



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

*Growing and responding  
every day as disciples of Jesus*

**WEEKLY WORSHIP**

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

**~ ARK ~**

Education with  
Children  
(Kindergarten  
Through 5th grade)

**Friday 3:20—5:00 pm**

**~ CONFIRMATION ~**

6th - 8th Grade

**Wednesday  
6:00-8:00 pm**

**~ EMAIL ADDRESSES~**

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

**~ WEBSITE ~**

**SAINTJOHNLUTHERAN.NET**

**LIKE US ON  
SAINT JOHN  
LUTHERAN CHURCH - BELLEVUE,  
IOWA**

**CHURCH PHONE:  
563-872-5849**

**JANUARY 2025  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

**Coming Events**

**You Should Know About!**

**Annual Meeting Lunch  
January 26  
11:00 am**

**Annual Congregation Meeting  
January 26  
11:30 am**

To view all the pictures in color within this newsletter, go to our website: [saintjohnlutheran.net](http://saintjohnlutheran.net) and click on newsletter.



Every January 1<sup>st</sup>, we are given a unique gift: the opportunity to reflect on the past and embrace a fresh start. The pages of a new year are blank, ready to be filled.

What will 2025 hold? For many the future is so uncertain. Will we face unforeseen trials? Will we experience unexpected joys? While we may not know the answers, we can be confident in our Lord who does.

Proverbs 3:5-6 remind us that we need to trust in the Lord. *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to the Lord, and God will make your paths straight.”* As we place our trust in God and commit ourselves to living as faithful people, we will be able to move forward with peace and assurance, knowing the God is guiding us through what lies ahead.

**Here is a New Year’s challenge for us.** This year, let us resolve to be closer to God, both individually and as a church family. Perhaps these can be our New Year’s Spiritual resolutions.

- 1. Commit to making God a higher priority in our life.**
- 2. Commit to starting each day in prayer and to increasing the amount of time spent in prayer.**
- 3. Join a daily Bible reading plan.**
- 4. Look for opportunities serve others and share the love of Christ.**
- 5. Stay connected to your church family.** Be intentional about staying involved in worship, fellowship, and ministry.

As we step forward into the unknown, let’s hold onto God’s unchanging promises. God faithfulness in the past assures us of God’s presence in the future. Whatever lies ahead, we can face it with hope and joy, knowing that God is with us always.

Let’s embark on this new adventure together, trusting that the best is yet to come. Here’s to a new year filled with God’s blessings, growth, and grace.

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING INFORMATION



### **Annual Meeting**

Sunday, January 26  
11:30 p.m. Fellowship Room

### **Annual Meeting Luncheon**

Sunday, January 26 at 11:00 am  
Fellowship Room - lower Level

Prior to the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26, there will be a light lunch served following the 10:00 service. The annual meeting will begin at 11:30.

### **“Why do we have an Annual Meeting?”**

The first reason is that our church’s constitution requires it. This complies with state law that requires all corporations to have an annual meeting for shareholders to vote on issues importance to the corporation.

Although a church doesn’t refer to its voting members as shareholders, we all share in the responsibility of making sure that our congregation will continue to do the work of God through our ministries and the policies.

The second reason is the annual meeting provides the opportunity for the voting members to give voice to their concerns and to ask the leadership to address these concerns in the coming year. It also provides the voting members to affirm new leaders for the church council, and to approve any recommendations presented by the leadership which includes the financial plan (Mission Budget) for the coming year.

We hope that everyone who participates in the life of Saint John see themselves as a shareholder in our church, but on a greater level—an heir and shareholder in the kingdom of God.



Kendyl Ernst.....	1/1	Kevin Petesch.....	1/16
Steve Dempewolf .....	1/3	Sandy Bowman.....	1/16
Joslyn Giesemann ....	1/3	Jason Rowan .....	1/17
Rachael Putman .....	1/4	Barb Michels .....	1/17
Jeff Baker .....	1/5	Knox Schlecht.....	1/17
Laura Arensdorf.....	1/5	Taylor Cummings....	1/18
Justin Sieverding .....	1/5	Claire Dempewolf ...	1/19
Bill Bevan .....	1/7	Sammi Pitts .....	1/19
Madison Kieffer .....	1/7	Mary Thielen .....	1/19
Lillian Medinger .....	1/7	Jo Ernst .....	1/20
Kay Ann Schroeder ..	1/7	Diane Norpel.....	1/20
Michelle Wilbers .....	1/8	Alyssa Poll .....	1/20
Gary Feuerbach.....	1/9	John Skoff.....	1/20
Kora Knake.....	1/9	Joanne Mensinger ..	1/24
Ian Teply .....	1/9	Kendra Baker.....	1/22
Deb Hutchcroft .....	1/11	Sadie Kutsch.....	1/22
Lucy Sieverding.....	1/11	Mykel Mickelson .....	1/24
Emma Teply .....	1/11	Eric Pitts .....	1/24
Connie Anderson....	1/12	Kelley Humphrey ....	1/26
Louetta Decker.....	1/13	Marcus Anderson....	1/27
Craig Sieverding .....	1/13	Avery Johnson .....	1/27
Mike Behrens .....	1/14	Anistyn Rausch.....	1/27
Michael Bies.....	1/14	Brandon Schlecht ...	1/27
Alison Putman .....	1/14	Nicole Weis.....	1/28
Witten Rausch .....	1/14	Brenda Anderson....	1/30
Marcus Small.....	1/15	Michelle Abernathy .	1/31
Teri Marciniak.....	1/15	Zoey Kettmann .....	1/31
Krewz Kloft .....	1/16	Tami Purvis.....	1/31

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



*Celebrating Their Wedding Anniversary*

**Name** ..... **Date** ..... **Years**

Josh & Amy Edwards ..... Jan. 15 ..... 20

**CONGRATULATIONS ANN**

**ON YOUR 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
OF SERVING SAINT JOHN  
AS OUR OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR**



It was late December 1999, when Ann Skoff joined our church staff. Twenty-five years later we continue to be blessed with her office administration skills, and her caring ministry.

**Thanks Ann, for your 25 years  
of dedicated and faithful service!**



## Becoming A Member of Saint John

If you have been participating with us at Saint John and would like to become a member of Saint John, we would like to officially welcome and receive you as a participating member at one of the following worship services:

**Saturday, January 18**

**Sunday, January 19.**

What does one need to do to become a member? Simply notify Pastor Paul. There are no formal classes to attend.

If the above dates don't work, we will set a date that will work for you and the church.



### **Bellevue Bread Basket**

Served 55 families  
(137 people)  
in November

We would like to thank everyone for your cards, delicious treats, and generous gifts, and all the prayers and support during this past year.



Pastor Paul, Ann Skoff, & Kathy Ohlert



## THANKS FOR DECORATING OUR CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

We want to thank everyone who stayed after worship on December 8 and helped decorate our church. It is fun to see the young pitch in and help wherever possible.



We also want to thank all who donated poinsettias. (The list is included in the newsletter). Our church is so beautiful at this time of year



### HELP NEEDED:

We will be needing help after Christmas to put away all the Christmas stuff. We will do that on January 5 after the 10:00 service.



## Poinsettias

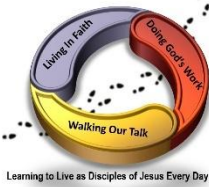
We want to acknowledge the gift of poinsettias that decorated our church during the season of Advent and Christmas.

<b>Given in Memory of:</b>	<b>Given By:</b>
Loved Ones	Sue Bevan
Boppy & Nano	Mike & Amber Griebel & Family
Uncles Rex Graham, Tom Gibbons, and Sam Patterson	Mike & Amber Griebel & Family
Roger Hager	Carol Hager
Phyllis (Oclan) Post	Carol Hager
Rich & Janaan Norpel	Rich & Diane Norpel
Ken & Thelma Gieseeman	The Girls & Families
Our Parents	Deb & Bob Hutchcroft
Albert & Mae Yeager Les Yeager	Neill Yeager & Family
Melvin & Verrena Dagitz	Neill Yeager & Family
MaryAnn & Slim Clasen Kurt Clasen	Neill Yeager & Family
Sam Patterson	Jane Patterson
Rex Graham	Judy Graham
Linda Roiling	Chris Roling & Family
Faith LaCoursiere	Chris Roling & Family
Benjamin Michael	Dave & Jackie Dagitz
Dick Dagitz	The Family
Harold, Billy, & Kate Bowman Chris & Marty Victor	Sandra Bowman & Family



Jennifer Back	Mom, Dad, Billy, Amy, Jessica, and Angela
Nancy Medinger	Lorin Medinger & Family
Donald Goepfert Robert Medinger	Karen Goepfert & Family
Gary Sagers Alec Wagner	Gloria Sagers & Family
Bob & Elda Brockhage Tuffy & Dee Ernst	Dale Ernst Family
Judy Rostenbach Deb Schwager	Dale Ernst Family
Ike Keil	Janice & Family
Robert Davids	Joyce Davids
Campbell & Dottie Craddock	Gregg & Carol Hammann
Our Loved Ones	Pastor Paul & Diane
Long Family	Terry Long
Rich & Marge Blitgen	Jace & Kathy Ohlert
Ves Ploessl	Marty & Laural Ploessl
Hannah & Kashton Ruggeberg	Jessica Childs, Olivia and Ella Ruggeberg
Susan Nudd	Linda & Barry Nudd
Lois Morgan, John, Fran, Pat, Mary Rose, Stevie, and Kevin	Linda & Barry Nudd
Roger Schladetzky	Eunice Schladetzky
Our Loved Ones	Lynne Taft & Mykel Mickelson
Parents & Grandparents	The Dean Kilburg Family
Jim & Barb Keil	The Dean Kilburg Family
Rosie Williams	Joannie & Dean Kilburg

<b>Given in Honor of:</b>	<b>Given By:</b>
Our Grandchildren	Pastor Paul & Diane
<b>In Gratitude to God</b>	Tim & Laura Sagers



## CONFIRMATION MINISTRY NEWS

**Our first confirmation gathering for 2025  
will be Wednesday, January 8**

This fall we had nearly 40 young people (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) gathering on Wednesdays for Confirmation. Our focus has been on a little of biblical history from Abraham to Moses and the exodus. Then we began to explore the Ten Commandments and how they can be our guide to making good choices. After Christmas we will continue with the commandments.

**Looking Ahead for Lent:** Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5. We will again be serving and cleaning up for this year's Lenten Soup Suppers. Besides helping with the soup supper on your assigned date, every confirmation student is expected to attend the Midweek Lenten Services at 4:00 or 6:15.

### ACTOLYTE SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

Saturday	Student	Sunday	Students
Jan. 4	Davis Braet	Jan. 5	Tempy Anderson Carson Casel
Jan. 11	Aviana Herrig	Jan. 12	Claire Dempewolf Nora Fondell
Jan. 18	Tayden Kilburg	Jan. 19	Ali Dierks Hailey Feller
Jan. 26	Cash Kirk	Jan. 26	Miranda Kettmann Aubrey Michels
Feb. 1	Jocelyn Ries	Feb. 2	Aubrey Putman Blake Putman



## ARK NEWS ARK STARTS UP AGAIN JANUARY 10

This fall, we had a weekly average of 56 youth (K-5<sup>th</sup>) attending ARK with 64 being the highest number present. There were 17 youth who were present every time (10 weeks) and 21 who only missed one week.

We have been blessed to have enough adult and MS/HS students helping out. We want to thank Izzy Mootz, Season Kutsch, Diane Carson, Nicole Weis, Mike Dempewolf, Diane Ploeger, Krisy Dempewolf, and Joannie Kilburg who served as adult group leaders. We also want to thank the MS students who served as helpers: Aleyha Mootz, Addi Kutsch, Claire Dempewolf, Nora Fondell, Zoey Bies, Leonard Weis, and Eli Portz. And we can't forget our kitchen/snack crew: Ann Skoff, Sandra Bowman, Donna Duvall, and Liz Kilburg.

### ARK HONOR ROLL STUDENTS - Fall 2024

#### DID NOT MISS - 100%

Aiden Bies  
Aliyah Bunker  
Lucy Griebel  
Everly Ploeger  
Jennifer Weis  
Reese Decker  
Natalie Portz  
Sadie Kutsch  
Parker Sieverding  
Halie Decker  
Kylee Jess  
Zoey Kettmann  
Hailey Bunker  
Ryan Dempewolf  
Benry Ries

#### ONLY ONE MISS

Kyden Decker  
Lillian Medinger

Jaedyn Putman  
Paetyn Putman  
Bently Kress  
Penelope Ploeger  
Kennford Sieverding  
Landry Van Gorp  
Witten Rousch  
Lilly Claussen  
Kamberlyn Decker  
Mallory Kutsch  
Bentley Budde-Heiar  
Abbie Bunker  
Tinley Felderman  
Braxton Gilmore  
Eivin Medinger  
Brycen Putman  
Jordyn Ries  
Griffin Ruggeberg  
Jackson Baker  
Kaydria Decker

## RECEIVE YOUR ANNUAL REPORT Online and by E-Mail

The annual report will be available by January 18 at the church or you can receive via e-mail or online at our church website.

**Email:** If you choose to receive the report by e-mail, please contact the church office at: [officeadmin@iowatelecom.net](mailto:officeadmin@iowatelecom.net) or call Ann at 872-5849

**Online:** To view the annual report online, go to our website: [www.saintjohnlutheran.net](http://www.saintjohnlutheran.net). Scroll down to “Recent Annual Report” and click on view.

If you have a Kindle or I-pad, you will be able to access the report during our annual meeting. There will be hard copies available at the meeting.

## CHRISTMAS STAR MINISTRY

Again this year Saint John members have given very generously to the Christmas Star ministry. This year we had 15 families and 33 children. 16 quilts were given out made by our Quilt Tying Ministry.

**Thank You** to all who took a star or more for the children. Each child received one gift of clothing and one gift that was a toy. **THANK YOU** to those who supported this through financial donations which helped buy the groceries.



A special thank you to Bender's Foods and Bellevue Dairy for their assistance, and Thrivent Financial for their donation.

We also want to thank the members of the Christmas Star Ministry: Gloria Sagers, Jo Ernst and Eunice Schladetzly, Jane Patterson, and Joyce Gibbons.

## WEEKLY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

Weekend Of	Sat.	Sun.	Total	Generl Fund Offerings
December 1	34	51	85	\$3,581.18
December 8	30	63	93	\$1,290.68
December 15	28	45	73	\$2,459.18
December 22	33	70	103	\$4,483.18

## CHRISTMAS EVE ATTENDANCE & OFFERING

4:00	7:00	10:00	Total	General Fund Offerings for Christmas
240	70	53	363	\$2,410.00

### TREASURER'S REPORT

<b>General Fund Balance—11/30/2024</b>	<b>\$1,802.30</b>
<b><u>Income:</u></b>	
General Offerings	14,192.66
Farmland Rent	6,000.00
Building Use	50.00
Cemetery Custodian Reimbursement	500.00
Gifts Received	150.00
Lodge Rental	300.00
<b><u>Budgeted Expenses:</u></b>	<b>(12,258.05)</b>
<b>General Fund Balance—12/26/24</b>	<b>\$10,736.91</b>

**Saint John Council Minutes**  
**December 16, 2024**

**Present** - JoEllen Poll, Pastor Paul, Marla Mootz, Ann Skoff, Joannie Kilburg, Shannon Abbott, Daniel Braet **Absent** - Jo Ernst  
**Called to order** by President JoEllen Poll at 6:30 pm. Opening Prayer led by JoEllen.

**Agenda** - MSC to approve agenda.

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

**Reports** -

Financial - MSC to accept the Financial Reports as printed.

**Correspondence** -

a) Camp EWALU sent a letter requesting a donation. MSC to send \$250 from the Designated Funds/Donations Beyond Us Account.

b) Fidelity Bank sent a gift of \$150.

**Action by Email Vote** – None

**OLD BUSINESS** -

a) Land Line in Parsonage - The phone line has been disconnected.

**NEW BUSINESS** -

a) Nominating Committee - The group met on December 15 and made a list of potential councilmembers to speak to.

b) Snow Removal - Mark Guenther, representing the Building Committee, is working on finding someone to do the church's snow removal.

c) 2025 Preliminary Budget - The council reviews the budget and will finalize it at the next council meeting.

The council congratulated Ann for 25 years of serving as Saint John's Office Administrator.

**Next Meeting** - Monday, January 6 at 1:00 pm

**Meeting Adjourned** at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ann Skoff

# CHRISTMAS EVE - 2024



