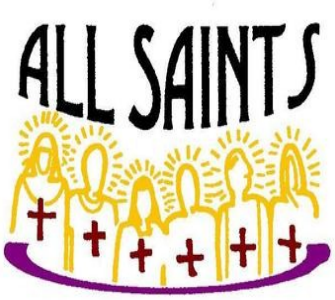
November 1, 2026

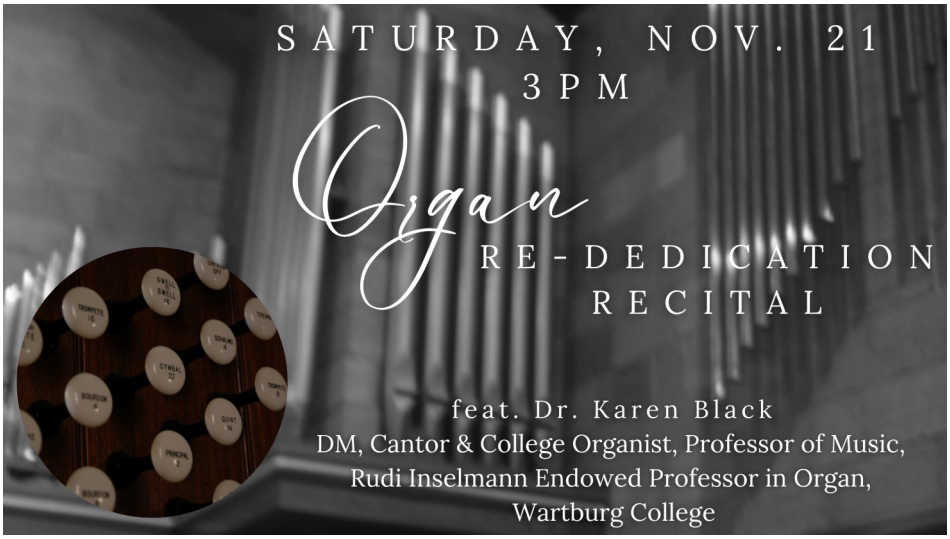
St. John Lutheran Church

Joyfully taking God's Love INTO THE WORLD



O God of the pilgrim's way, we give thanks for those in generations past who have been examples for us of God's love at work in the world. As we pray, we know that we are surrounded by this great, rejoicing cloud of witnesses. Yet even as we name these holy ancestors who were connected to our congregation, we thank God for others whose names we never knew or have forgotten, who showed us the meaning of life in Christ.

Jane Ophus	Nellie Bast	Marlene Sheetz
Ben Sink	Mary Franken	Bev Voss-Hummel
Warren Bown	Steve Taylor	Kathy Groves
Dorothy Bright	Larry Geving	John Bruha
Anna Kalkhoff	Rick Richter	Gary Boyle
	Jean Collins	



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.

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

YOUTUBE: SJLCIOWA

WIFI Password: **connectcaresharegrow**

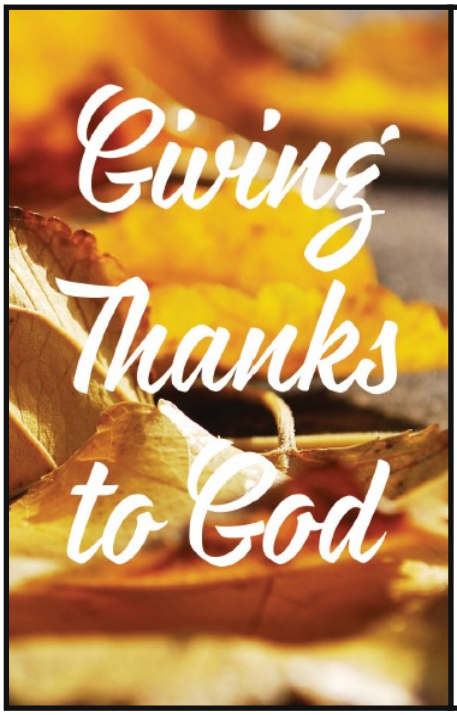
For Information

- Online: www.stjohncf.org
- Call the office: 319-268-0165
- Follow us on Facebook: stjohncf

WIFI: connectcaresharegrow

RECONCILING *in* CHRIST

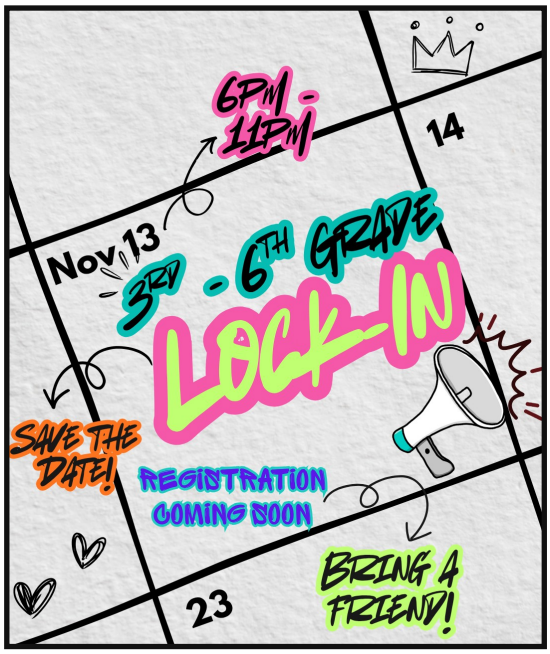
Wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome here in the name of Jesus Christ. We celebrate that each person is loved by God. We affirm the gifts of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, and are committed to working for racial equity. Welcome to St. John Lutheran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



Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7

Who has been influential in your faith formation and what did you appreciate about them?



Our **St. John 3rd-6th Grade Lock-in** will begin at 6:00 PM on Friday, November 13th and will conclude at 11:00 PM. Students *grades 3-6 are welcome —friends included!!* Activities may include but are not limited to making your own pizza, 9 square, indoor baseball, night games, movie & popcorn - come and join us for a night of fun!!

The cost for the event is $5 per student to offset some of St. John's expenses in the event. If you choose to pay online, please include a note/memo "3-6 Lock-in". Otherwise, your student may simply bring cash/check upon arrival. **Please complete and submit the registration form** by scanning the QR code **by Thursday, Nov 12th**.

Regarding food & drink: Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottle. We plan to make our own pizzas once everyone is there. We'll have other snacks available or your student may also bring their own snacks/drinks if desired.







Celebrate the Christmas season with your St. John friends! **Our annual Young at Heart Christmas dinner for all those age 55 years and older will be Tuesday, December 8 in the Fellowship Hall.**

11:30am: Social gathering time.
12Noon: Meal served at 12noon.
Following the Meal: Fun, Fun, Fun!

Cost is $22.00 per plate. **Please pay when you sign up** - ***cash or check payable to Moment in Thyme*.**
Menu: Roasted Pork Loin, Cranberry Cucumber Salad, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Green Bean Almondine, Roll/Butter & Dessert. ***Friends welcome too so invite others to join you!***

Sign-up & pay at the Welcome Center table. **Deadline to sign up is Sunday, November 29**. We pay for the number of meals based on the number we give to the caterer are unable to offer refunds if you find yourself unable to attend for some reason after this date.

NEW: For our table centerpieces, we are looking for people willing to share 5-6 pieces of their Nativity to create a tablescape. Drop-off would be during the day on Monday, Nov 30. Depending upon the number of nativities volunteered, we will do a random selection of ones to go onto the round tables and the remainder will be available for viewing on display tables.

Christmas Choir!

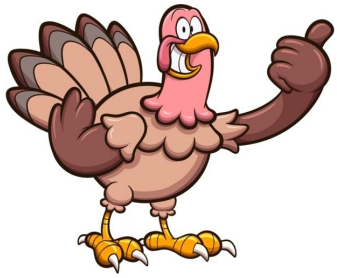


Our combined choir will present pieces in the Sanctuary on **December 20 at 8am & 10am**, and also help lead the **3pm & 5pm Christmas Eve services**.

We'll rehearse three (3) Sunday afternoons — where we'll cover all the songs for both Dec 20th in the Sanctuary and the 3pm/5pm Christmas Eve services. You'll need to attend at least two of the three rehearsals.

- Sun, Nov 22, 2-4pm in the FLC - combined rehearsal
- Sun, Dec 6, 2-4pm in the FLC - combined rehearsal
- Sun, Dec 13, 2-4pm in the FLC - combined rehearsal

Sign up at the Welcome Center table & pick up a copy of the music packet.



International Student ThreeHouse Thanksgiving Meal

ThreeHouse is excited to host a Thanksgiving dinner for UNI International College Students. The meal will be **Thursday, Nov. 19, at 6 PM** at St. Luke's Episcopal, and we would 'relish' your support!

While ThreeHouse will provide the turkey, they need contributions of homemade favorites such as mashed potatoes, yams, green bean casserole, rolls, pies, and more. Please consider signing up to bring a dish that makes "Thanksgiving Dinner" special for you. Once you sign up, you'll be able to see what others are bringing and can easily edit your entry if you like. Any leftovers will be shared with the students to take home. Of special need are kosher or halal items to meet the dietary needs of some of our students. *Thank you for all the help! This is a wonderful cultural experience for the students and a great way to celebrate the spirit of Thanksgiving!*

Your Voice. Your Vote.

In its social teaching, the ELCA calls on members of the church "*to pray, participate in, and advocate for civic life in the United States*." This includes "*supporting efforts to increase voter registration and access to polling places, and to help dismantle structural barriers to the ballot box and to civic participation more broadly, all as part of this church's faithful civic witness*." - ELCA social statement Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All (p. 89)

As part of its work, the Environmental Stewardship Team desires to share information with the congregation on how we can make good use of the resources we've been blessed with.

Election Day—Showing Hospitality: We celebrate that St. John opens up the facility to the community by serving as a polling place for local, state, and national elections as part of our community-minded mission and outreach.

Election Day—Voting: *"This church also strongly affirms voting, guided by faith-based values, as an exercise in citizenship."* —ELCA social message "Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy" (p. 16)

- Register to vote if you have not already done so and check your registration to make sure it is current. If someone has not registered yet, Vote.gov is a great place to start.
- You can confirm your polling location at sos.iowa.gov/amiregistered
- Learn about the issues, ballot measures, and candidates that will shape your community. Participate in respectful conversations. Check sources of information.
- Pray for those who serve in public office, for election workers and for all who will exercise the right of voting. Create spaces for faithful, open conversation with voters, candidates or neighbors in your community.

"Be faithful, informed and engaged as disciples of Jesus seeking the well-being of our neighbors and the common good of the communities God has entrusted to our care. Every act of informed participation, every conversation marked by grace and every vote cast with prayerful discernment is an opportunity to bear witness to God's love in the world." -Bishop Curry.

Be Wise - Spin CLOCKWISE!"

Switching a ceiling fan to run in the CLOCKWISE direction during the chilly months will push warm air hovering around the ceiling into the living space, making a home's interior warmer without turning up the thermostat, saving both energy and money on the heating bill.



What to do with Your Pumpkin "After" Halloween

Compost your pumpkin when you are done with it. Birds & squirrels enjoy pumpkins for a time! *What a treat for them*!

Christmas Lights



Soon we'll be pulling our holiday decorations out (perhaps you are even thinking about putting up your exterior lights and decorations while it's still decent temps this week ☺). Don't throw away your non-working Holiday Lights (when you find them)! We've got out a collection box in the office entry so they can be recycled at CFU — or take them over to CFU yourself & drop them off ☺.

What's Happening This Week

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

Tuesday, November 3
Voting Location : Atrium
10am Ladies Book Study (Library)
PM Love Inc Begin Now Meal @ First Pres.
6pm Adult Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Wednesday, November 4
7am Walking Wednesday @ Big Woods
5pm Worship & Celebration Team Mtg. (Library)
5:30pm Handbell Rehearsal (Rm. 310)
6:30pm Youth Group: Nature Picture Walk Activity

Thursday, November 5
7:30am Thirsty Thursday Men Bible Study (Library)
3:30pm Bible Study (Library)
5:30pm "The Chosen" TV Show Discussion Grp (Lib)
6:30pm Worship Band Rehearsal (F&LC)

Saturday, November 7
PM Bobeldyk/Olsen Wedding (Sanctuary)

Sunday, November 8
8am Worship (Sanctuary)
8:45am Confirmation (Youth Room)
9am Sunday School (various rooms)
9am The Perennials (Library)
9am "The Chosen" Discussion Grp (Chapel)
9am Taking Faith Home Discussion (Atrium)
9am "Separation of Church & Hate (Rm. 305)
10am Worship (Faith & Life Center)

The Chosen TV Series Discussion Groups
9-9:55am Sundays. 5:30pm, Thursdays.
Episode 6: "Indescribable Compassion"

Sign up to Sponsor Our 2027 Altar Flowers (For Either Worship Space)

Altar Flowers are provided by generous donors and may be given in memory of loved ones, in thanksgiving for God's blessings, or in celebration of special events. Arrangements for the Sanctuary cost $50 (two arrangements) and floral arrangements for the Faith & Life Center cost $35 (one arrangement). The church office will place the order & Bancroft's Florists will bill you directly.

Sign up in the booklets at the Welcome Center table for the date(s) you would like to sponsor flowers!

Holiday Food/Fund Drive — St. John collab with CF CAPS

NORTHEAST IOWA FOOD BANK

From Nov 1st -16th, Cedar Falls CAPS and the Northeast Iowa Food Bank will be collaborating with St. John for a Holiday Food/Fund Drive — raising money and food donations for those who may need food this Thanksgiving season. Food Donations can be left in the in the box in the atrium. A QR code is on the box if you prefer to give financially to the Food Bank through that or and a Lock Box for cash donations is next to the food collection box.



Feed a Family for the Holidays

$45 will provide a northeast Iowa family with an entire holiday dinner!

Support northeast Iowans experiencing food insecurity by providing them with a holiday meal.

Thanksgiving
Food Drive

- Boxed Stuffing Mix
- Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Turkey Gravy
- Canned Yams
- Cranberry Sauce
- Canned Veggies (green beans, corn, peas, etc.)
- Cornbread Mix
- Canned Pie Filling
- Pie Crust Mix
- Thanksgiving Condiements
- Boxed Mac n' Cheese
- Biscuit or Roll Mix
- Coffee, Tea, or Hot Cocoa Mix

HEALING & CONCERN. . . Ethel Ann Koch; Jean Clark; Tina Meyer; James Van Patten; Linda Southworth; Jennifer Kurtenbach; Ron Lance; Imogene Burgardt & Loy Walker (Barb & Brett Walker's moms); Glenda Johnson; Darin Hansen; Don Timmerman; Christine & Denise (Lori Schneider's friends); Kathy Taylor; Lanette, Harley; Sue Larson; Paulo (Barb Feuerhak's son-in-law).

Surround us with the strength of the Holy Spirit, and let the quiet, steadfast faith of the saints inspire our hope. Grant healing where there is sickness, peace where there is anxiety, and comfort where there is loss. Amen.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

The altar flowers are given by Tom & Becky Poe in thanks for the many blessings received through faith, family & friends (8:00); and by Cole & Jennifer Kurtenbach in remembrance of Steven, Jason & Kyle (10:00).
Donut Sponsor: Kathleen & Bill Hesse

	Sep-26			Fiscal YTD (04/01/26-03/31/27)		
	Revenue	Expense*	Net	Revenue	Expense *	Net
Church	58,779.93	192,538.98	(133,759.05)	436,892.43	671,139.24	(234,246.81)
Preschool/Childcare	62,535.74	68,656.53	(6,120.79)	384,288.67	414,678.83	(30,390.16)
Total	121,315.67	261,195.51	(139,879.84)	821,181.10	1,085,818.07	(264,636.97)

* includes YTD Capital Projects - $320,041.12

UPDATE ON OUR FINANCES

For the past several years, we have worked hard on several large fundraising projects and those extra funds have made our financials look very bountiful (what a blessing!). As those projects are being completed, we are now receiving the bills. Since we raised the money in prior fiscal years but the expenses are occurring during the current fiscal year, our numbers look very lopsided. This was always going to be the case and we are still well within budget of what was planned. These contingencies have all been years in the making and we are able to move forward with these projects due to the generosity of the congregation. Thank you!

Submit A Prayer Request:

Visitor Connection Card:

Support Financially:

Card ACH G Pay venmo

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)

John Kohagen. ……..……..**Shawn Smeins, Treasurer**
Josh Green, Secretary ……Jen Hartman
Blake Borwick, President……Kathy Diehl
Andrew Bruns, Vice President…….. Laura Homewood
Joyce Riley……..

Ministry & Resource Team Leaders

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

Worship Attendance:

Oct 25—303 in person & 31 households online