

Connect, Care, Share & Grow!

Summer activities and vacations are drawing to a close and schools are starting classes. We hope that you had a great summer with family and friends, and are now ready to connect in new ways this fall at St. John as we together live out our purpose of :

connecting Christ's community by building relationships among all people, fulfilling the call of the gospel of Jesus Christ through **caring**, nurturing and supporting one another according to each one's needs by **sharing** God's love and grace through acts of service while **growing** in faith through lifelong learning.

St. John offers events & activities for individuals at any age and any stage of life. All of these activities are opportunities for you to grow in your understanding and walk as a disciple, as well as to become more deeply involved in the life of St. John.



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.

RESTROOMS are located on the main level near the Sanctuary.

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 (October 5, 12, 19 & 26).

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

For Information

Online: www.stjohncf.org

•Call the office: 319-268-0165

•Follow us on Facebook: stjohncf



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!

WORSHIP & CELEBRATION

8AM SERVICE: Contact: Steve Peters

(music@stjohncf.org)

10AM SERVICE: Contact: Mike Best (music10@stjohncf.org or 360-930-4354)

Singers & Musicians + St John is blessed to have many people who serve our church & provide musical leadership, but there could be someone missing: YOU! If you have a musical talent (or an interest), there is a place for you to serve at St. John: singing, guitar, drums, bass, keys, harmonica, accordion, brass, strings, woodwinds, percussion, audio, video, lighting, stagecraft, design, sewing, construction, or anything that came to your mind as you read this list!

Sunday Tech Team + This team is a real "behind the scenes" kind of role. The 8am team manages the livestream and mutes/unmutes mics at the 8:00 service. The 10am team partners up to manage the livestream, mix the audio and helps with setup and teardown of the sound system (mics, cables, stands, etc). Come shadow us on a Sunday morning to see what all is involved. We provide ongoing training and encouragement.

Jubilation Ringers / Handbells

Contact: Steve Peters (<u>music@stjohncf.org</u>)
Our Adult Bell Choir is always looking for new members, regular or fill-in. If you can read music, that is great, but not required. Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, Sept. 3 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in Room 312.

Intergenerational Choir

Contact: Steve Peters (<u>music@stjohncf.org</u>)
Our newest musical offering is intended for people high school age and up. Rehearsals begin on Tuesday,
September 2nd at 6pm in the Sanctuary.

10am Worship Team / F&LC

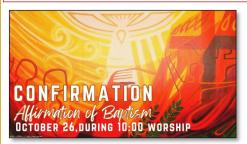
Contact: Mike Best (music10@stjohncf.org or 360-930-4354)

Rehearsal: Thursdays, 6:30-8:30pm Sound Check: Sundays, 8:30-9:30am Team Meeting: Sundays, 9:30-9:45am

Want to know what it's like before you join the team? Anyone is welcome to join us on Thursday nights — it's a great way to find out what serving on the 10am worship team is all about—but reach out to Mike before you come because there is the occasional change in rehearsal. Bring your instrument or sing along.



Jesus taught us to love one another. Sometimes that might even mean sharing a part of the body to save someone's life. Earlier this summer, Pastor Brian donated a kidney to an anonymous recipient, and the congregation joined his family in supporting him through the process. September 14 will be our "Sharing & Caring" Sunday as Pastor Brian and Niki Strassburg, who was an organ donor in fall 2024, will be joined by Tim Dutcher, Niki's organ donation recipient to share about their experiences with organ donation following both worship services (approximately 9:15 & 11:15am) in the Sanctuary. We will also have a table set up in the atrium so you can learn more about organ donation opportunities.







HOSPITALITY & CONG CARE

New Baby Meal Train + Contact Kayla Rasmussen (kayla.16.wilson@gmail.com) We are excited to share news of a new ministry we are beginning! A meal train is a way for us to provide meals to support a St. John family after a new birth / adoption. The family will complete an intake form with a SJLC volunteer providing basic information (# of meals, timing, food allergies, etc.) Volunteers will receive an invite to sign up to help with providing a meal for the family. Sign up at the Welcome Center table if you'd like to be a part of the Meal Train Volunteer team and receive that notification.

Sunday Donuts + Contact Kim Miller (319-269-4773). If you would be interested in purchasing donuts for a Sunday (approx. \$30) & take care of getting them set out using supplies here at church, sign up at the Welcome Center table.

Coffee Crew + Contact Meghan Bruns (meghanrunyan@gmail.com). Our coffee crew is looking for a "latte" of new hands to do coffee set up on Friday or Saturday and clean up following the 10am service. Sign up at the Welcome Center table. Have a BREW-tiful day!

Visitation Ministry + Contact Steve Ferguson (<u>steve@stjohncf.org</u> or 268-0165). SJLC is always growing our list of volunteers willing to visit someone on behalf of their church family. Training provided!

Card Ministry + Contact Sue Holm (319-239-4579 or sholm12@gmail.com) If you would be interested in sending cards to folks 80 years & older four times a year — join the card ministry team!

Game Night + Contact Sue Holm (319-239-4579 or sholm12@gmail.com) Next quarterly Game Night: Friday, October 3 6:30-8:30pm. Open to all ages—are you game to play?

NewAldaya Monthly Gathering and Western Home Monthly Gathering

Contact Steve Ferguson (steve@stjohncf.org)
St. John hosts a monthly gathering at both NewAldaya and the Western Home for our St. John friends to gather together and share in prayer, communion & a time of fellowship. Everyone is welcome!

- Western Home: 3rd Thursday of every month in the WINDRIDGE West Lounge, beginning at 2pm.
- •NewAldaya: fourth Thursday of the month at 2pm in the 2nd floor New Arbor Lounge.

St. John Ride Share Ministry + Contact Luan McGrane (319-464-7092, Immcgrane@gmail.com). Would you be willing to provide a ride for someone who wants to attend church at SJLC and needs a ride? This ministry connects drivers with those needing a ride in order to be able to attend worship.



FAITH FORMATION & LIFELONG LEARNING

CHILDREN (3yr-6th gr)



Sunday School + Sundays, 9:00-10:00am. Starts Sept. 7 Contact: Marty Postel (Marty@stjohncf.org)

This timing of Sunday School allows families to participate in either the Sanctuary service or the F&LC service.

QR CODE TO REGISTER

- PreK & K: Explorer Room A (lower level turn right at bottom of stairs & go down hallway to room at end)
- ◆ <u>1st & 2nd</u>: Explorer Room B (*lower level turn right at bottom of stairs* & *go down hallway to room at end*)
- • 3rd & 4th: Room 310A (upper level)
- <u>5th & 6th</u>: Room 319 (*upper level*)



1ST GRADE BIBLE MILESTONE

8/24—blessing & Bibles distributed 8/24—8:30-9:25 Learning Time #1 9/6—9-10am Learning Time #2

3RD GRADE BIBLE MILESTONE

8/24—blessing & Bibles distributed 9/14—9am, Learning Time #1 9/21– 9am, Learning Time #2

YOUTH (7th-12th gr)



Confirmation 7th/8th/9th gr+

Sundays, 8:45-10am. Starts Sept. 7. Contact: Steve Ferguson (Steve@stjohncf.org)
7th, 8th & 9th grade students gather for Confirmation large group before breaking out into smaller groups for in-depth dis-

QR CODE TO REGISTER

cussion of the *Colaborate* focus of the day.

Confirmation 10th gr+ Sundays, 11am. Starts Sept. 7.

Youth Group Night

Contact: Austin Gabel (Austin@stjohncf.org or 641-426 -6911) Gathering the 1st & 3rd Wednesday night of each month. Contact Austin to be added to the distribution list for future events.

Wed, Sep 3 6:00 - 8:00 PM
We Arose Community Gardens Service Event

Wed., Sep 17 6:30 - 8 PM SJLCDodgeball

Wed., Oct 1 6:30-8 PM

Adopt-a-Spot Service Event - City Clean Up

Sunday, Oct 12 TBD

St Tim's Methodist Affirm - Combined Youth Group Event

Wed., Oct 15 6:30-8 PM SJLCFall Nature Hike

Wed., Nov 5 6:30-8 PM

House of Hope Service Event

Saturday, Nov 8 1:00-4PM UNI-Dome UNI vs. Murray St.

Wed., Nov 19 6:30-8 PM SJLCGame Night

Wed., Dec 3 6:30-8 PM

Gargoyles/ Indoor Hide-n- Seek Games

Wed., Dec 17 6:30-8 PM

SJLC Christmas Caroling Service Event

YOUNG ADULTS/THREEHOUSE



THREEHOUSE Weekly Schedule

Sundays, **5:30-6:30PM**: Sunday Supper and Young Adult Gathering (starts Sept. 14 through the semester)

Monday 12noon: Monday Motivation (located in the Green House Bldg on campus)

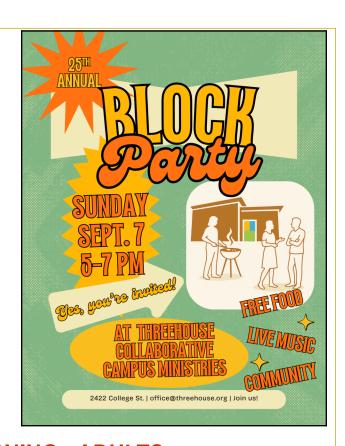
Wednesday, 9PM: music-centered worship

Thursday, 11:30-1:30: Listening Post in the Union

Thursday, 5-9PM: CoffeeHouse

*CoffeeHouse hours are subject to change with barista's

availability*



FAITH FORMATION & LIFELONG LEARNING: ADULTS



july 16-19, 2026 🗡 des moines, iowa

Join women from St. John & from around the country at the 2026 WELCA (Women of the ELCA) Triennial Gathering in Des Moines—next summer! — July 16-19, 2026. The theme for the 2026 Triennial Gathering is "I Am Worthy," based on Psalm 139:14: "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." This statement serves as a reminder of God's promise to be with us, and opens up opportunities for healing and restoration within ourselves, our church, society, and the world.

If you'd be interested in being a part of a Leadership Team to organize our St. John participation in this churchwide event, please contact Rose Lorenz (319-404-2125, lorenzr35@gmail.com).

WOMEN: Women, Wine & the Word + Tuesday, September 30 from 4-6pm at Brown Bottle. Appetizers & beverages to be enjoyed by all. Sign up sheet coming soon!

MEN: Burnt Offerings + Sunday, October 5, 1pm at John McClellan's home. Join other guys from SJLC for this end of summer BBQ and smoked meats n' treats event! Sign up at the Welcome Center table.

MEN: Men's Breakfast + Saturday, October 25 8-10am (Ritchie Kurtenbach's "garage mahal" (238 Normandy St, Wloo). We'll provide the food—you bring yourself. Come break some bread (& eggs) with your brothers! Sign up at the Welcome Center table.

"Beauty": A Quiet Retreat at Prairiewoods Retreat Center + Is it time to enter the beauty in and around your life, to follow a path to inner or outer peace in the midst of change? Contemplative Outreach Northeast Iowa Chapter is sponsoring a quiet retreat to be in the Presence of the Holy One in the midst of Fall called "Beauty" October 24-26 at Prair

riewoods Retreat Center in Hiawatha. It will include time for quiet prayer, reading scripture, sung prayer and meals with ample free time and a variety of opportunities. For more information about the event, scan the QR Code.



FAITH FORMATION & LIFELONG LEARNING: ADULTS

Perennials: Adult Bible Study

9:10-9:50am Sundays, start anytime.

Location: Church Library Contact: David Duncan

(davidandhelenm@gmail.com or 319-575-4227) or Lynn Lovell (319-277-8687 or Irlovell4@gmail.com). The current study is on the Parables that Jesus taught in the Gospels & will continue through October. The parables provide insights into both our relationship with God, and with each other. No signup, just come.

Taking Faith Home: Scripture/Sermon Discussion. + Sundays, 9am. Contact: Rose Lorenz (319-

404-2125 or). Location: Atrium.

This group uses the Taking Faith Home resource to guide discussion on the Sunday scripture & sermon. The half-sheet resource guide is available in the ENEWS or pick up a copy from the atrium brochure rack. No signup needed.

WELCA Women "Gather" Bible Study + 1:30pm, third Wednesday of month. Contact Gloria Tollefson (gltollefson@gmail.com). "Gather" with other SJLC women on the third Wednesday of the month at 1:30pm in the library. This fall, we will focus on what the Bible teaches us about Money (Sept. 17) Stewardship (Oct. 15) and Generosity (Nov.19) using the Bible study in the Women of the ELCA gather magazine (a very inexpensive subscription is available).

Wednesday Walks + 7am, Wednesdays
Contact: Pastor Brian (pastorbrian@stjohncf.org)
Fall is here(ish) and if you love being outdoors when
the weather isn't too hot or too cold — let's walk together! Each Wednesday, meet at the Big Woods
south parking lot at 7am for a 45 minute walk with
whomever shows up. No signup needed.

Bible Study + Thursdays, 3:30pm. Location: Church Library *Contact: Don & Sandy Kohagen (319-277-9460 or kohagendonsandy@gmail.com)*. This group is using a Dr. David Jeremiah DVD series to guide its discussions. Starts Sept. 11.

Tuesday Ladies + Tuesdays, 10am. Location: Church Library Contact Arleen Burkhardt (arleenb45@gmail.com or 319-266-9672). This book study group will be evaluating and choosing a new book to use to guide their discussion so it's a great time to join this group as they are starting a new resource!

Young at Heart (55+ group)

Contact: Joan Baumgartner (mjoanb706@gmail.com or 319-277-2634), Sue Holm (319-239-4579 or sholm12@gmail.com), Rod Hamer (507-202-3454, drhamer@cfu.net). Next Event: Sept 10—12noon: a Potluck @ the Veteran's Memorial Park shelter (E 14th St & Waterloo Rd) —east of the Rec Center. There is a small parking lot and parking is allowed on the street. We will have a speaker from Retrieving Freedom. He hopes to have a dog with him, but availability depends on the stage of training the dog is in. There will be a freewill offering taken to give to support the work of Retrieving Freedom. Bring a dish to share, your own drink and service pieces. Anyone is welcome! Just be "Young at Heart"!

Thirsty Thursday Men + Thursdays, 7:30am. Location: Church Library . Contact Steve Ferguson (<u>steve@stjohncf.org</u>) This group often uses the Sunday scripture and sermon to guide their conversation and is perfect for drop-ins as your schedule allows.

Bible Study Fellowship + Contact: Rose Lorenz (319 -404-2125 or lorenzr35@gmail.com). This year's study, Exile and Return, invites you on a powerful journey through the Old Testament, where God's people were called to build His kingdom in a foreign land. Their story is our story—we, too, are strangers in a broken world, called to build for His glory. As we explore how God equips and positions His people, we're challenged to ask: Am I building my life for Christ? Exile and Return reminds us that our time to build is now. To register, go to: joinbsf.com

Ewalu Fall Retreat: 55+/seniors at the Stone Retreat Center just north of Strawberry Point! The event will have a chance to enjoy the beautiful fall colors, time for reflection and renewal, optional hiking, simple relaxation and more. Retired pastors Joan Fumetti of Des Moines and Larry Trachte of Waverly will be the featured speakers. Meals (5) and lodging (2 nights) are included.

Dates: Monday, Oct. 13 - Wednesday, Oct. 15

Cost: Double occupancy (2 people sharing a room)

\$175 each; Single occupancy \$225

Details and registration:

www.ewalu.org/autumn-odyssey

SERVING & DISCIPLESHIP

H2 Jamaican Mission Trip: Feb. 7-14, 2026 + Contact Hank Wellnitz (319-961-2288) or Barb Ericson (319-493-5039). Have you considered doing an international mission trip? For many decades, a group of people from the Cedar Valley have been traveling to Jamaica to provide medical care & other services to our siblings in Christ. We work in the center of the island where the annual income averages less than \$2,000/ year. The medical teams travel to various towns and hold health and dental clinics. The construction team installs drip irrigation systems for subsistence farmers and works at a local orphanage building bunk beds and other furniture items as well as general repairs. We need doctors, dentists, nurses, nurse practitioners, dental hygienists, and general helpers for the medical team. The construction team members can use all helpers. No specific skills needed other than a willingness to be the hands and feet of Christ.

Do-Day Quilters + Contact Arleen Burkhardt (319-231-0536). This group meets on the second Monday morning of each month in Fellowship Hall to create tie-quilts with quilts donated to local organizations. **SEWERS**—we have fabric you are welcome to take home and use in your own design to complete a top for our tie-quilts.

Give Back Glasses + Donate your old/unused eyeglasses & readers into the Lions Club collection bin in the entry. Donations are shared across the globe!

Northeast Iowa Food Bank / Little Food Pantry (across the street from the church) + Donations of food are collected by the main level elevator year-round. Volunteer opp: restock shelves at the food bank northeastiowafoodbank.org/

Prayer Shawls: Handstitched with prayers, these shawls are available to anyone that needs to be surrounded with the care of Christ's love.

Cancer Support Group: Contact: Carol Menefee (cjmenefee@gmail.com or 319-610-3250). Join with others in this group which connects people from throughout the Cedar Valley with educational materials, special guest speakers and opportunities to share stories, hopes and fears about our cancer experiences. NEXT: Sept 20, 2pm at NewAldaya.

Community Meals + Contact Janelle Smeins (janellesmeins4@gmail.com or 319-277-8910). The Cedar Falls Community Meals is a free meal served every Tuesday from 4:30-6pm at First United Methodist Church. St John provides 6 meals in 2025, with our next meals on Oct 7 & Dec 2. We will need individuals to set up tables, serve, clean up & donate food.



Free Little Pantry

For our free little pantry across the street that we are supporting, we are stocking it 2 or 3x a week with non-perishable items that are easy to use and don't

require refrigeration. Please consider donating canned goods, dry goods, individually packaged snacks, and personal care items to the collection box in the office entryway. Suggestions are:

<u>Dry goods</u>: oatmeal, macaroni and cheese, dried beans, rice and other whole grains, pasta w/ a canned sauce, spices, popcorn, dry/canned soups (to mix with water), canned fruit or vegetables *NO GLASS items*

<u>Individually packaged snacks</u>: boxes of raisins, granola bars, protein bars, fruit snacks, individual cereal cups, applesauce, and pudding packs.

WOMEN: Women, Wine & the Word + Tuesday, September 30 from 4-6pm at Brown Bottle. Appetizers & beverages to be enjoyed by all. Sign up sheet coming soon!

WOMEN: Women, Wine & the Word Christmas Party + Tuesday, December 4th from 6-8pm at Western Home. More info coming later this fall!

Love Inc Begin Now Meal + SJLC volunteers will be serving a meal for an upcoming Love INC Begin Now class on Tuesday, November 4th. You can help by helping provide cookies & bars for the dessert! Begin Now classes offer learning opportunities around an array of topics, from Bible studies to budgeting. VOLUNTEER: 319.266.1264

Helping Our Neighbors through LSI + We are collecting items through the month of September to be distributed through LSI's Immigrant & Refugee program. Donations of these items will help these individuals/families immensely and are a wonderful gift of support! Current needs are

- ◆Toilet paper & Toothpaste
- ◆Deodorant (men & women)
- ◆Cleaning supplies
- Laundry soap

Donations may be left in the office entryway.



A charter bus that will hold 48 people has been lined up for those in the Cedar Valley who would like a ride. Contact: Michael.Knipp@lsiowa.org or 319-610-3202 to reserve your seat.



Even though we've been an RIC Partner for a year now, ReconcilingWorks will be sharing this congratulatory graphic on their social media sites to lift up and celebrate the work that YOU/WE do to live out our commitment as an RIC Partner. So grateful for your partnership in the work of welcoming, including, celebrating and advocating for ALL our siblings in Christ!



RACIAL JUSTICE TEAM

Wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome here in the name of Jesus Christ.

At St. John Lutheran Church, we affirm that each person is loved by God. We celebrate the rich diversity of God's people—including race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression—and are committed to working for racial equity in both word and action. The Racial Justice Team (RJT) is one way we live out this calling.

RJT is a ministry devoted to learning, connecting, and showing up. Our mission is to inspire and equip the congregation to actively participate in dismantling racism and promoting equity, guided by faith and rooted in love.

Over the past year, our activities have included:

- A meal and conversation night supporting Big Head Burgers, a Black-owned business in Waterloo
- Two rounds of a 7-week racial justice training series co-led with Bethlehem Lutheran Church
- Hosting the Juneteenth Service of Repentance at St. John
- Movie screenings like A Time for Burning
- Participation in the National Day of Racial Healing
- Group travel on the MLK Freedom Bus Tour to civil rights landmarks across the South
- Ongoing monthly support of the LeChristopher's community meal at Jubilee UMC
- Advocacy events and rallies in the Cedar Valley
- A "Know Your Rights" session in response to increased immigration enforcement

We hope to offer even more opportunities in the year ahead for learning, service, fellowship, and action—and we'd love to have you join us.

LeChristopher's Southern Cuisine + 2nd Sunday of each month starting at 12pm. Jubilee UMC Freedom Center (E 4th & Newell, W'loo). \$20 per plate. Contagious hospitality, restaurant-style ambiance, jazz background music. A SJLC carpool is often available for those who would like that.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP TEAM

ing: September 23 at 5pm.

Team Mtg: As Lutherans,
God calls us to care for others
and for all of God's creation. The SJLC Environmental Stewardship Team works hand-in-hand with
the congregation. "Our vision is to inspire and inform the minds, hearts, and hands of St. John Lutheran Church with opportunities to exercise our
environmental stewardship." Join others in supporting this work and come to the next Team meet-

Black Hawk County Hazardous Waste Clean-up + Saturday, Sept 6. Scan the QR Code to sign up for a timeslot to drop off materials and/or for a complete list of materials accepted.



Highland Elementary Prairie Maintenance + Saturday, Sept 6 from 3-5 pm (after the Cy-Hawk game). The prairie is behind the school (812 Idaho). Bring a bow saw and loppers if you have one. Please sign up in the Atrium if interested or call Cory Levendusky at 319-230-1466.

Dispose of Unneeded Medications + The Cedar Falls police department provides a year-round drop box at the CF Public Safety Center (4600 Main St). People can go there 24/7/365 and put prescription and over-the-counter meds in the secure dropbox in the entryway (No liquids, no sharps). This keeps those out of the landfill and waterways.

Recycle OPP: Adult Athletic Shoes + Adult Athletic Shoes (sizes 6-10) may be left in the collection box in the office entry. Each box holds 40-50 pairs of shoes, and the More Foundation (Modular Organic Regenerative Environments) sells the used athletic shoes to vendors in developing countries. Proceeds are used to plant at least 4 trees with every pair. no slippers, boots, dress shoes, baby shoes, etc.

Christmas Lights + Don't throw away your nonworking Holiday Lights (when you find them). When the holiday season gets closer, we'll have a collection box in the office entry so they can be recycled at CFU.



to our newly elected Associate Pastor Call Committee

PLEASE KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS AS THEIR WORK BEGINS!



ROD HAMER



ALEX HEINEN



JOSH HONES



DANIELLE JENNINGS



JIM KORTE



KRISTIN MOSER



SCOTT STRIEGEL



JEN HARTMAN
Council President



PASTOR BRIAN
Senior Pastor