

The Loveletter

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

July, 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
(returning in the Fall)

Sunday Adult Bible Class
8:00 to 8:45 a.m.

Thursday Bible Class
9:30 to 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

First Lutheran Church Vacancy

Pastor Schultz became the vacancy pastor for First Lutheran in Belle Plaine on June 28th. Our worship time remains the same at 9:00 a.m. here at St. John. Our Sunday morning Adult Bible Study is now being held from 8:00 to 8:45 on Sunday mornings prior to our worship.

Pastor Home Visit

This summer Pastor Schultz is setting aside Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays for visits with members and families. These visits can be simple and informal: coffee on the porch, lunch, time with your family, having pastor's family over, or just a chance to sit and talk for a while. Visits are available anytime between 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex. If this week doesn't work, there will be more weeks available. This is simply a chance to spend time together, get to know one another better, share conversation, and pray together.

VBS Recap

It was a busy and fun week June 8 through the 12th as we were joined by 35 kids who came to St. John to join in on our Vacation Bible School to learn more about Jesus! The theme this year was *Tropical Trek – Jesus Comes to Seek and Save*. The kids enjoyed Bible lessons, music, crafts, games, and snacks each day during the 2 ½ hours they were with us. Then on Friday, they visited the Keystone Care Center to deliver a craft to each resident, sing songs, and do water play outside so the residents could enjoy watching them. If the kids reached \$250 in offerings they would each get to throw a water balloon at Pastor. They raised \$537.22 which will go towards Pastor Groth's mission in Belize. On Sunday morning, June 14th, some of the VBS kids sang for us at our worship service. Check out our Facebook page for pictures from the week. Thank you to all for making the week so special!

Garden Blessings Table



The Garden Blessings Table will be returning this month. 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!

Quarterly Voters' Meeting

A Quarterly Voters' Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, July 26th, at 8:15 prior to our worship service that day. Please watch for agenda items in upcoming bulletins. Please note that there will be no Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study that morning. Hope you will come in early for worship to take part in the business portion of St. John.

Swaddling Clothes Page



The next *Swaddling Clothes* "Shopping Day" will be held on Saturday, July 11th, from 9 a.m. until noon, and on Monday, July 13th, from 4:30 until 5:30 p.m. 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 are welcome to come in and shop. Everything is free! We offer a sleeve of diapers and baby wipes each month for each child who is in need of them.

We take 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. 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 are often asked "what do you need"? Swaddling Clothes 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.

Here are other ways to help out our Swaddling Clothes mission. If you have household items to donate, why not take them to Stuff, Etc. in Cedar Rapids and have the items listed on the Swaddling Clothes St. John Lutheran Church Keystone charitable account? When the items sell, our Swaddling Clothes would get the money for the items and we can use that money to purchase needed baby items from Stuff, Etc. Another way to help would be to keep Swaddling Clothes in mind when packing up after having a garage sale. We can take gently used clothing and baby care items that are clean, gently used with no missing pieces and in good working condition. Another help would be to watch clearance items in your favorite retail store. Items get marked down tremendously if they aren't selling or are out of season. We'd love to have those items! If you are a Thrivent member, you can start a Thrivent Action Team and use the \$250 that they allot for a team and purchase diapers or other supplies for Swaddling Clothes. (We can help you with the paperwork and even the shopping if need be.) 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.

Please continue to keep *Swaddling Clothes* in your prayers as we continue to help others who are in need our items. *Swaddling Clothes* is a program run by various congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to share the mercy of Christ with our neighbors through the gifts of clothing, food, friendship, and the forgiving Word of God. You may have seen the post on our Facebook page that Keystone Savings Bank generously made a donation to Swaddling Clothes. This money will go towards continuing our mission of sharing Christ's love with the community. To God be the glory!

*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

School Supply Donations Needed

We are collecting school supplies for our *Swaddling Clothes* families to pick up during our August shopping days. We have a box in the narthex for just that purpose. We will be needing things like backpacks, Clorox wipes, boxes of Kleenex, washable markers, scissors for kids, colored pencils, crayons, spiral notebooks, rulers, erasers, etc. (Supplies should be going on sale soon!) If you can help with this it is greatly appreciated! These may be dropped off at the church or at the education wing entrance (201 door) anytime.

Orphan Grain Train

There is a large donation box located in the narthex where we are collecting men's and women's clothing for Orphan Grain Train. The clothing must be clean and in good condition. The clothing will be delivered to OGT at a later date. A group from St. John visited Orphan Grain Train in Clemons on Tuesday, June 16th, to deliver donations and to volunteer their time boxing up donations for shipment. In March, a shipment from the Clemons branch was sent to the Republic of Georgia and there will also be a shipment going to Ukraine from there some time in July. If you'd like more information about Orphan Grain Train visit www.ogt.org. Your donations are greatly appreciated!

Our 2026 Missions

A vote was held back at our January Quarterly Voters' Meeting to decide where the donations in our "missions" envelopes should be given. Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca was chosen as our local mission, and supporting the Rev. Jason Groth, missionary to Belize, was chosen as our international mission. Each receive 1/2 of our mission offerings this year. These missions are paid out quarterly. Please note that if you would like your mission offerings to go to other places, you may note that on your missions envelope.

Reception Coordinator

If you were in worship for Mother's Day, Father's Day, and our Graduate Recognition Day you know how special the receptions were that were held after our worship service. Our reception coordinator, Kathy Scheel, along with her group of volunteers does an absolutely amazing job. When you see her, make sure you thank her for all the hard work she puts in to make each event so special!

We want to sing your favorite hymns!

Please nominate up to seven favorite hymns from our current hymnal, The Lutheran Service Book, by July 26. Pastor will use this list as one of his resources when selecting hymns for worship services throughout the year.

Keep an eye out for the 🎵 in the bulletin! Whenever you see it, you'll know that hymn was nominated as a favorite by members of our congregation. (Don't worry—we won't publish any names!)

Drop off this form in the box in the narthex or mail it back to the church - P.O. Box 176, Keystone, IA 52249-0176 by the July 26th deadline. Thank you for helping make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

Your Name (optional): _____

Hymn Number	Hymn Title

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca Summerfest and Fundraiser Auction

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca's Summerfest and Fundraiser Auction is scheduled for July 25, 2026! The day's festivities will begin at 10:00am with our new Camp Activity Quest! All ages are encouraged to participate! Participants will start at our check-in table (in Alpha Lodge), where they will receive an activity punch card. After that, they are free to participate in all of the offered activities, receiving a unique card punch for completing different activities. Activities include horseback riding, canoeing, archery, climbing tower/zip line, and swimming. Once a participant has received all of the unique card punches, the punch card should be turned in the at the check-in table. Upon turning in the completed punch card, the participant will be entered into a raffle, with the opportunity to win a 50% Campership for the following summer! There will be a 4-17 age bracket, and an 18+ age bracket (for participants to win a Campership for their children or younger siblings). The raffle will take place during the Quilt Auction, with the names being drawn throughout the auction.

Lunch is available for sale, beginning at 12:00pm!

The Quilt Auction will begin at 1:00 PM! See photos of the quilts that will be a part of this year's auction by visiting the the camp's website at <https://campiodiseca.org/summerfest-fundraiser-auction/>

Join in on the fun and the fundraising!

**When we put our problems in God's hands,
He then puts His peace in our hearts.**



Bible Studies at St. John

† Sunday Mornings from 8:00 - 8:45 a.m. - 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.

St. John Lutheran, Newhall Fundraiser

St. John Lutheran in Newhall is again holding their Colorado Peaches Sale to raise funds for mission servant events. This fundraiser will be used to help support and equip the youth and adults of St. John to provide opportunities to serve brothers and sisters to provide spiritual and personal growth that through their service may spark a desire in others to serve also. Youth and adults experience the joy fulfilling the “good works” prepared in them by serving on mission trips that serve God by serving His people.

There are 2 tentative peach delivery dates, around July 22nd and around August 24th. To provide the best quality of peaches, Palisade Produce will only ship flats (1/2 boxes) to our area. A flat = 9-12# or 15-20 peaches @ \$32.00. The order forms need to be returned to St. John—Newhall by July 12th for 1st delivery and August 16th for 2nd delivery. We have order forms here at St. John—Keystone or a form can be requested by calling the church office in Newhall at 319-223-5593.

LCMS Presidential Election

The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, having received more than 50% of the votes cast, is the president-elect of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) for a sixth term of office, 2026–2029. The election for the position of Synod president began last fall with an online nominating process that concluded on February 18th. The resulting candidates for the office of president were the five ordained ministers who received the highest number of votes in the nominations process and consented to serve if elected. The voting began starting June 6. The first and second rounds of voting were not conclusive, necessitating a third ballot by which Harrison was voted president-elect with 50.1% of the votes.

The 69th National Convention of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is set for July 18th—23rd at the Phoenix, AZ Convention Center. The theme for the convention is “*Christ is Risen, Indeed*” from 1 Corinthians 15:20-22. Pastor Schultz will be attending as a pastoral delegate.

Automatic Withdrawal of Offerings

For the past few years St. John has offered the option of automatic withdrawal of your offering from your checking or savings account. We thought it might be a good idea to republish this information for those who may not know about it. You set the amount that you would like to donate to the church either weekly or monthly, then the money is taken out of your account by the bank and deposited into St. John's General Fund. For some, this automatic withdrawal of offering is a handy tool, no more writing checks, using offering envelopes, etc. We realize this option is not for everyone! If you are interested, please contact the church office and fill out the form to have this done through your financial institution.

Available for Help?

Over a year ago, the idea of organizing the church basement was put into place. Things from the daycare were either given to Swaddling Clothes or were set out for the congregation to take and use at their home. The vicar's room at the bottom of the education wing steps was organized and items to save were put into totes that would be stacked on shelving. The Sunday School room in the northwest corner of the basement was put back into use. The music in the music room has been sorted through and downsized. The church council has approved the purchase of metal shelving for that room, 4 sets have been ordered and should be arriving around July 1st. We are looking for people to help put that shelving together. If you would be available to help, please contact the church office.



Central Lutheran School, Newhall, IA

July 2026- Monthly Newsletter for Churches

+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!



Summer Greetings from Central Lutheran School! HAPPY 250TH USA!

We are halfway through 2026! As the calendar turns to July, we have finished up everything for the 2025-2026 school year and start planning for the 2026-2027 school year. The CLS staff met at the end of May to already look at the school calendar for 26-27 and plan events. It helps us to reflect on the year that just closed and look forward to the ministry ahead in 26-27. During the month of June I spent time ordering materials for the next school year and finishing up meetings with staff. As I reflect on the past school year, I realize God truly blessed CLS. I'm very excited to see the blessings He has planned for the families, staff, and students for the 26-27 school year. Thank you for all the prayers and support for this ministry of bringing children to know Jesus as their Savior.

Enrollment for the 2026-2027 School Year - as of 6/19: PS-33 (PK3 7/PK4 19), K-18, 1st-20, 2nd-24, 3rd-19, 4th-12, 5th-23, 6th-18, 7th-19, 8th-12 (K-8=166; PS-8=192)

Central Lutheran School is still accepting students for PS-8th grade for the 2026-2027 school year. 1st, 2nd, and 5th grades are full. Take advantage of the Student First ESA (Education Savings Account) program offered by the Iowa Department of Education. K-8 students/parents must **apply online for the ESA BEFORE JUNE 30th**.

Call the school office anytime between 9-2pm 319-223-5271 or email Mr. Parris at principal@centrallutheranschool.com if you have any questions.

New Theme for 2026-2027 School Year - FOUNDED IN FAITH! As you can see at the top in the header, we have a new theme for the 2026-2027 school year. From 1 Corinthians 3:11, "For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid which is Jesus Christ." This is to continue our celebration of our country's 250th birthday. Also to celebrate CLS being a strong ministry to His children for 60 years! Our country and CLS both have the foundation of Jesus Christ for which they have been built on!

Central Lutheran School office hours in July - If you are going to stop by the school office, it might be better to call first. Mrs. Seeck and Mr. Parris will be out on vacations.

Philippians 1:3-6,
Franklin O. Parris – Principal,
principal@centrallutheranschool.org

Upcoming CLS School Events in July :

June 30- Last day to apply for an ESA.

July 2 - Happy Birthday to Office Administrator Assistant - Jackie Seeck!

July 4 - HAPPY BIRTHDAY USA! GOD BLESS AMERICA!

July 8 - Happy Anniversary to Kindergarten teacher aide Pam Berger and her husband Don!

July 13 - Happy Anniversary to Kindergarten teacher Jess Fry and her husband Michael! 6pm Board of Directors meeting

July 14 - Happy Anniversary to teacher aide Shelby Roster and her husband Matt!

July 17 - Happy Anniversary to CLS Interventionist teacher Kristin Meyer and her husband Aaron!

July 21 - Happy Anniversary to 4th grade teacher Melissa Voss and her husband Drew! Happy Birthday to teacher aide Mrs. Shelby!

July 30 - Happy Birthday to 7th grade homeroom teacher Dave Runge!

PUT ON YOUR CALENDARS FOR AUGUST!

August 8 - Look for the CLS float in the Atkins Watermelon Day parade!

August 9 - 7-9 Back to School Swim Party at Belle Plaine for CLS families!

August 10, 11 - 9-7 PTL Clean the School - Sign up on Sign up genius for a time to come and help get the school ready for classes!

August 12 - 8-4 All Staff Meeting

August 16 - 9am Reaffirmation of CLS Staff at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Atkins

August 17 - 8:15-12 CLS Staff at Iowa District East Workshop at Zion Lutheran Church in Hiawatha

August 20 - 2-7 Unpack the Backpack!

August 23 - 9am Reaffirmation of CLS Staff at St. John's Lutheran Church, Newhall.

August 24 - BACK TO SCHOOL! 8:30 am Opening Service at St. Stephen's, Atkins

August 26 - 1pm Dismissal. 1:30-2:30 Mandatory Parent meeting; 6:30-7:30 Mandatory Parent meeting



Ushers and Greeters

- July 5 (9:00 a.m.): Greeters: Greg and Carlene Silhanek. Ushers: Eric and Ann Franzenburg, Byran and Tracie Kimm.
- 12 (9:00 a.m.): Greeters: Rita Pickering and Pam England. Ushers: Denny and Susie Albers, Brad Sievers, Robert Albertsen, Colby Lennie.
- 19 (9:00 a.m.): Greeters: Dan and Donna Busch. Ushers: Wayne Ritscher, Rick Pickering, Todd and Cheryl Hennings.
- 26 (9:00 a.m.): Greeters: Keith and Wendy Junge. Ushers: Kent Silhanek, Jim and Cathy Buch, Ben and Missy Lennie.

Acolytes

- July 5 (9:00 a.m.) - Ciara
- 12 (9:00 a.m.) - Nash
- 19 (9:00 a.m.) - Cheyenne
- 26 (9:00 a.m.) - Tinley



Videographers

- July 5 - Dean Scheel
- 12 - Dan Busch
- 19 - Dave Gahring
- 26 - Rich Oehlerich

Altar Guild for July

- Ann Franzenburg
- Rhonda Seeck

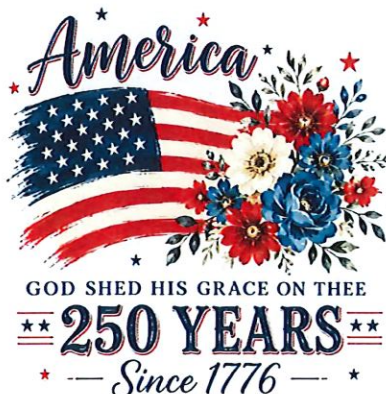
Hospitality Committee

(July 12th)

- Bake:** Eleanor Roquet
- Bake and Serve:** Barbara Hennings
Adrieonna Reddick

Deacons

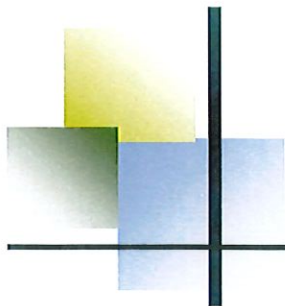
- July 5 - Rich Oehlerich
- 12 - Jordan Silhanek
- 19 - Doug Buch
- 26 - Kent Silhanek



*Happy 250th Birthday,
America!*

July, 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	2 9:30 a.m.— Bible Study on The Book of Hebrews	3	4
5 8:00-8:45 a.m. - Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.—Divine Service Basement Rented	6 ←Pastor at Continuing Education Conference →	7	8	9 9:30 a.m.— Bible Study on The Book of Hebrews	10	11 9:00 a.m. to noon— Swaddling Clothes
12 8:00-8:45 a.m.- Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.- Divine Service 1:00 p.m. - Church Council Meeting	13 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. - Swaddling Clothes	14 2:00 p.m. - Lutheran Communion at KNCC	15	16 9:30 a.m.— Bible Study on The Book of Hebrews	17	18 [←—————
19 8:00 - 8:45 - Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m. - Worship Service -----Pastor at National LCMS Convention in Phoenix, AZ----->]	20	21	22	23 No Adult Bible Study; resumes next Thursday	24	25
26 No Adult Bible Class 8:15 a.m. - Quarterly Voters' Meeting 9:00 a.m.—Divine Service	27	28	29	30 9:30 a.m.— Bible Study on The Book of Hebrews	31	

Birthdays

- July 1 - Justin Slapnicka, Jeremy Wenger
- 2 - Alice Junge
- 3 - Don Roquet
- 5 - Kyle Brunssen, Ben Pickering
- 8 - Donna Busch
- 9 - Dennis Albers, Geoff Franzenburg, Dale Selk
- 11 - Becky Albertsen, Ruth Oehlerich, Shelly Sindt
- 15 - Carlene Silhanek
- 16 - Jacqueline Jones, Jordan Silhanek
- 17 - Joseph Oehlerich, Duane Selken
- 19 - Carson Flack
- 20 - Paulette Sindt
- 22 - Jamey Clemann
- 26 - Brandi Thomas

Birthdays (continued)

- 27 - Kayla Lennie
- 30 - Barb Selk
- 31 - Rodney Buhr, Becky Gatewood, Julie Werning

Wedding Anniversaries

- July 1 - Brad and Mary Sievers
- 3 - Brian Bierschenk and Suzanne Rusk
- 11 - Dick and Bonnie Loy
- 16 - Dave and Sheri Gahring, Logan and Adreionna Reddick
- 26 - Joe and Melisa Venneman
- 29 - Eric and Ann Franzenburg
- 30 - Tom and Connie Pickering

