



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

*Growing and responding
Every Day as disciples of Jesus*

October 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

~ 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



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

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

Coming Events

You Should Know About!

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Reformation Sunday
October 27 - 10:00 a.m.

ALL SAINT'S REMEMBRANCE

November 2 & 3
at our worship service

What's
INSIDE
this **ISSUE**

**CONFIRMATION CLASS
PICTURES**

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



“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” Hebrews 13:8

Twenty-five years ago I came to Bellevue to be your pastor. Over these years, we have experienced many changes within our congregation. Some of the changes have challenged us to grow in new ways. And yet, in spite of the changes, we have continued to be a faithful community that reaches out to serve the needs of the people.

One of changes that I have missed is that we don't have a pianist/organist to lead us in our worship. We were so blessed to have Jan Schroeder and Joanne Mensinger. Along with that I have missed hearing our choir under the direction of Curt Zeimet enhance our worship services.

Another change came in our educational ministry. With the declining number of youth attending Sunday School on Sunday mornings, we took a bold step and moved our elementary education to Fridays after school now known as ARK. Who would ever have expected the growth in participation that we have experienced. This year we have 60+ youth (Kind-5th) attending.

Another change in our educational ministry came in the area of confirmation. A change in our programming now has youth excited about participating in confirmation. No longer do we hear, “Do I have to go to confirmation.” This year, we have the largest number of youth participating in confirmation—42 (6th-8th).

There are other changes in the life of this congregation that we have experienced. We have experienced a decline in adult participation within women and men's ministry. And I am sure that there are more changes we have faced over the years.

There are many churches who have or are facing the challenge of changes. These congregations are struggling to sustain a viable ministry amidst the changes in life. However, I truly believe that by the grace of God and by the power of God's Spirit, Saint John Lutheran is not just surviving but thriving.

However, we are being challenged today. In an age when the world around us is changing and challenging our sense of unity, we need to remember who we truly are. We are followers of Christ— united together as one in Christ—who will rise to the challenges of our ever-changing community and seek to bring forth the unity that God desires.

Pastoral Acts

Funeral—September 9
James A. Keil



**Memorials & Gifts Received
In Memory of**

Verrena Dagitz-Stein
Saint John Memorial Fund
Senior Quilt Fund

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Saylor Kilburg.....	10/1	Kaydin Johnson.....	10/17
Mary Hinke.....	10/2	Eiven Medinger.....	10/17
Phyllis Reistroffer.....	10/2	Rylee Bevan.....	10/18
Kylee Putman.....	10/3	Laural Ploessl.....	10/18
Mark Wilbers.....	10/3	Ron Purvis.....	10/18
Olivia Ruggeberg.....	10/4	John Hayes.....	10/19
Diane Michels.....	10/5	Lonnie Heister.....	10/19
John Ruggeberg.....	10/5	Ann Skoff.....	10/19
Iris Small.....	10/5	Brody Hankemeier.....	10/20
Carter Higgins.....	10/6	Aubrey Putman.....	10/20
Kathy Ohlert.....	10/8	Blake Putman.....	10/20
Layla Schlecht.....	10/8	Braxton Carstens.....	10/22
Jacob Sieverding.....	10/8	Isaac Ohlert.....	10/22
Heidi Abbott.....	10/9	Garry Arensdorf.....	10/23
Temperance Anderson...	10/9	Kaden Burzlaff.....	10/23
Wendy Kilburg.....	10/9	Ryder Michels.....	10/23
Sofia Hinke.....	10/10	Gemma Oberbroeckling...	10/23
Alfie Mohr.....	10/10	Diane Carson.....	10/25
Bri Sieverding.....	10/10	Jace Ohlert.....	10/25
Gloria Medinger.....	10/11	Chet Knake.....	10/26
Steve Kettmann.....	10/12	Darla Michels.....	10/26
Jackie Kettmann.....	10/12	Gloria Clausen.....	10/26
Adrienne Ploeger.....	10/13	Rhonda Anderson.....	10/27
Alexis Weis.....	10/13	Josh Edwards.....	10/27
Charlie Abbott.....	10/14	Kenny Griebel.....	10/27
Fran Feuerbach.....	10/15	Melissa Stalder.....	10/29
Ali Dierks.....	10/17	Camden Van Gorp.....	10/30

**Celebrating Her
94th Birthday !!!**

Mary Puls
October 14

Celebrating Their Wedding Anniversary

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Years</u>
Rick & Wendy Casel	Oct. 1	19
Joseph & Lisa Ernst	Oct. 2	14
Matt & Holly McPherson.....	Oct. 3	9
Alfie & Erin Mohr	Oct. 3	15
Terry & Diane Dempewolf.....	Oct. 5	39
Joe & Audra Ries	Oct. 9	14
Jason & Amber Gilmore	Oct. 10	15
Keisha & Dustin Ploeger	Oct. 15	8
Mike & Lori Behrens	Oct. 17	26
John & Ann Skoff	Oct. 17	32
Ryan & Rachael Putman.....	Oct. 18	16
Lonnie & Cherie Heister	Oct. 19	10
Colby & Ashley Kieffer	Oct. 20	12
Robert & Jessica Portz.....	Oct. 22	19
Peter & Allysen Bonifas.....	Oct. 30	20



<i>40 Plus Anniversaries</i>		
Bill & Deb Sieverding	Oct. 6	40
Ron & Tami Purvis	Oct. 15	41
Barb & Jeff Michels	Oct. 18	44

*We apologize for errors or omissions.
If you notice any errors in the birthday or anniversary list,
please call the office at 872-5849*



CELEBRATING THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

On Sunday, October 27, we will be celebrating the Rite of Confirmation at the 10:00 service.

At Saint John, the Rite of Confirmation takes place on Reformation Sunday (the last Sunday in October) for those 9th grade baptized youth who have participated in our confirmation ministry and have indicated their desire to become a confirmed member. .

The Rite of Confirmation is not a “graduation ceremony” that marks an end or a completion of learning. It is a rite of passage in which the youth accepts the responsibility of what it means to continue to grow and live in faith. During this Rite of Confirmation, the youth will publicly affirm their faith in God and share their intent to:

- **LIVE** among (associate with) God's faithful people,
- **WORSHIP** faithfully so that they will hear God's Word and share in the Lord's Supper,
- **PROCLAIM** (demonstrate) the good news of God's love and forgiveness for all through their words and deeds, and
- **SERVE** all people following the example of Jesus.

This year, it appears that there will be 4 individuals who indicated their desire to be confirmed. They are: Liam Eichorn, Kylie Ernst, Brennan Ries, and Makaila Scheckel

Please keep these youth in your prayers as they prepare to publicly affirm their faith in God, and share their intent to continue to participate as a confirmed member in the ELCA and Saint John.

Our Confirmation ministry is for all youth (6th - 8th grade).



REFORMATION DAY OCTOBER 31

WHAT IS REFORMATION DAY?

Reformation Day is an important day for the Lutheran Church. It commemorates Martin Luther's posting the *Ninety-five Theses* on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany on October 31, 1517. This act triggered the movement in world history that has come to be known as the Reformation. While the historical date for the observance of Reformation is October 31, most Lutheran churches celebrate Reformation on the last Sunday in October— known as Reformation Sunday.

WHAT IS SO SIGNIFICANT ABOUT REFORMATION?

Reformation marks the beginning of the protests that Martin Luther, along with other reformers, carried out against the Pope. Luther never intended to pull away from the Roman Catholic Church and form a new denomination (Lutheran). His intent was to bring about a reform and to continue as one holy, catholic, and apostolic church.

In his study of the bible, Luther came to understand that our salvation is a gift from God that comes through faith. We cannot earn nor purchase our salvation as the Pope wanted the people to believe. Luther contended that if we sinners had to earn salvation by their own merits and good works, they would be lost and completely without hope.

Through the working of the Holy Spirit, Luther and the other reformers rediscovered and proclaimed the gospel -- the wonderful news that Jesus Christ lived, died, and rose again to redeem and justify us. Yes, Reformation marks the recovery of the good news of salvation by grace through faith in Christ.

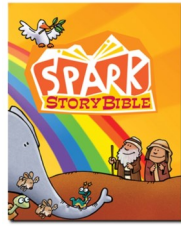
Our salvation is a gift from God!



6th Grade Confirmation Students Receive a Bible

The 6th grade Confirmation students were presented the Lutheran Student Bible (which includes Luther's Small Catechism and helpful information) at our services on September 7th and 8th.





KINDERGARTENERS RECEIVE THE SPARK STORY BIBLE

On September 14 & 15, we presented the “Spark Story Bible” book to eight of our kindergartners. The “Spark Story Bible” contains 150 of the most popular bible stories. It is our hope that this gift will help our youth to learn the stories of God’s love for all people.



YOUTH BIBLE FUND

The gift of the Student Study Bibles and the Spark Story Bibles is made possible by the generous donations to the “Youth Bible Fund.” If you would like to give a gift to this fund, place your gift in an envelope and mark it “Youth Bible Fund.”



Learning to Live as Disciples of Jesus Every Day

CONFIRMATION MINISTRY NEWS

On September 4, we began a new year of Confirmation. This year we have 43 youth (6th-8th) participating which is our largest number of confirmation students in the past 25 years..

Our Confirmation ministry has a three year cycle in which we focus on various parts of Luther's small catechism. This year, we will be exploring the Ten Commandments to see how they can serve as a guide to living in our faith.

Group leaders are an important part of our confirmation ministry. They serve as a guide and mentor for their group for three years. We have been fortunate to have many dedicated group leaders over the years. We are grateful for the commitment of our group leaders. Our 8th grade leader is Adrienne Ploeger, and our 6th grade is Mike Dempewolf



2024-25 Confirmation Students—First Day of Confirmation

ACTOLYTE SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER

Saturday	Student	Sunday	Students
Oct. 5	Eli Portz	Oct. 6	Coy LaCoursiere Aleyha Mootz
Oct. 12	Landon Merrick	Oct. 13	Charlee Scheckel Carter Ruggeberg
Oct. 19	Carson Casel	Oct. 20	Coy Schroeder Leonard Weis
Oct. 26	Tempy Anderson	Oct. 27	Trace Bonifas Claire Dempewolf
Nov. 2	Aviana Herrig	Nov. 3	Haily Feller Jocelyn Ries

CONFIRMATION WORSHIP ATTENDANCE AND SERMON NOTES

REMINDER TO ALL CONFIRMATION STUDENTS AND PARENTS:

Each confirmation student is expected to attend worship in-person at least twice a month (all year round) or submit at least 3 on-line sermon notes each month.



Confirmation Begins Each Wednesday with Homemade Pizza



ARK NEWS

On September 15, ARK began its 14th year of gathering elementary youth (Kind. - 5th grade) for Christian education on Friday after school. [2020 ARK did not meet due to Covid.] We had 62 youth participating on the first day.



Date	Story	Page in the Spark Story Bible
Sept. 27	NO ARK - Homecoming	
Oct. 4	God Calls Samuel	P.122
Oct. 11	NO ARK - No School	
Oct. 18	Cain & Abel	
Oct. 25	Noah Builds the Ark	P. 20



We want to thank those who have chosen to volunteer at ARK.

(Group Leaders) Izzy Mootz, Season Kutsch, Diane Carson, Mike Dempewolf, Krisy Dempewolf, Joannie Kilburg, Nicole Weis, Diane Ploeger. Middle School helpers: Aleyha Mootz, Addi Kutsch, Zoey Bies, Eli Portz Claire Dempewolf, and Leonard Wies.

In the kitchen helping with snacks are: Ann Skoff, Donna Duvall, Sandra Bowman, and Liz Kilburg.

YES, CHILDREN CAN RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION

At Saint John, the sacrament of Holy Communion is available to all who believe in our Lord Jesus Christ, regardless of church membership or age.



What this means is that we do not have a minimum age for a child to receive communion at Saint John. If a child expresses their desire to receive communion, and if the parent would like to have their child receive communion, then the parent should indicate this desire to Pastor Paul.

Pastor Paul will have a brief conversation with the child and parent. This conversation can happen after worship.

QUILT TYING MINISTRY BLESSING OF QUILTS AND SCHOOL BAGS

On the weekend of October 12 and 13, the quilts will be on display during worship as we ask God's blessing to be upon the quilts and school bags that will be sent to Lutheran World Relief.



Every Thursday, a group of women gather to assemble the quilts. Prior to their assembly, we have individuals who spend numerous hours cutting and sewing together the quilt tops. The next step is putting the top together with a sheet bottom with batting in between. This is followed up with tying knots to secure the layers and then the final step of sewing the edging.

Besides sending quilts to LWR, this ministry prepares graduation quilts.

While many women work on quilts, we have one woman, Karen Brown, who cuts, sews, assembles and prepares all the school bags to be packed with the school supplies that are donated.

We want to thank the following women who have been participating in the Quilt Tying Ministry: **Karen Brown, Eunice Schladetzky, Peggy Thoms, Janell Daugherty, Arlene Keil, Deb Hutchcroft, Karen Osar, JoElla Roling, Sue Bevan and Mary Puls.**



Women's Circles

*We invite all women to participate
In one of our circles and benefit from our
Bible studies and fellowship.*

5ELIZABETH CIRCLE: Tuesday, October 15 at 1:30 pm.

REBECCA CIRCLE: Tuesday, October 22 at 3:30 pm



Mobile App for Giving

Did you know that you can support our church by using **Vanco Mobile App** on you phone?

Simply go to the App store on your phone and download the Vanco Mobile app. Look for the purple V (pictured above).

When you get to the 'Find Your Organization' screen, just type Saint John Lutheran. Our church info will appear on the screen. Click it and then follow the instructions on your screen.



Bellevue Bread Basket
Served 42 families
(94 people)
in August

Weekly Worship Attendance & Offerings

Weekend of	Sat.	Sun.	Total	General Fund Offerings
September 1	21	41	62	\$3,235.18
September 8	46	69	115	\$1,447.18
September 15	45	77	122	\$2,690.18
September 22	38	58	96	\$1,917.06

TREASURER'S REPORT

General Fund Balance—8/26/24 **\$236.36**

Budgeted Income:

General Offerings	9,289.60
Interest & Misc.	25.74
Cemetery Custodian Reimbursement	500.00
Funerals	300.00
World Hunger & Disaster Relief	100.00
Transfer from Designated/Reserves Fund (per church council)	6,000.00

Budgeted Expenses:

Budgeted Expenses	<u>(14,026.57)</u>
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General Fund Balance—9/25/2024 **\$2,425.13**

Saint John Council Minutes - September 17, 2024

Present - JoEllen Poll, Pastor Paul, Jo Ernst, Joannie Kilburg, Ann Skoff, Shannon Abbott

Absent - Marla Mootz, Daniel Braet

Called to order by President JoEllen Poll at 7:01 pm. Opening Prayer led by JoEllen.

Agenda - MSC to approve agenda.

Council Minutes - MSC to approve council minutes of July 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 -

- a. MSC to allow Pastor Paul to coach football.
- b. MSC to take \$20,000 from the Designated Funds checking account and purchase a 90-day CD at Bellevue State Bank at interest rate of 5.5%.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS -

- a) Pastoral Health Insurance - MSC to to keep the same insurance coverage for 2024.
- b) General Fund Checking Account - MSC to transfer \$6000 from the Designated Funds/Reserves to the General Fund checking account.

Next Meeting - Monday, October 21 at 6:30 pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ann Skoff



*Recognizing those who
confirmed their faith at
Saint John Lutheran.*

60th Year Confirmation Anniversary

March 22, 1964
(No picture available)

Timothy Galusha
Neil Yeager
Randal Peters

William L. Riestroffer
Wayne Kuhl
Karen Grable

Dianne Hayward
Judith Griebel
Judith Goettler

50th Year Confirmation Anniversary

No Confirmation in 1974

40th Year Confirmation Anniversary

May 27, 1984
(No picture available)

Steven Brinker
David Carter
Scott Feuerbach

Michael Hayes
Janell Keil
Tina Putman

Deanna Williams

30th Year Confirmation Anniversary

May 22, 1994
(No picture available)

Amanda Alviar
Justin Bevan
Levi Cox

Deborah Graham
Brooklyn Weinschenk
Jeremias Zamzow

The church office is missing the group Confirmation Picture from the following years:

1978, 1984, 1991, 1993 -1995, 1997-1999

If you have a picture that we can scan and return, please bring it to the church office.

20th Year Confirmation Anniversary

May 2, 2004



Front (L-R): Mathew Schlecht, Sam Rogis, Samuel Iosbaker,
Pastor Paul Gammelin
Back (L-R): Kaitlin Kucera, Ryan Newton, Emily Kair

15th Year Confirmation Anniversary

October 25, 2009



First Row (L-R): Melinda Skoff, Jonathan Salmela, Desiree Budde, Matthew Anderson, Erika Toops, Pastor Paul Gammelin

Second Row (L-R): Diane Carson (Group Leader), Hannah Tennant, Joshua Ohlert, Taylor Jacobsen, Cole Prichard, Intern Clay Salmela

10th Year Confirmation Anniversary

October 26, 2014



First Row (L-R): Taylor Back, Eliza Scheckel, Shelly Schwager (Group Leader) Second Row (L-R): Alyssa Poll, Keily Davis, Pastor Paul Gammelin

5th Year Confirmation Anniversary October 27, 2019



(L-R): Ryder Michels, Madison Hachmann, Anthony Both, Terrin Back,
Nathan Both, Saylor Kilburg, Jeremiah Sauser

Second Row (L-R): Terry Dempewolf (Group Leader, Pastor Paul
Gammelin

All Saints' Sunday



**OBSERVING ALL SAINTS'
SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 2 & 3**

On November 5 & 6, we will be observing All Saint's Weekend. At the beginning of our worship we will be remembering and lighting a candle for the following individuals who have died since November 1, 2023.

**Roger Schladetzky
Stan Pataska
Jennifer Back
Linda Martens
Linda Herternsein
Delbert Klemme
Linda Ries
Mike Roth
Bobby Tennant
Verrena Dagitz-Stein
James F. Reuss
James A. Keil**

*For all the saints
who from their labors rest
All who by faith
before the world confessed
Your name O Jesus*

We will also be recalling our newest sisters and brothers in Christ who were baptized since November 1, 2023 Those baptized this past year were:

*I was there to hear
your borning cry
I'll be there when you are old
I rejoiced the day
you were baptized*

Sage Koranda

