

The Loveletter

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

May, 2024

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. David Lingard
Vacancy Pastor
Phone: 319-213-6970

Donna Busch
Parish Assistant
319-721-0952

Relda Pickering
Custodian
319-442-3742

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship
10:30 a.m.

BIBLE STUDIES

Children's Sunday School
Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study
7 p.m. at St. Andrew's

Doctrine Bible Study
9:00 a.m. on Thursdays

SWADDLING CLOTHES

Store open second
Saturday of each month
from 9 to noon.

The following Monday
evening from 4:30 - 6:00.

Pastor-Elect Josiah Schultz

In the middle of April, St. John found out that we would be receiving a pastor from the Seminary and that we should be watching the Call Placement Service from St. Louis on the evening of April 23rd. We offered a watch-party here at the church. We, at the same time as Pastor-elect Josiah Schultz, found out that he would be coming to St. John. He will be graduating from the St. Louis Seminary sometime in May, but we really don't know yet when he will be moving to Keystone. We really don't know much about him other than he grew up in Kansas and has lots of pastors in his extended family. His in-laws are Scott and Becky Thompson from Newhall. He is married to their daughter, Hannah, who attended Benton Community School. They have 1 son, and are expecting another child soon. We really want to thank Rich Oehlerich for setting up the livestream at the church to watch the Call Service and to Barb Hennings and Relda Pickering for the goodies afterwards. If you didn't get to see it, it was an awesome service with great music and a great sermon preached by Iowa District East President, Brian Saunders. We should feel very fortunate and blessed as there are only 55 men graduating this year from Concordia-St. Louis. Thanks be to God!

Confirmation



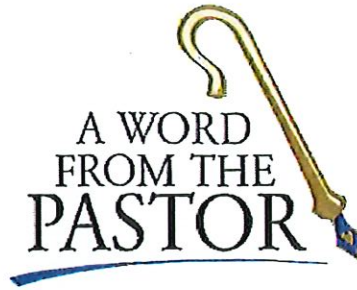
On Sunday, May 5th, we will share in the Confirmation of three young adults here at St. John. They are Noah Barr, Lauren Hartkemeyer, and Emma Kupka. Confirmation is a reaffirmation of the vows made on behalf of the children at their Baptism. They have been instructed in the teachings of the Christian church especially with regard to the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, Holy Baptism, Holy Communion, Confession and Absolution and the Lord's Prayer. When the youth are confirmed, they are saying they understand and believe our Christian faith and are ready to assume adult responsibility for continuing growth as Christians. It is a special day for all of us who have watched them grow from infancy through childhood to young adulthood. Please include them in your prayers.

A reception for these confirmands will be held following the service in the narthex. We would like to have everyone stop and enjoy the punch, coffee and cake and greet the confirmands.



Senior Recognition Sunday

We will be recognizing our 2024 High School Graduating Seniors on Sunday, May 12th, during our worship service at 10:30 a.m. This year we have 4 graduating seniors at St. John: Sophie Brecht graduating from Belle Plaine High School and from Benton, Zoey Junge, Jacob Mather, and Kolby Wenger. These seniors are being invited to come to this special recognition service that morning. They will be honored at 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 them and enjoy refreshments. Please keep these young adults in your prayers. We ask for God's continued blessings for them as they start a new chapter in their lives. Congratulations to all of you!



“To the holy and faithful in Christ” (Colossians 1:2),

On Sunday May 19, we celebrate the Festival of Pentecost which is 50 days after Easter. The name Pentecost comes from the Greek *Pentēkostē*, which means “the 50th day.” The readings for that Sunday are: Genesis 11:1-9; Acts 2:1-21; and John 14:23-31.

Pentecost brings to a close the Lord’s half of the Church Year which include the seasons of Christmastide and Eastertide where each Sunday’s Gospel readings are primarily focused on the birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus (His entire earthly life). Historically in the early church, Pentecost was the second most important celebration with only Easter being greater. Today in the Western Church it remains one of the major festivals along with Christmas, Epiphany, Ash Wed., Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, Ascension and Holy Trinity.

Just before He goes to the cross to die, Jesus promises His disciples the Father will send “the Helper, the Holy Spirit (John 14:26).” And after Jesus’ resurrection and ascension the promised Holy Spirit does come. On the day of Pentecost, “divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:3-4).”

Pentecost is the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophet Joel who said, “I will pour out my Spirit on all people (Joel 2:28).” The word “pour” is baptismal language and points to how the Holy Spirit would come. Also notice that the Holy Spirit will be for “all people.” That would include men and women, Jews and Gentiles. This prophetic message from Joel is quoted by the Apostle Peter in the Acts reading (Acts 2:17).

Pentecost is also one of the many reversals found in the Holy Bible. In the Old Testament reading (Genesis 11:1-9, The Tower of Babel story) God, because of the sin of the people, confuses the language and disperses the people all over the earth. At Pentecost “the multitude (from all over the world) came together” and “each was hearing them speak in his own language (Acts 2:6).” And they were hearing the greatest news of all, the Gospel message, which is true for you today, “that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved (Acts 2:21).”

Soli Deo Gloria, Pastor Lingard



Mother's Day

We will be thanking God for mothers as we worship our Lord on Sunday, May 12th. There will be a special gift for all mothers/women in attendance. Please join us!

As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you.

Isaiah 66:13

Plant and Flower Sale



Central Lutheran School's annual Flower and Plant Sale is being held on Friday, May 3rd (1:00 pm to 6:00 pm); Saturday, May 4th (9:00 am to 12:00 pm); and Sunday, May 5th (1:00 pm to 3:00 pm). This is being held at the CLS gym at 310 Third Street West, in Newhall. Come and check out the wide variety of flowers, plants, and vegetables. Spread the word, invite your friends and family to come.

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 11th 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 6th through the 10th. 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.

Pictorial Directory

Both before and after worship the next couple of weeks we will be taking a quick photo of each of our members. We are preparing a pictorial directory for Pastor Schultz when he arrives so that it will be easier for him to put a name with a face. This is nothing fancy and will just be used for office use. If you haven't had your picture taken, please stop in the narthex and find Donna who will take it for you. We are also considering the use of some sort of name tag for everyone to wear the first month or so after Pastor arrives. Remember, we have only have his name to learn, he will have many!

Josh Breja Benefit

A benefit fundraiser will be held on Saturday, May 11th, at the Keystone Turner Hall, 91 Second Street in Keystone to benefit Josh Breja and family. Josh was recently diagnosed with colon cancer. Josh, his wife Christyn, and children Wyatt and Bailey, have a big year ahead of them as Josh begins his treatment. The doors open at 3:00 p.m. and will include a meal, a silent auction, and live entertainment by the County Linemen. Bid on silent auction items from May 8th - 11th on sconlinesales.com. The Live auction begins at 6:00 p.m. If you are interested in making a donation for the live or silent auction, please contact Katie Stien at 319-310-8322 or Erica Schanbacher at 319-721-1861 with the item, photo and description. Drop off locations for items are at:

- Atkins: Johnna Rathje, 495 Pleasant Hill Dr, Atkins, IA
- Newhall: Central Lutheran School, 310 3rd Street West, Newhall, IA
- Keystone: Keystone Turner Hall, 91 2nd St, Keystone, IA

All donations need to be turned in no later than Monday, May 6th.

For further questions, feel free to reach out to organizers:

- Erica Schanbacher: 319-721-1861
- Katie Stien: 319-310-8322
- Johnna Rathje: 402-213-8499
- Carol Huber: 319-721-1862

For monetary donations, please direct those to the Atkins Savings Bank, 97 Main Ave, Atkins, IA 52206 for the "Josh Breja Benefit". The purpose of this benefit is to help defray some expenses and to show Josh that no one fights alone!

Swaddling Clothes Update



The next Swaddling Clothes "Shopping Day" will be held on Saturday, May 11th, from 9 a.m. until noon, and on Monday, May 13th, from 4:30 until 6:00 p.m. We had 42 families come in during April to take what they needed for their children, like spring and summer clothing, cribs, strollers, highchairs, etc. A LOT WAS TAKEN, which is truly awesome!

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. There are no income guidelines to follow, everyone with children in their legal care is welcome to come in and shop. Everything is free! We offer a sleeve of diapers and baby wipes each month to everyone who comes in and is in need of them.

That being said we are in need of 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. No stuffed animals or used toys for children past toddler age are needed or accepted. We have had a special request from someone looking for a full-size stroller and another person looking for a convertible car seat. 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 want to thank all the volunteers who took baskets of clothing home to launder. We had a lot of them as we did the switch from winter to summer clothing. We are always looking for volunteers to help with Swaddling Clothes, besides doing laundry, we need volunteers to clean items that come in, to sort clothing, and to help on shopping days.

Our Swaddling Clothes is trying something new! We are often asked "what do you need"? Swaddling Clothes now 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.

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.

*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

Summer Camp at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca "Immanuel - God With Us"

John 1:14

Summer Camp will soon be starting! There are several ways in which to register for camps at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. Go to Camp's website, www.campiodiseca.org, to register online or to get a 2024 registration form that can be downloaded and mailed to the camp, or you can pick up a brochure from the card rack outside the church office here at St. John to fill out and mail in. All the information about the many different camps being offered is listed there along with the cost to attend. (Check out the discounts for early registration.) St. John again this year will pay 1/2 of the registration fee up to \$150 for members who attend camp.

Campers spend time every day at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca studying God's Word. Each year, their 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.

Is your family new to Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca? Camp is offering a Family's First Camper scholarship initiative. They award camp scholarship for campers from families who have never before sent children to Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. For full week camps, you're eligible to receive \$100 off the cost of camp and \$50 off for a mini-week camp. Check it out!

Camp is hold a Spring Cleanup Day on May 4th as they get Camp ready for another fun-filled summer! A few of the projects to be worked on are cleaning out Mary and Joseph Cabins, replacing their window AC unit stands, and replacing the audio-visual cabinet in the Activity Hall. You're welcome to bring the whole family, and lunch is provided! Please email dylan@iodiseca.org to let us know that you are coming. We appreciate your help in making Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca beautiful for the upcoming year!

Summer Break Coming Soon

The last day of Midweek classes will be on Wednesday, May 15th. The last day for the Wednesday evening Bible Study at St. Andrew will be on Wednesday, May 15th, and for the Christian Doctrine Bible Study held on Thursday mornings at St. John, the last session will be May 16th. The last day of Sunday School will be Sunday, May 19th. As these dates quickly approach we would like to thank those who have so faithfully been teaching these classes this year. Jodi Bierschenk has been teaching our midweek students on Wednesdays here at the church right after their early dismissals from school. Sunday School is taught by Amie Slapnicka and Cindy Oehlerich. They started out teaching all the kids in one classroom. Then about a month ago, the class was divided which has allowed for the kids 3 to 5 years old to be separate from the older kids. This was possible with the help of volunteers helping with the younger kids. Thanks to those volunteers and to the subs that were sometimes needed. We also need to thank Pastor Lingard for the extra time needed to teach our confirmation students, and for teaching the Wednesday evening and Thursday morning Bible Studies. Watch for the start up dates for Sunday School, Midweek classes, and Bible Studies returning in the Fall.

Invitation from Trinity Lutheran - Vinton

Greetings in the Name of Our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! It is truly a season to celebrate! We at Trinity Lutheran in Vinton have been blessed to not only celebrate Christ's resurrection but also this year to celebrate Trinity's 100th anniversary. Because you share a connection to our congregation, we'd like you to join us in celebrating! On Sunday, June 9, 2024, we will hold a special worship service at 10:30 a.m. with a meal and time of fellowship to follow. We would like you and your family to join us for all the festivities! Please let us know if you will be attending with an RSVP via email to TrinityVinton@gmail.com or phone 319-472-5571 by May 15th. God's richest blessings to you!

Lutheran World Relief Pickup

On April 14th we were able to see the beautiful quilts that were created by the St. John Sewing Group. They were displayed throughout the sanctuary, on the back of our pews, in the narthex, etc. There were over 80 quilts displayed that weekend! Some of those quilts were purchased by members of the congregation, some were held back for fundraisers, some were given to Swaddling Clothes, and some were held for other local missions. On Tuesday of that week, the quilts were taken to the Keystone Care Center for the residents to see. That's not all they worked on over the winter months, they also worked on fabric and baby care kits, plus school kits that will be given to the Orphan Grain Train. After the Care Center visit, they headed back to the church where they boxed up and labeled the items. On Saturday, Denny and Susie Albers took the items to the Lutheran World Relief Truck stationed for the day at Trinity in Cedar Rapids. They had several boxes that contained 53 quilts, 7 fabric kits, and 9 baby kits! Thank you to all who donated to help with the shipping costs. It costs \$2.80 to ship each quilt, \$3.10 to ship each baby care kit, and \$1.80 for each fabric kit. Last year, 551,700 quilts and kits were shipped to 14 countries! Most of all, thanks to all who spent many hours working on these projects! *Serving the Lord, by serving others!*

Central Lutheran School Update

Registration for the 2024-2025 school year (176) is up from last year (163). 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! It's not too late to register for next year. Encourage others to at least have a tour of the CLS facilities and ask about attending.

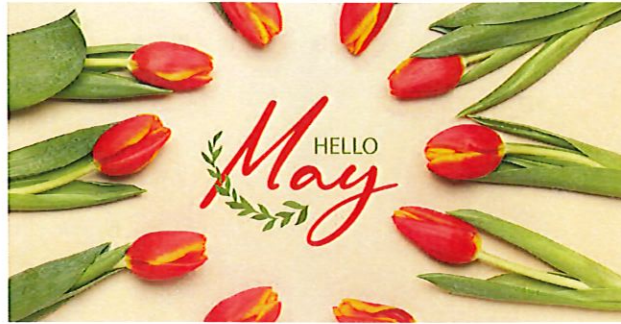
CLS is still in need of a third grade teacher. If you know of someone that would be a great fit with Central as well as loves teaching, especially about Jesus, please let CLS know.

CLS is holding a Spring Concert on May 17th at 6:30 p.m. After the concert you will want to stick around as they celebrate the ministries of two CLS staff, Mrs. Williamson and Mrs. Voss. They have dedicated their lives to teaching children about Jesus.

They are both retiring this year after over 30 years of ministry!

May 23rd will be the graduation for 13 eighth graders from CLS. May God continue to bless them as they move on to high school.

This is just a portion of the monthly newsletter received from Central. Please see the complete newsletter hanging in the narthex.



Ushers and Greeters

May 5 (10:30 a.m.): Greeters: Greg and Carlene Silhanek. Ushers: Eric and Ann Franzenburg, Byran and Tracie Kimm.
 12 (10:30 a.m.): Greeters: Rita Pickering, Joyce Brunssen. Ushers: Denny and Susie Albers, Brad Sievers, Robert Albertsen, Colby Lennie.
 19 (10:30 a.m.): Greeters: Dan and Donna Busch. Ushers: Wayne and Kelsey Ritscher, Rick Pickering.
 26 (10:30 a.m.): Greeters: Keith and Wendy Junge. Ushers: Kent Silhanek.

Acolytes

May 5 (10:30 a.m.): Kenna
 12 (10:30 a.m.): Emma
 19 (10:30 a.m.): Noah
 26 (10:30 a.m.): Lauren

Altar Guild

Kathy Scheel
 Rhonda Seeck

Videographers

May 5: Dave Gahring
 12: Rich Oehlerich
 19: Dan Busch
 26: Jim Buch

Deacons

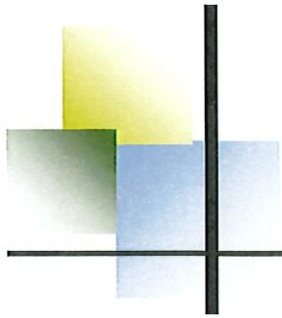
May 5 (10:30 a.m.): Jordan Silhanek
 12 (10:30 a.m.): Rich Oehlerich
 19 (10:30 a.m.): Wayne Ritscher
 26 (10:30 a.m.): Rich Oehlerich



We Need Volunteers

We are in need of volunteers to serve as ushers, videographers, and people to serve on the altar guild. If you need more information or would like to volunteer, please contact Donna in the church office as soon as possible.

*The more things change,
 the more we need to depend on God, who doesn't change.*



May, 2024

St. John Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 176—201 Fourth Avenue
Keystone, Iowa 52249
Church E-mail: stjnluth@netins.net
Rev. David Lingard, Vacancy Pastor
Pastor's Cell: 319-213-6970

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 1:30— Confirmation & Midweek 7:00 p.m.- Bible Study at St. Andrew	2 9:00 - Noon— Pastor Lingard at St. John 9:00 a.m.- Doctrine Bible Study	3	4
5 8:30 a.m. - Church Council Meeting 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School 10:30 a.m. - Divine Service /Confirmation	6	7 1:00—4:00 p.m.- Pastor Lingard at St. John	8 1:30 p.m.— Midweek at SJ 7:00 p.m.- Bible Study at St. Andrew	9 <i>Ascension Day</i> 9:00 - Noon— Pastor Lingard at St. John 9:00 a.m.- Doctrine Bible Study	10	11 9:00 a.m. to noon- Swaddling Clothes Shopping Day
12 <i>Mother's Day</i> 9:15 a.m. - SS 10:30 a.m.— Divine Service /Senior Recognition	13 4:30 –6:00 - Swaddling Clothes	14 1:00—4:00 p.m.- Pastor Lingard at St. John 2:00 p.m. - Communion at KNCC	15 1:30 p.m.— Midweek at SJ (Last day til Fall) 7:00 p.m.- Bible Study at St. Andrew	16 9:00 - Noon— Pastor Lingard at St. John 9:00 a.m.- Doctrine Bible Study (last day til Fall)	17	18
19 9:15 a.m. - Last Day of Sunday School 10:30 a.m. - Divine Service	20	21 Pastor's vacation begins	22	23	24	25
26 10:30 a.m. - Worship Service	27 <i>Memorial Day</i> Church Office Closed	28	29	30	31	

Birthdays

Birthdays (continued)

- May 2 - Heath Junge
- 3 - Kelly Barr
- 4 - Greg Werning
- 6 - Mathew Pohlman
- 9 - Wendy Junge
- 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
- 29 - Kyle Fintel, Sara Klocke, Phyllis Steinbeck, Brandon Venneman
- 31 - Jerry Junge, Lois McManemy

Wedding 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
- 25 - Ben and Angela Pickering
- 28 - Dustin and Megan Gorsch

