

# Weekly HAPPENINGS

Dec. 14, 2025

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Purpose: Joyfully taking God's love into the world!*

## QUIET CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE

DEC 14 - 4PM  
ST. JOHN SANCTUARY  
(IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BETHLEHEM)



If you are missing a loved one this year, looking for a time to come and find peace, wanting a simpler and quieter service, or are in need of some extra hope this Christmas season, please consider sharing in the Quiet Christmas service.

*Anyone is welcome at the Quiet Christmas service!*

### HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**  
9am & 7pm / Sanctuary  
3pm & 5pm / Faith & Life Center

**Christmas Day Online Facebook Devotion**

**Sunday, Dec 28** - 9am / Faith & Life Center

**Service of Lessons & Carols**

**Sunday, January 4** / 8am & 10am / Sanctuary

## Welcome to ALL!

Please let us know any questions you may have or anything we can do for you. Our volunteers are ready to help!

[Pastor Brian Julin-McCleary](#) would love to meet up, in person or otherwise, and share more about St. John, chat about the Gospel or whatever else might be on your mind. He can be reached at 319-888-3814 or [PastorBrian@stjohncf.org](mailto:PastorBrian@stjohncf.org).

**RESTROOMS** are located on the main level near the Sanctuary.

**HEARING ASSIST DEVICES** are available for **both** worship spaces. Go to an usher or the soundboard for assistance.

**MEMBERSHIP**: Contact the church office or complete the form on the website found on the Membership page. A "Welcome to St. John" series is held each fall.

**CHILDREN** are welcome in worship. Our nursery is located near the F&LC and available for you to use with infants/toddlers under 3.

**WORSHIP SERVICES ARE LIVE-STREAMED ON FACEBOOK**

**@STJOHNCF** OR watch CFU Channel 18 on **Sundays, 7:30am or Wednesdays, 6pm** (replay 10am service previous week)

WIFI Password: **connectcaresharegrow**

## For Information

- Online: [www.stjohncf.org](http://www.stjohncf.org)
- Call the office: 319-268-0165
- Follow us on Facebook: [stjohncf](https://www.facebook.com/stjohncf)
- WIFI:** **connectcaresharegrow**



**RECONCILING in CHRIST**

*Wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome here in the name of Jesus Christ. We celebrate that each person is loved by God. We affirm the gifts of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, and are committed to working for racial equity.  
Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church!*

WEDNESDAYS 12 & 6PM

# ADVENT WORSHIP



FINAL  
ADVENT  
SOUP  
SUPPER:

DEC 17  
SERVED 5-6PM

## *Christmas Eve Candlelight Services*

9am & 7pm / Sanctuary

3pm & 5pm / Faith & Life Center

*Christmas Day* Online Facebook Devotion

Sunday, Dec 28 - 9am / Faith & Life Center



## *Service of Lessons & Carols*

Sunday, January 4

8am & 10am





## WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Consult the website for a complete listing of building use dates/times.

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

10am Ladies Bible Study (Library)

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

7am Walking Wednesday @ Big Woods/south lot

**12noon Advent Worship (Sanctuary)**

**5-6pm Supper: Chicken & Wild Rice Soup, Cook's Choice Soup & fixin's**

5:30pm Handbell Rehearsal (Rm. 310)

**6pm Advent Worship (Sanctuary)**

6:30pm Youth Group: Caroling

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

7:30am Men's Bible Study (Library)

2pm Western Home / SJLC Gathering

2pm NewAldaya/SJLC Gathering

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**8am & 10am Worship Services**

9am Taking Faith Home (atrium table)

9am Perennials Bible Study (Library)

NO Sunday School

NO Confirmation

NO Jim Crow Book Discussion Group

## Women's Retreat: February 2026

The Northeast Iowa Women of the ELCA Executive Board has planned a Women's Retreat for February 2026 at EWALU Stone Center - and you are invited! The retreat is a "M & M Retreat" -- celebrating all the Marys and Marthas! *The retreat will include lots of free time as well as time to "be" with friends! Activities include Bible board games, mixer games, puzzles, bring your own crafting projects, a soup supper, hymn sings(!), and in the afternoon, guest speakers from Family Resource Center in Guttenburg.*

We'd love to have a group of SJLC ladies attend! Contact Rose Lorenz (lorenzr35@gmail.com) if interested. Registration form and event schedule are at the Welcome Center table.

## Summer 2026: Youth Service Trip to Nashville, TN—July 19-25!

All grades 8th through 12th- join us for our next unforgettable experience on the upcoming summer service trip to Nashville TN, July 19th - 25th! If you're even a little bit interested in doing good for those in need while in the vibrant, country music capital of the world, sign up at the Welcome Center table and/or contact Austin to express your interest. An informational meeting is planned for January 18, 2026. There will be a \$100 deposit to reserve your spot.



*At St. John, we strive to show God's love in our lives and communities. Each and every day we work to share that love, and we're only able to do so thanks to your continued support. Our budget, driving everything from mission outreach to the work of our ministry & resource teams, is possible because of your generosity. We are grateful for your faithful giving. Thank you*

*for your support of our purpose of Joyfully taking God's love into the world!*

**The church office will be closed Dec 24—28 and have limited coverage Dec 29-30 as our office staff enjoy the holiday with their families.** To assure that all contributions are properly recorded for tax purposes, please review the following guidance as you consider your year-end gift:

**Cash/Checks +** Gifts must be physically received at the church by December 31, or postmarked by that date, to be reported as 2025 contributions on your giving statement. Gifts dropped off or postmarked after December 31 must be reported as 2026 contributions.

**Gifts Online +** For gifts made online through our website, [stjohncf.org/give](https://stjohncf.org/give), you should allow at least a 2-day processing time if it is important for your gift to be reported as a contribution in 2025.

**Gifts of Securities (Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Funds) +** There are tax advantages available for a charitable donation of securities that can be beneficial for some as they plan their taxes at year-end. **Charitable IRA Rollover +** If you are 70 1/2 or older, please consider an IRA charitable rollover gift if you not yet taken your required minimum distribution. Since situations vary, we encourage you to consult your tax or financial advisor regarding retirement account gifts. Please notify the church office your intent to give in this way.

## HEALING & CONCERN. . .

Nicole; Marcie Hagge; Sara Syhlman; Mary Franken; Steve Taylor; Mary Rector; Rich England; Grant Gubbrud; Diana Smith; Anna Mary Cobie-Alliss; Paulo (Barb Feuerhak's son-in-law); Muriel Galloway (Charisse Folken's mom); Jennifer Kurtenbach; Luella Rance (Helen Duncan's sister); Lisa Driscoll (Sarah Langel friend); Goose; Paul Moser (Diana Smith's ex-husband); Dan Ott & Bart Peyton (Terry Phillips sons-in-law); Elaine (Sue Holm's cousin); Becca (Paula McDougall's niece); Christine (Lori Schneider's friend); John Morgan; Jeff Bowers; Eileene Katcher; Diana (Jean Morehouse friend); Kelly (sister of Kathy Taylor); Abby Palsic (April Hannam's sister); Mary Kahl; Janelle Fereday (John's daughter-in-law); Jennifer Snitker; Nonie Duff; Dorothy Perry.

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

*The Sanctuary altar flowers are given by Randy & Paula McDougall in celebration of their 47th wedding anniversary on December 16.*

*The Faith & Life Center altar flowers are given by Jim Bisbee in memory of his wife, Rose.*

*No donuts this morning.*

	Nov-25				Fiscal YTD		
	Revenue	Expense	Net		Revenue	Expense	Net
<b>Church</b>	73,760.51	78,920.73	(5,160.22)		547,500.49	490,454.80	57,045.69
<b>Preschool/Childcare</b>	61,679.57	68,044.69	(6,365.12)		506,061.47	540,393.09	(34,331.62)
<b>Total</b>	135,440.08	146,965.42	(11,525.34)		1,053,561.96	1,030,847.89	22,714.07

Submit A Prayer  
Request:



Visitor  
Connection Card:



Support Financially:



**Pastoral Staff** Pastor Brian Julin-McCleary  
cell: 319-888-3814; email: PastorBrian@stjohncf.org

**St. John Staff** Located on the St. John website

**Church Council** ([Council@stjohncf.org](mailto:Council@stjohncf.org))

John Kohagen. .... **Shawn Smeins, Treasurer**  
Josh Green..... **Jen Hartman, President**  
**Blake Borwick, VP**.....Nick Frerichs  
*To be filled, Secretary* .....Kathy Diehl  
Andrew Bruns

## Ministry & Resource Team Leaders

Hospitality & Congregational Care .....Robin Abraham  
Serving & Discipleship.....Janelle Smeins  
Worship & Celebration .....Brenda Truelsen  
Faith Formation & Lifelong Learning .....Rose Lorenz  
Human Resources.....Jim Denholm  
Financial Resources.....Jim Langel  
Property Resource Team.....Larry Prohaska  
Technology & Communication.....Nick Frerichs

## Worship Attendance:

Dec. 7 : 217 in-person & 48 online