Courtney Skoneczka
28 - Drew Kupka, Shelia Rusk
30 - Jean Goken
31 - Jeff Junge, Sharla Selken

Wedding Anniversaries

October 3 - Darrell and Rita Pickering
4 - Zach and Lindsey Jurgens
4 - Mike and Rhonda Seeck
23 - Dennis and Pam Jurgemeyer

