

The Loveletter

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

May, 2025

Mother's Day

We will be thanking God for mothers as we worship our Lord on Sunday, May 11th. There will be a special gift and refreshments for all mothers/women in attendance. Please join us!

The Woman Who Fears the Lord

(Proverbs 31:25-29)

**Strength and dignity are her clothing,
and she laughs at the time to come.**

**She opens her mouth with wisdom,
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.**

**She looks well to the ways of her household
and does not eat the bread of idleness.**

**Her children rise up and call her blessed;
her husband also, and he praises her:**

**"Many women have done excellently,
but you surpass them all."**



Senior Recognition Sunday



We will be recognizing our 2025 High School Graduates on Sunday, May 18th, during our worship service at 9:00 a.m. This year we have just 1 graduating senior at St. John, Kayla Lennie. There will be a brief reception being served in the narthex area following the worship service. Family members, baptismal sponsors, and members of the congregation are invited to come and congratulate Kayla and enjoy refreshments. 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!

Concordia Theological Seminary - Fort Wayne

On Tuesday evening, April 29th, our St. John member, Zach Johnson, received his call to be a Pastor in Christ's Church and will be serving the dual parishes of St. Mark Lutheran in Garrison, and Zion Lutheran in Shellsburg. Please keep Zach and Hannah in your prayers as they prepare for the next steps in serving the Lord!

Thank You

Thank you to the many people who made all the activities during Lent and Easter so special. Perhaps you were part of the services by singing, playing the organ/piano, live streaming the services; or perhaps you prepared food for the Lenten suppers or the Easter breakfast, were a deacon, usher, or altar guild member. Whatever your role, we thank you and appreciate all of you!

THE LOVELETTER

Published Monthly by

St. John Lutheran Church
(Missouri Synod)
201 Fourth Avenue
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OUR STAFF

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319-721-0952

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship
9:00 a.m.

BIBLE STUDIES

Sunday School
10:15 - 11:15 a.m.

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

Easter Breakfast

We hope that you were able to enjoy the Easter breakfast that took place before our worship on Easter morning. As you may remember, Richard and Cindy Oehlerich started a Thrivent Action Team and were able to purchase the ingredients and supplies needed for the breakfast. Then, a group of volunteers put the ingredients together for a wonderful breakfast. This was a free-will donation event with the proceeds going to help Noah Barr and Pastor Schultz with the expenses of attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July. There was a total of \$590 donated for the event! Thank you for your support!

Easter Flowers

Thanks to all who purchased the beautiful flowers that adorn the sanctuary for the Easter Services. They include:

- ♦ Pam England - 1 tulip and 1 hydrangea plant in memory of Robert Reinhardt.
- ♦ Greg and Carlene Silhanek - 2 daisy mums in memory of loved ones.
- ♦ Don and Eleanor Roquet - 2 potted tulips in memory of Don and Carol Roquet, and Herbert and Edna Bauer.
- ♦ Karen Noe - 1 Hydrangea and 1 Azalea plant in memory husband, Harley.
- ♦ Kathy and Kevin Ebert – 1 Hyacinth and 1 tulip plant in memory of Loren and Thelma Kusel, Stacey, Phil, Jim, Peggy, and Max and Lois Weaver.
- ♦ Phyllis Steinbeck- 2 Calla Lilies in memory of Bill Steinbeck, and Bill and Fran Whipple.
- ♦ Ardith Junge - 1 Easter Lily in memory of husband, Hap.
- ♦ Darlene Harder - 1 Hydrangea in memory of husband, Roger.
- ♦ Pat Franzenburg - 2 Easter Lilies in memory of Lola Franzenburg and Donald Franzenburg.
- ♦ Dennis Andresen - 1 Easter Lily in memory of wife, Joyce Mae.
- ♦ Dennis and Susie Albers - 1 daisy mum in memory of Delbert and Madelene, and Art and Lorene.
- ♦ Matt Garbers – 1 Cyclamen, 1 Kalanchoe, and 2 Easter lilies in memory of parents and grandparents.
- ♦ Kent Silhanek – 1 potted tulip in memory of Wayne and Jean Silhanek.
- ♦ Joan Seeck – 1 Easter Lily in memory of John Seeck.
- ♦ Mike and Rhonda Seeck - 1 Kalanchoe plant in memory of Bob and Betty Roesse.
- ♦ Matt and Cherise Thacker – 1 potted tulip and 1 Hydrangea in memory of Russell Edwards.
- ♦ Mardean Kromminga – 2 Easter Lilies in memory of the Kromminga Family.
- ♦ Ruth Oehlerich - 2 Easter Lilies in memory of Darwin Oehlerich and Brandon Stockdale.
- ♦ Connie Allers and Michael Allers -1 daisy mum in memory of their parents.
- ♦ Dan and Donna Busch – 1 Calla Lily and 1 Cyclamen plant in memory of loved ones.
- ♦ Keith and Wendy Junge – 1 Hyacinth plant in memory of Curtis and Ruth Junge, and Milford and Ethel Wardenburg.

The plants were all very beautiful and added lots of color to our sanctuary on Easter morning! We hope that you are enjoying the plants in your home also.

**I always thought love was shaped like a ♥;
but love is actually shaped like a †.**

CLS Seventh Graders Visiting Orphan Grain Train

The Seventh Grade Class from Central Lutheran School will be taking another load of donations to the Orphan Grain Train Collection Center in Clemons, Iowa on May 13th. They will be loading on Monday, the 12th, so please have any donations to Central Lutheran School before that day. Call the school 319-223-5271, or Dave Runge, (319-536-4330) with any questions. They will accept cash donations to help with shipping costs, medical equipment and supplies, hygiene supplies, school supplies, clean, slightly used or new clothing, quilts, comforters, towels, wash clothes, sports equipment, bikes, etc. God's blessings as you clean out your closets!

Garage Sale/Bake Sale/Plant Sale

A garage sale/bake sale/plant sale to benefit the American Cancer Society/Relay for Life will be held again this year during the Keystone town-wide garage sales to be held on May 10th from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. This is being provided by the Keystone Cohorts (Keystone Care Center Employees). Cinnamon rolls/coffee available at 8:00 a.m. Lunch features pulled pork/turkey and dressing sandwiches, selling by the sandwich or container of meat. This is being held in Richard and Cindy Oehlerich's garage, 302 - 4th Avenue in Keystone. They are looking for donations. If you have items to donate to the garage sale to support this great cause, take them to the garage from May 4th through the 9th. If you would like to donate to this cause online, go to Relay for Life—Benton County and look for the Keystone Cohorts team. Questions, please contact Cindy.

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. The next Board Meeting is Sunday, May 4th, at 7:30 a.m.

Quarterly Voters' Meeting Highlights

A Quarterly Voters' Meeting was held on Sunday, April 27th, following worship. On the agenda were some items that need repair or are being worked on in and around the church and parsonage. 1) New door is being installed in the kitchen entrance, 2) mini-split issue is being looked at regarding lack of heat to Pastor's office, 3) Gethsemane stained glass window has a bubble in it, 4) parsonage alley garage needs some updating, 5) doors to education wing need painting, 6) wood around exterior of stained glass windows needs painting, 7) organ repair, 8) work on rain leaking in on the ramp area, 9) water damage in parsonage basement due to leaking water heater, 10) stairway runner needed for the parsonage steps going upstairs, 11) old fire extinguishers replaced around the church and parsonage with fire blankets purchased for kitchen at the parsonage and the downstairs kitchen at the church. There was no other new business. Missions paid out the first quarter of 2025: Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca - \$225.00; Rev. Jason Groth, Missionary to Belize - \$425.00; Zach Johnson - \$300.00; LCMS Disaster Relief - \$200.00; Orphan Grain Train - \$100.00. Meeting adjourned.

Donations Being Accepted for Garage Project

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 partition separating the garage into 2 rooms, update the electrical, install insulation, and place plywood in the inside of the garage, 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.

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, confirmation, and more. These beautiful cards are available for just 50¢ per card or \$5.00 per box of 12 cards. Check it out!



Swaddling Clothes

Our next Swaddling Clothes Shopping Day will be held on Saturday, May 10th, with shopping from 9 a.m. until noon. If you can't make it then, we will also be open on Monday, the 12th, 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 new 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

Rev. Tim Bickel, Poblo International

On Sunday, May 11th, we will have the opportunity to hear about Poblo International Ministries. Rev. Tim Bickel, who is an ambassador for the organization, will be with us here at St. John. Rev. Bickel graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis in 1971 and served Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod parishes in Illinois, Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and Michigan until 2008 when he retired. Both as a volunteer summer teacher and since retirement as a contract teacher during school years, he has taught English in Asia. He also co-led a theological seminar in Ethiopia in 2002. For 16 years, he was a volunteer firefighter and designated chaplain in Washington and Oregon. In Oregon, he coordinated and conducted crisis debriefings to help keep emergency personnel in health service. Tim sees himself as a grateful servant of Jesus Christ. He has a passion to be and bring the good news to all. He has cross-cultural experience at home and abroad. And now, he is humbled and honored to join POBLO, bringing together God's people and foreign newcomers in response to Christ's Great Commission (Mark 16:15). Pastor Bickel will be leading us in worship as well as discussing the Poblo International Ministry during our Bible Study hour following worship. At the present time, Pastor Bickel is also serving as the vacancy pastor at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Garrison.

Central Lutheran School Flower/Plant Sale

Check out the wide variety of flowers, plants, and vegetables available at CLS, 310 Third Street in Newhall on Friday, May 2nd, from 1 to 6 p.m.; on Saturday, May 3rd from 9 to noon; and on Sunday, May 4th from 1 to 3 p.m. Please note that if purchasing, only cash or check will be accepted. Beautiful plants, great cause!

VBS at St. John

Save the date for Vacation Bible School taking place here at St. John from July 28th through August 1st from 9 until 11:30 a.m. each day under the theme of *An Epic Australian Adventure*. If you'd like to help, please contact Mary Sievers or the church office. Watch for an organizational meeting to be held soon.

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. 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.

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Greetings from Central Lutheran School!

Registration for the 2024-2025 School Year - Two years ago at this time, we had 163 students registered for next school year. Last year we had 176 students registered! For the 2025-2026 school year, we have 190 students registered! What a blessing! More students next year will get to hear about Jesus' love as well as laying the strong foundation for academics and their spiritual well being! We still have spots 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.

CLS Staff Need - We are still praying and asking God to help us in filling our 4th grade teaching position. We are also looking for someone to be a full time teacher aide. If you know of someone that would be a great fit with our staff as well as loves teaching, especially about Jesus, please let me know. Thank you!

ESA (Education Savings Account) Students First - Registration for ESA's started on April 16. It closes on June 30. If you need any help in registering, please ask. It only takes about 5 to 10 minutes to sign up. Those who are eligible to receive ESA's for next year (2025-2026) and other information:

- Anyone who wants to come to Central Lutheran School!
- The ESA amount for the 2025-26 school year will be \$7,988.
- Register here - <https://iowa-households.withodyssey.com/login/>

Celebration for Mrs. Maddick! Please come to the CLS Spring Concert on Thursday, May 8 at 6:30. You will want to stick around afterwards as we celebrate the ministry of Mrs. Melanie Maddick and her close to 40 years in ministry! She has been a blessing to many children over those years. Help us celebrate her commitment to her Calling to be a great Lutheran educator!

Graduation of the Class of 2025 at CLS! - May 22nd will be the graduation of 7 eighth graders from Central Lutheran School. We pray God will continue to bless them as they move on to high school.

MY IDENTITY IS IN CHRIST!

Philippians 1:3-6,

Franklin O. Parris – Principal,

principal@centrallutheranschool.org



Ushers and Greeters

May	4 (9:00 a.m.):	Greeters: Keith and Wendy Junge. Ushers: Kent Silhanek, Jim and Cathy Buch, Ben and Missy Lennie.
	11 (9:00 a.m.):	Greeters: Dean and Kathy Scheel. Ushers: Bill and Barbara Hennings, Doug and Colin Buch.
	18 (9:00 a.m.):	Greeters: Greg and Carlene Silhanek. Ushers: Eric and Ann Franzenburg, Byran and Tracie Kimm, Jacque Jones.
	25 (9:00 a.m.):	Greeters: Rita Pickering and Pam England. Ushers: Denny and Susie Albers, Brad Sievers, Robert Albertsen, Colby Lennie.

Acolytes

May	4 (9:00 a.m.):	Kenna
	11 (9:00 a.m.):	Emma
	18 (9:00 a.m.):	Noah
	25 (9:00 a.m.):	Hunter

Videographers

May	4 (9:00 a.m.):	Dean Scheel
	11 (9:00 a.m.):	Rich Oehlerich
	18 (9:00 a.m.):	Dave Gahring
	25 (9:00 a.m.):	Jordan Silhanek

Deacons

May	4 (9:00 a.m.):	Kent Silhanek
	11 (9:00 a.m.):	Jordan Silhanek
	18 (9:00 a.m.):	Kent Silhanek
	25 (9:00 a.m.):	Rich Oehlerich

Altar Guild for May

Carlene Silhanek
Carla Albertsen

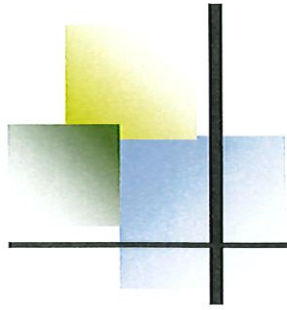
Hospitality Committee for May

None, as this month as we will observe Mother's Day on the 11th with special treats provided by the reception committee.

Volunteers Needed

A new serving schedule will be typed soon for members of the Hospitality Committee. 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!



May, 2025

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 P.O. Box 176—201 Fourth Avenue
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 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	3
7:30 a.m. - Elder's Mtg. 4 9:00 a.m. - Divine Service 10:15 a.m. - Sunday School 10:15 a.m. - Adult Bible Class	5 10:30 - 11:15 - Pastor teaching at CLS	6 2:00 p.m. - Lutheran Communion at KNCC	7 10:00 a.m. - Bible Class 1:30 - 2:30 - Midweek Class	8 10:30 - 11:15 - Pastor teaching at CLS	9	10 9:00 a.m. to noon - Swaddling Clothes Shopping Day
9:00 a.m.—Divine Service 11 10:15 a.m.—Sunday School 10:15 a.m. - Adult Bible Class	12 10:30 - 11:15 - Pastor teaching at CLS 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. - Swaddling Clothes	13	14 10:00 a.m. - Bible Class 1:30 - 2:30 - Midweek Class (last session)	15 10:30 - 11:15 - Pastor teaching at CLS	16	17
9:00 a.m.—Divine Service 18 10:15 a.m.—Sunday School (last day til Fall) 10:15 a.m. - Adult Bible Class 11:00 a.m. - CC Meeting	19 10:30 - 11:15 - Pastor teaching at CLS	20	21 10:00 a.m. - Bible Class	22 10:30 - 11:15 - Pastor teaching at CLS	23	24
25 9:00 a.m.—Divine Service 10:15 - Adult Bible Study	26	27	28 10:00 a.m. - Bible Class	29	30	31

Birthdays

May 2 - Heath Junge
 3 - Kelly Barr
 4 - Gregory Werning
 6 - Mathew Pohlman
 9 - Wendy Junge
 13 - Brian Bierschenk
 19 - Mardean Kromminga, Ryan Sanderson
 20 - Shirley Peters, Daralee Schnor
 21 - James Schoenfelder
 22 - Nicole Jurgens
 23 - Redgie Cady, Cathy Franzenburg, Darla Kromminga
 24 - Jared Franzenburg, Bristol Kahle
 25 - Joan Seeck, Kobe Sindt
 26 - Sheryl Fischer, John Wild
 28 - Marissa Grace

Birthdays (continued)

29 - James Calhoun, Kyle Fintel, Sarah Klocke, Phyllis Steinbeck, Brandon Venneman
 31 - Jerry Junge, Lois McManemy

Anniversaries

May 3 - Keith and Wendy Junge
 6 - Byran and Tracie Kimm, Dennis and Vicki Schwab
 11 - Tom and Julie Werning
 16 - Lucas and Hollie Garwood
 23 - Pastor and Hannah Schultz
 25 - Ben and Angela Pickering
 28 - Dustin and Megan Gorsch

