



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

*Growing and responding  
Every Day as disciples of Jesus*

**July 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!**

**HERITAGE DAYS  
WEEKEND SERVICE SCHEDULE**

**Saturday, July 6 - NO SERVICE**  
**Sunday, July 7 - 10:00 am**

**SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING**

**July 14 - following worship**

**SAINT JOHN RETREAT CENTER  
OUTDOOR SERVICES**

**Saturday, July 20 - 5:00 pm**  
**With potluck**

**Vacation Bible School**  
**July 29—August 1**

To view the photos in color, go to our  
website: [saintjohnlutheran.net](http://saintjohnlutheran.net)  
and click on the 'Beacon'



## *4th of July*

As a young boy, the 4th of July marked the day before my birthday. It was a time to go to the park and walk around the various carnival games and trying to decide what one might win me a prize (which rarely happened). Then it was time to ride on the pony ride. In the evening, was the fireworks of oohs and ahs. I honestly can't recall thinking about what the day meant - celebrating the Freedom and Democracy that we take for granted.

One of those freedoms is the freedom of religion - the freedom of worship. As a young boy, I never appreciated that freedom of worship. I guess it was engrained that worship is something you "had" to do. It didn't felt like there was any freedom of choice. As I grew older I looked forward to leaving the family home and celebrating my freedom - choosing not to worship every Sunday.

Now at 75 years old, I realize the gift that we Americans have been given - the freedom of worship. This freedom of worship or not to worship is purely our choice. We don't have a government or dictator who controls who we worship, when we worship, or where we worship.

As a pastor for 35 years, I have observed how this freedom of worship has been taken for granted. Oh yes, people are having the freedom of choosing to gather for worship. However, I wonder what the reaction of those believers might be when their freedom would be taken away - when churches could no longer be open - when gathering with like minded believers to study God's word and receive the Sacrament would mean persecution.

On this 4th of July and in this presidential year of electing a president, I hope that we all will reflect on the freedoms we have as citizens of the United States. I also hope that we will all reflect on our choices of how we use and respect our freedoms, especially our freedom of religion/worship.

Have a Blessed Fourth of July. May God continue to bless our country, and may we all respect the rights and freedoms of all people.

*Pastor Paul*



Davis Braet .....	7/1	George Schlecht .....	7/16
Sadie Braet .....	7/1	Rhonda Knake .....	7/18
JoEllen Poll .....	7/2	Janell Yaddof .....	7/18
Adrianna Budde-Heiar .....	7/3	Wendy Casel .....	7/19
Zach Roeder .....	7/3	Beau Kirk .....	7/19
Donna Duval .....	7/5	Paige Mohr .....	7/19
Ryan Ernst .....	7/5	Amelia Ernst .....	7/20
Paul Gammelin .....	7/5	Kylie Jess .....	7/20
Teagan Humphrey .....	7/5	Beth Rogge .....	7/20
Deb Sieverding .....	7/5	Mike Dempewolf .....	7/22
Brooke Johnson .....	7/6	Hunter Merrick .....	7/22
Randy Kirk .....	7/6	Tana Herrig .....	7/23
Gavin Keane .....	7/8	Desiree Budde .....	7/24
Jessica Weis .....	7/8	Kennedy Kilburg .....	7/26
Sam Van Gorp .....	7/10	Cal Bonifas .....	7/27
Steve Brinker .....	7/12	Nicholas Dempewolf .....	7/27
Jax Eichhorn .....	7/12	Presley McPherson .....	7/28
Luke Giesemann .....	7/12	Richard Cheney .....	7/30
Kamron Wilson .....	7/13	Cindy Putman .....	7/30
Kylee Ploessl .....	7/13	Wyatt Scheckel .....	7/30
Gavin Schroeder .....	7/14	Chase Putman .....	7/31
Colby Kieffer .....	7/15	Brantley Hankemeier .....	7/31

**Celebrating  
their 80+ Birthday!**

**Judy Pooler**  
July 4

**Karen Goepfert**  
July 7

**Roger Keil**  
July 14

**CC Hammann**  
July 14

**Members Celebrating  
Their 90+ Birthday!**

**Arlene Keil**  
July 23

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

## PASTORAL ACTS & RITE OF PASSAGE



Graveside Service—May 31  
**MIKE ROTH**

WEDDING—JUNE 1  
**DIANE CARSON &  
PAUL GAMMELIN**  
OFFICIATED BY  
REV. RICHARD INGLETT



### Memorials & Gifts Received In Memory of

***Linda Ries***

*Christmas Star*

*ARK - Elementary Youth Education*

*Vacation Bible School*

*Youth Bible Fund*

*Confirmation Ministry*

*Music Ministry*

*Senior Quilt Fund*

*Community Thanksgiving Dinner*

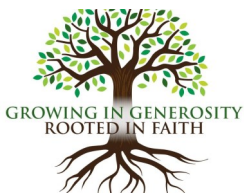
*Prayer Shawl Minister*

*Good Samaritan Fund*

*Purchase of new laptop for the Pastor/church*

***Gift Received from the Elizabeth Circle***

*Senior Quilt Fund*



## **STEWARDSHIP**

MANAGING GOD'S BLESSING  
**GIVE - SERVE - ATTEND - GROW**

### **YOUR FAITHFUL FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS NEEDED AND APPRECIATED**

The summer months have traditionally been months when the worship attendance declines along with offerings in most churches.

As stewards of God's blessings and as members of Saint John, we are entrusted with the responsibility of caring for and supporting this church and its ministries. We are grateful for those who faithfully support our church through their offerings.

A great way to ensure your support during the year, especially during the summer months when you're not able to be worshiping in church is to utilize "e-Offering" (an automatic withdrawal). You can choose to give weekly, bi-monthly, or monthly. If you are not using "e-Offering" we encourage you to sign up for it. You can do this by contacting our Office Administrator (Ann).

## *Thank You*

Pastor Paul and Diane would like to thank all who were present at our Commitment Ceremony and reception.

Your presence was truly appreciated.

We also want to thank those who shared a heart-filled greeting - card/message/prayers, and those who gave a gift.

We definitively felt your love embracing us as you shared in our Joy on June 1.



# make a splash this summer!

Dive into summer fun with us!

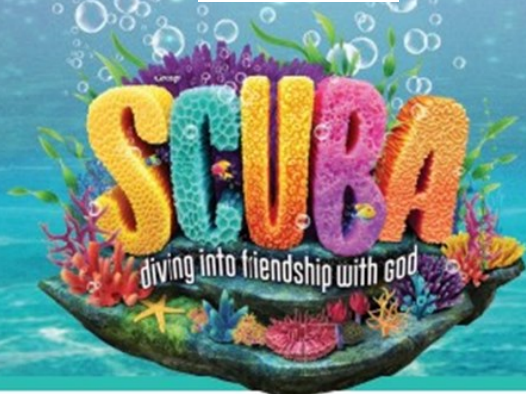
What: Vacation Bible School (VBS)

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.





## 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 to attend worship at least twice a month (all year) or submit at least 3 on-line sermon notes each month.**

### ACTOLYTE SCHEDULE FOR JULY

Saturday	Student	Sunday	Students
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

On Sunday, July 7, we will be embarking on this year's Youth Mission Trip to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Milwaukee was recently listed as the 4th poorest large city in America.

This will be the 14th mission trip since our first one in 2008. Those participating this year are: (8th graders) Kylie Ernst and (7th graders) Claire Dempewolf, Jocelyn Ries, and Marcus Small. The adult leaders are: Krisy Dempewolf (8th grade leader) and Pastor Paul.

It is a bit disappointing that we have so few youth participating this year. With the size of our 8th grade (6 youth) and 7th grade (17 youth) we were hoping for more. We are not sure why students chose not to participate, but the one thing we do know is that most of youth who have gone on a mission trip have shared that their experience was worthwhile. Even today, we hear students reminiscing about their mission trip.



Even though there will be only four youth, we are anticipating that this group will represent Saint John well as they to do God's work of serving the needs of others. Please keep this group in your prayers as they prepare for their trip and during the trip.

**FOLLOW OUR TRIP.** You will be able follow this group in Milwaukee through the postings on Saint John's Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/saintjohnbellevue>



Or use this QR code to link to our Facebook page



# WORSHIP AND POTLUCK AT THE SAINT JOHN RETREAT CENTER



**Saturday, July 20- 5:00 p.m.**

There will be a potluck following the service.

**We gather inside the lodge for worship.**



**A potluck meal will be held inside with beverage and table setting provided.**

**Great Time for further fellowship.**

## **AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE AT SAINT JOHN RETREAT CENTER**

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

with a potluck following the service.



## **LOCAL and GLOBAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

Our committee has joined with the Bellevue Lions Club for "Picnic in the Park." We are donating cookies to go with the meals which are served on Tuesdays in June and July. Some members are also volunteering to help serve the meals.

Upcoming events are a Garage Sale in August, A Coin Drop in September and a Bake Sale in October. Details will be in upcoming Beacons and bulletins. We will use the proceeds to help several Local and Global missions.



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

# CHURCH MOWING SCHEDULE

Those who have signed up  
as of June 14



<b>Mowing Week beginning Thurs</b>	<b>Volunteer</b>	<b>Mowing Week beginning Thurs</b>	<b>Volunteer</b>
<b>June 27</b>	Payton Griebel	<b>August 1</b>	Todd Gieseemann
		<b>August 8</b>	
<b>July 4</b>		<b>August 15</b>	
<b>July 11</b>		<b>August 22</b>	Terry Dempewolf
<b>July 18</b>	Terry Dempewolf	<b>August 29</b>	
<b>July 25</b>			
		<b>Sept. 5</b>	Terry Dempewolf
		<b>Sept. 12</b>	
		<b>Sept. 19</b>	Terry Dempewolf
		<b>Sept. 26</b>	

## THANK YOU

We want to thank the following who have already mowed this summer.

**Dean Kilburg  
Terry Dempewolf  
Todd Gieseemann  
Jason Gilmore**

**Garry Arensdorf  
Laura Arensdorf  
Pastor Paul**



**ELIZABETH CIRCLE:** Tuesday, July 16 at 1:30 pm

**REBECCA CIRCLE:** No Meeting



## **PASTORAL VISITS**

To assist Pastor Paul in providing pastoral care for those hospitalized, please notify him, especially of pending surgeries.

If an individual is homebound and would like a visit or would like to receive Holy Communion, please give pastor a call (563-542-1538) so he can schedule a time.

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# CHURCH COUNCIL

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**The church council had no pressing business, and did not meet in June**



## **SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

The church council has called for a Special Congregational meeting on Sunday, July 14 following the 10:00 service. This meeting is to approve the replacement of the parsonage garage.

The roof was not replaced when the parsonage roof was replaced several years ago. With the recent wind, the old, worn-down shingles were blown off.

## Weekly Worship Attendance & Offerings

Total includes members, participating partners, and guests.

Weekend of	Sat.	Sun.	Total	General Fund Offerings
June 2	15	30	45	\$2,475.50
June 9	25	47	72	\$1,688.18
June 16	27	43	70	\$2,899.18
June 23	24	62	86	\$2,209.18

### TREASURER'S REPORT

<b>General Fund Balance—5/29/2024</b>	<b>\$7,183.84</b>
<b>Income:</b>	
General Offerings	9,272.04
Cemetery Custodian Reimbursement	500.00
Interest & Misc. Income	.37
Lodge Rentals	325.00
<b>Budgeted Expenses:</b>	<u>(13,290.20)</u>
<b>General Fund Balance—6/26/2023=4</b>	<b>\$3,991.05</b>

We want to thank everyone who have been faithful in supporting our church through your offerings.

*Thank you*

Our offerings is our response to the blessings God has given us.



