St. John Lutheran Church

October 18, 2026

Joyfully taking God's Love INTO THE WORLD



Share in the fun at the **St. John Halloween event on Sunday, October 25** :) Kids through 6th grade are welcome to wear their costume *(no scary masks/costumes)* as they move around the F&LC **playing games** to **win candy & prizes between 4:45-6pm**. We've got some special guests from UNI that will be helping us out with this event — any guesses who? And **OP Pizza** will be served in the lower level/Fellowship Hall for all to enjoy (*free-will offering)* **between 4:30-5:30pm**!



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!

Pastor Brian is planning a sabbatical for the summer of 2027

As part of Brian's pastoral letter of call, St. John has committed to supporting our pastors to take a sabbatical following at least 5 years of service.

This June, July and August of 2027, Pastor Brian will be absent from the congregation for a 12 week period of rest, renewal and exploration that will help him continue to healthfully serve alongside us. He will continue to be on the St. John payroll during this time and the congregation will financially support, in part, his travels. While he is away, the congregation will have time and space to find ways to step up in leadership and service. We will either have an Associate Pastor installed by that time or will have a plan in place for pulpit supply, pastoral care support and other leadership needs that will be led by a Sabbatical Task Force *(assembled by the Council this coming January)*.

More info will be shared as it becomes available but in the meantime feel free to direct any questions to members of the Church Council or Pastor Brian himself.

Gather—Women's Bible Study

Join with other women from SJLC as we "GATHER" in our library on Wednesday afternoon, October 21 at 1:30pm for bible study. We will study the story of Ruth and Naomi and their bold faith on an unexpected journey. Through Ruth's story we will see how God works through relationships in our own lives. Bring your Bible and a friend!

Contact Gloria Tollefson if you have ?s.

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.

BLESSING & DEDICATION OF ORGAN

Siblings in Christ, today we bless this newly refurbished pipe organ as an instrument to offer honor and praise to God. The purpose of music is to give glory to God and to engage us in holy worship. Therefore, the music of the organ wonderfully expresses the new song that Scripture tells us to sing to the Lord. **We dedicate this organ to the service of God the Father, Son + and Holy Spirit.**

REDEDICATION RECITAL TO CELEBRATE!

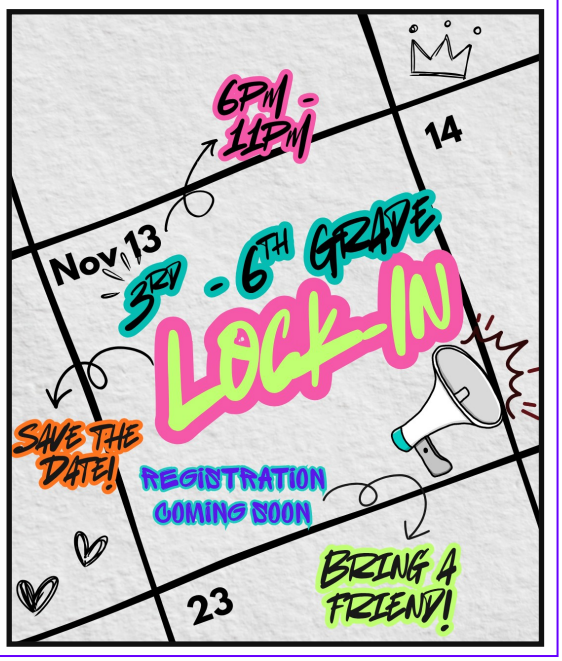
Who: Dr. Karen Black, DM, Cantor and College Organist, Professor of Music, Rudi Inselmann Endowed Professor in Organ, Wartburg College



Date: **November 21, 2026 at 3pm**
Reception following recital.

Instrument: Reuter Organ Co. Opus 1794. 1974. Organ Restoration, Obermeyer Organ Co., 2026. 2 manuals, 23 ranks





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Star
Northeastern Iowa Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

On Earth as in Heaven:
Forgive Us As We Forgive Others



By Bishop Kevin Jones

In the Lord's prayer the kingdom of heaven is revealed as a place where forgiveness is the way of life. We both receive and offer forgiveness as a way of participating in the healing work of God through Christ Jesus. In Revelation 21:2 John sees, "On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations." (NRSVUE) Healing is an ongoing act of restoration in Christ's presence. Forgiveness is a key component of that process.

Too often, however, we pair the word "forgive" with the word "forget." Forgiveness is not forgetting. In fact, the term "remember" (re-member) carries the connotation of putting the body back together. Restoration and healing accompany forgiveness when we are aware of the ways that we have been broken and address them.

At the 2023 Synod Assembly we passed a resolution "to identify barriers that prevent people from minoritized communities from serving as leaders in our synod and to expand the pool of pastoral candidates available to serve our congregations." This summer, the task force doing this work completed its report and presented it to the Synod Council. (The report can be found on the Synod website.)

The report begins by connecting the good news of the forgiveness we have through Jesus (Gospel) to anti-racism and anti-white supremacy work which we are called to as part of the ongoing restoration and healing of our world and our church. It reminds us that we were born into an unjust system of bias based on ethnic origin and skin color. The report then recommends actions that we can take as Northeastern Iowa Synod staff, council, committees, congregations, and with our ministry partners.

At the September council meeting we had an extended conversation with the task force around the report. I was encouraged by our conversation and the willingness to step more intentionally into this work. I find the recommendations to be achievable next steps for us to take. The Synod staff are already looking at ways we can begin some of this work now. The Synod Council will be prioritizing recommendations and exploring a potential resolution for the 2027 Synod Assembly.

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On Earth as in Heaven Continued...

I am grateful to the four members of the task force and to the people they interviewed to identify the barriers some of our siblings experience in the candidacy and call process. I am also grateful for the Strategies Toward Authentic Diversity (STAD) grant we received from the ELCA that provided a coach for the task force. I encourage you to read the report and begin praying and thinking about what you and your congregation can do.

The kingdom of heaven is among us right now. Jesus is calling us to the healing wholeness that comes with restorative forgiveness.





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





WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

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

Monday, October 19
5:30PM Altar Guild Mtg. (Library)

Tuesday, October 20
10am Ladies Book Study (Youth Room)
5pm Environmental Stewardship Tm Mtg. (Atrium)
6pm Adult Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Wednesday, October 21
7am Walking Wednesday @ Big Woods
1:30pm Gather Women Bible Study (Library)
5:30pm Handbell Rehearsal
PM Faith Statement Presentations (Sanctuary)

Thursday, October 22
7:30am Thirsty Thursday Men Bible Study (Library)
2pm NewAldaya/SJLC Gathering
3:30pm Bible Study (Library)
5:30pm "The Chosen" TV Show Discussion Grp (Lib)
6:30pm Worship Band Rehearsal (F&LC)

Saturday, October 24
6pm Youth Grp Halloween Party w/ St. Tim's

Sunday, October 25 Reformation Sunday
8am Worship (Sanctuary)
9am Sunday School
9am The Perennials (Library)
9am "The Chosen" Discussion Grp (Chapel)
9am Taking Faith Home Discussion (Atrium)
9am "Separation of Church & Hate (Rm. 305)
9am Welcome to St. John series (Fellowship Hall)
10am Worship (Faith & Life Center) - includes Confirmation of 10th grade students!
4:30-5:30pm PIZZA for all ages (Halloween event)
4:45-6pm GAMES for 6th gr & younger (F&LC)

The Chosen TV Series Discussion Groups
9-9:55am Sundays. 5:30pm, Thursdays.
Episode 4: "the Rock on Which It is Built"

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.

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

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

The altar flowers are given in memory of loved ones by Jim, Jan & Samantha Glaspie & Austin Kilderman (8:00); and in honor of Duane & Judy Judisch's anniversary (10:00).
Donut Sponsor: none — sign up at the Welcome Center table to sponsor donuts (& take a direction sheet).

	Sep-26			Fiscal YTD (04/01/26-03/31/27)		
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 11—269 in person & 20 households online