



The Loveletter

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

August, 2026

THE LOVELETTER

Published Monthly by

St. John Lutheran Church
(Missouri Synod)
201 Fourth Avenue, P.O.
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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
(returning in the Fall)

Sunday Adult Bible Class
8:00 to 8:45 a.m.

Thursday Bible Class
9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

SWADDLING CLOTHES

Store open second
Saturday of each month
from 9 to noon, and
the following Monday
afternoon from 4:30 - 5:30

First Lutheran Church Vacancy

Pastor Schultz became the vacancy pastor for First Lutheran in Belle Plaine on June 28th. Our worship time remains the same at 9:00 a.m. here at St. John. Our Sunday morning Adult Bible Study is now being held from 8:00 to 8:45 on Sunday mornings prior to our worship.

Pastor Home Visit

This summer Pastor Schultz is setting aside Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays for visits with members and families. These visits can be simple and informal: coffee on the porch, lunch, time with your family, having pastor's family over, or just a chance to sit and talk for a while. Visits are available anytime between 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex. If this week doesn't work, there will be more weeks available. This is simply a chance to spend time together, get to know one another better, share conversation, and pray together.

Garden Blessings Table



The Garden Blessings Table has returned! 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!

Quarterly Voters' Meeting

A Quarterly Voters' Meeting was held Sunday, July 26th, at 8:15 prior to our worship service.

The organ interface should be ready for installation sometime in August. During this process the organ will be unusable for a couple of weeks; however, the Clavinova can be used at that time.

Kent Silhanek gave a report on the parsonage lawn repair. It was seeded on June 13th and there was acceptable germination and growth since that time. On July 20th, the sidewalk was poured out along the street. The areas that didn't cover well enough will be redone in late August to early September. Kent and Doug Buch have been faithfully watering this new seeding. When you see them, let them know how great it looks!

Pastor reported on the need and benefits of an updated pictorial directory. Our last directory was done in 2001, 25 years ago! If 32 families have their portraits taken the directories will be free of charge. Watch for a sign-up sheet coming soon to the narthex which will measure the interest.

Pastor also gave a report on the LCMS National Convention that he attended recently in Phoenix. He also stated that all is going well serving the vacancy in Belle Plaine.

Sunday School Start-Up

Watch for information coming soon regarding the plans for a Rally Day and the start-up of our Sunday School and midweek educational programs here at St. John.

Swaddling Clothes Page



The next *Swaddling Clothes* "Shopping Day" will be held on Saturday, August 8th, from 9 a.m. until noon, and on Monday, August 10th, from 4:30 until 5:30 p.m. 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. During the month of August, we are offering school supplies. There are no income guidelines to follow, everyone with children in their legal care are welcome to come in and shop. Everything is free! We offer a sleeve of diapers and baby wipes each month for each child who is in need of them.

We take donations of gently used, stain-free clothing sizes newborn to size 10, along with baby care items, like cribs, highchairs, pack n' plays, strollers, infant toys, books, etc. Without donations, this program would not be possible. Contact the church office at 319-442-3514 for a drop-off plan with any donations you may have.

We are often asked "what do you need"? *Swaddling Clothes* has a wish list gift registry for nonprofit organizations located at myregistry.com. The registry lists ideas and suggestions of items that are needed on a regular basis. These items can be purchased through the registry and will be shipped directly to *Swaddling Clothes* or they can be purchased in-store and dropped off at the church. If you log on to our Facebook page at *Swaddling Clothes-St. John Lutheran Church, Keystone, Iowa*, you will see the link listed there for easy access to our wish list.

Here are other ways to help out our *Swaddling Clothes* mission. If you have household items to donate, why not take them to Stuff, Etc. in Cedar Rapids and have the items listed on the *Swaddling Clothes St. John Lutheran Church Keystone* charitable account? When the 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 keep *Swaddling Clothes* in mind when packing up after having a garage sale. We can take gently used clothing and baby care items that are clean, gently used with no missing pieces and in good working condition. Another help would be to watch clearance items in your favorite retail store. Items get marked down tremendously if they aren't selling or are out of season. We'd love to have those items! If you are a Thrivent member, you can start a Thrivent Action Team and use the \$250 that they allot for a team and purchase diapers or other supplies for *Swaddling Clothes*. (We can help you with the paperwork and even the shopping if need be.) 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*.

Please continue to keep *Swaddling Clothes* in your prayers as we continue to help others who are in need our items. *Swaddling Clothes* is a program run by various congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to share the mercy of Christ with our neighbors through the gifts of clothing, food, friendship, and the forgiving Word of God.

*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

School Supply Donations Needed

We are collecting school supplies for our *Swaddling Clothes* families to pick up during our August shopping days. We have a box in the narthex for just that purpose. We are needing things like backpacks, Clorox wipes, boxes of Kleenex, washable markers, scissors for kids, colored pencils, crayons, spiral notebooks, rulers, erasers, etc. If you can help with this it is greatly appreciated! Time is running short if you plan to donate. We thank you in advance for any items you can provide. These may be dropped off in the box in the narthex at the church or at the education wing entrance (201 door) anytime before the 6th.

Bible Studies at St. John

† Sunday Mornings from 8:00 - 8:45 a.m. - *Luther's Large Catechism*

† Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. - *The Book of Hebrews*

Please join us for these interesting and informative studies.



Our 2026 Missions

A vote was held back at our January Quarterly Voters' Meeting to decide where the donations in our "missions" envelopes should be given. Camp lo-Dis-E-Ca was chosen as our local mission, and supporting the Rev. Jason Groth, missionary to Belize, was chosen as our international mission. Each receive 1/2 of our mission offerings this year. These missions are paid out quarterly. For the second quarter of 2026, Camp lo-Dis-E-Ca received \$237.50 and Pastor Groth's Mission received \$3,941.72. (The difference being that VBS money collected went to Pastor Groth and some people specified that they wanted their mission money to go specifically to him.) Please note that if you would like your mission offerings to go to other places, you may note that on your missions envelope.

Camp lo-Dis-E-Ca Summerfest and Fundraiser Auction

Camp lo-Dis-E-Ca's Summerfest and Fundraiser Auction was held on July 25, 2026! The day's festivities began at 10:00am with their new Camp Activity Quest! Participants started at the check-in table (in Alpha Lodge), where they received an activity punch card. After that, they were free to participate in all of the offered activities, receiving a unique card punch for completing different activities. Activities include horseback riding, canoeing, archery, climbing tower/zip line, and swimming. Once a participant received all of the unique card punches, the punch card got turned back in with the opportunity to win a 50% Campership for next summer. Lunch was available at noon followed by the Quilt Auction beginning at 1:00. The items for auction were available for bidding both online and in person.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Summerfest fundraiser both in person and online! This has been their most successful Summerfest ever, thanks to all of you! 2026 Summerfest by the numbers:

*115 Auction Items

*18 Activity Quest Challenges Finished

*6 Camperships Awarded

*37 Bidders

*6 Camperships Awarded

*\$13,202 Raised to Date

Funds raised by Summerfest will be used to support the summer camp program. If you would still like to give, just go to their webpage at campiodiseca.org and click on the "Give Online" button. Select "Summerfest" under the purpose option, when prompted.

St. Paul Ice Cream Social

St. Paul Lutheran Church in Luzerne will hold their annual Ice Cream Social featuring homemade ice cream, sandwiches, and desserts. This is being held on Sunday, August 9th, with serving from 4:30-6:30 p.m. This is a free-will offering event. Hope you can attend!



Tornado Damage Clean-Up

No doubt you have seen pictures like this of the damage caused by the tornado that hit the Fox Valley Region of Wisconsin this past week. The damage occurred in areas of Neenah, Menasha, and Appleton. Amazingly, no one was killed. This area is located in the South Wisconsin District of the LCMS. LERT-trained (Lutheran Early Response Team) volunteers are training for clean-up in the area. This will be a long-term need for those communities hit. They are asking for prayers for those affected, volunteers who are LERT trained, and support of the mercy work of the district with financial donations to myswd.net/mercy or by mailing donations to the base of operations at Peace Lutheran Church, 1228 S. Park Avenue, Neenah, WI 54956.

Prayer should be our first response, not our last resort.





Photo credit: Gary Hamer

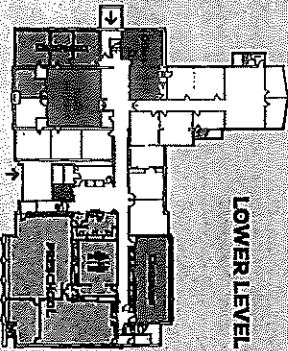
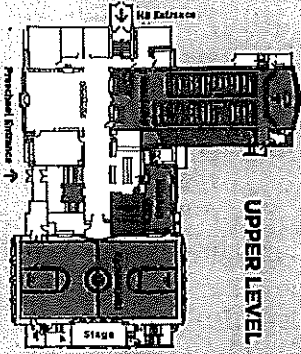
High School Startup Facility Secured

Christ Lutheran High School, together with Zion Lutheran Church, is excited to announce that they have finalized an agreement to allow CLHS to launch classes at Zion.

Resources available to CLHS include:

- 5 classroom spaces
- 1 administrative office
- 1 multi-purpose space
- sanctuary
- kitchen
- gymnasium

Zion Lutheran Church is located in Hiawatha just off Highway 100 and I-380, providing easy access for both urban and rural families. »



Additional highlights

Since Zion is already operating a vibrant preschool program (Little Lambs), this provides several benefits:

- The building is already equipped with proper security and has met the required inspections.
- Zion's floor plan features two entrances, which facilitate separate access for preschool families and high school students.
- Similarly, the layout of classrooms allows for the preschool and high school programs to operate in separate wings of the building, but simultaneously allows for integration of events as desired (i.e., chapel services, reading time, etc.).
- Zion's Little Lambs Preschool director, Kari Boyle, is open to (and excited for!) the opportunity to integrate preschool kids and young adults for service and learning opportunities.

Terms of the agreement

Zion has graciously agreed to lend the use of their space at no additional charge beyond the added operating expenses, estimated at \$10,000 the first year. This agreement will run for three years and will be re-evaluated annually to accommodate the needs of staff and students on-site.

We thank and praise God for this incredible opportunity!



For more information,
or to join our email list,
visit our website at
www.christlutheranhigh.org





Central Lutheran School, Newhall, IA
August 2026, 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. +

See Jesus, Seek Knowledge, Serve Joyfully

Greetings from Central Lutheran School!

BACK TO SCHOOL! Our 2026-2027 school theme for the year is: **Founded in Faith!** This theme is based on 1 Corinthians 3:11, *"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid which is Jesus Christ."* The CLS Staff is looking forward to sharing this message with students every day in every subject throughout the school year!

PTL Back to School - Clean the School Party!

CLS Needs Your Help! School is about to be back in session and our beloved school is in need of a good scrub. Do you have loved ones who attend? Would you like to help them come back to a school that's nice and clean? The doors will be open for you to help one hour or more - you choose! The days and times are: August 10 - 9 am - 7 pm and on August 11 - 9-7. You can come in anytime during those days. The front of the school could use some good weeding! If this is your talent, please roll up your sleeves. Thank you in advance for all your help! Youth Groups are more than welcome, too!

Meet the New CLS Staff Members! This month our new Preschool teacher, Mrs. Connie Volesky.



Hi, I'm Connie Volesky. I graduated from Mount Mercy University in 2013. I have taught preschool for the past 12 years and have been involved in early childhood education most of my adult life. It is a joy to be able to provide children with their first school experience and help create their love of learning as well as sharing the good news of Jesus.

I live with my husband, Justin, on a farm south of Norway. We have three sons, who all attended CLS. Blaine rebuilds hydraulics, Quintin is an electrician, and Cade is attending Kirkwood in construction management.

I am a member at St. John Lutheran Church in Newhall. I serve by coordinating the preschool curriculum for VBS.

One of my favorite Bible verses is from proverbs: Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your way submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6) Another favorite verse comes from Ephesians: For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Building Update - The music room and 6th - 8th grade room floors have all been washed, waxed and polished this summer! A new shed has been erected on the west side of the building. The last three parts of the playground have been installed. Wiring has been installed to update a new phone system to replace the outdated phone system we had. The stage floor and walls have been repainted. The parking lot has been powerwashed and lines repainted. Our wonderful facilities committee has worked hard on the list in the conference room in fixing things - **THANK YOU!**

Enrollment - We thank God for the students and families that will be here this coming school year. As of the writing of this article, CLS has a total of 193 students. (3 and 4 year old preschool = 27, K-8= 166).

Thank you for your continued support of Central Lutheran School! Please continue to keep CLS Board members, staff, families, and students in your prayers.

Philippians 1:3-6

Franklin O. Parris - Principal, principal@centrallutheranschool.org

Central Lutheran School, Newhall, IA 319-223-5271



Ushers and Greeters

August 2 (9:00 a.m.):	Greeters: Dean and Kathy Scheel. Ushers: Barbara Hennings, Doug Buch, Colin Buch.
9 (9:00 a.m.):	Greeters: Greg and Carlene Silhanek. Ushers: Eric and Ann Franzenburg, Byran and Tracie Kimm.
16 (9:00 a.m.):	Greeters: Rita Pickering and Pam England. Ushers: Denny and Susie Albers, Brad Sievers, Colby Lennie.
23 (9:00 a.m.):	Greeters: Dan and Donna Busch. Ushers: Wayne Ritscher, Rick Pickering, Todd and Cheryl Hennings.
30 (9:00 a.m.):	Greeters: Keith and Wendy Junge. Ushers: Kent Silhanek, Jim and Cathy Buch, Ben and Missy Lennie.

Acolytes

August 2 (9:00 a.m.) -	Kaylee
9 (9:00 a.m.) -	Meredith
16 (9:00 a.m.) -	Lauren
23 (9:00 a.m.) -	Ciara
30 (9:00 a.m.) -	Nash



Videographers

August 2 -	Jim Buch
9 -	Dean Scheel
16 -	Dan Busch
23 -	Dave Gahring
30 -	Richard Oehlerich

Hospitality Committee (August 9th)

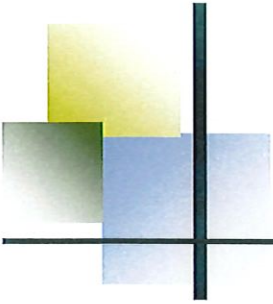
Bake: Pat Pohlman
Bake and Serve: Missy Lennie
 Jacque Jones

Altar Guild for August

Rita Pickering
 Tracie Kimm

Deacons

August 2 -	Jordan Silhanek
9 -	Doug Buch
16 -	Byran Kimm
23 -	Rich Oehlerich
30 -	Kent Silhanek



August, 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
						1
2 8:00-8:45 a.m. - Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.—Divine Service	3	4	5	6 No Adult Bible Study; resumes next Thursday	7	8 9:00 a.m. to noon— <i>Swaddling Clothes</i>
9 8:00-8:45 a.m.- Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.- Divine Service 1:00 p.m. - Church Council Meeting	10 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. - <i>Swaddling Clothes</i>	11 2:00 p.m. - Lutheran Communion at KNCC	12	13 9:30 a.m.— Bible Study on The Book of Hebrews	14	15
16 8:00 - 8:45 - Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m. - Divine Service	17	18	19	20 9:30 a.m.— Bible Study on The Book of Hebrews	21	22
Rally Day No Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.—Divine Service (Activities following worship to be announced)	24	25	26	27 9:30 a.m.— Bible Study on The Book of Hebrews	28	29
30 8:00 - 8:45 - Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m. - Divine Service	31					

Birthdays

August 3 - Zoey Junge
5 - DeLores Adams, Nash Barr, Rita Pickering
6 - Jamie Cady, David Flack
7 - Pam England
9 - Pellagia Jurgemeyer, Dean Scheel
13 - Tony Brecht, Marina Sindt
15 - Justin Selk
17 - Tammy Monson
19 - Keith Junge, Rick Pickering, Katrina Moser
21 - Jaxon Thomas
22 - Hunter Hermsen, Dennis Schwab, Cherise Thacker
25 - Jessica Grace
26 - Zachary Johnson
27 - Rebecca Enderle, Dennis Jurgemeyer
28 - Kylie Mason
29 - Joyce Brunssen

Wedding Anniversaries

August 1 - Zach and Alissa Mann
6 - Lee and Linda Klopping
8 - Greg and Carlene Silhanek
12 - Randy and Teri Geiger
22 - Dale and Dorothy Selk
25 - Nathan and Alyssa Albers, Todd and Cheryl Hennings
30 - Richard and Cindy Oehlerich

