



St. John Lutheran Church

# Joyfully taking God's love

## INTO THE WORLD

### Winter Catalog 2025

*The light shines in the darkness  
and the darkness cannot overcome it.*

*✿ John 1:5 ✿*

Siblings in Christ,

It is a joy to get to be a part of a community finding many and various ways to shine God's light through shared worship, service, and exploration. I love that this community is open and willing to make space for folks to lead and co-lead and dream with others about ways we can grow in faith, hope and love together. May you find a way or multitude of ways to engage and if you want to be a part of something that's not happening, know there are many people eager to help you find a way to make it happen.

We are looking forward with hope to 2026 for a faith-filled year full of opportunities for us to live out our purpose of

***Joyfully taking God's love into the world!***

**AND** our mission of:

***connecting*** Christ's community by building relationships among all people, fulfilling the call of the gospel of Jesus Christ through ***caring***, nurturing and supporting one another according to each one's needs by ***sharing*** God's love and grace through acts of service while ***growing*** in faith through lifelong learning.

In Christ, Pastor Brian

## 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!*

# FAITH FORMATION & LIFELONG LEARNING

## CHILDREN (3yr-6th gr)



QR CODE TO REGISTER

**Sunday School** + Sundays, 9:00-10:00am

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))

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. **Want to help in another way?** There will be opportunities to donate items we need for crafts, games, and decorations; opportunities to create decorations, prepare materials, set-up; as well as to be a part of the VBS Experience as a Crew Leader/Helper, Craft Leader, Music Leader, or Game Helper for our explorers.



# FAITH FORMATION & LIFELONG LEARNING

## YOUTH (7th-12th gr)



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

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.

Jan 7 (Wed), 6:30-8 PM	SJLC - FLC Kickball
Jan 21 (Wed), 6:30-8 PM	SJLC - FLC Movie Night
Feb 4 (Wed), 2-5 PM	UNI-Dome / TBD Super Bowl Showdown
Feb 18 (Wed), 6:30-8 PM (following Lent service)	SJLC Movie Night
Mar 4 (Wed), 6:30-8 PM (following Lent service)	SJLC Domeball
*Spring Break*	
Apr 1 (Wed), 6:30-8 PM (following Lent service)	Pfeifer Park Service Event - Spring Cleaning at Pfeifer Park
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



## 8<sup>TH</sup> - 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SUMMER SERVICE TRIP JULY 19-25, 2026

**INFO MEETING: JAN 18**

**SIGN UP!**  
WELCOME CENTER TABLE

All youth in grades 8-12 are invited to share in an unforgettable experience on the upcoming Summer Service Trip to Nashville, TN: July 19-25! Do good for those in need while in the vibrant, country music capital of the world!

Sign up at the Welcome Center table if interested.

Info Meeting: January 18

A \$100 deposit will hold your spot!

# 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 statement serves as a reminder of God’s promise to be with us, and opens up opportunities for healing and restoration within ourselves, our church, society, and the world.

If you’d be interested in being a part of a Leadership Team to organize our St. John participation in this churchwide event, contact Rose Lorenz (319-404-2125, [lorenzr35@gmail.com](mailto:lorenzr35@gmail.com)).

## Women’s Retreat: February 2026

The Northeast Iowa Women of the ELCA Executive Board has planned a Women's Retreat for Friday, Feb. 20 & Saturday, Feb 21 at EWALU Stone Center - and you are invited! Your choice of overnight or Saturday only participation. *The retreat will include lots of free time as well as time with others! Activities include Bible board games, puzzles, bring your own crafting projects, a soup supper, hymn sing(!), and Saturday afternoon, guest speakers from Family Resource Center in Guttenburg.* Contact Rose Lorenz (319-404-2125, [lorenzr35@gmail.com](mailto:lorenzr35@gmail.com)) if interested so we can create a carpool of SJLC ladies. Registration form and event schedule are at the Welcome Center table.



Mary and Martha fun for all



We are looking to expand our Adult study offerings. If you have suggestions / ideas or want to serve adult ministry in some way, contact FFL team member Tina Meyer ([tinameyer710@gmail.com](mailto:tinameyer710@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. Contact Gloria Tollefson ([gltollefson@gmail.com](mailto:gltollefson@gmail.com)). “Gather” with other SJLC women on the third Wednesday of the month at 1:30pm in the library. This group uses the Bible study in the Women of the ELCA gather magazine (a very inexpensive subscription is available with paper or online option).

**Lutheran 101: What Does it Mean to be Lutheran +** Sundays, Feb 1, 8, 13 & 22—Fellowship Hall. Join others for this 4 weeks of exploration and conversation focused on what being a follower of Jesus in the Lutheran style looks like. Peg Smith and Pastor Brian will co-lead. Sign up at the Welcome Center table.

## 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! Watch our *Happenings* for the next planned event! Anyone is welcome! Just be “Young at Heart”!

**Tuesday Ladies** + Tuesdays, 10am. Location: Church Library *Contact Arleen Burkhardt (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).*

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.

### **Men's Event: Lord of the Wings/Wing Ding**

Our 10th Annual Chicken Wing event will happen either Feb 22, March 1 or March 8 (yet TBD). This event is truly the BEST variety of chicken wings in the Cedar Valley as guys put their HEARTS (and marinades,



smoke, bbq touches, sauces) into it!! In the meantime, get your personal chicken wings recipe dusted off or practiced, as the "LORD of the WINGS" TROPHY AWAITS a new NAME to be engraved upon it! (No, Really! You get your name on our traveling trophy!!). And remember, if not entering the competition,

you can still bring a favorite snack and beverage and join the lofty and very important "Brotherhood of Judges" who must taste ALL THE ENTRIES! Signup to come.

**Thirsty Thursday Men** + Thursdays, 7:30am. Location: Church Library . *Contact Steve Ferguson (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.

### **FREE UNI Basketball Tickets**

*Contact Steve Ferguson (steve@stjohncf.org)*

We have already entered our SECOND HALF of the season of the Jacobson gifted UNI basketball tickets. We have a few tix left, and sometimes get tickets returned — so if interested, please let Fergie know the DATE of game and NUMBER of tickets you'd like to be on the list for. We try to "spread the wealth" amongst those interested! Go Panthers and thanks again Jacobson family for the fellowship opportunity!!

**Wednesday Walks** + 7am, Wednesdays

*Contact: Pastor Brian (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.

## **PRESCHOOL & CHILDCARE CENTER**

**ST. JOHN**  
**PRESCHOOL & CHILDCARE**

# **2026-2027 REGISTRATION**

**CALL OR EMAIL TO ADD  
YOUR CHILD TO OUR  
INTEREST LIST !**

**319-268-0165**

**KATHYTHOMPSON  
@STJOHNCF.ORG**



## HOSPITALITY & CONGREGATION CARE

**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)). Our coffee crew is looking for a "latte" of new hands to do coffee set up on Friday or Saturday and clean up following the 10am service. Sign up at the Welcome Center table.

**Visitation Ministry** + Contact Steve Ferguson ([steve@stjohnncf.org](mailto:steve@stjohnncf.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!

**New 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.

**Game Night** + Contact Sue Holm (319-239-4579 or [sholm12@gmail.com](mailto:sholm12@gmail.com)) . Our next Game Night will be Friday, March 6 from 6:30-8:30pm. Open to all ages—are you game to play?

**College Care Cards** + SJLC will be reaching out to our college students to let them know their church home is thinking of them. *Parents of college students—watch your email for the link to submit your students' name & college address.*

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

Contact Steve Ferguson ([steve@stjohnncf.org](mailto:steve@stjohnncf.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, beginning at 2pm.
- NewAldaya: 4th Thursday of the month at 2pm in the 2nd floor New Arbor Lounge.



RECONCILING *in* CHRIST

SCAN ME

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The Cedar Valley LGBTQ+ Coalition will be hosting their first annual Variety Show on February 13th from 6:00pm-8:00pm at the Oster Regent Theatre. Tickets now on sale!

TICKET ORDERS:

SCAN HERE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE

**ALLIES** + Our SJLC ALLY List are individuals who want to be involved with RIC-sponsored activities & support LGBTQ+ individuals. Sign up at the Welcome Center table.

## SERVING & DISCIPLESHIP

**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 eyeglasses & 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.

**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. Meets at NewAldaya.

**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 February 3rd & April 7th. We will need individuals to set up tables, serve, clean up & donate food.

**NewAldaya Chapel Assistance** + Contact Daryl Veatch (319-490-8396). SJLC is committed to providing 3 volunteers each Sunday in March & August to assist NewAldaya residents wanting to attend worship at NewAldaya & needing assistance (by pushing their wheelchair or walking next to their walker). All ages can help! March volunteer sign-up sheet coming soon to the Welcome Center table.

## 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: January 6, 2026—5pm**

**Dispose of Unneeded Medications** + A drop box is provided for unwanted meds (no liquids, no sharps) at the CF Public Safety Center (4600 Main St). People can go there 24/7/365. This keeps those out of the landfill and waterways.

**Recycle Adult Athletic Shoes** + Adult Athletic Shoes (sizes 6-10) may be left in the collection box in the office entry starting in January. 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!

**Christmas Lights** + Don't throw away your non-working Holiday Lights. Put them into the collection box in the office entry so they can be recycled at CFU. *Thru January 5th.*

**Come Hang With Us!** + SJLC has purchased 50 hanger boxes to recycle metal hangers. Pick up a box from the coatroom, fill it with your hangers & hangers from family/friends and then take the filled box to Varsity Cleaners. If you have just a few hangers, there is a collection box in the office entryway. Varsity will also recycle dry cleaning bags!

**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 the church office to get put in touch with a member of the EST to arrange taking them home.

**Solar Power Video** + Watch a 30 minute documentary about the real impact that solar power is having in communities across America. <https://youtu.be/IDK-3RC5SgY>

**TIP:** Your ceiling fan might have a switch on the side that allows for you to reverse the direction of your fan. Winter: Clockwise and Summer: Counter Clockwise. This simple trick can help you circulate your air more effectively in keeping you cool in the summer and warmer in the winter.



# We Stand With Immigrants



*Amid the festivity and joy of the holidays remember those whose lives have been disrupted and safety endangered by an unprecedented assault on the dignity and rights of immigrants and refugees.*

**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*).



## LET'S TALK ABOUT IMMIGRATION

**Sunday, January 28—6pm at St. John**

Here's an opportunity for people of faith and goodwill to have a constructive and honest discussion about the immigration crisis in our country. This program examines how people of faith and goodwill can have constructive conversations about this highly divisive issue. Invite a friend or family member who is interested. All who are supportive, concerned or confused are welcome.

Sponsored by the Cedar Valley Interfaith Council's Ad Hoc Immigration Committee.

> Read "What People of Faith Should Know About the Immigration Crisis" at <https://bit.ly/know-about-immigration>

## LUTHERAN DAY ON THE HILL



**SAVE THE DATE | 02.26.2026**

Save the date for Thursday, February 26, and plan to join Pastor Brian and others from SJLC & around the state for our annual **Lutheran Day on the Hill!**

Event check-in begins at 8:00 AM, and the event will start promptly at 9:00 AM. More details including the agenda, speakers, and registration information will be shared soon. Updates will also be available at [LSIowa.org/LDH](http://LSIowa.org/LDH).

This free event, sponsored by LSI and the three Iowa synods of the ELCA, is open to anyone who wants to learn more about citizen advocacy and engage with issues impacting our communities.

We hope 2026 Lutheran Day on the Hill shines a light on the critical issues facing individuals and families across Iowa.



## RACIAL JUSTICE TEAM

The Racial Justice Team continues to meet regularly as we deepen our learning and strengthen our partnerships in the wider community. This winter, our work centers on collaboration and preparation for several significant events aimed at expanding understanding and promoting equity in Waterloo and beyond.

Members of our team have been partnering with *Every Chapter Counts* (ECC) and the Grout Museum District to co-sponsor and present a **full-day community program on Saturday, February 28, 2026**. The event includes **free admission to the entire Grout Museum**, viewings of select segments from a nationally recognized documentary series, and invited speakers offering reflections on key themes. Though ECC is not a St. John-affiliated ministry, their mission aligns with our commitment to racial justice, and we encourage the congregation to explore their ongoing work.

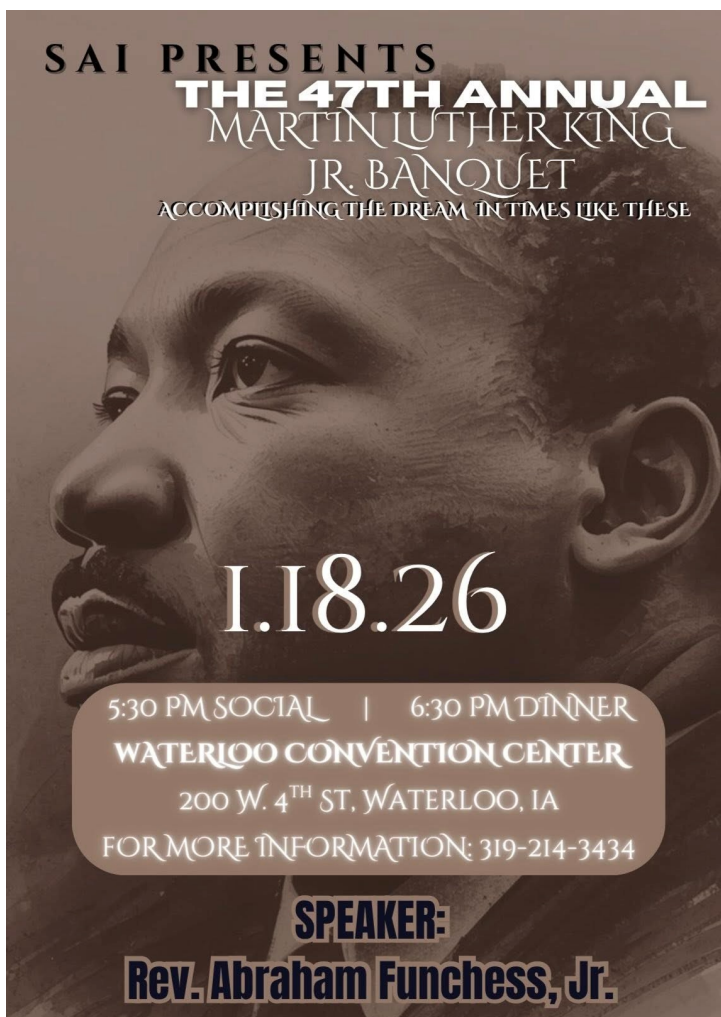
We also invite everyone to participate in the **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Banquet on January 18, 2026**. This annual gathering brings together voices from across the Cedar Valley to celebrate Dr. King's legacy and renew our shared commitment to justice and reconciliation. **RSVPs are required by January 7.**

Learn more about Every Chapter Counts:

**Website:** <https://everychaptercounts.org/>

**Facebook:** [https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/EveryChapterCounts)

[EveryChapterCounts](https://www.facebook.com/EveryChapterCounts)



SAI PRESENTS  
**THE 47TH ANNUAL**  
MARTIN LUTHER KING  
JR. BANQUET  
ACCOMPLISHING THE DREAM IN TIMES LIKE THESE

**1.18.26**

5:30 PM SOCIAL | 6:30 PM DINNER  
WATERLOO CONVENTION CENTER  
200 W. 4<sup>TH</sup> ST, WATERLOO, IA  
FOR MORE INFORMATION: 319-214-3434

**SPEAKER:**  
**Rev. Abraham Funchess, Jr.**

**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!

## **MLK Day Celebration at Luther College with ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry**

Luther College invites you to special programming honoring the witness of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, January 19, 2026. The featured keynote speaker is the Rev. Yehiel Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. **SIGN UP AT THE WELCOME CENTER TABLE—we'll caravan up!**

The theme for the day's programming is *Courage for the Common Good*. This theme honors Martin Luther King, Jr. and his namesake, Martin Luther, both of whom exemplified courage in addressing systems of injustice and advocating for the needs of the neighbors in their midst. *Courage for the Common Good* invites all to bold, brave, and benevolent action for the building of the beloved community.

The keynote begins at 10:30 a.m. in the Main Hall of the Center for Faith and Life. Following the keynote, a community lunch can be enjoyed in the Luther cafeteria. Lunch cost is \$10 (free for children and youth) and advance lunch registration is requested. **Visit [tickets.luther.edu](https://tickets.luther.edu) to register for lunch.**

Following lunch, there will be two concurrent sessions at 1:15 p.m. Youth and youth leaders are invited to a follow-up conversation with Bishop Curry. All others are invited to a panel conversation with ELCA bishops from nearby synods to talk further about the church's role as a courageous witness in our world.

# WORSHIP & CELEBRATION

**8AM SERVICE:** Contact: Steve Peters  
([music@stjohncf.org](mailto:music@stjohncf.org))

**10AM SERVICE:** Contact: Mike Best  
([music10@stjohncf.org](mailto:music10@stjohncf.org) or 360-930-4354)

**Combined Choir is Back +** We had such a great time singing together at Christmas that we're doing it again! Steve Peters and Mike Best invite you to be part of a **Combined Choir** for a **Palm Sunday Cantata** on **March 29** (8am & 10am services), and to sing with the **Worship Choir** at the **10am Easter Sunday service** on **April 5**. Song selections and rehearsal schedules are coming soon—watch for sign-ups and join us as we lift our voices together this spring!

**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.

## Jubilation Ringers / Handbells

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

Our Adult Bell Choir welcomes new members, regular or fill-in. If you can read music, that is great, but not required. Rehearsals are Wednesdays, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in Room 312.

## Intergenerational Choir

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

The Intergenerational Choir is intended for people high school age and up. Rehearsals are Tuesdays, at 6pm in the Sanctuary.

## 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.







At St. John, we strive to show God's love in our lives and communities. Each and every day we work to share that love, and we're only able to do so thanks to the continued support of everyone in the congregation. Our budget, driving everything from mission outreach to the work of our ministry & resource teams, is possible because of your generosity. We are grateful for your faithful giving. Thank you for your continued commitment and for every year-end gift to support our purpose of Joyfully taking God's love into the world!

**The church office will be closed December 24—27 and open limited hours Dec. 29-30 as our office staff enjoy the holiday with their families.** Call ahead to the office prior to coming or items may be put into the brass mailbox outside the office door and will be brought inside daily.

To assure that all contributions are properly recorded for tax purposes, please review the following guidance as you consider your year-end gift:

**Cash/Checks** + Gifts must be physically received at the church by December 31, or postmarked by that date, to be reported as 2025 contributions on your giving statement. Gifts dropped off or postmarked after December 31 must be reported as 2026 contributions.

**Gifts Online** + For gifts made online through our website, [stjohncf.org/give](http://stjohncf.org/give), you should allow at least a 2-day processing time if it is important for your gift to be reported as a contribution in 2025.

**Gifts of Securities (Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Funds)** + There are tax advantages available for a charitable donation of securities that can be beneficial for some as they plan their taxes at year-end. **Charitable IRA Rollover** + If you are 70 1/2 or older, please consider an IRA charitable rollover gift if you not yet taken your required minimum distribution. Since situations vary, we encourage you to consult your tax or financial advisor regarding retirement account gifts. Please notify the church office your intent to give in this way

**Support Financially:**



**Support Financially:**



## SJLC EMPLOYMENT OPPS

St. John is looking to hire **2 motivated & dependable individuals as Custodians**. Both individuals will work approximately 12-15 hours a week, between the approximate hours of 4pm - 7pm. The Custodians will work individually and as a team to maintain high standards of cleanliness of the facility (church and Preschool & Childcare Center).

*This could be a great job opportunity for someone seeking to work a part-time job; as an additional job for someone already working part-time and available during those hours; and/or for someone who is semi-retired.* To learn more about this job as SJLC Custodian or to apply online, please visit the [EMPLOYMENT page of our WEBSITE](#).





## Thank you to our Poinsettia sponsors

Fred & Robin Abraham *In loving memory of Doris Zwanziger*

Fred & Robin Abraham *In loving memory of Freddie and Carla Abraham*

John & Sue O'Brien

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Sandy Tempel *In loving memory of Dr. J.M. Tempel*

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Nancy Hammer *Thankful for family*

Janice Miller *In memory of our beloved family*

Brian & Lori Fegley *In memory of our parents*

Judy Judisch *In memory of my beloved husband Duane*

Carol Menefee *In memory of our parents and Carol's brothers, Jim & Dennis*

Dave & Karen Zwanziger

Linda & Don Hegtvedt & Granddaughter Brooklyn

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Brenda Truelsen *In honor of the Truelsen & Moschel family*

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Carolyn, Oliver, Marvin, Thomas

Jim & Jan Glaspie *To honor and glory of God*

Jim Denholm

Lois, Barb, & Michael Kean Family *In memory of Elwin Kean*

The Isley Family *In memory of loved ones*

John & Casey Reynolds *Honor and Glory of God*

Barb Feuerhak *Thank you for the gift of family*

Beth Primrose *In loving memory of Dean Primrose*

*Dec 21st Sanctuary altar flowers are given by Barb Feuerhak—a wedding remembered.*

*Dec 21st F&LC altar flowers are given by Jim & Darcy Dally—happy heavenly birthday to Darcy's dad, David!*

## Call Committee Update

The Call Committee would like to thank everyone for your participation in distributed surveys and attendance to our November Q&A session, but also for reaching out to us individually to inquire about the process. All input has been considered and we encourage a continued dialogue as we press forward.

We are nearing completion of our Ministry Site Profile (MSP) and will be sending it off to the Council for approval prior to submission to the Synod. Pastor Steve Brackett from the Synod office will be returning to the Call Committee on January 8th after reviewing the MSP. It is our hope that by the end of January we will start getting candidate names to consider for an Associate Pastor.

### Call Process: Associate Pastor

Approval to enter the Call Process and begin the search for an Associate Pastor was given by the congregation at the May 2025 Annual Meeting.

#### SYNOD REP MEETS WITH COUNCIL

#### RECEIVE NOMINATIONS FOR CALL COMMITTEE

#### AUGUST 24, 9:30AM - SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING TO ELECT CALL COMMITTEE

#### CALL COMMITTEE IS AT WORK!

**Ministry Site Profile:** The committee develops a Ministry Site Profile (MSP), which describes the congregation's mission, ministry, and needs. **Communications:** They communicate with the congregation and synod staff about the process, but not with specifics about candidates. **Prayer:** Prayer is a crucial element throughout the entire process.

#### CREATION OF MSP (MINISTRY SITE PROFILE)

Our Ministry Site Profile (MSP) describes our congregation—who we are and what we are working on—and lets us introduce ourselves to pastors who might be interested in coming to St. John Lutheran Church. The MSP is prepared in collaboration among the Call Committee, Church Council, St. John Church staff, and the Northeastern Iowa Synod. Once completed and submitted, the MSP will be stored within the ELCA's Mobility Database System (MDS). The web page, **"Current Openings,"** allows rostered ministers and others to search the database of MSPs to learn of ministry openings, to read a basic snapshot of information about each opening, and to learn about the appropriate contact person for each call process.

#### CALL COMMITTEE MEETS WITH SYNOD REP

The Northeastern Iowa Synod Nov/Dec 2025 Star Newsletter recently shared an article by Pastor Brackett which is a great reminder of how the Call Process works.

Access by scanning the QR code:



Watch the SJLC Call Committee page on our website for general information on the Call Process & what stage SJLC is currently at in the process.

We thank you for entrusting us with this important task and look forward to continuing this journey with you.