St. John Lutheran Church

September 27, 2026

# Joyfully taking God's Love INTO THE WORLD







***Rachel will lead our music at both Oct 4th worship services.*** **Come back to enjoy music from Rachel, David Scherer and Joe Davis at our Coffeeshop event in the F&LC — Sunday, October 4th at 7pm!**

## 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**

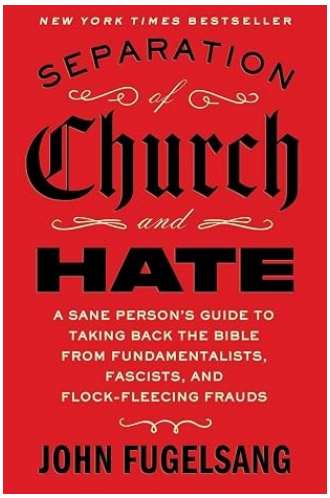
**RECONCILING *in* CHRIST**

*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!*

**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.

**WOMEN'S EVENT: Coffee/Tea with Friends!**
Saturday, October 17 at 9am @ Hansen's Dairy, CF.




We'll share in a short devotion, then enjoy time catching up with those we know and meeting/welcoming new friends before heading off to enjoy the rest of our day. Coffee & Breakfast Items available to purchase from Hansen's . 25 seats available—sign up at the Welcome Center table.

**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.*

**The Chosen TV Series Discussion Groups**
9-9:55am Sundays. Location: Fireside Chapel
5:30pm, Thursdays. Location: Library.
Join others at either opportunity:
Episode 2: "Shabbat"
Episode 3: "Jesus Loves the Little Children"

**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)
10/11—First Baptist Church, Wloo.
Restaurant: Three Amigos (2820 Falls Ave., Wloo)

**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!*

**Young at Heart Event +**
Our Young at Heart group will pay tribute to St. John Veterans on Tuesday October 20th We'll meet at **Americans for Independent Living (AFIL) on University Ave, Wloo at 10:30 am.** AFIL honors those who served, supporting veterans and their families with safe housing and a resource center where Veterans can access essential resources, build community connections, and find tools they need to thrive. The day will include:

- 10:45 AFIL presentation and tour w/ Executive Dir.
- 11:45 Recognition of St. John Veterans
- 12:15pm Lunch (Blue Barn BBQ—free for veterans, freewill offering for others)
- 1pm Optional Volunteer Opportunity assisting AFIL

Signup at the Welcome Center table by Oct. 11 and indicate if you will be staying to volunteer for AFIL.

**Burnt Offerings: CANCELED FOR 2026**
See you in 2027!



## What's Happening This Week

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

**TODAY 11am** **Blessing of the Playground & Nature Playscape Area!**

**Monday, Sept 28**
5;15pm PRT Mtg.

**Tuesday, Sept. 29**
10am Ladies Book Study (Library)
5pm Environmental Stewardship Team Mtg
6pm Adult Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

**Wednesday, Sept 30**
7am Walking Wednesday @ Big Woods
5pm W&C Team Mtg. (Library)
5:30pm Handbell Rehearsal (Rm. 310)

**Thursday, October 1**
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)
PM PCC Family Movie Night (Courtyard)

**Sunday, October 4**
**music led by Rachel Kurtz—both services**
8am Worship (Sanctuary)
8:45am Confirmation
9am Sunday School
9am "The Chosen" Discussion Grp (Chapel)
9am Taking Faith Home Discussion (Atrium)
9am "Separation of Church & Hate (Lower Level)
**9am** **Welcome to St. John series** (Fellowship Hall)
10am Worship (Faith & Life Center)
**2pm** **Pet Blessing Service (Courtyard)**
PM Synod Pastor Retreat (main level)
7pm **Coffeeshop feat. Rachel Kurtz, David**

**Children's Christmas Program Leadership** + It may be the start of fall but we are already looking towards this year's Christmas program! We'd love to get our leadership team in place — all volunteers are welcome to find a place on the team, with special emphasis on finding someone willing to LEAD the Volunteer Team. The lead is someone who has strong organizational and communication skills to bring all the parts together. Some musical or theatrical background is helpful but definitely not required! Contact Rose Lorenz (lorenzr35@gmail.com) to learn more or join the team.

**2026 CROP Hunger Walk** + Join others in the Cedar Valley to raise money & awareness for hunger relief next 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. Pastor Brian can provide you with info including a donation packet.

**Wednesday Walks** + 7am, Wednesdays *Contact: Pastor Brian.* Each Wednesday, meet at the Big Woods south parking lot at 7am for a 45 minute walk with whomever shows up. No signup needed.




**Environmental Stewardship Team** +
5pm meeting - Tuesday. Sept 29 in the library.
*ALL are welcome to join!*

**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 memory of Darlys Hansen from Leonard Hansen & family (8:00); and in memory of Jim & Bryan Vaughn by Marlene Vaughn (10:00).* *Donut Sponsor: Carol Menefee*

| | 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 20— 303