



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

*Growing and responding  
Every Day as disciples of Jesus*

**June 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  
[stjohn@iowatelecom.net](mailto:stjohn@iowatelecom.net)  
Pastor  
[sjpastor@iowatelecom.net](mailto:sjpastor@iowatelecom.net)

**~ WEBSITE ~**  
**SAINTJOHNLUTHERAN.NET**



**~ OUR FACEBOOK ~**

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

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

**Graduates Recognized**

**Summer Worship Schedule  
at the Retreat Center**

**Christian Women's Fellowship  
June 8  
See Information Inside**

## **Coming Events**

**You Should Know About!**

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



## Summertime and Keeping the Sabbath Holy.

As a child I loved the month of June and the beginning of summertime. Summertime meant a change in my routine. With no school and more daylight, I was able to play with my friends, stay outside longer in the evenings and didn't have to go to bed so early.

I spent a lot of my time across the street at Columbus School hanging out with my neighborhood friends. There we would participate in the Summer Parks and Recreation program along with pick up games of basketball, football, and softball. It certainly was a welcomed change in my life.

Even at church, there was a change in my routine during the summertime. Although I had to go to Sunday School during the summer months, I didn't have to sit in a classroom. The students along with parents and other adults would gather in the gym to watch various religious movies.

There was one thing that never changed during the summer. I always went to church every Sunday. Even though some of my friends didn't come every week, I did because I had to. After all it wouldn't look good if the pastor's kid wasn't in church. I always wondered

who would know if I was there or not because we had two services. I guess most people won't know if I was at the early service or the late one, but God would (that's what mom would say).

Within our church we see a change in our routine during the summer. ARK and Confirmation classes take a summer break. We experience a decline in our average weekly worship attendance, but not as drastic of decline prior to 2019 and covid.

Yes, summer is the time when many of us change our routines. We take more time to play and enjoy God's creation.

Although a change in our routine is good at times, I believe that summertime should not bring about a change in our weekly routine of gathering together with our Christian friends at church to hear God's Word and to participate in the Sacraments.

You might think that others may not notice your absence, but that's not true. Your presence is important. And yes, as my mother would say, "God cares."

Enjoy the summertime and remember to keep the Sabbath holy. May God bless your summertime.

*Pastor Paul*



Abby Martin .....	6/2
Aubryn Ries .....	6/2
Asher Ries .....	6/2
Chris Ernst.....	6/4
Vonnie Petesch .....	6/4
Maci Kirk.....	6/5
Carter Ruggeberg .....	6/5
Shannon Abbott.....	6/6
John Chantos .....	6/6
Gary Penniston.....	6/6
Owen Putman.....	6/6
Lora Scheckel.....	6/6
Theresa Wieseler-Booker ....	6/6
Curt Zeimet.....	6/7
Mark Guenther.....	6/9
Emily Hingtgen .....	6/9
Keith Griebel.....	6/10
Joann Sieverding .....	6/10
Van Weis .....	6/10
Kaden Guenther .....	6/11
Jayson Heiar.....	6/11

Addi Kutsch.....	6/12
Mike Hayes .....	6/14
Jake Hiland .....	6/14
Merritt Martin.....	6/15
Scott Jess .....	6/16
Tayden Kilburg.....	6/16
Jocelyn Ries .....	6/17
Jacob Booker.....	6/20
Nicole Dempewolf .....	6/20
Emily Medinger .....	6/20
David Putman .....	6/20
Sara Guenther .....	6/22
Robert Portz.....	6/22
Alex Hinke.....	6/23
Cassie Kirk.....	6/23
Mallory Kutsch .....	6/23
Sophia Kieffer .....	6/25
Jennifer Weis .....	6/25
Jim Williams.....	6/26
Harper Braet .....	6/27

***Celebrating 90+ Years!***

***Shirley Hachmann***

*June 11*

***Jan Brinker***

*June 29*

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

**Members  
Celebrating  
their 80+ Birthday**

***Russ Clausen***

*June 1*

***Tom Meyer***

*June 9*

***Norma Meyer***

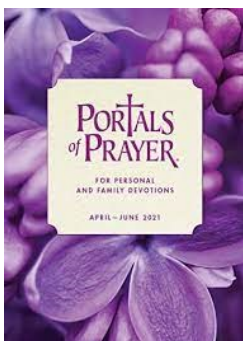
*June 11*

***Eunice Schladetzky***

*June 24*

# Memorials & Gifts Received In Memory of

**Linda Ries**  
*Saint John Memorial Fund*



**Thank you to**  
Mark and Beth Rogge  
for generously providing the  
congregation with copies of  
Portals of Prayer  
every year.



**ELIZABETH CIRCLE:** Thursday, June 18 at 1:30 pm



## **SUMMER WORSHIP AT THE RETREAT CENTER**

### **JUNE**

**Saturday, June 15 - 5:00 pm**  
Potluck to follow service.

### **JULY**

**Saturday, July 20 - 5:00 pm**  
Potluck to follow service.



### **AUGUST**

**Saturday, August 24- 5:00 pm**  
Potluck to follow service.



Currently we have not scheduled worship at the Retreat Center on Sundays. This might change for July and/or August. We will let you know in the newsletter.

***Ecumenical***  
**Christian Women's  
Fellowship**  
**“A Wing and A Prayer”**



***Guest 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***

For reservations contact one of the following *before June 2:*

Diane Ploeger 563-451-8574  
Sue Bevan 563-580-1032  
Meg Baugh 563-451-3991

***All are welcome!***

# make a splash this summer!

Dive into summer fun with us!

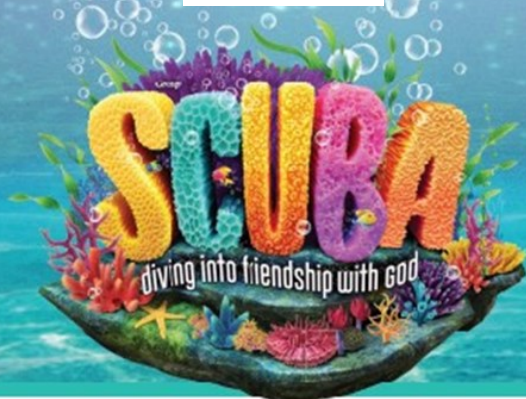
What: Vacation Bible School (VBS)

When: July 29th - August 1st, 5 pm - 8 pm

Where: Saint John Lutheran, Bellevue, IA

Who: Students entering grades K-6 in the fall

Gear up and register now! Scan the QR code to access the registration form, or visit the church's website <http://saintjohnlutheran.net/> to get started.







## *Recognizing Our Graduating High School Seniors*

On Sunday, May 19 during worship, we recognized those seniors who will be graduating from Bellevue High School. In honor of their graduation, each student received a personally designed and hand crafted quilt made by our Quilt Tying ministry.



Those present were (front row L-R): Kempton Sikkema, Olivia Ruggeberg, Hunter Putman. (Back row) Teagan Humphrey, Hannah Braet, Payton Griebel, and Kaden Guenther. Those who were not present were: Rylee Bevan, Lilly Courtney, Hunter Merrick, and Paige Mohr.











## **COLLEGE GRADUATES**

**Breanna (Carson) Cooper**

Bachelor of Arts

Educational Studies in Elementary Education

Master of Science

Curriculum and Instruction

**Kyle Guenther**

Bachelor of Architecture

Iowa State University

Received Summa cum laude honors.

**Congratulations!**





## CONFIRMATION NEWS

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

Even though we are on our summer break from gathering for Confirmation, we are not on a summer break from attending worship and submitting sermon notes.

### REMINDER TO ALL CONFIRMATION STUDENTS AND PARENTS:

Each confirmation student is expected achieve at least 2 points per month by attending worship at least twice a month (all year round) or submitting at least 3 on-line sermon notes each month.

## ACOLYTE SCHEDULE FOR JUNE & JULY

Saturday	Student	Sunday	Students
June 1	Miranda Kettmann	June 2	Davis Braet Carson Casel
June 8	Tayden Kilburg	June 9	Ali Dierks Hailey Feller
June 15	<b>NO ACOLYTE Service at Retreat Center</b>	June 16	Cash Kirk Aubrey Michel
June 22	Aviana Herrig	June 23	Aubrey Putman Blake Putman
June 29	Jocelyn Ries	June 30	Marcus Small Jackson Van Gorp
July 6	<b>HERITAGE DAYS No Worship</b>	July 7	Tobias Humphrey Casey Rowan
July 13	Katie Sauser	July 14	Fischer Johnson Brendan Booker
July 20	<b>NO ACOLYTE Service at Retreat Center</b>	July 21	Kylie Ernst Izzy Tott
July 27	Liam Eichhorn	July 28	Brennan Ries Makaila Scheckel

## 2024 MISSION TRIP

July 7-12

After missing last year due to the lack of student response, our confirmation mission trip will be happening this year. There will be five youth and two adults heading to Milwaukee for the annual week long mission trip. At this time we do not know what our project will entail, but whatever it is we will be helping others.

Those participating this year are: (8th graders) Kylie Ernst and Makaila Scheckel, and (7th graders) Claire Dempewolf, Jocelyn Ries, and Marcus Small. The adult leaders are: Krisy Dempewolf (8th grade leader) and Pastor Paul.



This will be our 14th year of going on a mission trip. Our first one was in 2008. Over the years we have travelled to Minnesota, Wisconsin, South Carolina, Illinois, Michigan, and South Dakota.

Post trip evaluations by those students who have participated have indicated that their experience was a great time. Even today, the students still talk about their mission trip experience.

Even though there will be only five youth out of a possible 22, we are looking forward to our trip to Milwaukee to do God's work with our hands. Please keep our group in your prayers as we prepare for our trip and during our trip.



## Lawn Mowing Sign Up

**We want to thank** those who have signed up to mow and trim our church lawn.

There are several open dates. The sign up sheet is on the table in the back of 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-propelled mower. Of course the gas is provided.

### CHURCH MOWING SCHEDULE

Those who have signed up as of May 26

<b>Mowing Week beginning Thurs</b>	<b>Volunteer</b>	<b>Mowing Week beginning Thurs</b>	<b>Volunteer</b>
<b>May 30</b>	Garry Arensdorf	<b>August 1</b>	
<b>June 6</b>	Todd Gieseemann	<b>August 8</b>	
<b>June 13</b>	Terry Dempewolf	<b>August 15</b>	
<b>June 20</b>	Jason Gilmore	<b>August 22</b>	Terry Dempewolf
<b>June 27</b>	Payton Griebel	<b>August 29</b>	
<b>July 4</b>		<b>Sept. 5</b>	
<b>July 11</b>		<b>Sept. 12</b>	
<b>July 18</b>	Terry Dempewolf	<b>Sept. 19</b>	Terry Dempewolf
<b>July 25</b>		<b>Sept. 26</b>	



## SAINT JOHN LOCAL/GLOBAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE

In May, Saint John's Local/Global Outreach Committee donated \$600+ of products to the Bellevue Bread Basket and received monetary donations as well of \$115.

30 of each: Laundry Soap, Dish Soap, Boxes of Dryer Sheets, and Toothpaste of all sizes and flavors! As well, many other products were also found among the many boxes of products given from our membership.



Bread Basket volunteers were overwhelmed, and so were we!

All of this totaled around the \$600 amount; however, the committee developed their goal of 30 of each product, so we spent, from our designated funds, only \$106 to meet our goal. Again, thank you Saint John for your contribution to a necessary piece of our community.

For June, our Local/Global Outreach Committee is volunteering cookies to help the Lions Club with their Tuesday Picnic in the Park (at Cole Park) – open to all ages – from 11:30-1:00 each Tuesday though June and July.

Our committee will meet early in June to decide where our next good deed will focus.

Joannie Kilburg  
Chairperson



**Bellevue Bread Basket**  
Served 35 families  
(89 people)  
in May

## Weekly Worship Attendance & Offerings

Total includes members, participating partners, and guests.

Weekend of	Sat.	Sun.	Total	General Fund Offerings
May 5	23	48	71	\$3,389.18
May 12	36	68	104	\$3,388.18
May 19	31	89	120	\$1,934.18
May 25	30	51	81	\$1,277.18

### TREASURER'S REPORT

<b>General Fund Balance—4/29/24</b>	<b>\$11,147.05</b>
<b>Budgeted Income:</b>	
General Offerings	9,988.72
Cemetery Custodian Reimbursement	500.00
Building Use	25.00
<b>Budgeted Expenses:</b>	<u>(14,476.93)</u>
<b>General Fund Balance—5/29/24</b>	<b>\$7,183.84</b>

## **Saint John Council Minutes - May 20, 2024**

**Present** - JoEllen Poll, Pastor Paul, Marla Mootz, Jo Ernst, Joannie Kilburg, Ann Skoff, Daniel Braet    **Absent** - Shannon Abbott

**Called to order** by President JoEllen Poll at 6:28 pm. Opening Prayer led by JoEllen.

**Agenda** - MSC to approve agenda.

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

### **Reports -**

Financial - MSC to accept the Financial Reports as printed.

Local & Global Outreach Committee - Joannie gave a verbal report. This report will be included in the June Beacon.

### **Correspondence -**

SE Iowa Synod - Sent a letter thanking Saint John for their support of \$16,351.37 in 2023.

Bellevue Bread Basket - Sent a note thanking Saint John for the gift of \$120.

Bellevue Community Cupboard Project - Sent a note thanking Saint John for the gift of \$120.

Bellevue Fire Department - Sent a letter requesting a donation. MSC to send \$250 from the Designated Fund/Donations Beyond Us.

After-Prom Party - Marla Mootz, representing the After-Prom Committee, thanked the council for the donation of \$150. This gift came from the Designated Fund/Donations Beyond Us.

**Action by Email Vote** - MSC to donate \$150 to Bellevue High School's After-Prom Party.

### **OLD BUSINESS -**

- a) Parsonage Updates- JoEllen will contact Terry Dempewolf to discuss when the work will begin.
- b) Synod Assembly - Nobody volunteered to attend this year's assembly.

## **NEW BUSINESS -**

- a) Mission Trip - Five youth and two adults will travel to Milwaukee on July 7-12.
- b) Scholarship - Pastor Paul reported that information was sent to all of the Saint John seniors. Only 2 responded. Olivia Ruggeberg will receive the \$400 Wallace Scholarship. Hannah Braet will receive the \$400 Kate Bowman Scholarship. The Bud Knake Scholarship was not given out this year due to the lack of responses.

**Next Meeting** - Monday, June 17 at 6:30 pm.

**Meeting Adjourned** at 7:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ann Skoff

## Looking Back



**2005 Graduates**



**2010 Graduates**



## 2015 Graduates



**2020 Graduates** - Covid prevented us from recognizing the graduates at church. (not picture: Liza Dixon)