



# The Loveletter

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

June, 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.  
(returning in the Fall)

Sunday Adult Bible Class  
10:15 - 11:15

Wednesday Bible Class  
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 - 5:30

## Father's Day

We will be thanking God for fathers as we worship our Lord on Sunday morning, June 15th. There will be a special gift for all fathers in attendance. There will be refreshments following our worship service that day for everyone. Please join us!

*As a father shows compassion to his children,  
so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.*

*Psalm 103:13*

P.S. We would like to thank Kathy Scheel for all of her work in providing the mini-receptions that have taken place at St. John recently, including Mother's Day, the 2025 graduate's reception, and upcoming Father's Day. Kathy and her crew of helpers have provided a beautiful, tasty, and meaningful reception at each event. Thank you!

## Ordination/Installation of Zach Johnson

St. Mark Lutheran, Garrison and Zion Lutheran, Shellsburg, will be holding a Service of Ordination and Installation for Candidate Zachary Johnson as Pastor on Saturday, June 21, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. This is being held at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Garrison. A catered meal will follow the service. Please RSVP if you plan to attend the meal by emailing your name and the number attending to [stmarklc@netins.net](mailto:stmarklc@netins.net) no later than June 13th. If you don't receive a confirmation email by June 12th, please call 319.477.5141.

## The Parsonage Alley Garage

The parsonage alleyway garage needs some work. A group of men spearheaded by the Silhaneks will be providing the labor necessary to make the repairs. They would like to remove the wall that separates the garage into 2 sections, update the electrical, install insulation and plywood to the inside walls, plus install new siding. They estimate the cost of materials to be around \$6,500. If you would like to help with the cost of the materials, donations may be made to St. John with "garage upgrade" in the memo line. If you'd like to help with the actual repairs, please contact Greg Silhanek or Doug Buch. They are hoping to start work mid-June.

## Senior Recognition Sunday



A Senior Recognition Sunday was held on Sunday, May 18th, during our worship service. This year we had just 1 graduating senior, Kayla Lennie. Kayla plans to attend the University of Iowa and major with an interest in Nursing. A brief reception for Kayla was held in the narthex following our worship service. Please keep Kayla and all graduates in your prayers, asking for God's continued blessings for them as they start a new chapter in their lives! Congratulations!

### Stained Glass Repair Project

A special Voters' Meeting is planned for Sunday, June 1st, immediately following our worship so that the stained glass repair project can be addressed. Since this repair is estimated at over the \$10,000 limit that the church council can spend without voter approval, the meeting is required.

It was brought to our attention by a visitor to our church recently that our Gethsemane stained glass window had a bulge in it, noticeable mainly in the burgundy color of Jesus' robe. We were able to find a stain-glass expert, located in the Grimes area. He came out to inspect the window on May 5th. He told us that these stained glass windows usually last around 100 years before needing some form of restoration. He recommended a full and complete restoration of the bulging window, which means removing the window from its opening and taking it to his shop. In the shop, they will need to take the window apart and build it back together using new lead, which will be the same size, color, and profile of the existing material. They will replace any broken pieces that they come across with the best match possible, and the original glass will be cleaned and polished in the process. The window will then be cemented with stained-glass putty that will make the window strong and waterproof. New re-enforcing steel bars will be soldered directly onto the lead. When done, they will install the stained-glass window in its frame and glaze it in which should extend its life another 100+ years! The estimated time frame to complete this process is 2-3 weeks. The cost estimate for this work is \$13,540 plus tax.

Back in the '70's, a plexiglas-type storm window was put on the outside of each window for protection from the elements. The whole window was covered with the exception of the 2 small vent windows located at the bottom of each window allowing them to be opened.

The wood around the outside area of these small windows is exposed to the weather. The wood is getting quite shabby-looking and needs to have something done to it. The council is recommending that we paint the exposed wood one last time and then have the windows covered with the plexiglas material, which would eliminate the need to paint them every few years. This would also mean; however, that the windows could no longer be opened. The company would do this for \$148 + tax per each small window, of which we have 10. There is also one window sill that is rotting and needs to be replaced. They can repair that for around \$250 if it's done at the same time the work on the Gethsemane window is done so that an extra trip doesn't need to be made.

Please stay for this meeting as the decision is made of how to proceed with preserving our beautiful stained glass windows!

### Elder's Meeting

An Elder's Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 1st, at 7:30 a.m. in the overflow area of the education wing. The purpose of our 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. The Elders Board includes Jim Buch, Dave Gahring, Bill Hennings, Bob Albertsen, Dan Busch, Dennis Schwab, and Richard Oehlerich.

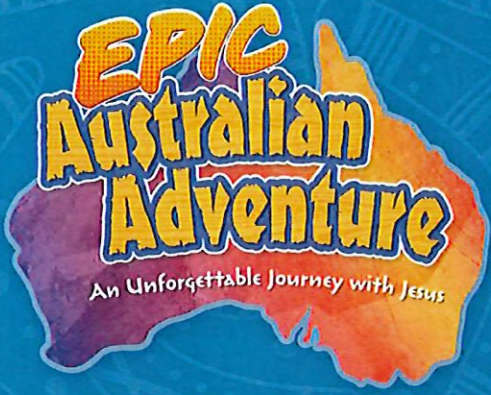
### Orphan Grain Train

A group of people from the church will be heading to Clemons, Iowa, on Tuesday, June 3rd, to deliver clothing that has been collected here at St. John and to volunteer for the morning, sorting and boxing up clothing to be shipped where needed. If you'd like to go along, please contact Susie Albers or the church office. The plan is to leave Keystone around 8 a.m. that morning and we usually arrive back around 2 p.m.

A little bit about the Orphan Grain Train. OGT is a 501c3 nonprofit Christian volunteer network that shares personal and material resources with needy people in America and around the World. OGT is a recognized service organization (RSO) of the LCMS. Many shipments have been in cooperation with Lutheran Hour Ministries, LCMS World Mission, LCMS World Relief, and other Christian ministries. Volunteers gather donations of clothing, medical supplies, food, Christian literature, and other aid to meet real needs. The Orphan Grain Train movement is a loving response to Jesus Christ's example as a servant and His love for us.


OGT has 27 regional locations. Since 1992, they have delivered more than 50.3 million fortified-rice meals and 4,504 shipments of humanitarian aid to needy people in several states and 71 countries on 5 continents. What a great service to many!





St. John Lutheran Church  
Vacation Bible School 2025  
July 28th-August 1st  
9am-11:30am  
Ages: Prek-6th grade

Please join us on our  
Epic Adventure with Jesus!



# VBS 2025

VBS 2025 is quickly approaching, and we want you to join us on an adventure! Throughout this program, we will go on an epic adventure through Australia and along the way be guided by our Savior, Jesus who is the way, the truth, and the life!

Sign up using the QR code, the website listed below, or stop by the church office for a form. We hope to see you at VBS this year!

<https://vbsmate.com/StJohnKeystoneLA>

## Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca Summer Camp

What do you think of when you think of "open arms?" Songs by Journey or Creed? What about welcoming people or even strength or salvation? This year's camp theme *With Open Arms* aims to construct a clear and resolute image for us Christians. We will focus on how God has been at work in this creation to gather a people, with open arms, to be His own treasured possession. Sometimes that work of God is displayed in strength and wonder, as with Samson or Israel's crossing of the Red Sea. Sometimes God's work has been a great display of compassion and forgiveness, as Jesus taught his disciples in the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Ultimately, we look to Jesus' death on the Cross as the primary place where God works to gather a people, just as Jesus tells us in John 3:15. This great work of God to gather a people with open arms continues to this very day in the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith in Christ alone.

Campers have no shortage of things to do while at camp. Being that the programs accommodate campers in kindergarten up to high school seniors, the summer camp program features activities suitable for elementary campers as well as advanced activities for older campers. Included are canoeing, archery, rock climbing, zip line, challenge course, horseback riding, swimming, hayrack rides, canoe trips, bike trips, parachute games, skits, gaga ball, bouldering wall, disc golf, hikes, human football, sand volleyball, 9 square, and various other sports.

It's online registration only this year. There are many camps to choose from. Visit their website at [www.campiodiseca.org](http://www.campiodiseca.org). Just as in other years, St. John pays 1/2 of your registration fee up to \$150 for members of our church who wish to attend.

**Do the math: sin adds to your troubles, subtracts from your peace, multiplies your sorrows, and divides you from God.**





### Swaddling Clothes

Our next Swaddling Clothes Shopping Day will be held on Saturday, June 14th, with shopping from 9 a.m. until noon. If you can't make it then, we will also be open on Monday, the 16th, from 4:30 until 5:30 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 for their children.

We really appreciate our volunteers who come in to help us out when needed. If you'd like to help with Swaddling Clothes, please contact the church office or Darla Kromminga. Our need now is for people to take a laundry basket or two as we wash the donations coming in. The baskets are located under the table in the narthex as you come up the stairs. When you have finished laundering, just return to the church.

We have been blessed by Concordia Publishing House in partnership with Concordia Gospel Outreach to gift each family with one Arch book per week, free of charge, who come in to shop. That means that on each shopping day we will be giving each family 4 books! At the end of the year each family should have 52 Arch Books sharing the Word of Our Lord. What a wonderful library to have in their home!

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. 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>.

Above all, please pray for this ministry of our church!

*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

### Benton Zone LWML Rally Highlights

The Benton Zone LWML Spring Rally was held at Grace Lutheran Church in Blainstown on Saturday, April 26, starting at 9 a.m. The theme for the rally was *"Steps of Faith"*, based on Psalm 119:105 - *"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."* The opening service was led by Pastor Schanbacher, zone counselor, with the message of "Listen, God is Calling."

The guest speaker for the Rally was Frank Parris, Principal at Central Lutheran School, in Newhall. Mr. Parris has been at Central for the past 7 years. Central Lutheran began in 1951 and is all about "Mission, Seek to Serve". Average class size at Central is 17 students. Learning about our Savior is the biggest part of a CLS education. Music is also very important at Central. There are 46 students in grades 5-8 with all 46 students in band under the direction of Doreen and Doug Anderson. This coming Fall CLS will have a new Vocal Music Teacher, Aaron Huesmann.

Pastor Schanbacher led a Bible Study on *"Steps of Faith"*, followed by the business meeting. The attendance at the meeting included 1 Pastor, 1 guest, and 30 LWML members. The Fall Rally will be held at St. John, Newhall on September 18, 2025.

A copy of the complete rally report is hanging on the bulletin board in the narthex here at St. John if you would like to read it.

### Benton County Relay for Life

Benton County Relay for Life will be held at the Benton Community High School track in Van Horne next Sunday, June 1st, from 6 to 10 p.m. Activities throughout the evening will include speakers, games, American Cancer Society trivia questions for prizes, luminaria available for purchase, concession stand, DJ music, and continual relay walking. The schedule includes Survivors' Registration from 5 - 6 pm; Opening Ceremony at 6 pm; Survivor and Caregiver Laps at 7 pm; and the Luminaria Ceremony beginning at 9 pm. Hope you can attend!



**Central Lutheran School, Newhall, IA**  
**June 2025- Monthly Newsletter for churches**



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!

Well, that's a wrap on the 58th year of CLS ministry for the 2024-2025 school year! What a blessing to educate and minister to 177 Preschool through 8th grade students! Thank you congregations for your support and help in the ministry of sharing God's Word with His children and their families!

**Enrollment for the 2025-2026 School Year** - as of 5/27: PS-33, Kindergarten-23 (1 seat left), 1st grade - 24 (full!), 2nd grade-19 (5 seats left), 3rd grade-13, 4th grade-24 (full!), 5th grade -18, 6th grade -17, 7th grade -14, 8th grade -10 (K-8=162; PS-8=195) Our enrollment is up from this current year, however, we still have seats where children can hear about Jesus and His world everyday in every subject. Please help us in encouraging your friends and neighbors to at least have a tour of our facilities and ask about attending next school year.

**ESA/Student First Information -**

**If you have any questions - please come and visit with me.**

All students are eligible to enroll for the 2025-2026 school year! Parents must enroll by June 30, 2025. Funds will be dispersed to accredited nonpublic schools in July once all verifications have been completed. Any parents not applying for ESA's by the June 30th deadline, will be expected to pay the \$7,826 tuition amount over 9 months (\$870 a month).

**CLS Office Hours for June:** I will be here at school working in the office on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday from 9-2. If you need anything or have any questions, please stop in and see me. You can always reach me on my cell phone, leave a message on the school phone, or email me at [principal@centrallutheranschool.org](mailto:principal@centrallutheranschool.org).

**Jobs around the school** - During the summer months are a great time to get a few fix it/clean it up jobs done around the school. We could always use your gardening skills in keeping the weeds away in front of the school. Some classrooms will need touch up painting. The wood chips on the playground could use your raking skills in spreading the chips around. If you have extra dirt, we need some holes on the playground filled. Look in the bulletin for any other jobs around school over the summer time. Thanks ahead of time for helping out!

**Staffing for next year** - We have a 4th grade teacher for next year. We are blessed the Mrs. Melissa Voss will be teaching our 4th graders. I will share more information about her in the August newsletter.

CLS is looking for another full time teacher aide. If you know of someone or are interested in helping our teachers and students, please contact me as soon as possible. Thank you.

We thank God for the years of service Mrs. Maddick has been teaching children for close to 40 years. May God look over her and bless her with the next adventures in her life!

Philippians 1:3-6,

Franklin O. Parris -- Principal,

[principal@centrallutheranschool.org](mailto:principal@centrallutheranschool.org)

### Update on Pastor Groth and His Family

After months of preparation and the incredible support of so many, we're thrilled to share that we have officially arrived in Belize! Our family landed on May 13th and jumped right into missionary life, joining our brothers and sisters in Christ for worship in Seine Bight on Sunday, May 18th.

We are settling in, learning the rhythms of life here - including navigating a country without large grocery chains, where many rely on growing their own food and shopping at open-air markets. It's a new adventure every day, and we're grateful for the Lord's guidance as we begin this journey of planting churches, preaching the Gospel, and showing mercy.

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and generosity. Your partnership makes this mission possible, and we are truly humbled to serve here on your behalf. Please continue to keep us in prayer as we adjust, build relationships, and step into the work God has prepared for us. ----The Groth Family

### Sunday School and Bible Classes

Sunday School has taken a short break for the summer and will return again in September. Bible Classes; however, will continue through the summer. In our Sunday morning study, which meets immediately after our worship, we have just started a new study on "*Christian Denominations*". On Wednesday mornings, we have just completed the *Book of Ecclesiastes*, and will be starting a new topic next Wednesday, June 4th, at 10:00 a.m. Please join us for these interesting studies!





### Ushers and Greeters

June	1 (9:00 a.m.):	<b>Greeters:</b> Dan and Donna Busch. <b>Ushers:</b> Wayne Ritscher, Rick Pickering, Todd and Cheryl Hennings.
	8 (9:00 a.m.):	<b>Greeters:</b> Keith and Wendy Junge. <b>Ushers:</b> Kent Silhanek, Jim and Cathy Buch, Ben and Missy Lennie.
	15 (9:00 a.m.):	<b>Greeters:</b> Dean and Kathy Scheel. <b>Ushers:</b> Bill and Barbara Hennings, Doug and Colin Buch.
	22 (9:00 a.m.):	<b>Greeters:</b> Greg and Carlene Silhanek. <b>Ushers:</b> Eric and Ann Franzenburg, Byran and Tracie Kimm, Jacque Jones.
	29 (9:00 a.m.):	<b>Greeters:</b> Rita Pickering and Pam England. <b>Ushers:</b> Denny and Susie Albers, Brad Sievers, Robert Albertsen, Colby Lennie.

### Acolytes

June	1 (9:00 a.m.):	Ciara
	8 (9:00 a.m.):	Nash
	15 (9:00 a.m.):	Braylon
	22 (9:00 a.m.):	Kenna
	29 (9:00 a.m.):	Emma

### Videographers

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

### Deacons

June	1 (9:00 a.m.):	Kent
	8 (9:00 a.m.):	Rich
	15 (9:00 a.m.):	Kent
	22 (9:00 a.m.):	Kent
	29 (9:00 a.m.):	Byran

### Altar Guild for June

Kathy Scheel  
Relda Pickering

### Hospitality Committee for June

None, as this month as we will observe Father's Day on the 15th with special treats provided by the reception committee.

### Volunteers Needed

A new serving schedule has been typed for members of the Hospitality Committee, but we are always looking for more people to join in. The more people on the schedule, the fewer times we need to serve each year. Each month (usually the second Sunday) there is a person who just bakes, and then two who bake and serve. Please consider and let the church office know if you could help us out.

We are also looking for volunteers in a lot of other areas, like ushering, live streaming the service, serving on the altar guild, teaching Sunday School, being a Sunday School helper, helping with Swaddling Clothes, keeping the pews tidy and well stocked, helping at Vacation Bible School, sending out birthday cards, keeping our photo boards up to date, helping the quilting ladies, helping with funeral dinners, etc. If you have some time to spare, we can find something at the church that needs to be done. Serving the Lord, by serving others!



# June, 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
7:30 a.m. - Elder's Meeting 9:00 a.m.—Divine Service 10:15 a.m. - Special Voters' Meeting 10:30 - Bible Study	2	8:00 a.m. - Meet at Church for OGT 2:00 p.m. - Lutheran Comm.	4 10:00 a.m. - Bible Class	5	6	7
9:00 a.m.—Divine Service 10:15 a.m. - Adult Bible Class 11:00 a.m. - Church Council Meeting	9	10	11 10:00 a.m. - Bible Class	12	13	14 9:00 a.m. to noon - Swaddling Clothes Shopping Day
9:00 a.m.—Divine Service 10:15 a.m. - Adult Bible Class	15 4:30 - 5:30 - Swaddling Clothes Shopping	16	17 10:00 a.m. - Bible Class	18	19	20 7:00 p.m - Vacation Bible School Meeting
9:00 a.m.—Divine Service 10:15 - Adult Bible Study	22	23	24 10:00 a.m. - Bible Class	25	26	27 28 <----IDE Convention----->
9:00 a.m.—Divine Service 10:15 - Adult Bible Study	29	30				

### Birthdays

June 1 - Janet Albers, Victoria Schwab  
3 - Jonathan Bierschenk, Matt Thacker  
4 - Connie Allers, David Gahring, Brooke Kupka, Makenna McManemy  
5 - Michelle Fischer, Todd Hennings  
6 - Jackson Clemann, Lori Namanny, Elias Schultz, Ciara Slapnicka  
8 - Kenna Lennie, Amy Schoenfelder  
9 - Lavonne Ohde  
11 - Barbara Hennings  
13 - Thomas Miller  
14 - Jodee Junge  
15 - Michael Jurgens  
16 - Tim Sanderson  
17 - Carla Homeister, Zach Jurgens  
19 - Shane Reinberg, Val Reinberg, Robert Ritscher  
20 - Ousmane Camara, Delbert Selk  
22 - David Albertsen, Noah Barr, Samantha Calhoun  
23 - Susie Albers, Jodi Bierschenk, Ragan Hermesen  
24 - Tiffany Schnor  
25 - Darlene Harder

### Birthdays (continued)

26 - Angel Brecht , Brittany Seec  
27 - Zachary Brecht, Rosemary Krutzfeldt, Doyle Reinberg  
28 - Carla Albertsen, Keane Hermesen, Linda Kloppe, Darlys Rusk  
30 - Chad Stehcon

### Anniversaries

June 6 - Don and Eleanor Roquet  
7 - Justin and Amie Slapnicka  
8 - Ray and Alice Junge  
11 - Drew and Brooke Kupka  
14 - Dan and Donna Busch, TJ and Ashley Feuerbach  
19 - Allen and Ruth Albers  
23 - Bryan and Kelly Barr  
24 - Darold and Paulette Sindt  
25 - Jory and Megan Metz  
27 - Nate and Miranda Dunek, Dean and Kathy Scheel  
28 - David and Shelley Flack  
29 - Tony and Angel Brecht

