

# The Loveletter

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

April, 2024



## THE LOVELETTER

Published Monthly by

St. John Lutheran Church  
(Missouri Synod)  
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## 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 Divine Service  
10:30 a.m.

## BIBLE STUDIES

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

Wednesday Bible Study  
*Eating God's Sacrifice*  
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.

## Huge Thank You

I don't really know where to start with the many thank yous that need to be given. I know I won't hit them all, but please know that we are so thankful to everyone who contributed in any way by helping with the many Lenten/Easter services. We are so thankful for all those who signed up to bring food for the midweek soup suppers. This has been a very nice, new addition here at St. John. Maybe you were a choir member, a reader, a decorator, a deacon, an acolyte, a hostess, a behind the scenes lighting technician, etc. Or perhaps you were the organist, pianist, a member of the altar guild, you came in to pray during the pray vigil, or you cleaned up after each service. Every action taken made our Lenten/Easter services a little more special. A very special thank you to Pastor Lingard for his many, many services! Mostly, we thank our Lord for dying on that cross for all our sins so that we believers will have life eternal in heaven!

## We Need Your Help

Some of the youngest members of our congregation need our help! We currently have kids 5 to 10 years old in one classroom for Sunday School with nothing available for the younger ages. There are kids 3 to 4 years old who are ready to start Sunday School and we plan to add an additional class for them. Sunday School meets each week from 9:15-10:15. If you are able to serve in either classroom as a teacher or helper, or if you need more information, please contact Amie Slapnicka, Mary Sievers, or the church office as soon as possible. (One possibly may be silver cord volunteer hours for those in high school?) Please prayerfully consider! We'd like to have the class in place as soon as possible.

## Dates of the Seminary Call Services

Call Day for Concordia Seminary - St. Louis will be held on Tuesday, April 23th, at 7:00 p.m. You can watch this service by going to their webpage at [csl.edu](http://csl.edu) and follow the live stream, Facebook, or YouTube links posted there. Concordia Seminary - Fort Wayne will hold their Call Day on Wednesday, April 24th, at 6:00 p.m. (Central time). That service will be available to watch from their webpage at [ctsfw.edu/callday](http://ctsfw.edu/callday) or from their Facebook page. Please continue to pray for our congregation as we await for a pastor to serve us here at St. John.

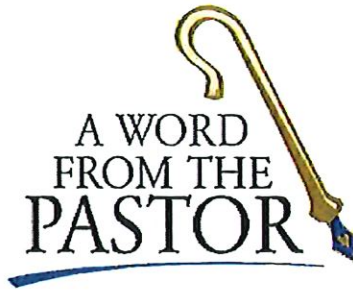
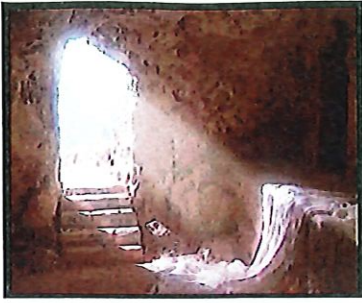
## Thrivent Action Team

If you are a Thrivent member, you can apply to start an action team to help with service projects around the church. You can receive up to \$250 for a service project. A Thrivent Action Team helped to purchase shelving needed for Swaddling Clothes, helped to purchase diapers for Swaddling, in the past has helped with food for Thanksgiving dinners, batting for quilts, etc. The point is, if you are a Thrivent member, and would be willing, we can help with the paperwork that needs to be submitted, rather than doing nothing with this opportunity. If interested or if you need more information, please contact Darla Kromminga or the church office.

## Quarterly Voters' Meeting

A Quarterly Voters' Meeting will be held here at St. John on Sunday, April 21st, at 9:30 p.m. before our worship service. Please watch upcoming bulletins for agenda items.





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

Irony is defined as:

1. A figure of speech in which the words or phrases express a meaning that is the direct opposite of the intended meaning.
2. An outcome of events contrary to what was, or might have been expected.

Examples of ironic words/phrases abound in our language, such as when someone says; *clear as mud* or *friendly as a rattlesnake* or *that was about as much fun as a root canal*. And ironic events abound in our lives also. Here are a couple of examples; Bette Nesmith Graham, the woman who invented white-out was fired from her job as secretary simply because she did not white-out a mistake! Or, when Beatles guitarist George Harrison died, a tree was planted in a California park in his honor. The tree later died due to a beetle infestation!

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ is history’s greatest irony. It was the eternal God who died on the cross. Man meant the death of Jesus for evil but God used it for good. The Holy and wise Father accomplished His plan through the wickedness and foolishness of men. The Creator let His creation kill him. And Jesus emptied Himself to the point of death on the cross and become last in order that you might have life to fullest and become first! Talk about irony!!

The Gospel accounts of Jesus’ last days and hours are full of irony at every turn. Jesus was betrayed with a kiss. Jesus was accused of blasphemy while the accusers committed blasphemy against God. The words of the High Priest that it was expedient (good) that one man should die for the people was true, just not in the way he meant it. The will of God the Father is the same as the mob who yelled to crucify Jesus. And no last words have ever been so ironically true as the mocking sign that Roman governor Pilate ordered nailed on the cross of Jesus which read, *Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews*.

But that is not all. Think about when Jesus died and was buried, many who had already died and were buried came out of their tombs alive! The world was completely dark for three hours while Jesus was still alive on the cross, but when Jesus died the light returned. But the greatest irony of the death of Jesus was what happened three days later. Jesus gives back the borrowed tomb, as good as new, like it was never used. Death could not hold Jesus. Jesus lives. Jesus is the resurrected and triumphant King of kings and Lord of lords!

It is good for you and your children that one man, Jesus, died. Why? Because of Jesus’ death and resurrection **“whoever believes in him (Jesus) should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him”** (John 3:16-17). Here is the great irony for you and me. Our sins do condemn us and earn us death and hell, but because of Jesus’ death and resurrection you get what you don’t deserve, forgiveness and eternal life! Today is Easter. There is no irony because Jesus’ Easter resurrection is exactly as intended by God the Father. Jesus’ Easter resurrection is exactly as God the Father expected. You seek Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified. But He is risen. He is no longer in grave. The ironic sacrifice is now complete. Because Jesus lives, so to, will you and all who believe in Him!

***Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Hallelujah!***

### Easter Flowers

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

- \***Keith and Wendy Junge** - 1 tulip and 1 hyacinth plant in memory of Milford and Ethel Wardenburg, and Curtis and Ruth Junge.
- \***Denny and Susie Albers** - 2 tulip plants in memory of Delbert and Madelene Albers, and Art and Lorene Schaefer.
- \***Darrell and Rita Pickering** - 2 Easter Lilies and 1 hyacinth plant in memory of Ralph and Lavon Selk, and Libby Best.
- \* **Joan Seeck** - 1 Easter Lily in memory of loved ones.
- \***Mike and Rhonda Seeck and family** - 1 Easter Lily in memory of Bob and Betty Roese.
- \***Tim and Jay Feuerbach**- 2 Easter Lilies in memory of loved ones.
- \***Dennis Andresen** - 1 Easter Lily in memory of wife, Joyce Mae.
- \***Bob and Carla Albertsen** - 1 hydrangea in memory of loved ones.
- \***Mardean Kromminga and family** - 2 Easter Lilies in memory of Shellie.
- \***Dave and Sherry Gahring** - 1 potted tulip in memory of Chuck and Selma Gahring.
- \***The Slapnicka Family** - 1 hyacinth, 2 tulips, 4 daisy mums, 2 hydrangeas plants in memory of loved ones already gone home to be with Jesus.
- \***Don and Eleanor Roquet** - 1 tulip and 1 daisy mum plant in memory of Donald and Carol Roquet, and Herbert and Edna Bauer.
- \* **Greg and Carlene Silhanek** - 2 daisy mum plants in memory of loved ones.
- \***Kent Silhanek** - 2 tulip plants in memory of Wayne and Jean Silhanek.
- \***Darlene Harder** - 1 hydrangea plant in memory of Roger.
- \***Kathy and Kevin Ebert** - 1 hyacinth and 1 tulip plant in memory of Loren and Thelma Kusel, Peggy, Jim, Phil, and Stacey, Max and Lois Weaver.
- \***Dan and Donna Busch** - 1 cyclamen and 1 calla lily in memory of loved ones.
- \***Phyllis Steinbeck** - 2 kalanchoe plants and 1 Easter Lily, in memory of Bill Steinbeck, and Bill and Fran Whipple.

If you have purchased some of these beautiful plants and had intended to take them home with you, please do so as soon as possible. The plastic drain pans under the plants are to remain at the church. Thank you!

### LWML Benton Circuit Spring Rally

The LWML Benton Zone Spring Rally will be held at St. Stephens in Atkins on Saturday, April 27. Registration is from 8:45 to 9:00 and the rally will conclude with a light lunch at noon. The in-gathering will be monetary donations for Central Lutheran School Playground Project. Theme for the rally is "Growing in Grace and Knowledge Through the Years". The speaker will be Rev. R. Rahn, founder and ambassador for Lutheran Heritage Foundation. Lutheran Heritage Foundation translates and publishes Lutheran resources around the world. All women of the congregation are invited to attend. You do not have to be a LWML member to attend.

### Quilts on Display

This year's beautiful quilts that have been sewn by the St. John Sewing Group will be on display in the church on April 14th. Most of these quilts are sent to Lutheran World Relief with some being sent to service groups around Iowa, and some held for donations to fundraisers. Also on display will be the baby care kits that will be shipped to LWR, and the school kits that will be given to Orphan Grain Train. If you desire, you will be able to purchase a displayed quilt for a free-will donation, with proceeds being used to offset shipping costs. These shipping costs have significantly risen since 2020. 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! On Tuesday, April 16th, the quilts will be packed up and taken to the Keystone Care Center for the residents there to admire. The LWR quilts and the kits will be taken to an ingathering truck on April 20th in Cedar Rapids to be delivered to a LWR shipping warehouse in preparation for overseas shipping. If you'd like to make a donation to help offset these shipping costs, there is a basket in the narthex or mark an envelope and drop in the offering plate.

### Donation Boxes

There are two collection boxes in the narthex. The larger box is for Orphan Grain Train where we are collecting men's and women's clothing that is clean and in good condition. In the smaller box, we are collecting items to make baby care kits for Lutheran World Relief. Needed are dark colored hand towels, long or short sleeved gowns or sleepers without feet, bath-size bars of a gentle soap (4 to 5 oz. size), jackets, sweaters or sweatshirts with a hood. Knitted/crocheted blankets measuring between 36 to 52 inches are also accepted. Items for this project need to be in the collection box by April 14th.



This thank you letter and update was received from Zach Johnson last month and we wanted to share with everyone. Zach is not one of our mission recipients this year, but please know that your mission offerings can be specified to go to him. He and Hannah will be returning back to Fort Wayne this summer as Zach continues his studies there and could really use our financial support and continued prayers.

To the congregation of St. John Lutheran Church:

Grace, Mercy, and Peace to you!

I hope the winter has treated you all well! The weather has been unseasonably warm here in Iowa, but we are certainly thankful to the Father for being able to get out and enjoy the sunshine!

Currently, Lent has been keeping my supervisor and I busy. I have been preaching for the Lenten Midweek services, and will be preaching Good Friday, and our Easter Sunrise service. Not to mention, there are still various duties to prepare for Sunday services, midweek catechism class, Sunday School, and various other meetings and gatherings. As stressful as it can be, I really enjoy the past-paced nature and anticipation of Easter!

As Lent continues, I reflect on all that I have learned so far during vicarage. I am much more confident in the pulpit, as well as leading prayer services, and assisting with the Divine Service. More than that, I feel I have gained a level of comfort of being able to serve a congregation in various areas of pastoral care, such as making visits or leading studies, or even just talking with parishioners. I'm still learning the "pattern of sound words", as St. Paul describes, but it has been helpful to have a great supervisor to learn from. I can also say I have gained a deeper knowledge and appreciation for the Scriptures and seek to study them more and more!

Vicarage has truly been a wonderful experience so far, both for me and my wife. We have enjoyed being close to our families and truly appreciate how the congregation has welcomed us. Iowa is home for both of us and we have truly enjoyed being home for a short time during my studies.

I wanted to write and thank you once again for your continued support during my Seminary journey. Thank you for your prayers and generosity! It's hard to believe vicarage is two-thirds completed and it is just a short time left before we are back in Indiana. We are truly grateful for your support as we look to the last phase of my Seminary career, before hopefully being called to faithfully serve a congregation.

God bless!

Zach Johnson

### Swaddling Clothes



Swaddling Clothes has had a busy month in March. We had 47 families come in during the month to pick up items that their family needed. We are in the process of switching from winter to summer clothing which will be available during our shopping days of April 13th from 9 a.m. until noon, and on Monday, April 15th from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. We are very appreciative of the many donations we have received but we always need more. We are in need of spring/summer clothing at this time and will accept new/gently used clothing size preemie through youth size 10. No adult clothing except maternity.

We also accept clean, gently-used baby care items, infant toys, and books. No stuffed animals or used toys for children past toddler age are needed or accepted. Contact the church office for a drop-off plan. There are also several baskets of clothing that need laundering setting in the narthex. If you could help with this it would be greatly appreciated. We'd like to have the baskets returned ASAP. Thank you to everyone who helps us through their generous donations and also to those who volunteer to help us with our laundry.

We are often asked "what do you need" or "what should I be looking for when I'm out shopping". Swaddling Clothes now has a wish list gift registry for nonprofits at [myregistry.com](https://www.myregistry.com). The registry lists ideas and suggestions of items that are needed on a regular basis. There often isn't money left in the budget after purchasing diapers and baby wipes for many of the items on this registry. 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. There is a link on our Facebook page that will take you directly to the my registry site or from your computer, <https://www.myregistry.com/organization/swaddling-clothes-keystone-ia-keystone-ia/4144665r>. If you are asked to find a registry, simply type in Swaddling Clothes-Keystone, IA — St. John Lutheran-Keystone, IA and then hit "continue to wish list". Thank you in advance for your continued generosity!



**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](http://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!



**Central Lutheran School, Newhall, IA**  
**April 2024- Monthly Newsletter for churches**

+Central Lutheran School assists congregations and families by  
preparing children to be disciples for this life and the life to come! +



Greetings from Central Lutheran School!

**Registration for the 2024-2025 School Year** - Enrollment for next year continues! As of the writing of this article, we only have 5 spots left in our afternoon preschool class and Kindergarten has a waiting list! Overall we are looking at 170 students PS-8, 132 students K-8. This is up from last year. However, we still have seats to fill. Please help us in filling those seats by spreading the word about CLS. Your help is greatly appreciated in encouraging parents to take a tour of the school and meet with teachers and me. Prayers don't hurt either! Pray the Lord will encourage parents to enroll their child or children at CLS!

**Staffing for next year** - As for staffing for next year, we have 1 teaching position to fill and that is our 3rd grade position. Mrs. Heather Johnson has accepted the Call to teach 1st grade. Mrs. Shalan Knapke has signed a contract to be our 2nd grade teacher. All the Concordia Universities have been contacted and they do not have any May candidates. Our Call committee has gone through 50+ forms from the IDE office of rostered church workers throughout the Synod. We have contacted most of them and only received 2 that said they would interview with us. So, if you know the name of someone that would be a great 3rd grade teacher, please let Kurt Slouha, Board chair, or me know. Thank you.

We are also looking for some help in our after school care program with a sub position until May 1. If you would like to help for a few hours after school, please let me know. Thank you.

Thank you for your continued support of Central Lutheran School. Thank you for your financial support, prayers, and items that have been donated. We greatly appreciate it!

LOVE LIKE JESUS!

Philippians 1:3-6,

Franklin O. Parris – Principal,

[principal@centrallutheranschool.org](mailto:principal@centrallutheranschool.org)

***If we don't teach our children to follow Christ,  
the world will teach them not to.***



**Ushers and Greeters**

April 7 (10:30 a.m.): Greeters: Rita Pickering and Joyce Brunssen. Ushers: Denny and Susie Albers, Brad Sievers, Robert Albertsen, Colby Lennie.  
 14 (10:30 a.m.): Greeters: Dan and Donna Busch. Ushers: Wayne and Kelsey Ritscher, Rick Pickering.  
 21 (10:30 a.m.): Greeters: Keith and Wendy Junge. Ushers: Kent Silhanek.  
 28 (10:30 a.m.): Greeters: Dean and Kathy Scheel. Ushers: Bill and Barbara Hennings, Doug and Colin Buch.

**Acolytes**

April 7 (10:30 a.m.): Emma  
 14 (10:30 a.m.): Noah  
 21 (10:30 a.m.): Lauren  
 28 (10:30 a.m.): Hunter

**Altar Guild**

Susie Albers  
 Missie Lennie

**Videographers**

April 7: Rich  
 14: Dean  
 21: Jordan  
 28: Jim

**Deacons**

April 7 (10:30 a.m.): Jordan  
 14 (10:30 a.m.): Rich  
 21 (10:30 a.m.): Kent  
 28 (10:30 a.m.): Rich

**Hospitality Volunteers**

A calendar has been placed in the narthex. If you have a special date that you'd like to serve goodies (for birthday, anniversary, just like to bake), sign up on that date and bring the goodies to share before the worship service like 10:00 a.m. You will be responsible for serving, cleaning up, etc. Questions, contact the church office.

**We Need Volunteers**

As you can see from some of the usher groups listed above that we need more volunteers. Some groups don't have enough volunteers, especially if someone is sick or gone and can't help out that day. Please consider becoming an usher or greeter. It is really quite simple now as we are not collecting offering. Contact the church office for more details or to volunteer.







# April, 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	9:00 a.m. - Sewing for World Relief  1:00—4:00 p.m. Pastor Lingard at St. John	1:30 - Midweek & Confirmation Classes  7:00 p.m. - Bible Study at St. Andrew	4	5	6
7 8:30 a.m.- Church Council Meeting 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School 10:30 a.m. - Divine Service	8	9:00 a.m. - Sewing for World Relief 1:00—4:00 p.m. Pastor Lingard at St. John  2:00 p.m. - Comm. @ KNCC	1:30 - Midweek & Confirmation Classes  7:00 p.m. - Bible Study at St. Andrew	11	12	13 9:00 a.m.-noon- Swaddling Clothes Shopping Day
14 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School 10:30 a.m.- Divine Service	15 4:30—6:00 p.m.- Swaddling Clothes	9:00 a.m. - Sewing for World Relief + Quilts to KNCC  1:00—4:00 p.m. Pastor Lingard at St. John	1:30 - Midweek & Confirmation Classes  7:00 p.m. - Bible Study at St. Andrew	18	19	20
21 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School 9:30 a.m. - Quarterly Voters' Meeting 10:30 a.m. - Divine Service	22	1:00—4:00 p.m. Pastor Lingard at St. John  7:00 p.m.- Concordia St. Louis Call Service	1:30 - Midweek & Confirmation Classes  6:00 p.m. Concordia- Fort Wayne Call Service 7:00 p.m. - Bible Study at St. Andrew	25	26	27
28 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School 10:30 a.m. - Divine Service	29	30 1:00—4:00 p.m. Pastor Lingard at St. John				

**April Birthdays**

- April 1: Ryan Buhr, Edith Pearson
- 2: James Pierce, Jayden Pierce, Janyce Pohlmann
- 3: Denise Andresen, Ryan Clemann, Bertha Ellis
- 4: Rob Miller, Ryan Miller
- 5: Casey Klocke, Luke Lazenby
- 6: Cameron Clemann, Cadan Stull
- 7: Jackson Hartkemeyer
- 8: Desiree Richardson
- 9: Erin Gatewood
- 11: Beau Stehcon
- 13: Devan Lyne
- 14: Lauren Hartkemeyer
- 15: Karsyn Semelroth, Melisa Venneman
- 16: Tyler Franzenburg, Dennis Pohlman, John Taschner
- 18: Justin Harder

**Birthdays (continued)**

- 21: Yvonne Kuch
- 22: Cole Junge, Doug Rusk
- 23: Brodie Chamberlin
- 25: Rebecca Silhanek
- 26: Tim Kapucian, Logan Klopping, Kyle McManemy,  
Zach McManemy, Darwin Schlotterbeck
- 27: Cheryl Hennings, Janetta Klocke
- 28: Eric Sievers
- 29: Kiley Rusk
- 30: Paul Bierschenk, Tracy Jurgens

**Wedding Anniversaries**

- April 3: Jared and Harley Allen
- 6: James and Samantha Calhoun
- 6: Mark and Deb Kromminga
- 9: Kevin and Kathy Ebert
- 10: Zachary and Hannah Johnson

