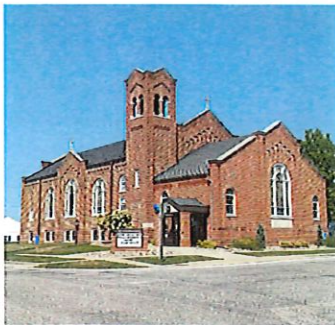




The Loveletter

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

October, 2026

Educational Classes

Our Sunday morning Adult Bible class is held prior to worship from 8:00 to 8:45 a.m. each Sunday morning. We meet in the lower level fellowship hall and we are studying Luther's Large Catechism. It's never too late to join in.

it's all about
JESUS

After a short summer break, our Sunday School started again. Preschool through Kindergarten is being taught by Hannah Schultz, Missy Lennie, Pam England, and Mary Sievers; First/Second Grade is taught by Jacque Jones, and third and older is taught by Cindy Oehlerich. Sunday School is held following our Sunday worship services from approximately 10:15 until 11:15.

On Wednesday afternoons, Midweek/Confirmation Classes are held at 1:30 p.m. Midweek is for 3rd through 5th graders, and is taught by Jodi Bierschenk. Pastor teaches confirmation class for those 6th grade and older at the same time. Benton Community has 1:00 dismissals on most Wednesday afternoons. Holding midweek class from 1:30-2:30 allows the kids coming in from Norway or Van Horne to get to the Keystone Elementary bus stop and then walk to the church from there. Parents may pick up kids at the church at 2:30 p.m. On days of no school or dismissals because of bad weather, there will be no Midweek class held either.

On Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m., a Bible Study led by Pastor Schultz meets in the education wing. We are currently studying the *Book of Hebrews*. Open to both men and women, it's a great study!

With all of these study opportunities, invite others to come with you. They don't have to be a Lutheran or a member of our congregation to attend! Let's get to know Jesus better this year!

Choir Practice

Choir practice will be starting again on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. on October 14th. If you would be interested, contact Jodi Bierschenk or Ann Franzenburg, or just drop in for practice on the 14th. They are always looking for more people to sing praises to our Lord by being part of the choir!

Reformation Day

We will be observing Reformation Day on Sunday, October 25th, 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

THE LOVELETTER

Published Monthly by

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

BIBLE STUDIES

Sunday mornings
8:00 - 8:45 a.m.

Thursday mornings
at 9:30

SUNDAY SCHOOL

following worship
10:15 - 11:15 a.m.

SWADDLING CLOTHES

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

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!

Swaddling Clothes Update



A Swaddling Clothes "Shopping Day" will be held on Saturday, October 10th, from 9 a.m. until noon, and on Monday, October 12th, from 4:30 until 5:30 p.m. Along with our usual items, we will have winter coats, boots, gloves, etc. available for pickup.

Each month at Swaddling Clothes we offer gently used clothing from size newborn up to size 10, along with our usual baby and motherhood items including maternity clothes. There are no income guidelines to follow, everyone is welcome to come in and shop. Everything is free! We just ask that those coming in to shop have children in their custody either by birth or by court order. We offer a sleeve of diapers and baby wipes each month to those who come in for each of their children in need of them.

We are always looking for good, used clothing size newborn to size 10 for both boys and girls. We also need things like highchairs, strollers, cribs, car seats, blankets, etc. If you have donations, please contact the church office for a dropoff plan.

We also have a charitable account at Stuff, Etc. in Cedar Rapids where you can donate household items, furniture, anything but children's clothing (we want those!). Check out Stuff, Etc.—Cedar Rapids website to see what items they are accepting and for drop off options. They strictly enforce limits and what they accept seasonally. If you take donations there for the purpose of helping out Swaddling Clothes, you will need to tell them the account number for Swaddling Clothes, St. John Lutheran Church, Keystone at the time of drop off - #36081 and they may ask for the church's phone number - 319-442-3514. If you do it this way, our Swaddling Clothes will receive a portion of the sale when your items sell.

We have a great group of volunteers who have helped with Swaddling Clothes along the way. Your help is much appreciated! There are several baskets of clothing located in the narthex that need to be laundered. You can also 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 Face book page Swaddling Clothes-St. John Lutheran Church, Keystone, Iowa.

To God be the glory for the success of this mission 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

Quarterly Voters' Meeting

A Quarterly Voters' Meeting will be held here at St. John on Sunday, October 25th, at 8:15 a.m. before our worship service. Please note that there will be no Adult Bible Study that morning. On the agenda so far is the election of the 2027 Church Council. Please watch upcoming bulletins for any other agenda items that may be added before the date.

Hospitalizations

If you are hospitalized or planning to be, please contact Pastor Schultz (913-223-8261) or the church office (319-442-3514). We are not contacted at all by the hospital and therefore don't know of members who have been admitted. We usually find out by hearsay after the person has been released.

2027 Church Council Election

Our election for the 2027 Church Council is quickly approaching. The election will be held during the Quarterly Voters' Meeting to be held October 25th at 8:15 a.m. here at St. John. At the present time, we have 10 members on the church council, Jordan Silhanek, Ann Franzenburg, Doug Buch, Mary Sievers, Richard Oehlerich, Kent Silhanek, Barbara Hennings, Byran Kimm, Brad Sievers, and Adrieonna Reddick. The terms of three council members expire this year: Richard Oehlerich, Kent Silhanek, and Barbara Hennings. All have served just 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 3 council members decide to run again we still have room to elect one more member. If they decided 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.

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 no later than October 11th.

NOMINATIONS FOR CHURCH COUNCIL

(Please Print)

Garden Blessing 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!

Central Lutheran School PTL Fall Brunch

Central Lutheran School will be holding their annual PTL Fall Brunch on Sunday, October 18th, with serving from 9 a.m. to 1:00. That allows plenty of time to get to Newhall after our worship service here at St. John at 9 a.m. They will be serving pancakes, eggs, fruit salad, ham, sausage, and donuts. This is a free-will donation event with Thrivent Financial providing supplemental funding. St. Stephen's Nimble Fingers Quilters have donated a lap quilt and a table runner for the raffle. The lap quilt measures 50" x 67". The table runner measures 19" x 53". Tickets are \$1 per each or 6 tickets for \$5. See you at CLS in the Student Center in Newhall, 310 3rd Street. Bring your appetite!



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

Pictorial Directory Project

The pictorial directory project has received more than the 32 families originally needed to proceed. However, if you haven't signed up yet, please do so as soon as possible, if you are interested. This will help us determine how much time will be needed for the project. Possible dates and times will be determined soon. Each family who has their picture taken will receive a directory and an 8 x 10 portrait free. Our last directory was compiled 25 years ago in 2001!

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. We had 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.



Funeral Dinners

The funeral committee does such a great job every time we have a funeral dinner here at the church. There is a lot of work that goes in to serving the meal following the funeral that perhaps goes unnoticed. It takes a lot of planning, purchasing of the food, preparing the food, setting up the tables and chairs, calling people to help serve, cleaning up, etc. The committee is asking for more volunteers to help, whether volunteering to bring in food (like a salad or dessert), to work the morning of the funeral, or to do both. If you would like to be part of this committee, please call the church office (319-442-3514) to volunteer.

Christ Lutheran High School

Christ Lutheran High School together with Zion Lutheran Church – Hiawatha, is proud to announce that they have finalized an agreement to allow CLHS to launch classes at Zion beginning August of 2027. Momentum is building! They send sincere thanks to the Christ Lutheran High community! They are seeing the fruits of your support through increasing email subscribers, donations and volunteer support. The board of directors is fervently deliberating one of their biggest decisions – the shape and substance of their education model. Please pray for wisdom and clarity for their board members as they weigh a wide variety of options. Stay connected on their Facebook page or subscribe to their emails at www.christlutheranhigh.org

LWML Fall Rally

The LWML Benton Zone Fall Rally will be held on Saturday, October 10th, at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Atkins and all women of the church are invited to attend. The theme of the rally is Celebrating America 250. From Psalm 33:12 *Blessed is the nation whose God is Lord, the people he chose for his inheritance*. Registration begins at 8:45 a.m., with a worship service beginning at 9. The keynote speaker will be representatives from Christ Lutheran High School, with the ingathering being monetary gifts for Christ Lutheran. A noon luncheon will be served. Hope to see you there!

2027 Offering Envelopes

It's about time to be thinking about offering envelopes for 2027. We want to avoid the year end rush that we have run into in past years. If you have any changes from this year regarding your family's offering envelopes, please contact the church office as soon as possible. If you didn't receive offering envelopes this year, but would like to receive them in 2027, please let Donna know that as well.



Central Lutheran School, Newhall, IA
October 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.

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 that He used Martin Luther 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 flocks!

Let's meet another new CLS Staff member - Mr. John Patterson, PE/AD/Upper grade interventionist



Hello, my name is John Patterson and I will be the PE Teacher and Athletic Director starting this fall at CLS. Additionally, I will teach one class of 8th grade math and also help with reading intervention small group work. I graduated from the University of Northern Iowa in 2021 with my Elementary Education degree and a minor in mathematics. Most recently I've completed my PE endorsement as well. I've coached 5 years of high school football, 4 years of high school boys' basketball, and 5 years of high school boys and girls golf. I'm super excited to be in the area and get to meet all the families and add to the amazing school culture that CLS has.

A bible verse that inspires me is Philippians 2:3-4, "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

October 11 - 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 18 - BRUNCH!! - Our annual PTL fall fundraiser, BRUNCH, will be held on Sunday, October 18 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. Thank you in advance for your support of the ministry at Central Lutheran School!

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

We hope you will pray for our upcoming CLS School Events as well as come and cheer on the Cougars during their activities!

Upcoming School Events: Pastor Appreciation Month, Church Worker Appreciation Month

Oct. 6 - 4:30/5:30 Cougar VB at home vs. Pathway
Oct. 7 - 8:30 am Pastor Schanbacher Celebrating October Baptismal Birthday chapel, 4th grade sings; 1pm dismissal; 2-7pm Parent/Teacher Conferences
Oct. 8 - 4-8 Parent/Teacher Conferences; 4:30 Cougar JV VB @ St. Johns, Independence
Oct. 9 - No School, Cougar VB @ Netfest @ Trinity, CR; 4:30 Cougar FB @ LIS
Oct. 10 - Cougar VB @ Netfest @ Trinity, CR
Oct. 11 - Cougar VB @ Netfest @ Trinity, CR
Oct. 12 - Happy Birthday Mrs. Kristen Schanbacher, one of our teacher aides!
Oct. 13 - 4:30 Cougar FB at home vs. Trinity, CR; 4:30/5:30 Cougar VB at home vs. Trinity, CR
Oct. 14 - 8:30 am Pastor Schultz chapel, Kindergarten sings; 1PM Dismissal; 1:30-3:30 NLSA Committee work
Oct. 15, 16 - 5th/6th grade at Outdoor Ed at Camp lo-Dis-E-Ca
Oct. 16 - Set up for Brunch event in the student center and gym.
Oct. 17 - 9, 10 Cougar VB @ Davenport; 9am Cougar FB @ Davenport; Jess, Denise, Frank at Great Plains Lutheran Ed Conference at Concordia University, Seward, NE
Oct. 18 - 9-1 Brunch; Great Plains Lutheran Ed Conference at Concordia University, Seward, NE
Oct. 19 - Great Plains Lutheran Ed Conference at Concordia University, Seward, NE; 6pm Board of Directors Meeting
Oct. 20 - 4:30 Cougar FB home vs. INCA; 4:30/5:30 Cougar VB home vs. INCA
Oct. 21 - 8:30 am Chapel Pastor Johnson, 2nd grade sings; 1pm dismissal; 1:30-3:30 Teacher PD on what was learned by 3 staff members at the Great Plains Lutheran Ed Conference at Concordia, Seward, NE. Happy Birthday Mr. John Patterson, our PE teacher/AD/and upper grade interventionist!
Oct. 22 - Happy Birthday Mr. Aaron Huesmann, our music teacher, 5th grade band director and choirs director!
Oct. 23 - End of 3rd quarter
Oct. 24 - 9/10am Cougar VB @ LIS
Oct. 27 - Happy Anniversary to Brian and Karen Schanbacher! 4:30 Cougar FB at home vs. LIS; 4:30/5:30 Cougar VB at home vs. CVC
Oct. 28 - 8:30 am Reformation Chapel Mr. Parris, 1st grade sings; 1pm Dismissal, 1:30-3:30 Teacher PD NLSA Committee meetings/curriculum mapping
Oct. 30 - 4:30/5:30 Cougar VB @ Valley; Harvest parties
Oct. 31 - Happy Reformation Day! Happy Birthday Miss Cora Ellingworth, our 1st grade teacher! Cougar FB @ IDE Tournament at CLS.



Ushers and Greeters

October	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: 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.
	25 (9:00 a.m.):	Greeters: Rita Pickering and Pam England. Ushers: Denny and Susie Albers, Brad Sievers, Colby Lennie, Aaron Huesmann.

Acolytes

October	4	(9:00 a.m.):	Lauren
	11	(9:00 a.m.):	Ciara
	18	(9:00 a.m.):	Nash
	25	(9:00 a.m.):	Tinley

Videographers

October	4	(9:00 a.m.):	Richard Oehlerich
	11	(9:00 a.m.):	Jim Buch
	18	(9:00 a.m.):	Dean Scheel
	25	(9:00 a.m.):	Dan Busch

Altar Guild for October

Donna Busch
Carla Albertsen

Deacons

October	4	(9:00 a.m.):	Doug Buch
	11	(9:00 a.m.):	Rich Oehlerich
	18	(9:00 a.m.):	Kent Silhanek
	25	(9:00 a.m.):	Kent Silhanek

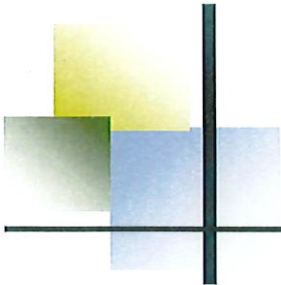
Hospitality Committee

(October 11th)

Bake: Paulette Sindt

Bake and Serve: Rhonda Seeck
Cathy Buch





October, 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	8:30—10:15 a.m.— Yvonne Kuch Visitation at church 10:30 a.m.—Yvonne's Funeral Service with luncheon following interment	2 3
8:00 a.m. —Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.—Divine Service 10:15 a.m.—Sunday School	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Iowa District East <---Fall Pastor's Conference --->		1:30 - 2:30— Midweek/ Confirmation Classes	9:30—Adult Bible Study on <i>The Book of Hebrews</i>		10
8:00 a.m. —Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.—Divine Service 10:15 a.m.—Sunday School	11	12	13	14	15	16
	9:00 to noon— Pastor at First in B.P. 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.— <i>Swaddling Clothes</i> Shopping Day		1:30 - 2:30— Midweek/ Confirmation Classes 6:00 p.m.—Choir Practice	9:30—Adult Bible Study on <i>The Book of Hebrews</i>		17
8:00 a.m. —Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.—Divine Service 10:15 a.m.—Sunday School 1:00 p.m.—Church Council Meeting	18	19	20	21	22	23
	9:00 to noon— Pastor at First in B.P.		1:30 - 2:30— Midweek/ Confirmation Classes 6:00 p.m.—Choir Practice	9:30—Adult Bible Study on <i>The Book of Hebrews</i>		24
No Adult Bible Class 8:15 a.m. - Quarterly Voters' Meeting 9:00 a.m.—Divine Service 10:15 a.m.—Sunday School	25	26	27	28	30	31
	9:00 to noon— Pastor at First in B.P.	2:00 p.m. - Lutheran Communion @ KNCC	1:30 - 2:30— Midweek/ Confirmation Classes 6:00 p.m.—Choir Practice	9:30—Adult Bible Study on <i>The Book of Hebrews</i>		

Birthdays

October 1 - Jackson Mather
 3 - Sara (Comp) Mathis
 4 - Cheryl Selk
 5 - Sawyer Skoneczka
 6 - Jacob Mather
 7 - Janice Sievers
 8 - Anastasia Brunssen, Megan Gorsch
 11 - Brad Sievers
 12 - Doug Buch, William Thacker
 13 - Roslyn Slapnicka, Kolby Wenger
 14 - Jennifer Cady, Jessica Pierce
 15 - Ivadel Reddick, Dorothy Wild
 16 - Hannah Schultz
 17 - Cathy Buch, Seth Wild
 20 - Sylvia Christy
 21 - Colin Buch
 22 - Aaron Huesmann, Brenda Junge

Birthdays (continued)

23 - Greg Franzenburg, Abbie Nelson
 25 - Richard Oehlerich
 27 - Scott Kusel, Courtney Skoneczka
 28 - Drew Kupka, Sheila Rusk
 30 - Jean Goken
 31 - Sharla Selken

Anniversaries

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

