

The Loveletter

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

June, 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.
(returning in the Fall)

Sunday Adult Bible Class
10:15 - 11:15

Thursday Bible Class
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

Father's Day

We will be thanking God for fathers as we worship our Lord on Sunday morning, June 21st. 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!

Vacation Bible School

Looking for an unforgettable summer experience for your kids? Pack your bags for **Tropical Trek VBS!** Throughout the week, children will step into the sandals of real Bible characters to discover that God is always with them, finding them when they feel lost, lonely, or hopeless. With hands-on activities, exciting crafts, and a focus on God's grace, it's a week your whole family will love.

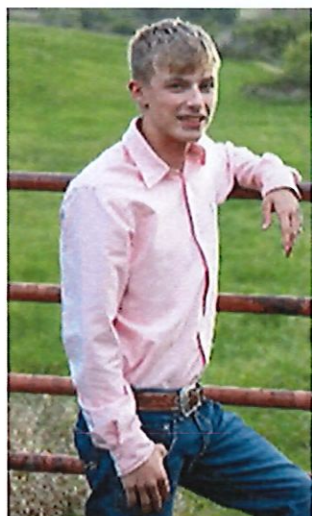
Save your spot by scanning the QR Code or visit <https://vbsmate.com/StJohnKeystoneIA>

St. John Lutheran Church
Vacation Bible School 2026 June 8-12
9am-11:30am Ages: Prek(potty trained)-6th Grade

Orphan Grain Train

A group of people from the church will be heading to Clemons, Iowa, on Tuesday, June 16th, 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 7:30 am and work there until noon. We usually stop somewhere for lunch and arrive back to church 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. More than 5,066 semi-trailer truckloads of food, clothing, medical supplies, and religious materials have been sent to 73 countries and several disaster areas in the U.S. since 1992. Volunteers sort and pack the donated items in our warehouses across the US. Contributors donate money to ship the precious cargoes of hope where most needed. (Eleven dollars sponsors the shipment of one box of aid!) Volunteers at the other end of the journey place these gifts of love into the hands of needy people. All of this is done by volunteers and individual contributors – people who are thankful for their blessings and want to provide a blessing to someone they will probably never see this side of heaven. The Orphan Grain Train movement is a loving response to Jesus Christ's example as a servant and His love for us. Pray for it! Join us!



Jackson Hartkemeyer



Ragan Hermsen

Senior Recognition Sunday

A Senior Recognition Sunday was held on Sunday, May 17th, during our worship service. This year we had 2 graduating high school seniors in attendance, Jackson Hartkemeyer and Ragan Hermsen.

Jack plans to attend Kirkwood Community College in the Fall as a student in the Agricultural Sciences Program.

Ragan plans to attend Kirkwood to complete her pre-requisites, then transfer to Mercy College of Health Sciences to get an Accelerated Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing.

Please keep Jackson, Ragan, and all graduates in your prayers, asking for God's continued blessings for them as they start a new chapter in their lives! Congratulations!

Summer Break

May 17th was the last day of Sunday School and Wednesday, May 20th, was the last day of confirmation/midweek classes. When you see the teachers of these classes, please thank them for being here each week to help teach our youth. Sunday School was taught by Cindy Oehlerich, teaching kids second grade and up; Jacque Jones taught first grade; and the preschool/ kindergarten teachers rotated throughout the year including Hannah Schultz, Missy Lennie, and Mary Sievers. There are also lots of subs, helpers, etc. that made Sunday School go so smoothly. Pastor teaches the confirmation class with Jodi Bierschenk who taught the younger midweek students on Wednesdays here at the church right after their early dismissals from school. Watch for the startup dates for Sunday School and Confirmation/Midweek classes as they begin again in the Fall. As we take a break from these classes, please don't take a summer break from our worship services!

Give your all to Christ, he gave his all for you!



Preparing for Vacation Bible School

The plans are well underway and are almost complete for VBS. We have a few more details to finish up. We need volunteers to supply cookies/bars or other snacks for the kids to enjoy during the morning break. Some of the "other snack" ideas might be fresh fruit, crackers and cheese, cereal bars, etc., but cookies are always good! Look for the signup sheet located on the table in the narthex. Please include your name, quantity, and what you intend to bring like "cookies", "fruit", "cheese and crackers", etc. There is also a place on the sheet for donations of Kool-aid and other drinks. Please have your donations to the lower-level kitchen by Sunday, June 7th.

Also needed are volunteers to work in the kitchen getting out snacks, preparing juices, cleaning up after snack time is completed. etc. We are trying to get enough volunteers so that a couple or more would work each day.

We also need a few craft items. We need colored tissue paper like used in gift bags and also empty shaker bottles like spices or colored sugars are packaged in. If you have any of these items they may be left in the box in the narthex.

We are also needing more helpers (those 7th graders and older through adults) to be here during the VBS hours of 9:00 through 11:30 each day, Monday through Friday.

We also need your prayers that our VBS would be well attended and that those attending would learn more about the Savior! Invite others to attend!

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca Sumer Camp 2026 - *Free to Serve*

What does it mean to be free? Does it mean I can just do whatever I want? After all, I'm "free to do so," right? Wrong! In all that we say or do, we are serving someone, something, or some purpose. Let us consider this as well as who and what our words and actions reflect. After all, "we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against... the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places" (Eph. 6:12). While in this wrestling match, it is easy to only consider ourselves and when we're given "freedom," to use it as an opportunity to display our sinful nature. However, through Jesus' death and resurrection, this wrestling match has already been won for us! Therefore, "You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness" (Romans 6:18). In Jesus, we see and can now live out what it truly means to be "free," serving one another through love.

Each day at Camp is spent studying God's Word. The Bible study is centered around a theme from Scripture. Though every camper learns the same theme, each program's Bible study is modified to fit the age group of the program. Campers also participate in multiple devotions each day that fit the Biblical theme and teaches them about Christ. Bible studies and daily devotions are led by trained camp staff.

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. Io-Dis-E-Ca offers lots of different age appropriate camps to choose from. Check it out on their webpage at www.campiodiseca.org or scan the QR code from the poster hanging in the narthex. There are discounts if you register early. There are also camp scholarships available for campers who will be attending Camp for the first time. 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.

Bible Studies at St. John

†Sunday Mornings from 10:15 - 11:15 - 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.



Swaddling Clothes

Our next Swaddling Clothes Shopping Day will be held on Saturday, June 13th, with shopping from 9 a.m. until noon. If you can't make it then, we will also be open on Monday, the 15th, 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 have found ourselves with a shortage of donated clothing! 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

Arch Books

We have an abundance of Arch books! These are brand new and have been given to us to give to others by Concordia Publishing House. Quite a few have been given to those who come in to Swaddling Clothes and some will be given away at VBS, but we have many! There is a basket of these books in the narthex, please feel free to take some for your children/grandchildren. They are beautiful stories of the Bible that are written at a third grade reading level, but would be enjoyable for other ages.

Help Needed

At 8am on June 6, 13, and 20th the Central Lutheran School Facilities Committee is asking for congregation and school family help. Starting at 8am on **June 6** everything on the stage will need to be taken off and put on the gym floor. Then the stage walls and floor will be cleaned.

June 13 - 8am Painting Party! The stage walls and stage floor will be painted. We need everyone's help to come and paint. Supplies will be available; we just need your muscles to paint!

June 20 - 8am all items that were on the stage will be put back on the stage from the gym floor. The more hands (and muscles) we have, the less time it will take! Thank you in advance for your help!

St. John Board of Elders

St. John has a Board of Elders in place. The purpose of the 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. Members of the Board of Elders include Jim Buch, Dave Gahring, Bill Hennings, Bob Albertsen, Dan Busch, Dennis Schwab, and Richard Oehlerich.

Dorcas Guild Card Shop

The Dorcas Guild Card Shop, located outside the church office in the overflow area of the education wing, has available cards for all occasion—birthday, get well, anniversary, sympathy, baby, baptism, wedding, graduation, and more. These beautiful cards are available for just 50¢ per card or \$5.00 per box of 12 cards. Check it out!



Central Lutheran School, Newhall, IA

June 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.

Greetings from Central Lutheran School!

Well, that’s a wrap on the 59th year of CLS ministry for the 2025-2026 school year! What a blessing to educate and minister to 197 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 2026-2027 School Year - as of 5/20: PS-27, Kindergarten-17 (3 seats left), 1st grade - 20 (full!), 2nd grade-24 (full!), 3rd grade-20 (full!), 4th grade-13 (7 seats left!), 5th grade -23 (full!), 6th grade -17, 7th grade -20 (full!), 8th grade -13 (K-8=168; PS-8=195) 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 apply for an ESA (Education Savings Account) for the 2026-2027 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 K-8 parents not applying for ESA for their child by the June 30th deadline, will be expected to pay the \$8,115 tuition amount over 9 months (\$902 a month).

3 year old preschool tuition is \$1,200 for the year (\$134 a month). 4 year olds that are repeating preschool at CLS will pay \$2,400 for the year (\$267 a month).

CLS Office Hours for June: I will be here at school working in the office on Monday-Friday from 9-2. If you 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.

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. Look in the bulletin for any other jobs around school over the summer time. Thanks ahead of time for helping out!

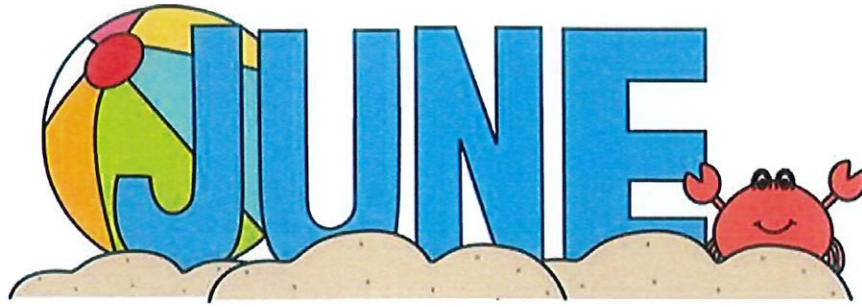
Philippians 1:3-6,

Franklin O. Parris – Principal,

principal@centrallutheranschool.org

Upcoming CLS School Events in June :

DATE	TIME	CLS EVENTS
May 26-29	9-3:30	Mr. Parris has individual meetings with teachers. Teachers working in their rooms.
May 27	8-3:30	All staff meeting in the student center. Office closed
May 31		Happy Birthday to CLS preschool aide, librarian, cross country and track coach, Ms. Shauna Voelker!
June 5		Happy Anniversary to our Cougar Cafe food director Rachel McLeod and her husband Darric!
June 1		All items for students due to the CLS office by teachers (report cards, honor roll certificates, assessment results, etc.)
June 14		Happy Birthday to our 8th grade teacher, Mrs. Denise Carley!
June 15	6PM	CLS Board of Directors Meeting
June 17		Happy Birthday to our CLS 2nd grade teacher, Mrs. Shalan Knapke!
June 22		Happy Birthday to our CLS interventionist, Mrs. Kristin Meyer!
June 26		Happy Anniversary to our former Preschool teacher, Mrs. Becky McKinney and her husband, Bret!
June 28		Happy Anniversary to our assistant cook Mrs. Stella Wolter and her husband, Calvin and our CLS 1st grade teacher Mrs. Heather Johnson and her husband Matt!



Ushers and Greeters

June 7 (9:00 a.m.):	Greeters: Rita Pickering and Pam England. Ushers: Denny and Susie Albers, Brad Sievers, Robert Albertsen, Colby Lennie.
14 (9:00 a.m.):	Greeters: Dan and Donna Busch. Ushers: Wayne Ritscher, Rick Pickering, Todd and Cheryl Hennings.
21 (9:00 a.m.):	Greeters: Keith and Wendy Junge. Ushers: Kent Silhanek, Jim and Cathy Buch, Ben and Missy Lennie.
28 (9:00 a.m.):	Greeters: Dean and Kathy Scheel. Ushers: Bill and Barbara Hennings, Doug and Colin Buch.

Acolytes

June 7 (9:00 a.m.):	Tinley
14 (9:00 a.m.):	Kaylee
21 (9:00 a.m.):	Meredith
28 (9:00 a.m.):	Lauren

Videographers

June 7 (9:00 a.m.):	Dan Busch
14 (9:00 a.m.):	Dave Gahring
21 (9:00 a.m.):	Richard Oehlerich
28 (9:00 a.m.):	Jim Buch

Deacons

June 7 (9:00 a.m.):	Jordan
14 (9:00 a.m.):	Kent
21 (9:00 a.m.):	Kent
28 (9:00 a.m.):	Kent

Altar Guild for June

Kathy Scheel
Jacque Jones

Hospitality Committee

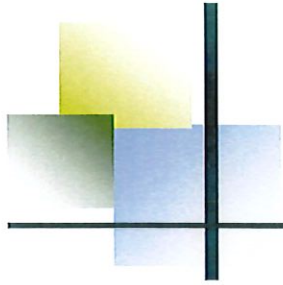
(June 14th)

Bake: Connie Allers

Bake and Serve: Rita Pickering
Wendy Junge

Volunteers Needed

We are always looking for volunteers in a lot of areas, like ushering, hospitality committee, 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, 2026

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 Rev. Josiah Schultz, Pastor
 Pastor's Cell: 913-223-8261

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 9:30—10:30 a.m. - Adult Bible Study	5	6
7 9:00 a.m. - Divine Service 10:15 a.m. - Adult Bible Class	8	9 2:00 p.m. - Lutheran Comm. at KNCC	10	11	12	13 9:00 a.m. to noon- Swaddling Clothes Shopping Day
<=====Vacation Bible School 9—11:30 a.m.=====>						
14 9:00 a.m.—Divine Service 10:15 a.m. - Adult Bible Class 11:00 a.m. - Church Council Meeting	15 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.- Swaddling Clothes Shopping	16 7:30 a.m.— Orphan Grain Train	17	18 9:30—10:30 a.m. - Adult Bible Study	19	20
Father's Day 21 9:00 a.m.—Divine Service 10:15 a.m. - Adult Bible Class	22	23	24	25 9:30—10:30 a.m. - Adult Bible Study	26	27
28 9:00 a.m. - Divine Service 10:15 a.m. - Adult Bible Class	29	30				

Birthdays

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

Birthdays (continued)

- 26 - Angel Brecht
 27 - Rosemary Krutzfeldt
 28 - Carla Albertsen, Keane Hermsen, Linda Klopping, Darlys Rusk
 30 - Carson Bartling, 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
 19 - Allen and Ruth Albers
 23 - Bryan and Kelly Barr
 25 - Jory and Megan Metz
 27 - Nate and Miranda Dunek, Dean and Kathy Scheel
 28 - David and Shelley Flack
 29 - Tony and Angel Brecht

