



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

*Growing and responding  
Every Day as disciples of Jesus*

**August 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

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What's  
**INSIDE**  
this **ISSUE**

**Confirmation News**

**ARK Volunteers Needed!**

**Coming Events**

**You Should Know About!**

**Worship at the Retreat Center**

**Saturday, August 24 at 5:00 p.m.**  
Potluck to follow the service.

Pictures within this newsletter can be  
viewed in color by going to our  
website  
saintjohnlutheran.net



## *Sharing with Others*

*Those who are generous are blessed,  
for they share their bread with the poor.  
Proverbs 22:9*

As I watched the hummingbirds gather at our hummingbird feeder, I have observed that they had a problem sharing. Even though there are at least six spots on the feeder it appears as though only one bird would feed there at time. If one was there and another approaches, the one feeding would chase the incoming bird away.

I wonder why they can't share. After all, they didn't do a thing to deserve this wonderful blend of water and sugar. Besides that, there is plenty for all.

Now I guess their actions should not surprise me. After all, human beings often act like these hummingbirds. All you have to do is observe children. Sharing doesn't always come easily for them. I remember those times when our children fought with each other because they were not willing to share. "It's mine!" would be shouted out.

"It's mine!" So many people seem to be so possessive, including myself. We fall into that trap that we believe that what we have is ours to do with as we choose. What we fail to realize is that everything we have is not ours, but it is a gift that God entrusted to us to use and share with others.

Yes, all that we have is a blessing - a gift from God. As the writer of Proverbs reminds us, "those who are generous are blessed for they share with those who are in need." We all know that great feeling that comes to us when we share with others.

Over the past 25 years, I have observed how Saint John is blessed by the number of people who generously share their blessings of money (offerings) and time (volunteering) to support the ministry of our church. Yes, we are blessed to be a blessing for others.

Let us **COUNT** our blessings. Let us **GIVE THANKS** to God for our blessings. And, let us **SHARE** God's blessings as a sign of our gratitude so that God's will be done and God's kingdom comes - now.



Kurtis Weis .....	8/1	Terry Dempewolf.....	8/16
Kevin Weis.....	8/1	Dennis Keil.....	8/16
Megan Bies.....	8/3	Jeremy Kirk.....	8/16
Carter Michels.....	8/3	Dawn Dempewolf.....	8/17
Nora Cooper .....	8/4	Troy Jacobsen .....	8/17
Jim Eggers.....	8/4	Mark Rogge .....	8/17
Patti Eggers .....	8/4	Jill Kieffer .....	8/17
Carson Mohr .....	8/4	Tayler Blake.....	8/19
Joel Schroeder.....	8/5	Cindy Schlecht.....	8/19
Owen Portz.....	8/7	Joe Ries.....	8/19
Cameron Casel.....	8/9	Brycen Putman .....	8/20
Tyler Claussen.....	8/9	Marilyn Junk.....	8/21
Alyssa Davis .....	8/9	Tom Rieckens.....	8/23
Erica Koranda .....	8/9	River Ruggeberg.....	8/23
Connor Michels.....	8/9	Laura Feil.....	8/25
Sydnee Davis.....	8/12	Ashley Scheckel.....	8/25
Ricky Wieseler .....	8/12	Mason Schlecht .....	8/25
Kaitlin Schmidt.....	8/13	Harper Giesemann.....	8/27
Coy Schroeder.....	8/13	Doug Kucera.....	8/29
Virginia Valant.....	8/13	Nolyn Dempewolf.....	8/31
Emily Feller.....	8/14	Casey Rowan .....	8/31
Hunter Putman.....	8/14	Kennford Sieverding .....	8/31

**Celebrating  
their 80+ Birthday!**

**Lorin Medinger**  
August 7

**Marilyn Junk**  
August 21

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

## PASTORAL ACTS & RITE OF PASSAGE



Funeral—July 14  
**BOBBY F. TENNANT**



## WORSHIP AT THE RETREAT CENTER

**Saturday, August 24**  
**5:00 p.m.**

There will be a potluck supper  
following the service.  
Water/Lemonade/coffee will be  
provided.





Lutheran  
World  
Relief

## SCHOOL KITS



With the new school year just around the corner this is the time when we usually ask for your help in buying school supplies for the Lutheran World Relief School Kits.

The following are the items that will fill one school bag.

- 4 70-sheet notebooks of wide – or college-ruled paper approx. 8"x10 1/2 " (no loose-leaf paper);
- 1 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other;
- 1 Blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well);
- 5 Black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink);
- 1 Box of 16 or 24 crayons;

**We DO NOT need pencils,  
pencil sharpeners,  
or erasers at this time.**



***Bellevue Bread Basket***  
Served 38 families  
(88 people)  
in July



# Confirmation News

## CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION

**Monday, August 19 @ 6:30-7:15**

for All 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students & Parents

There will be a confirmation orientation for **all 6th - 8th grade students and their parents** on Monday evening, August 19 at 6:30.

## 6TH GRADE CONFIRMATION ACOLYTE TRAINING

**Wednesday, August 28 at 6:30-7:15**

for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students only



## 9TH GRADE CONFIRMATION

*Preparation for Rite of Confirmation*

There will be a **meeting on Sunday, September 8 at 6:00** for all 9th grade students who have participated in Confirmation and want to be confirmed on October 27, 2024. This is a mandatory meeting. You will need to bring your *Request and Information Sheet* that will be sent to your parent.



# Confirmation News

- continued -

## ACTOLYTE SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST

Saturday		Sunday		
3-Aug	Tempy Anderson	4-Aug	Claire Dempewolf	Miranda Kettmann
10-Aug	Carson Casel	11-Aug	Hailey Feller	Aubrey Michel
17-Aug	Davis Braet	18-Aug	Trace Bonifas	Aviana Herrig
24-Aug	<b>SERVICE at LODGE</b>	25-Aug	Jocelyn Ries	Aubrey Putman
31-Aug	Ali Dierks	1-Sep	Marcus Small	Cash Kirk



### WEDNESDAY CONFIRMATION GATHERING BEGINS ON SEPTEMBER 4 AT 6:00

A new year of confirmation begins for 6th through 8th graders on Wednesday, September 6. The evening will begin at 6:00 with pizza.

This year, we will be digging into the bible and looking at the Ten Commandments

All 6th - 8th youth and friends are welcome to gather with us.



## *ARK News*

**ARK** is our Christian Education  
for elementary youth  
(Kindergarten - 5th grade)

### **ARK IS SET TO BEGIN FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6**

We are looking forward to gathering the elementary children after school on Fridays for ARK. We know that in the past the children were excited to come to ARK where they could be with their friends and learn the different bible stories.

#### **TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD FOR ARK**

Go to our website: [saintjohnlutheran.net](http://saintjohnlutheran.net)

[Click on: ARK Registration](#)

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

This educational ministry is very important for the faith formation of our youth. **We can't provide this amazing educational opportunity for the children if we don't have volunteers stepping up.**



As a volunteer group leader, you will be assigned a group of six-eight students if we have enough volunteers. Your primary role is to manage your students during large group and facilitate your small group discussion and activity. If you have any questions, talk with Pastor Paul.

#### **TO VOLUNTEER FOR ARK**

Go to our website: [saintjohnlutheran.net](http://saintjohnlutheran.net)

[Click on: ARK Volunteer](#)



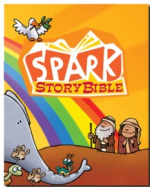
# PRESENTATION OF YOUTH BIBLES

## 6TH GRADE CONFIRMATION YOUTH

**TO RECEIVE A “LUTHERAN STUDENT BIBLE”  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8  
DURING THE 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE**



This Lutheran Student Bible includes many helpful aids, along with Luther's Small Catechism in it. We believe that this bible will be helpful during confirmation and beyond.



**KINDERGARTEN YOUTH  
TO RECEIVE A “SPARK STORY BIBLE”**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15  
DURING WORSHIP AT 10:00**

Once again, we will be presenting the “Spark Story Bible” to our baptized children who have entered Kindergarten this school year.

The “Spark Story Bible” has 150 of the most popular bible stories. We believed that it is important for our children to start hearing and reading the stories that are in the bible at a young age. We also believe that these stories need to be heard in the home as well as at church during ARK - our elementary Christian educational ministry.

It is our hope that the parents will take time to read a story each day to their child. As the child learns to read, then they can read these stories over and over.

*Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path.*

Psalm 119:105

For years, Saint John gave our third graders the gift of a bible. In recent years, we have given a copy of the “Spark Story Bible” to those entering kindergarten and a copy of the “Lutheran Student Bible” to those entering confirmation as 6th graders.

*Make a Difference!*  
**DONATE**

The funding for these story book bibles and student bibles comes from our Bible Fund. If you would like to make a donation to the Bible Fund, place your gift in an envelope and mark it “Bible Fund.”

## THANK YOU LAWN MOWERS

***Blessed are those who volunteer to mow, for they shall be led to greener pastures.***

We are grateful for all who have volunteered to mow our church lawn. Those who volunteered this spring and summer were;



**Dean Kilburg  
Terry Dempewolf  
Todd Giesemann  
Jason Gilmore  
Garry Arensdorf  
Laura Arensdorf**

**Payton Griebel  
Mark Guenther  
Pastor Paul**



## **IS YOUR GARDEN PRODUCING MORE THAN YOU CAN USE?**

### **SHARE WITH OTHERS**

As in the past, we are inviting people to bring your surplus of wonderful fresh garden vegetables to the church and share them with others.

## **LOCAL / GLOBAL OUTREACH EVENTS**



### **GARAGE SALE to Support Food Share**

The Local/Global Outreach Committee will be having a garage sale August 23rd (2 p.m. to 7 p.m.) and August 24th (8 a.m. to 12 noon). The garage sale will be at Joannie Kilburg's home 1200 State Street.

Proceeds will be donated to the "Food Share". Our goal is to sponsor one week for this local mission. We hope you can stop by and monetary donations are always welcome.

### **COIN DROP/Donation to support "Clothes for Kid"**

The Local/Global Outreach Committee will be having a coin drop/donation beginning in September. The proceeds will go to "Clothing for Kids" in Bellevue. There will be a container at the back of church for this outreaching mission.

Committee members are Beth Rogge, Diane Carson, Joannie Kilburg, Karen Goepfert, Rosie Williams, Deb Giesemann, and Sue Bevan.



## 2024 Mission Trip



On Sunday, July 7, four confirmation students were commissioned to be Saint John's representatives and sent forth to serve on the 2024 Mission Trip in Milwaukee, WI. Those participating in this year's mission trip were: **Kylie Ernst, Claire Dempewolf, Jocelyn Ries, Marcus Small, Krisy Dempewolf** (8th grade group

leader) and **Pastor Paul**. Our group joined one other group of 50 from Waverly Baptist Church of Waverly, IL.

Milwaukee is ranked 4th in regards to poverty level among cities in the U.S. It is the number one most racially segregated city in the U.S. Fifty-four percent (54%) of the families earn less than \$15,000 a year. Fifty-three percent (53%) of the African - American males are unemployed.

On Monday, our group was involved in assisting at Ebenezer Stone food distribution center. We began with sorting pallets of produce, and breads that were



near expiration. This food was given to the center by groceries in the Milwaukee area. Our task was to determine what could be used in preparing up boxes of food that would be distributed at another site. Later that day we went to the distribution site and handed out the box of food to 50 individuals/family.



On Tuesday, we spent most of our time working cleaning up tree limbs and branches that had been cut down from a dead tree and placed in the street.

After that project, we started our next assignments of cleaning up the front yard and painting the front porch of “Patrick’s” house, and digging a ditch to bury to a rain drain at another house.

These homes within the neighborhood of Adullum Outreach were purchased by the Adullum so that they could provide low rent housing to those who are in the process of life's transition along with improving the neighborhood that was once run down. The name Adullum comes from the name of the cave that David hid in when Saul was wanting to kill him.



Adullum wants to provide a safe and desirable neighborhood along with providing restored space for businesses.





On Friday before returning home we went to Bradford beach and enjoyed time in the water and playing beach volleyball.



All four youth indicated that they were anxious about going on the mission trip. However, at the end of week, everyone indicated that they were really glad they went and said that they would consider going

again. All of them said that they enjoyed making new friends.

When asked whether this trip changed them, one youth shared: "I saw that people are way less fortunate than me and that people don't always get what they need."

When asked about how this trip changed or influenced their relationship with God, one youth responded: "I started reading the Bible more and tried to listen to his word more often." and another said, "I will try to go to church more often and read my Bible and pray."

Even though we were few in numbers, we accomplished a lot. It was a good week of doing God's work in making a difference for others.

We want to thank everyone who supported this mission trip ministry through Lenten Suppers and individual donations.





**ELIZABETH CIRCLE:** Tuesday, August 20 at 1:30 pm

**REBECCA CIRCLE:** No Meeting

### Weekly Worship Attendance & Offerings

Total includes members, participating partners, and guests.

Weekend of	Sat.	Sun.	Total	General Fund Offerings
June 30	24	44	68	\$3,540.00
July 7	0	68	68	\$2,446.18
July 14	26	49	75	\$3,187.18
July 21	27	38	65	\$1,522.18

### TREASURER'S REPORT

**General Fund Balance—6/26/2023** **\$3,981.05**

**Income:**

General Offerings	10,695.54
Cemetery Custodian Reimbursement	500.00
Building Use	50.00
Gift Received	100.00
Interest & Misc. Income	.20

**Budgeted Expenses:** (12,795.12)

**General Fund Balance—7/25/2023** **\$2,531.67**

## **Saint John Council Minutes - July 16, 2024**

**Present** - JoEllen Poll, Pastor Paul, Jo Ernst, Joannie Kilburg, Ann Skoff, Daniel Braet

**Absent** - Shannon Abbott, Marla Mootz

**Called to order** by President JoEllen Poll at 6:31 pm. Opening Prayer led by JoEllen.

**Agenda** - MSC to approve agenda.

**Council Minutes** - MSC to approve council minutes of May 2024 as printed.

### **Reports -**

- a) Financial - MSC to accept the Financial Reports as printed.
- b) Local & Global Outreach Committee - MSC to accept as printed.

**Correspondence** - None

**Action by Email Vote** - By unanimous vote, the council voted to hold a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, July 14. The purpose of the meeting will be to vote on replacing the garage roof, which was damaged in a storm this summer.

**OLD BUSINESS** - None

### **NEW BUSINESS -**

- a) CD Renewal - MSC to authorize Jo Ernst to renew the CD at the best rate available.
- b) Withdrawal from Thrivent Financial - MSC to draw \$2000 from the Thrivent Financial/Perpetual Offering Fund, which will be deposited into the General Fund checking account.

**Next Meeting** - Tuesday, August 20 at 6:30 pm.

**Meeting Adjourned** at 6:56 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ann Skoff