



Saint John Lutheran Church
Bellevue, Iowa
*A Congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

*Growing and responding
Every Day as disciples of Jesus*

May 2024

WEEKLY WORSHIP

Saturday - 5:00 pm
Sunday - 10:00 am

~ ARK ~

Education with
Children
(Kindergarten
Through 5th grade)

Friday 3:20—5:00 pm
September—April

~ CONFIRMATION ~

6th - 8th Grade

Wednesday

6:00-8:00 pm
September—April

~ CHURCH PHONE ~

563-872-5849

~ EMAIL ADDRESSES ~

Office
saintjohn.bellevue@gmail.com
Pastor
sjpastor.pp@gmail.com

~ WEBSITE ~

SAINTJOHNLUTHERAN.NET

~ OUR FACEBOOK ~

**SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN
CHURCH - BELLEVUE, IOWA**

Coming Events

You Should Know About!

**Recognition of Our Graduates
Presentation of Senior Quilts
Sunday, May 19**

What's
INSIDE
this **ISSUE**

If you cannot attend worship, our Sunday morning service is available to view following the service on our YouTube channel - SaintJohnDevotion



When One Door Closes, God Opens Another One

In 1984 I was laid off from John Deere Engine Work due the "Farm Crisis" In 1985, after wrestling with what to do with my life, I remember going into the empty church we attended in Waverly and asked God to guide me. God did and the unexpected door to becoming a pastor opened up.

In 1989 after graduating from Wartburg Seminary and waiting to interview in South Dakota which didn't have a church for me, God opened the door for me to become the pastor in Gackle, ND.

In 1999 after going through a divorce and resigning my call of serving as the pastor in Wausau, WI and waiting for over a year, God opened the door for me to move to Bellevue to serve as your pastor - soon to complete my 25 year.

In 2021 a long-term relationship with Susan Huehnergarth came to an end with her death. But God opened yet another door. It certainly wasn't one that I was looking for nor expecting. However I am so thankful for the relationship that has grown between Diane and myself. Who would have imagined that I would get married at the age of 75? Not me, but God could.

On June 1st, Diane and I will begin a life-long commitment to live as husband and wife. We know that this commitment will be honored and blessed by God who opens the door to new and exciting adventures.

Diane Carson and Paul Gammelin

Invite you to celebrate and share their special day as they will express their life-long commitment to each other.

Saturday, June 1, 2024 at 1:00 pm
Saint John Lutheran - Bellevue, Iowa

Reception to follow at Saint John Retreat Center
22181 407th Ave

We ask for no gifts, only your presence, if you are able to come.



| | | | |
|--------------------------|------|-------------------------|------|
| Amelia Cooper..... | 5/1 | Lilly Sieverding..... | 5/15 |
| Brinley Peters..... | 5/1 | Lucas Anderson..... | 5/16 |
| Carrie Rowan..... | 5/1 | Kielyn Pitts..... | 5/18 |
| Spencer Abbott..... | 5/3 | Gunner Hingtgen..... | 5/18 |
| Bill Reistroffer..... | 5/3 | Stacey Budde-Heiar..... | 5/19 |
| Charlee Scheckel..... | 5/3 | DeeAnn Cheney..... | 5/19 |
| Peggy Thoms..... | 5/3 | Rogan Kilburg..... | 5/19 |
| Carson Casel..... | 5/4 | Krisy Dempewolf..... | 5/20 |
| Audra Ries..... | 5/4 | Breanna Edwards..... | 5/21 |
| Attalas Steines..... | 5/5 | Matt McPherson..... | 5/22 |
| Tia Wieseler-Booker..... | 5/5 | Braxton Gilmore..... | 5/23 |
| Lisa Schroeder..... | 5/6 | Beckett Ries..... | 5/23 |
| Jack Kirk..... | 5/7 | Karen Brown..... | 5/24 |
| Brad Scheckel..... | 5/7 | Kevin Brown..... | 5/24 |
| Bode Scheckel..... | 5/7 | Roger Michels..... | 5/25 |
| Beth Anderson..... | 5/8 | Brittini Peters..... | 5/26 |
| Brittini Decker..... | 5/8 | Terrin Back..... | 5/27 |
| Scott Scheckel..... | 5/8 | Jordyn Ries..... | 5/27 |
| Maverick Martin..... | 5/9 | Graham Smith..... | 5/27 |
| Marshall Martin..... | 5/9 | Jaelynn Gilmore..... | 5/28 |
| Keisha Ploeger..... | 5/10 | Parker Sieverding..... | 5/28 |
| Jesse Griebel..... | 5/11 | Zoey Bies..... | 5/31 |
| Bailey Kloft..... | 5/12 | Kelly Ries..... | 5/31 |
| Griffin Ruggeberg..... | 5/12 | Lilly Courtney..... | 5/31 |

**Members
Celebrating
their 80+ Birthday**

Julie Scheckel
May 9

Janice Keil
May 20

*We apologize for any
errors or omissions.
If you notice any mistakes,
please contact the church
office.*

PASTORAL ACTS & RITE OF PASSAGE

Funeral—April 15
LINDA M. (STANEK) RIES



Bellevue Bread Basket

Served 43 families
(114 people)
in April



ELIZABETH CIRCLE: Tuesday, May 21 @ 1:30 pm

REBECCA CIRCLE: Tuesday, May 28 at 3:30 pm



2024
*Graduating Senior
Recognition
Sunday, May 19*

This year, we will be recognizing those high school seniors who will be graduating from Bellevue High School on Sunday, May 19 during our Sunday worship.

As we recognize these graduating seniors, we will be presenting them with a quilt that was created especially for them by our Quilt Tying Ministry team.

Those members or participating partners who will be graduating are:



**Riley Bevan
Hannah Braet
Lilly Courtney
Payton Griebel
Kaden Guenther
Teagan Humphrey**

**Hunter Merrick
Paige Mohr
Hunter Putman
Olivia Ruggeberg
Kempton Sikkema**

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2024

COLLEGE GRADUATES

If your son or daughter is graduating or has graduated from a college or trade school this year, we would like to acknowledge their accomplishment in our next newsletter. Please notify the church office.



Lawn Mowing Sign Up

Last year we had a good response from volunteers to mow the church lawn. We are hoping to have a similar response this year.

If you would like to volunteer to mow the lawn there is a sign up sheet in the back of the worship area at the church. We are asking that the mowing is completed on Thursday, Friday or Saturday morning.

The task of mowing and edging would take approx. one hour plus for one person. The church has a riding mower and self-propel mower. Of course the gas is provided.

CHURCH MOWING SCHEDULE

Those who have signed up as of April 28

| Mowing Week beginning Thurs | Volunteer | Mowing Week beginning Thurs | Volunteer |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| April 18 | Pastor Paul | July 25 | |
| April 25 | Dean Kilburg | August 1 | |
| May 2 | Terry Dempewolf | August 8 | |
| May 9 | Todd Giesemann | August 15 | |
| May 16 | | August 22 | Terry Dempewolf |
| May 23 | Garry Arensdorf | August 29 | |
| May 30 | | Sept. 5 | |
| June 6 | Todd Giesemann | Sept. 12 | |
| June 13 | Terry Dempewolf | Sept. 19 | Terry Dempewolf |
| June 20 | | Sept. 26 | |
| June 27 | | October 3 | |
| July 4 | | October 10 | |
| July 11 | | | |
| July 18 | Terry Dempewolf | | |



CONFIRMATION NEWS

Christian Education for
Middle School Youth (6th-8th)

On April 24, our Wednesday gatherings for Confirmation came to end for 2023-24. This year we averaged 25 out of a possible 30 youth participating throughout the year. Our largest group is our 7th graders with 17 students. Our 6th grade grew to 7 students (starting with 3) and our 8th grade group ended with 6 students actively participating.

THANK YOU: We want to thank our group leaders: Krisy Dempewolf (8th), and Adrienne Presley (7th) for their dedication. We also want to thank Kathy Ohlert for making 6 pizzas every week.

MISSION TRIP: There we will 5 youth participating on our mission trip this summer to Milwaukee, WI on July 7 through July 12.

ACTOLYTE SCHEDULE FOR MAY & JUNE

| Saturday | | Sunday | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| 4-May | Fischer Johnson | 5-May | Jax Eichhorn | Tobias Humphrey |
| 11-May | Casey Rowan | 12-May | Kylie Ernst | Izzy Tott |
| 18-May | Makaila Scheckel | 19-May | Liam Eichhorn | Brennan Ries |
| 25-May | Trace Bonifas | 26-May | Tempy Anderson | Claire Dempewolf |
| 1-Jun | Miranda Kettmann | 2-Jun | Davis Braet | Carson Casel |
| 8-Jun | Tayden Kilburg | 9-Jun | Ali Dierks | Hailey Feller |
| 15-Jun | SERVICE at LODGE | 16-Jun | Cash Kirk | Aubrey Michel |
| 22-Jun | Aviana Herrig | 23-Jun | Aubrey Putman | Blake Putman |
| 29-Jun | Jocelyn Ries | 30-Jun | Marcus Small | Jackson Van Gorp |

If you are unable to be an Acolyte on the scheduled date, you need to find a replacement and notify the pastor or church office of the change. Pastor's cell: 563-542-1538



2023-24 Year of ARK Comes To An End



Our last day of ARK for this school year was on April 26. ARK will resume in September 2024.

This year was another good year of excited youth wanting to come to ARK to learn about God. Our average weekly attendance was 47. We had 70 children, or as we say “ARK Friends,” who participated in ARK at least once this year.

With 20 weeks of ARK we had 8 children who had perfect attendance, 8 children who only missed once, and 14 who only missed twice. (See the list of student on the next page.)

Volunteers are essential for offering this outreaching ministry. Volunteers this year were: Snack/Kitchen: Ann Skoff, Sandy Bowman, Donna Duvall; and Jackie Dagitz. Opening: Pastor Paul; Group Leaders: Izzy Mootz, Adrienne Presley, Mike Dempewolf, Krisy Dempewolf, Diane Carson, and Joannie Kilburg; We also had several faithful middle school students coming down and assisting: Claire Dempewolf and Jocelyn Ries.

We want to thank all who volunteered and those who gave donations to support this awesome ministry.



2023-24 ARK HONOR ROLL

WITH 15 OR MORE TIMES PARTICIPATING AT ARK

NO MISSES

Penelope Ploeger (K)
Kennford Sieverding (K)
Tinley Felderman (2nd)
Parker Sieverding (2nd)
Zoey Kettmann (3rd)
Ryan Dempewolf (4th)
Bently Ernst (5th)
Aleyha Mootz (5th)

MISSED ONLY ONCE

Bentley Budde-Heiar (2nd)
Ella Evan (2nd)
Braxton Gilmore (2nd)
Eivin Medinger (2nd)
Hallie Decker (3rd)
Kylee Jess (3rd)
Kali Knake (3rd)
Hailey Bunker (4th)

MISSED ONLY TWICE

Reese Decker (1st)
Natalie Portz (1st)
Abbie Bunker (2nd)
Rogan Kilburg (2nd)
Beau Kirk (2nd)
Griffin Ruggeberg (2nd)
Kora Knake (2nd)
Jackson Baker (3rd)
Kennedy Kilburg (3rd)
Maci Kirk (4th)
Ariyah Small (4th)
Bently Ernst (5th)
Eli Portz (5th)
Carter Ruggeberg (5th)

WINTER TERM HONOR ROLL

No Misses

Penelope Ploeger (K)
Kennford Sieverding (K)
Kendyl Ernst (1st)
Natalie Portz (1st)
Tinley Felderman (2nd)
Braxton Gilmore (2nd)
Eivin Medinger (2nd)
Parker Sieverding (2nd)
Kylee Jess (3rd)
Zoey Kettmann (3rd)
Ryan Dempewolf (4th)
Bently Ernst (5th)
Aleyha Mootz (5th)
Eli Portz (5th)
Carter Ruggeberg (5th)
Leonard Wies (5th)

Missed Only Once

Bentley Kress (K)
Resse Decker (1st)
Anthony Fondell (1st)
Harper Braet (2nd)
Bentley Budde-Heiar (2nd)
Abbie Bunker (2nd)
Ella Evan (2nd)
Rogan Kilburg (2nd)
Griffin Ruggeberg (2nd)
Dalton Braet (3rd)
Hallie Decker (3rd)
Kennedy Kilburg (3rd)
Kali Knake (3rd)
Hailey Bunker (4th)



5th Grade completing ARK
Next Step - Confirmation



Students who had perfect attendance



Students who missed only once



Students who only missed two times



EASTER LILIES

We want to acknowledge and thank all who gave a plant to decorate our worship space at the

GIVEN IN MEMORY OR IN HONOR OF:

GIVEN BY:

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Faith LaCoursiere | Chris Roling & Family |
| Linda Roling | Chris Roling & Family |
| Albert & Mae Yeager | Neill Yeager & Family |
| Melvin Dagitz | Neill Yeager & Family |
| Mary Ann Clasen & Les Yeager | Neill Yeager & Family |
| Nancy Medinger | Lorin Medinger & Family |
| Rich & Janaan Norpel..... | Rich & Diane Norpel and Family |
| Ken &Thelma Gieseman | The Girls & Families |
| Bob & Elda Brockhage | Dale & Jo Ernst |
| Tuffy & Dee Ernst | Dale & Jo Ernst |
| Judi Rostenbach & Deb Schwager..... | Dale & Jo Ernst |
| Gary Sagers & Alec Wagner | Gloria Sagers |
| Melvin Dagitz & Judy Yeager | Verrena & Family |
| Donald Goepfert & Robert Medinger | Karen Goepfert Family |



GIVEN IN MEMORY OR IN HONOR OF:

GIVEN BY:

Loved Ones Sue Bevan
Benjamin Kandysar Jackie & Dave Dagitz
Dick Dagitz Jackie & Dave Dagitz
Ike Keil Janice & Family
Roger Hager Carol Hager
Harold Bowman, Billy Bowman Sandra Bowman & Family
Kate Bowman, Chris & Marty Victor Sandra Bowman Family
Family Eunice Schladetzky
Christina Rogge Beth & Mark Rogge
Rex Graham Judy, Becky, Trisha, Deb & Families
Sam Patterson Jane Patterson
Royal & Vera Griebel Bill, Jane, Judy, Joyce, Jill & Families
Barb Keil Dean & Joannie Kilburg and Family
Parents & Grandparents Dean & Joannie and Family
Our Loved Ones Pastor Paul & Diane
Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren Pastor Paul & Diane

Ecumenical
**Christian Women's
Fellowship**

“A Wing and A Prayer”



Speaker
Lori Lensch

Saint John Retreat Center
Saturday, June 8, 2024

8:30 a.m.—Coffee, rolls, registration
9:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.
Salad Luncheon—Bring a salad to share

*Free-will offering will be given to the
Red Basket Project of Jackson County*

*There will be a sign up sheet at the back of church.
All are welcome!*

Weekly Worship Attendance & Offerings

Total includes members, participating partners, and guests.

| Weekend of | Sat. | Sun. | Total | General Fund Offerings |
|--------------------|---------------|----------------|-------|------------------------|
| March 31 EASTER | Sunrise 85 | Festival 95 | 180 | \$4,106.18 |
| April 7 | 35 | 35 | 70 | \$2,391.18 |
| April 14 | 24 | 55 | 79 | \$2,240.18 |
| April 21 | 23 | 58 | 81 | \$2,035.29 |
| April 28 | 33 | 43 | 76 | \$2,107.18 |

Council Minutes for April
No Meeting was scheduled

TREASURER'S REPORT

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| General Fund Balance—3/20/24 | \$15,680.96 |
| Income: | |
| General Offerings | 14,880.19 |
| Cemetery Custodian Reimbursement | 500.00 |
| Funeral | 150.00 |
| Rickert Lodge Rentals | 650.00 |
| Interest & Misc. Income | .63 |
| Budgeted Expenses: | (20,794.28) |
| General Fund Balance—4/29/24 | \$11,067.50 |

