St. John Lutheran Church

September 20, 2026

Joyfully taking God's Love INTO THE WORLD





Sign up at the Welcome Center table.

"1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture" Movie Viewing & Discussion

Wednesday, Sept. 23, 6-9pm.
Discussion led by Pastor Brian

"1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture" is a feature documentary that follows the story of tireless researchers who trace the origins of the anti-gay movement among Christians to a RSV version of the Bible released in 1946. It chronicles the discovery of never-before-seen archives at Yale University which unveil astonishing new revelations, and casts significant doubt on any biblical basis for LGBTQIA+ prejudice. Featuring commentary from prominent scholars as well as opposing pastors, including the personal stories of the film's creators, 1946 is at once challenging, enlightening, and inspiring.

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

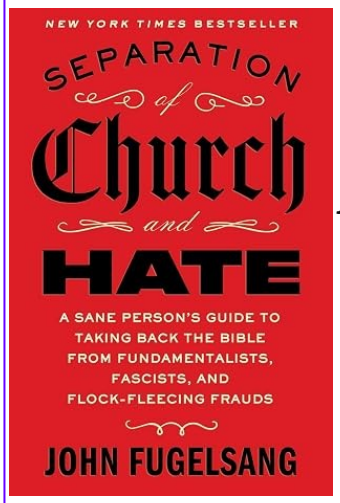
WIFI: connectcaresharegrow

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!

The Chosen TV Series Discussion Groups
9-9:55am Sundays. Location: Fireside Chapel
5:30pm, Thursdays. Location: Library.
Join others at either of these 2 weekly opportunities as your schedule allows! Twelve weeks have been set aside to focus on the first season of the series—format will be approximately 30-40 mins of video followed by 20-30 mins of discussion using a study guide (available at the Welcome Center table).

Episode 2: "Shabbat"
Episode 3: "Jesus Loves the Little Children"
Episode 4: "The Rock on Which It is Built"
Episode 5: "The Wedding Gift"
Episode 6: "Indescribable Compassion"
Episode 7: "Invitations"
Episode 8: "I Am He"



Book Discussion: "Separation of Church and Hate" + Oct. 4-Nov 8, 9am. *Contact Jay Schmitz (319-404-3216 or jschmitz50@gmail.com).* Join others in reading and discussing the book *Separation of Church and Hate*, a book that is about reclaiming your witness. Packed with practical wisdom and biblical insight, this book will help you navigate tense political conversations with grace while reflecting the love of Christ in a deeply divided world. Get your own copy of the book. Sign up at the Welcome Center table.





FREE Raffle prizes as well. Bring an appetite, chair and beverage of choice. Sign up at the Welcome Center table.



Strangers No More: A Biblical Study of Migration
Sept 14-Nov 22 (on the 2nd & 4th Sundays), 3-4:30pm.
This six-session Bible Study on migration combines biblical reflection, current news and guest speakers with discussions on immigration. Each session concludes with self-pay dinner at immigrant-owned restaurants at 5pm.
9/27—Cedar Heights Community Church. Guest Speaker: Rajane Grant. Restaurant: O My Grill/Halal Mediterranean (2020 College St., CF)

Pet Blessing Service. + To enjoy some time together as fellow pet lovers, St. John will be hosting our Blessing of the Pets event! We'll gather **outdoors in the courtyard on Sunday, October 4th at 2pm**, spaced out for pet comfort and safety. We'll share in a brief prayer and Scripture reading, followed by an individual blessing of each pet. You may bring your pet on a leash, in a carrier, an aquarium or terrarium! No RSVP needed!

To include more pets in our Pet Blessing celebration, **you are invited to submit ONE PHOTO of your pet for a slideshow/on Sunday, Oct 4th using the QR code.** *Celebrating God's creatures, big & small!*

Tuesday Ladies + Tuesdays, 10am. Church Library
Thursday Bible Study + Thursdays, 3:30pm—resume Sept. 17. Location: Church Library
Both of these groups are using a book from critically acclaimed author Brian McLaren. "*We Make the Road By Walking" offers fifty-two (plus a few) weekly readings that can be read aloud in 10 to 12 minutes and offer a simple curriculum of insightful reflections and transformative practices*

Community Meal: October 6 + *Contact Janelle Smeins* (319-230-9034). A free meal is served every Tuesday from 4:30-6pm at First United Methodist Church. We need individuals to set up tables, serve, clean up & donate cookies/bars

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

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

*****The office will be staffed 9am-1pm this week*****

Monday, Sept 21
6pm "Embracing a New Normal" (Library)

Tuesday, Sept. 22
10am Ladies Book Study (Library)
5pm HRT Mtg. (Library)
6pm Adult Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Wednesday, Sept 23
7am Walking Wednesday @ Big Woods
5:30pm Handbell Rehearsal (Rm. 310)
6pm Film Viewing/Discussion: 1946 (Library)

Thursday, Sept. 24
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, Sept. 26
9-11:30am Highland Elementary School Landscaping
10am-2pm Haitian Community Car Wash
2pm Cancer Support Grp @ NewAldaya Main St.

Sunday, Sept. 27
8am Worship (Sanctuary)
8:45am Confirmation
9am Sunday School
9am "The Chosen" Discussion Grp (Chapel)
9am Taking Faith Home Discussion (Atrium)
10am Worship (Faith & Life Center)

11am **Blessing of the Playground & Nature Playscape area**

1pm Burnt Offerings (Men's Event) @ John McClellan's home (1402 Austin Way)

Synod Women's Field Trip Day + Another opportunity for SJLC women to gather: NE Iowa Women of ELCA is hosting a Fall Field Trip day in Waterloo and Cedar Falls on Saturday, Oct 17th. It starts at 10 am at Grout/Veterans' Museum, Lunch at Barn Happy at 1pm and concludes at ThreeHouse Campus Ministries (start there at 2:30). Costs are on your own, but rsvp needed by Oct 1st. for Barn Happy. Invite a friend and be in fellowship with other women of NE Iowa.... *rsvp to Chris VanDeventer of NE Iowa WELCA at cdvandeven@gmail.com or 515 320 2877. If you want to carpool from St John, contact Rose Lorenz to coordinate--319 404 2125.*



Support our upcoming "Cats for Christ" Halloween event with donations of

- individually wrapped candy,
- UNI-themed trinkets
- purple and/or gold prizes (these are non-candy items — ie stickers, bead necklaces, bracelets, clappers, etc)

Donations may be left in the atrium.

2026 CROP Hunger Walk + Join others in the Cedar Valley to raise money & awareness for hunger relief on Sunday, October 4. Registration & Lunch at 1pm, Walk begins at 2pm. All ages welcome as we walk through the Historic Church Row Neighborhood in Waterloo and learn more about our immigrant neighbors. This **event needs a SJLC leader**—contact P Brian if you are willing to lead our team or have questions about participating.





HEALING & CONCERN. . . Imogene Burgardt & Loy Walker (Barb & Brett Walker's moms); Glenda Johnson; James Van Patten; Darin Hansen; Don Timmerman; Christine & Denise (Lori Schneider's friends); Bev Morris ([PCC Director] Kathy Thompson's mom); Kathy Taylor; Grant Gubbrud; Lanette, Goose (Brian & Lori Fegley friends); Harley; Sue Larson; Paulo (Barb Feuerhak's son-in-law).

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

The altar flowers are given in celebration of Paul & Merna Stemmerman's90th anniversary by their family (8:00); and by Sheryl Greiner in gratitude for her family (10:00). Donut Sponsor: Heidi & Jeff Guse

	Aug-26			Fiscal YTD (04/01/26-03/31/27)		
Church	76,703.65	129,834.91	(53,131.26)	373,664.54	478,600.24	(104,935.70)
Preschool/Childcare	55,929.87	69,594.89	(13,665.02)	321,752.93	346,022.30	(24,269.37)
Total	132,633.52	199,429.80	(66,796.28)	695,417.47	824,622.54	(129,205.07)

* includes YTD Capital Projects - $178,499.51

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!). We arenow implementing those projects but with that comes all of 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:

September 13— 241