

St. John Lutheran Church

# Joyfully taking God's love INTO THE WORLD Spring Catalog 2026

Spring is here and it is the season of Easter. This is a great time of the year as the landscape is coming alive again with all of the signs of new life. It is also a great reminder of the new things that God is doing in our lives and at St John. There are many ways for each of us to be involved:

- How we live out our lives together as a congregation in community is one of the ways that we can respond to the Easter message by “joyfully taking God’s love into the world!” We *connect Christ’s community by building relationships among all people* every time we gather — and we gather for lots of reasons!
- Each week we gather together at worship as a community to give thanks and praise to God, offer our prayers and gifts, and allow the Word to inspire and send us into the world.
- We invite you to be a part of a small group, join in one of the studies we offer throughout the year, and to read/study the scripture on your own. There are lots of opportunities for us to *fulfill the call of the gospel of Jesus Christ through caring, nurturing and supporting one another ... While growing in faith through lifelong learning!*
- Each of us has been given gifts that can be shared to help *according to each one’s needs by sharing God’s love and grace through acts of service*. Financial support, offering your time and talents, serving in ministry, and reaching out through one of our ministry partners are all ways we can share our gifts.

Throughout these pages are many opportunities for each of us to be active in the life of St John as we live out our purpose of “joyfully taking God’s love into the world” — together! Consider this YOUR invitation to take part in one or more of the opportunities offered here at 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](mailto: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.

**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](http://www.stjohncf.org)
- Call the office: 319-268-0165
- Follow us on Facebook: [stjohncf](https://www.facebook.com/stjohncf)



**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!*

# **ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING: Sunday, April 19, 2026**

St. John's Annual Meeting will take place on **Sunday, April 19, 11:15am in the Faith & Life Center**. This is a great time for voting members to celebrate the past year of ministry and look forward to what is to come in the next year. In addition to electing leadership and approving our budget for fiscal year April 2026 – March 2027, voting members will also approve our Endowment Fund disbursements. We will also vote on changes needed for our Constitution to match the 2025 ELCA model Constitution and a presentation will be shared by Jan Glaspie from the Synod office.

**Voting members are confirmed members that have communed and financially contributed to St. John in the past year.** (We consider financial contributions to be shared by all members of a household so confirmed youth are eligible and encouraged to vote.) The Annual Meeting requires 10% of our voting members to constitute a quorum. As of 2026, our quorum is 97 (confirmed membership is 976).

**BUDGET Q&A OPPORTUNITY:** Sunday, April 12th at 9:10am in the Fireside Chapel.

## **Update Regarding the Capital Campaign & Projects**

Thanks to your abundant generosity, we are now at the start of two special projects, which will be a wonderful update to our facility and grounds! St. John is incredibly grateful for the heartfelt commitment of everyone who made a gift to either project — thank you!

**Organ Restoration:** Obermeyer, the vendor restoring the organ, will be beginning their work on the organ on Monday, May 4th. To begin, they will remove the console, the wind regulators and the internal components of the wind chests for restoration at their shop. The second phase of the project will involve the cleaning and restoration of the pipework. While the organ itself will be unavailable throughout the process, the sanctuary will continue to be used for worship. Current estimates are that this project will be completed by August.

**Playground Construction:** This past week concluded use of the lower level entrance by our Preschool & Childcare families as the lower level parking lot will be closed off after Easter Sunday in anticipation of the area being prepped for work to begin (yay!). We are gifting the playground equipment to another church in the Cedar Valley to bless their little ones and their removal of items is underway!

### **THINGS TO KNOW:**

Preschool & Childcare families will utilize the west entrance for drop off and pick up so please be extra aware of little ones moving throughout the parking lot if you are here during the week.

PCC families will be pulling up to the curb at the west entrance for “*fast lane drop off & pickup*” so we are asking if you want to come into the building, to not park at the curb during these times: 8:45-9:05; 11:15-11:35; 12:45-1:05; 3:15-3:35. Please park in the lot and walk to the entrance.

Sunday, April 6th is the final opportunity to get flowers, bulbs, plants or landscaping blocks from the Garden area. Clearing of that area will begin after April 6th and for safety reasons, once that begins, we ask that you not go into the lower level area.

*Although we will experience some logistical changes and temporary inconvenience with the playground and lower level lot being inaccessible, it will be SO worth it when the new playground and parking lot are complete!*

## WORSHIP & CELEBRATION

### 10am Worship Team / F&LC

Contact: Mike Best ([music10@stjohncf.org](mailto: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.

**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.

## WORSHIP & EARTH DAY: CARING FOR CREATION

Our worship services on **April 26** will be an opportunity for us to reflect on our stewardship of God's creation and celebrate how we at St. John care for creation and reduce our carbon footprint!



### Youth Sunday: May 3rd—10am service

Be filled with joy at our youth-led worship service. This year's service will include leadership from our youth, including a special Guest Preacher, and special music provided by our Sunday School children.

### Graduation Milestone: May 10th—10am service

This service will also include our **Graduation Milestone** for graduating high school seniors and **recognition of our Endowment Fund Scholarship recipients.**

### Summer Worship: Indoor @ 8am & Outdoor @10am (almost every Sunday!)

We look forward to sharing in a beautiful St. John tradition of worshipping together in the courtyard under the oak trees this summer for the 10am service on most Sundays this summer, June-August! *Prefer an air-conditioned environment?* The 8am service continues to meet in the Sanctuary in the summer months.

June 7—8am service inside; 10am service outside in courtyard — *first one for the summer months*

July 5—one service: 9am at Overman Park with Bethlehem Lutheran

July 19—both services in F&LC: VBS focus (using VBS songs & scripture)

August 30: 8am service inside; 10am service outside in courtyard—*last one for the summer months*

Sept. 6—one service: 9am in the Sanctuary (*Labor Day holiday/weekend*)

Holiday Weekend Worship Schedule



**May 24 - 9am**

We **WORSHIP TOGETHER** at **one service** in the SANCTUARY.  
(No 8am or 10am services)

# FAITH FORMATION & LIFELONG LEARNING

## CHILDREN (3yr-6th gr)



QR CODE TO REGISTER

**Sunday School** + Sundays, 9:00-10:00am CONCLUDES MAY 17.

Contact: Marty Postel ([Marty@stjohncf.org](mailto:Marty@stjohncf.org))

This timing of Sunday School allows families to participate in either the 8am Sanctuary service or the 10am F&LC service.

**PreK & K:** Explorer Room A / **1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Explorer Room B

(lower level – turn right at bottom of stairs & go down hallway to room at end)

**3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>:** Room 310A (upper level)

**5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>:** Room 319 (upper level)



Contact: Meghan Bruns ([vbs@stjohncf.org](mailto:vbs@stjohncf.org))

Rainforest Falls VBS will be sending kids on a rainforest adventure. Step through the mist into Rainforest Falls, overflowing with wild waterfalls, towering trees, and colorful creatures. Beneath a canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys, kids plunge into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God. They'll explore what it means to be rooted in **relationship with God**, their creator, a safe place in life's storms.

\*\*3 years old (and potty trained) through the completion of 4th grade are welcome to participate. Registrations will come out in late spring.\*\*

☺ 5th grade and up are encouraged to join our volunteer crew. ☺



Use the QR Code to Join the Volunteer Crew!

### Want to help in another way?

There will be options to donate items we need for crafts, games, and decorations, as well as baking goods for volunteers and doing prep work on some crafts. Watch for that coming soon!

# FAITH FORMATION & LIFELONG LEARNING

## YOUTH (7th-12th gr)



**Confirmation** 7th/8th/9th gr+ Sundays, 8:45-10am. CONCLUDES MAY 17.

Contact: Steve Ferguson ([Steve@stjohncf.org](mailto:Steve@stjohncf.org))

7th, 8th & 9th grade students gather for Confirmation large group before breaking out into smaller groups for in-depth discussion of the *Colaborate* focus of the day.

QR CODE TO REGISTER

### Youth Group Night

Contact: Austin Gabel ([Austin@stjohncf.org](mailto: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.

Apr 15 (Wed), TBD Katoski Greenbelt	Spring Hike
May 1 (Fri-Sat), TBD	SJLC Youth Lock-In   What an Awesome God
May 6 (Wed), 6:30-8 PM	We Arose Gardens *Service Event* - House of Hope
May 20 (Wed), 6:30-8 PM	SJLC - Cedar Falls Scavenger Hunt
Jun 3 (Tues), 6:30-8 PM	SJLC Courtyard School's Out Summer Party
Jun 17 (Tues), 6:30-8 PM	Location TBD *Service Event*
Jul 1 (Wed), 6:30-8 PM	Location TBD & Activity TBD
Jul 19-Jul25 Nashville, TN	Summer Service Trip
Aug 5 (Wed), 6:30-8 PM	Location TBD Service Event - NE IA Food Bank



*ThreeHouse Collaborative Campus Ministries is a place where students gather to explore issues of faith, identity, and future. It's a place where students can engage freely with others to challenge their beliefs and where personal growth takes place within a faith community.*

### **Finals Week Breakfast: Monday - Thursday, May 11-14**

#### **A free breakfast for UNI Students**

Donations of breakfast food items or attending to help serve breakfast any of the days is fantastic support for our students here at the end of another great year. A grab & go breakfast is available as well as a hot meal. Volunteers are also needed to help!

If you would like to support this meal, please sign up using the QR code.

Item drop off by 4 pm Friday prior: 2422 College St. 50613 or for Sunday/Monday drop off arrangements, call 319-331-7541 or email [ross@threehouse.org](mailto:ross@threehouse.org) Thank you!



**A Retirement Celebration  
for Rev. David  
Glenn-Burns to say  
THANK YOU for his many  
years of ministry at  
ThreeHouse:**

May 1<sup>st</sup> 10am-5pm  
May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2pm-5pm

**ThreeHouse**  
2422 College St., Cedar Falls

*Open house, both days will feature an open mic-style storytelling time at 3pm where you can share your favorite Dave story to the room!*



# 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**—this 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 theme reminds us that the great I AM who created us and sustains us in the God who is in relationship with us! This God calls to us in love that we may remember our duty to love & serve others. This is a God who walks with us as we walk.

We will have amazing musicians, dynamic speakers, engaging workshops and servant activities to enjoy!

**LEARN MORE . . . At our upcoming “I Am Worthy” Coffee on Saturday, April 11 from 9:45-10:45am** at Hansen’s Dairy (123 E 18th St, CF) — and get the “tea” on the Gathering from our SJLC Leadership Team and those who have gone to previous Gatherings. We’ll also share more about SJLC scholarship funds available to help offset the registration fee!

Leadership Team Contact Rose Lorenz (319-404-2125, [lorenzr35@gmail.com](mailto:lorenzr35@gmail.com)) or Gloria Tollefson (319-266-4075, [gltollefson@gmail.com](mailto:gltollefson@gmail.com)).

## Perennials: Adult Bible Study

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

Location: Church Library

Contact: David Duncan (319-575-4227 or [davidandhelenm@gmail.com](mailto:davidandhelenm@gmail.com)) or Lynn Lovell (319-277-8687 or [lrlovell4@gmail.com](mailto:lrlovell4@gmail.com)). This weekly bible study focuses on characters or themes from the Bible and how it relates to our everyday life. No signup needed.

**Taking Faith Home: Scripture/Sermon Discussion.** + Sundays, 9am. Contact: Rose Lorenz (319-404-2125 or [lorenzr35@gmail.com](mailto:lorenzr35@gmail.com)). 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 entryway brochure rack. No signup needed.

**WELCA Women “Gather” Bible Study** + 1:30pm, third Wednesday of month — April 15. Contact Gloria Tollefson ([gltollefson@gmail.com](mailto:gltollefson@gmail.com)). “Gather” with other SJLC women to use the Bible study in the Women of the ELCA gather magazine (a very inexpensive subscription is available with paper or online option).. This month we learn more about “God’s Names, Gods Promises” through the use of “I am”. We will focus on “I AM the gate for the sheep” and “I AM the good shepherd” as found in the book of John and how it relates to the Old Testament.

## Young at Heart (55+ group)

Contact: Joan Baumgartner ([mjoanb706@gmail.com](mailto:mjoanb706@gmail.com) or 319-277-2634), Sue Holm (319-239-4579 or [sholm12@gmail.com](mailto:sholm12@gmail.com)), Rod Hamer (507-202-3454, [rodbhamer@gmail.com](mailto:rodbhamer@gmail.com)). All those age 55 and older are welcome to participate in Young at Heart activities. Previous activities have included day trips, luncheons, movies, and more! NEXT event: Friday, April 24—Dementia House Simulation. Contact the church office to get the signup link. Anyone is welcome! Just be “Young at Heart”!

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

## Wednesday Walks

+ 7am, Wednesdays  
Contact: Pastor Brian ([pastorbrian@stjohncf.org](mailto:pastorbrian@stjohncf.org))  
If you love being outdoors when the weather isn’t 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.

**Men’s Breakfast** + Another of our “seasonal get togethers”, this one our Summer Men’s Breakfast. Date TBD. Keep your appetite for a great breakfast and fellowship on alert!!

**Tuesday Ladies** + Tuesdays, 10am. Location: Church Library *Contact Arleen Burkhardt* ([arleenb45@gmail.com](mailto:arleenb45@gmail.com) or 319-266-9672).

**Thursday Bible Study** + Thursdays, 3:30pm. Location: Church Library *Contact: Don & Sandy Kohagen* (319-277-9460 or [kohagendonsandy@gmail.com](mailto:kohagendonsandy@gmail.com)).

Both our Tuesday Ladies & Thursday (mixed genders) bible study 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. If you're seeking a fresh way to experience and practice your faith, this book will inspire and activate you in your spiritual journey. No homework -- you'll read and discuss the scripture passage and short chapter as a group before diving into the end of the chapter questions! Purchase your own copy of the book and come share in this thought-provoking faith resource.



**Grace On Base Softball** +  
*Contact Cory Levendusky* ([corylevendusky2@gmail.com](mailto:corylevendusky2@gmail.com) or 319-230-1466 ) or *Andrew Bruns* ( [brunsa@alumni.uni.edu](mailto:brunsa@alumni.uni.edu) or 641-425-5058)

St John's unique "No Strikeouts, Put the Ball In Play!" approach to all-ages intergenerational fun-first softball is moving from a WEEKLY activity to a once a month special event in July & August! Our plans include inviting other churches and organizations to share in our "game and grace". Watch future Happenings for your invite to come play or root for Team St. John!



**SJLC Night at the Waterloo BUCKS Baseball Game** +  
*Contact Steve Ferguson* ([steve@stjohncf.org](mailto:steve@stjohncf.org) or 319-239-8713) Come cheer on the Bucks on Saturday, June 6. The fun begins at 5pm with a tailgate out under the trees at

the stadium with hot dogs, chips, beverages and few fun raffle prizes. 6:35 pm game time. Peanuts brought in and shared, with FIREWORKS after!! If ordered through the church, tickets are discounted to \$10 each! Just bring a lawn chair, a favorite dessert or munchie to share if you like, a favorite beverage if you prefer more than water. Contact Fergie if interested with number of tickets wanted. You can pay on day of game.

Save  
the Date

2026 C3 CONFERENCE  
REGISTRATION OPENING SOON!

JUNE 6, 2026

Theme: **Abiding, Belonging, Creative, Collaborative Congregations (A/B/C3)**

When: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM Saturday, June 6

Where: St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, Waverly, IA

Address: 301 1st St NW, Waverly, Iowa 50677

Who: ELCA congregation members and rostered leaders from across the synod gather in fellowship to learn together, share ideas and get inspired with skills to strengthen their congregational ministries.

Registration will be opening soon! Watch for your invitation to participate or let Pastor Brian know of your interest in attending.

# PRESCHOOL & CHILDCARE CENTER

**ST. JOHN**  
PRESCHOOL & CHILDCARE

**2026-2027**  
**REGISTRATION**

**CALL OR EMAIL TO ADD  
YOUR CHILD TO OUR  
INCOMING CLASS LIST!**

**319-268-0165**

**KATHYTHOMPSON  
@STJOHNCF.ORG**

## RACIAL JUSTICE TEAM

The Racial Justice Team (RJT) at St. John Lutheran Church continues to build momentum through education, partnership, and community engagement. In recent months, the team has focused on creating meaningful opportunities for learning and dialogue while strengthening connections both within the congregation and across Cedar Falls.

In January, the team encouraged broad participation in the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Banquet, supporting a longstanding community gathering that honors Dr. King's legacy and invites reflection on the ongoing work of justice.

Most recently, the RJT co-sponsored and presented a full-day community program on February 28, 2026, alongside Every Chapter Counts and the Grout Museum District. The ECC Film Festival featured selected segments from the *1619 Project* documentary series and brought together a wide cross-section of the community for conversation, reflection, and shared learning. Organizers reported strong attendance and engagement, with the day exceeding expectations and reinforcing the value of collaborative programming. Members of the RJT were instrumental in helping create Every Chapter Counts, working the ECC facebook page, and creating the website, [everychaptercounts.org](http://everychaptercounts.org)

Looking ahead, the team will continue its regular monthly rhythm of conversation and planning. Plans are also underway for the RJT to be featured during an upcoming worship offering to help share more about the team's work and invite broader participation as preparations begin for events such as LeChristophers and the Juneteenth Celebration.

**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.* Carpool often available to/from SJLC, leaving at 11:45am—contact Pastor Brian or Steve Ferguson!

**Juneteenth** + Join others in the Cedar Valley at this community-wide event at First Congregational UCC (W'loo) on June 18th from 6-8pm. Belinda Creighton Smith will be the primary speaker and LaTanya Graves will speak during the meal about the work of the NAACP.

RJT will also be encouraging and helping connect people to the MLK Freedom Bus Tour this coming November, details to follow.

The Racial Justice Team welcomes anyone interested in learning, listening, and contributing to this ongoing work. Contact Pr. Brian at [pastorbrian@stjohncf.org](mailto:pastorbrian@stjohncf.org).

# NEVER THE ENEMY

Survivors of State Violence Share Their Stories  
6:00 pm Tuesday, April 14, 2026

**HAWKEYE**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



The 2025-26 Hawkeye Reads selection, *They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei, has led our campus through the lived experience of a young boy interned by his own country during World War II.

Following classroom discussions on topics such as identity, trauma, and resistance, we now invite you to join us in a broader dialogue.

Together, we will continue the conversation on the legacy of state-based violence, its impact on those who endure it, and the threads of shared humanity that bind us together—even when the world attempts to pull us apart.

120 Jefferson St. Waterloo, Iowa  
Hawkeye Community College Van G. Miller  
Adult Learning Center

Third Floor - Martin Luther King Jr Community Hall

Dr. Clementine Msengi is a faculty member in the Center for Doctoral Studies in Educational Leadership at Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas. A survivor of the Rwandan genocide, she is the author of over 30 publications, including her book *Spared: Escaping Genocide in Rwanda and Finding Home in America*.



Dr. Clementine Msengi

Fazal Moneer is a former interpreter with the U.S. Special Operations in Afghanistan, and has been an Iowan since 2021. Born in Pakistan to Afghan refugee parents, he is the author of *A River is Made: From South Waziristan, to Kabul, Dubai, and Des Moines, IA - An Afghan Refugee's Journey from War to Belonging in America*.



Fazal Moneer

After surviving the Bosnian War and refugee camps in Croatia, Anesa Kajtazovic settled in Waterloo, Iowa, in 1997. A UNI graduate, she became the youngest woman elected to the Iowa House and the first Bosnian-American to hold U.S. public office. Anesa is also the award-winning author of *Anesa, No Skola Today*, a memoir written to inspire peace.



Anesa Kajtazovic

Nick El Hajj is an award-winning journalist and reporter at the Des Moines Register. His work includes eyewitness accounts of Iowa's WWII POW camps, documenting how communities such as Algona and Clarinda encountered German and Japanese prisoners. Drawing on interviews with survivors and historians, his work examines how fear gradually gave way to moments of shared human connection.



Nick El Hajj

This event made possible by generous funding provided by Humanities Iowa and the National Endowment for the Humanities



Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this event do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Following the panel discussion, please join us for an author book signing and journalist meet & greet. A limited number of copies of *Spared* (Msengi), *A River is Made* (Moneer) and *No Skola Today* (Kajtazovic) will be available for purchase.

Join us for the  
**UNI Out of the Darkness the Walk**  
Saturday April 11, 2026  
Maucker Union  
Sign up using the QR code or by going to [www.afsp.org/uni](http://www.afsp.org/uni)

Join others in the Cedar Valley on April 11, 2026 for the annual UNI Out of the Darkness Campus Walk! This walk is hosted by the UNI Chi Sigma Iota to raise awareness for suicide and mental health. The event starts at 12:30PM with check-in, activities, and tabling with community organizations followed by the walk starting at 1:45, a speaker, and a raffle with prizes from our community. Consider setting up a fundraising page, starting a team, and/or donating to the cause to help prevent suicide in our community. You do not have to be there day of to fundraise and make a difference in our community.

Time: check-in starts at 12:30PM, event starts at 1:45PM



## HOSPITALITY & CONGREGATION CARE

# Hobby Survey Results



Coming soon to  
equip you to  
grow in  
community  
together!

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

**Sunday Donuts** + Contact Kim Miller (319-269-4773). If you would be interested in purchasing donuts for a Sunday (approx. \$25-30) & 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](mailto:meghanrunyan@gmail.com)). Coffee lovers unite! By helping prep our Sunday coffee service with set up on Friday or Saturday and cleaning up following the 10am service. As we thank Meghan for her service, this crew needs a new team leader to “perc(ulate) up”! Sign up at the Welcome Center table or contact Meghan to learn more about what that role involves.

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

**Baby Meal Train** + Contact Kayla Rasmussen ([kayla.16.wilson@gmail.com](mailto:kayla.16.wilson@gmail.com)) Support a SJLC family after a new birth/adoption with a meal! 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.

### **NewAldaya Monthly Gathering and Western Home Monthly Gathering**

Contact Steve Ferguson ([steve@stjohncf.org](mailto:steve@stjohncf.org))

St. John hosts a monthly gathering at both NewAldaya and the Western Home for our St. John friends to gather and share in prayer, communion & a time of fellowship. Everyone is welcome!

- Western Home: 3rd Thursday of every month in the WINDRIDGE West Lounge, 2pm.
- NewAldaya: 4th Thursday of the month at 2pm in the 2nd floor New Arbor Lounge.



# STURGIS FALLS

Our SJLC Sturgis Falls Leadership Team is hard at work brainstorming ideas for how St. John can participate in this year's Sturgis Falls Parade! This year's theme is "50th Anniversary: The Golden Ticket."

Contact Becky Martin (319-404-3111, [Runwalnut1125@gmail.com](mailto:Runwalnut1125@gmail.com)) if you are willing to help with planning AND watch for your invite to join in the fun!

## SERVING & DISCIPLESHIP

**Cancer Support Group:** Contact: Carol Menefee ([cjmenefee@gmail.com](mailto: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 date:** Saturday, April 18th—11:30am lunch at George's Local, CF to have lunch together.

**NewAldaya Communion Assistance + Contact** Daryl Veatch (319-490-8396 or [veatchd@alumni.uni.edu](mailto:veatchd@alumni.uni.edu)). St. John is committed to providing 2 or 3 volunteers each Sunday in August to assist the residents at NewAldaya in getting from their rooms down to their Sunday Chapel service and back.

**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 eye-glasses & 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/](http://northeastiowafoodbank.org/) Of special need for the Little Food Pantry are:

**Dry goods:** 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\*

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

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

**Community Meals + Contact Janelle Smeins** ([janellesmeins4@gmail.com](mailto: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 2026, with our next meals on April 7th & June 2nd. We will need individuals to set up tables, serve, clean up & donate food.

## SMALL BITES TO DELIGHT

A St. John  
Women, Wine & the Word event

Tuesday, April 21 5:30-7:30pm

**LOCATION: TABLE 1912 (WESTERN HOME)**

5307 Caraway Ln., Cedar Falls

Enjoy time of conversation with friends!

Appetizers provided

Beverages available for purchase

**YOUR "TICKET": DONATION OF ITEMS FOR THE CEDAR BEND HUMANE SOCIETY!**

40 seats for this event



Sign Up

### NEW OPP:

#### Northeast Iowa Food Bank Volunteer Opp

Gather with others from SJLC for a time of volunteering at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank.

Saturday, May 16

9-11am

10 people

Projects are determined by the Food Bank's needs. Sign up at the WC table.

Spring is a critical, high-activity season for the Humane Society. Shelters experience overcrowding, leading to a greater need for adoptions, foster homes, and donations of supplies like cleaning products and pet food. Your gifts of "most needed items" will support the Humane Society as they care for these fur-babies while they wait for their fur-ever home! **Most needed items:** Wet Pate Kitten food; Unscented Baby Wipes; Cat Litter; Puppy Pads; Small Animal Treats; Dry Dog Food; Disinfectant Wipes; Laundry Detergent



## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP TEAM

**Team Mtg:** *As Lutherans, God calls us to care for others and for all of God's creation.* Join others in supporting this work and come to the **next Team meeting: Tuesday, May 5—5pm**

### Expired/Unused Medication Disposal:

**Take-Back Day—April 25** + Iowa DEA is hosting a medication take back day on Saturday, April 25 from 10am—2pm at the CF Public Safety Center (4600 Main St). Learn more (*including if meds should stay in the original container or not*): [www.dea.gov/takebackday](http://www.dea.gov/takebackday).

**Cedar Valley Trails Cleanup +** Join others from SJLC on Saturday, April 18th from 9am to noon as we focus on cleaning up Hudson Road from 1st Street to University Ave. Sign up at the Welcome Center table —meet here Saturday morning to get supplies and we'll head out together.



### Cedar Falls Earth Fest: Saturday, April 25

The City is proud to partner with local environmental organizations to host the second annual Cedar Falls EarthFest (*formerly the Cedar Falls Earth Fair*) on Saturday, April 25 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Gateway Park (101 Lincoln Street)!

The event will include a rain barrel workshop, seed planting station, birdhouse building workshops, and activities for kids from the Hearst Center for the Arts and the Cedar Falls Public Library. A lunch of hot dogs and chips will be provided by Cedar Falls Hy-Vee. The City will be giving away free prairie seed packets and tree saplings to attendees, and the Cedar Falls Public Library Youth Department will host a Storytime at 11:30 a.m.

### Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics

**Spring Drop-Off +** Saturday, May 2 (9 AM–12:30 PM) at the Waterloo Waste Management Facility, 3505 Easton Ave. Accepts electronics, appliances, and hazardous waste. Appointments are required: <https://wastetrac.org/spring-collection-event/>

**Recycle 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 sells the used athletic shoes to vendors in developing countries. Proceeds are used to plant at least 4 trees with every pair. To date, we've sent 142 pairs of shoes = 710 trees planted!

**Recycle Cards Opp +** Half of the cards are being given to sell at First United Methodist Church to support missions. The other half of the cards will go to the Western Home, where greeting card boxes are placed in the independent living buildings.

*Categories of cards needed:* Anniversary; Birthday; Get Well; Sympathy; Thank You; Thinking of You; Notecards. (No holiday cards, please).

We can use new and used cards. Please provide the entire card. We also will accept donations of blank envelopes and any color of card stock. Donations may be left in the box in the office entry.

**New Recycling Station in Atrium +** There are bins for coffee sleeves, coffee lids, paper and more. Unfortunately the coffee cups themselves can't be recycled because they have a wax coating. Those can be placed in the regular trash.

**Coffee Grounds +** Did you know that we set the used coffee grounds out to dry on a rack when the coffee is cleaned up on Sunday (instead of throwing it away)? Those grounds are available for you to take & use for your plants/garden—you just need to bring a container to transport it home! *Contact Cory Levendusky (319-230-1466, [corylevendusky2@gmail.com](mailto:corylevendusky2@gmail.com)) to arrange taking them home.*



**Cedar Valley Interfaith Council  
Ad Hoc Immigration Committee  
cvic.immigration@gmail.com**

...

**We believe** that every human person is entitled to be treated with dignity, respect and due process of law, regardless of their legal status.

**We believe** society has a moral responsibility to preserve and protect families.

**We believe** that enforcement of the law must be just, humane, targeted and proportionate to the danger posed.

**We believe** it is morally wrong for political leaders to incite and exploit xenophobic and racial fear.

**We believe** that religion should not be weaponized as a tool of political ideologies.

**We believe** people of faith and goodwill have a moral responsibility to protect and support those endangered by social, political, economic and religious prejudice.

The Cedar Valley Interfaith Council has **available "We Stand With Immigrants" yard signs for \$20.00 each**. If you would like to purchase one, signs can be picked up from the SJLC church office with payment provided to CVIC through a QR code we have in the church office (*no cash purchases*).



**Spring 2026 Gathering**  
Sunday, May 3, 2-4 PM  
St. John

All are welcome at this presentation by AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy) staff, Des Moines. Hear how organized power can bring real change to issues you care about. Learn how YOU can help us grow this new AMOS partnership in the Cedar Valley!



The Theological Discernment team of the ELCA churchwide organization is excited to share with you three key pieces of social teaching adopted by the ELCA Church Council and 2025 Churchwide Assembly. Find these and other social teaching resources at [resources.elca.org](https://resources.elca.org). Select "Faith and Society" from the "Topics" menu to get started.

**NEW Social Statement—Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All**

*Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All* sets forth broad insights that address questions and challenges to the flourishing of civic life in the United States today. The social statement draws on the Scriptures and Lutheran Confessions to examine God's call to civic participation as well as key issues, including church and state, Christian nationalism and the appropriate use of power in government. It calls for robust civic education and offers criteria relevant to questions of political violence, voter suppression, systemic racism and the use of religion to justify domination. Read the full social statement at [ELCA.org/civicsandfaith](https://ELCA.org/civicsandfaith).

**UPDATED Social Statement—Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust**

The 2025 Churchwide Assembly adopted the edited text of *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*. The edits, authorized by the 2022 Churchwide Assembly, update language while maintaining the statement's theological vision of trust, responsibility, pastoral care and well-being. A diverse task force led the ELCA in discernment on these edits and has begun work on a second, substantive reconsideration of the social statement's description of the coexistence of four different but valid convictions that Lutherans faithfully hold about same-gender relationships. Visit [ELCA.org/reconsiderations](https://ELCA.org/reconsiderations).

**NEW Social Message on "Child Protection"**

This new social message draws on the Scriptures, Lutheran traditions, research and the experiences of ELCA Lutherans to deepen our understanding of child maltreatment and to offer a theological vision of childhood and the church's commitment to the dignity and well-being of children. It includes robust sections on forgiveness, confidentiality in pastoral care, trauma-informed ministry and specific policy recommendations for protecting children. Download "Child Protection" at [ELCA.org/ChildProtection](https://ELCA.org/ChildProtection).

# MINISTRY PARTNERS

SAVE THE DATE

# Radiance

ON THE RUNWAY

**THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026**  
4:30-6:30PM | Show Begins at 5:00PM

*A Cabi Boutique Fashion Show & Cocktail Party*

Where women - *of all ages* - come together to celebrate beauty, legacy, & personal style...  
*one radiant step at a time.*



## NEWALDAYA'S

# Radiance

ON THE RUNWAY

**STEP INTO YOUR RADIANCE & ENJOY**

- Boutique Cabi Fashion Show
- Signature Swag Bags
- Handcrafted Mocktails & Cocktails
- Delicious Appetizers
- Music & Lively Atmosphere
- Connection, Celebration & Style

  


**On Top of Her Game**  
**RSVP NOW**  
Tickets starting at \$40  
Tables starting at \$500

(319) 268-0401 | <https://tinyurl.com/newaldlaya>  
7511 University Ave, Cedar Falls, IA 50613

**toget[her]**  
let's make a  
difference



**Women Build**

building community toget[her]



join now

2026 Summer Camp

**REGISTRATION  
NOW OPEN!**

**EWALU**   
Camp & Retreat Center

**TIERED PRICING to  
make camp affordable!**

**NEW FOR 2026:**

- TRUE NORTH  
(GRADES 9-12)

**GO TO → [EWALU.ORG/SUMMER-CAMP](https://ewalu.org/summer-camp)**

*Plus, \$40 Early Discount for most youth programs by Feb. 28!*



## Women Build Breakfast Event: April 29th, 7:30-9:00 am at Orchard Hill Church, CF

St. John has 8 seats at a table for our Women Build supporters to join together for a warm, welcoming breakfast where you'll have the chance to meet the future homeowners whose lives you're helping change and connect with fellow Cedar Valley volunteers who will be building alongside you. Contact Kristin Moser (319-230-6181, [kristin.moser@gmail.com](mailto:kristin.moser@gmail.com)) if you'd like to go to this year's breakfast and sit at St. John's table!

This year's Women Build experience will build two entire houses from start to finish. Watch for your invite to sign up!



## Thank you to our Easter Garden sponsors!

Leonard Hansen Family – *In Memory of Darlys Hansen*

Heinen Family – *In Memory of Connie Heinen*

Brian and Lori Fegley – *He is risen!*

David and Helen Duncan – *Praise and Thanksgiving*

Larry and Julie Clark – *In Memory of family who've passed*

Dave and Karen Zwanziger – *In Memory of our parents*

Molly Myron – *In Memory of Irvin Myron*

Greg and Paula Nicoll – *In Memory of our parents*

Dale and DeOnn Flack – *In Memory of Carol Williams*

Scott and Darla Striegel – *In Memory of our loved ones*

Judy Judisch – *In Memory of Duane Judisch*

Fred and Dee Bolhuis – *In Memory of Chris and Lucy Bolhuis*

Maxine Buhr – *In Memory of my mother*

Nancy Hammer

Barb Feuerhak – *my mom's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday*

Jeff and Lezlie Bowers – *In Memory of our parents*

Cindi and Dave Kaiser – *to the glory of the Lord*

Kendall and Kathy Diehl – *In Memory of our parents*

Gloria Tollefson – *In Memory of my husband Leon*

Ron Lance – *In Memory of Sharon Lance*

Sheryl Greiner - *In Memory of Steve Greiner*

Bonnie and Steve Smith – *In Memory of our parents*

Kattelman Family – *In Celebration of Jim's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 6<sup>th</sup>*

Jim and Arleen Burkhardt

Adelynn Behrends and Damian Terrell – *In Memory of loved ones*

Jenny and Doug Hemesath – *In Memory of Jack and Karen Hemesath*

*In memory of Nellie Bast* from her family

*In celebration of Lois Kean* by her family.

The Sanctuary altar flowers are given by Fred & Dee Bolhuis *in celebration of Lucy Mae & Courtney Jorgensen's birthdays*. The F&LC altar flowers are given by the Bartlett family—*Happy Easter to all!*

### SIGN UP TO SPONSOR 2026 ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar Flowers 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 for the Faith & Life Center cost \$30 (one arrangement). The church office will place the order & Bancroft's Florists will bill you directly. **Sign up in the booklet at the Welcome Center table!**

GUEST CONNECTION CARD



CONNECT  
WITH  
ST. JOHN



SUBMIT A  
PRAYER  
REQUEST



SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES  
OF ST. JOHN



GIVE A  
FINANCIAL  
GIFT