



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

*Growing and responding  
every day as disciples of Jesus*

## MARCH 2025

### 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  
(except during Lent)

#### ~ EMAIL ADDRESSES ~ Office

[saintjohn.bellevue@gmail.com](mailto:saintjohn.bellevue@gmail.com)

#### Pastor

[sjpastor.pp@gmail.com](mailto:sjpastor.pp@gmail.com)

CHURCH PHONE:  
563-872-5849



~ WEBSITE ~  
[SAINTJOHNLUTHERAN.NET](http://SAINTJOHNLUTHERAN.NET)

SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN  
CHURCH - BELLEVUE, IOWA

## Coming Events

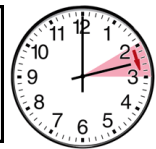
You Should Know About!



Wednesday, March 5  
Midweek Lenten  
Services  
4:00 and 6:15

Lenten Soup Suppers  
Wednesdays  
Serving from 4:45 - 5:50

Daylight Savings  
Time  
begins March 9



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



## *Turn Around Look At Me*

In 1968, The Vogues came out with the hit song, "Turn Around and Look at Me." I can remember listening to this song as I drove the company van to take textbooks to the various UW stores. I have to admit that I didn't remember the lyrics until I recently looked them up.

There is someone walking behind you  
Turn around, look at me  
There is someone watching your footsteps  
Turn around, look at me

There is someone who really needs you  
It's my heart in my hand  
Turn around (turn around)  
Look at me (look at me)  
Understand, understand

And there's someone to stand beside you  
Turn around, look at me  
And there's someone to love and guide you  
Turn around, look at me

Oh, I've waited and I'll wait forever  
For you to come to me  
Look at someone (look at someone)  
Who really loves you, yeah, loves you

Turn around, look at me  
Turn around, look at me

As I read through the lyrics, my mind wondered. Could this be a love song that God might be singing. We know that in the bible, the prophets would call the people to repentance—that is to turn around and to return to the Lord. It was those people who had strayed away from living their life as the faithful people of God—people whose lives were focused on self and worldly things.

In this Lenten season, turn around and renew a closer relationship with God who is walking with you, standing beside you, and waiting for you to come to God. Yes, remember that God really loves you, now and forever.

Question: How are you receiving God's love and returning your love to God?



Brittany Rausch.....	3/1	Tamera Booker .....	3/16
Gary Mensinger.....	3/1	Tobias Humphrey.....	3/16
Joshua Ohlert.....	3/2	Jackson Van Gorp.....	3/16
Gregg Hammann.....	3/3	Christine Wilson .....	3/17
Billy Riestroffer .....	3/3	Blake Feller .....	3/18
Auden Feller .....	3/3	Haddey Giesemann .....	3/18
Zayn Koranda.....	3/4	Hunter Carstens .....	3/19
Sierra Nemmers .....	3/5	Coy LaCoursiere .....	3/19
Natalie Portz.....	3/7	Maci Martin.....	3/19
Kasen Herrig .....	3/8	Miranda Kettmann.....	3/20
Steve Norpel .....	3/9	Julie Kirk.....	3/20
Cindy Payne.....	3/9	Season Kutsch .....	3/20
Dylan Kutsch .....	3/10	Eric Wilbers .....	3/22
Cierra Budde .....	3/11	Steve Ruggeberg .....	3/23
Don Dixon .....	3/11	Tim Sagers.....	3/23
Lisa Ernst .....	3/11	Matthew Anderson .....	3/24
Axl Hutchcroft.....	3/11	Dale Ernst .....	3/24
Ellie Pitts .....	3/12	Sage Koranda .....	3/26
Dalton Braet .....	3/13	Daniel Braet .....	3/27
Marilyn Ruggeberg.....	3/13	Joannie Kilburg .....	3/27
Ryan Humphrey .....	3/14	Cecil Feil .....	3/30
Rick Casel.....	3/15	Marty Ploessl.....	3/30
Everly Ploeger.....	3/15		

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

# *Celebrating Their Wedding Anniversary*

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Years</u>
Dave & Jackie Dagitz.....	March 17 .....	18
Chase & Alison Putman.....	March 24 .....	2
Mathew & Ashley Schlecht .....	March 28.....	7



## *Anniversaries—40 Plus Yrs*

<b>March 7</b>	<b>Rich &amp; Diane Norpel.....</b>	<b>55th</b>
<b>March 18</b>	<b>Bill &amp; Kim Bevan.....</b>	<b>47th</b>

## *Pastoral Acts and Rites Celebrated*



Baptism—February 1  
**WRENLEY RAE HAGER**  
 Parents: Colin Hager &  
 Mandi Niemeyer

*2024-25 Church Council*



Joannie Kilburg  
President



Shannon Abbott  
Vice President



Sara Guenther  
Treasurer



Marla Mootz



Laural Ploessl



Ashley Scheckel

## RESPONSE TO FALSE ACCUSATIONS OF MONEY LAUNDERING AND ILLEGAL PAYMENTS WITHIN LUTHERAN ORGANIZATIONS

*Statement from Elizabeth Eaton, presiding bishop  
of the ELCA, February 2, 2025*



The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America seeks to be a witness to Christ by feeding people who are hungry, caring for those who are sick, and advocating for justice, peace, and the dignity of all people. This has been the calling of the church for over 2,000 years.

Today, false accusations were made on X, formerly Twitter, regarding government funding to Lutheran organizations. The claims were those of money laundering and illegal payments. Yet these organizations have done the same work for 85 years in serving legally admitted refugees and immigrants.

As a church, we follow the eighth commandment of the scriptures which states: you shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. Despite misinformation and baseless doubt cast today on funding that supports Lutheran organizations across our country, the ELCA remains steadfast in our commitment and work with our many Lutheran partners and expressions of our church. The ELCA is also concerned for other faith based communities and organizations who have similarly come under attack.

We strongly urge political leaders at all levels of government to use their offices and platforms responsibly. They should consider the impact of misleading statements and conjecture without regard for the impact those statements have on the communities targeted by these messages.

Our call to love our neighbors as ourselves remains steadfast: Seek the truth and share the good news of Jesus Christ as we continue to follow his teachings.

Let me tell you a story. In the year 258, the Roman Empire, during one of its many persecutions of the Church, ordered that the Church turn over its treasure. The task fell to a young deacon

named Lawrence, who was given three days to complete it. Immediately, Lawrence sold all the liquid assets and gave that to the sick and to the widows. He liquidated also all of the property and divided that up amongst the poor. On the third day, he appeared before the emperor who demanded to see the treasures of the church. Lawrence gestured behind him, and there were standing those who were sick and hungry, the poor, the naked, the stranger in the land, the most vulnerable, and Lawrence said, “these are the treasures of the church.” He was martyred for that.

Be of good courage, church, and let us persevere.

## **JOINT RESPONSE OF THE THREE SYNODICAL BISHOPS IN IOWA TO FALSE ALLEGATIONS**

February 6, 2025

*Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind,” This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” -Matthew 22:37-39*

On Sunday, February 2, General Mike Flynn shared a post on X (formerly Twitter) that claimed money was being laundered through religious organizations and specifically named the “Lutheran” faith. The post contained a picture of a spreadsheet showing payments from the Department of Health and Human Services to Global Refugee (formerly LIRS) and to a number of Lutheran Social Service organizations across the country. Elon Musk commented “The @DOGE team is rapidly shutting down these illegal payments.”

The claims that these federal grants are illegal or that these federal grants are connected in any way to money laundering are complete lies. The falsehoods strike at the heart of our caring institutions and cast doubt on every Lutheran’s integrity.

Shutting down federal grant payments puts Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) employees and their families at risk along with the clients and families that rely on the array of services provided including early childhood education and parental support, mental health counseling, behavioral health interventions for adolescents, services for people living with disabilities, foster care and adoption services and resettlement accompaniment and services for legally present immigrants and refugees. Currently, there are 190 legally documented people being resettled in Iowa and 108 of them are children. We must stand by our promise of support to these children and adults as they flee from their own countries.

Lutherans have been providing care for our neighbors in need through these agencies for generations. LSI has been serving Iowans for 160 years! We read about LSI's great work in many of our church newsletters every month. We have a long tradition of supporting their work through generous donations of cash and in-kind gifts. We are right to be grateful and even proud of the work we do together with these agencies here in Iowa and across the country. Please don't let one false and misleading post cast doubt on what you know from personal experience.

Global Refuge and Lutheran Social Services (like LSI here in Iowa) bid on government contracts to help resettle legal immigrants in our country and in our state. LSI, also, bids on state and federal grants to sustain the other important programs that support Iowans. Contracts are awarded by the government and regularly audited. This work has taken place through administration after administration, no matter which political party holds power in our federal government. There is nothing illegal or unethical about this work. We expect our government to honor its contracts and pay people for honest work done in service to our country and our neighbors.

As ELCA Bishops serving the three Synods in Iowa, and as members of the LSI Board of Directors, we want you to be confident in the exemplary work and ministry of LSI and Global Refuge. We support the hard-working employees of these agencies especially during these unwarrant-



ed attacks and false assertions. We remain grateful for the many ways Lutherans in Iowa love the Lord our God and love our neighbors in tangible, caring, and helpful ways.

The ELCA remains committed to our core mission of feeding people who are hungry, caring for those who are sick, and advocating for justice, peace, and the dignity of all people. This has been the calling of the church for over 2,000 years, and that will not change.

Please tell the true stories about the work and impact of Lutheran Service in Iowa, Lutheran Services in America, and Global Refuge, so that together, we can spread the truth about the mission of caring in the name of Jesus Christ through these organizations and many others like them.

Bishop Amy Current, Southeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA

Bishop Lorna Halaas, Western Iowa Synod, ELCA

Bishop Kevin Jones, Northeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA



## *What is Lent?*

The Christian church year or liturgical calendar consists of five seasons: Advent/Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Pentecost.

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes on the Saturday before Easter Day. There are forty days of Lent, not counting Sundays. Sundays in Lent are not counted because every Sunday is to be considered 'mini-Easter.'

Although there is no biblical support for celebrating Lent, the observance of Lent has been a long standing tradition in the Christian Church. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians.

It is thought that the tradition of 40 days recalls the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness, fasting and being tempted by Satan (Matthew 4:1-11).

During Lent, we enter into a season of preparation, self-reflection and repentance when we seek to literally "turn around" and realign our lives and focus toward God. It has been widely accepted that Lent was a time of giving up (sacrificing) something and in doing so, we would remember the sacrifice of Christ for our sake.

Besides 'giving up' something, many try to add or take on new life-giving practices such as more time for daily prayer, reading of the bible or personal devotions. Some people try to be deliberate in acts of kindness to their 'neighbors.'

No matter what the discipline might be, our focus is to grow in our relationship with our Lord and to share the love of God with all.



## MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP

Our midweek Lenten Worship begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5, at **4:00 p.m. and 6:15 p.m.** with "Holden Evening Prayer"

The 6:15 service will be broadcast live on the Lutheran channel and uploaded later to our YouTube channel - SaintJohnDevotion. You can also find it on our website [saintjohnlutheran.net](http://saintjohnlutheran.net)

**ASH WEDNESDAY** is the first day of Lent and is a day of penitence - the act of feeling or showing sorrow and regret for having done wrong or failing to act as God desires.

In the Bible, a Hebrew person would wear a sackcloth over their body and have ashes sprinkled over them as a public sign of humility before God, of sorrow for the sin committed, and of the desire to repent.

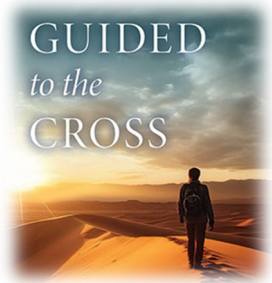
The imposition of ashes - making the sign of the cross with ashes - was a common practice of the Roman Catholic church. Although Ash Wednesday was a long-beloved observance in the Lutheran church, the act of imposing ashes wasn't practiced at Saint John until twenty-four years ago.

Are ashes necessary on Ash Wednesday? The answer is no. The principal parts of the Ash Wednesday service is the penitential rite that can be supported by ashes.



## MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP FOCUS "GUIDED TO THE CROSS"

This year, our midweek Lenten theme will be "Guided to the Cross." Throughout our Lenten journey, we are drawn to Calvary—to the cross of Christ and in our journey we will discover how Christ serves as an example for us to live our lives.



**Our Weekly Focus for Our Midweek  
Worship will be:**

Ash Wednesday - Mar. 5  
**GUIDED TO FORGIVENESS**

March 26  
**GUIDED TO PEACE**

March 12  
**GUIDED TO HOPE**

April 2  
**GUIDED TO TRUST**

March 19  
**GUIDED TO LOVE**

April 9  
**GUIDED TO PERSEVERANCE**

### *Lenten Soup Suppers*

The Lenten Soup Suppers have been a tradition for many years. Not only do you get enjoy homemade soups and desserts, you can enjoy good fellowship. We begin serving after the 4:00 service concludes (4:40) and continue to 5:50.



**NEEDED:  
LENTEN SOUP MAKERS and DESSERT MAKERS**

**Soups Maker:** If you would like to make a soup for one of the Lenten suppers, there is a sign up sheet at the back of the church. Each week we try to have two kinds of soup. Each soup maker will be responsible for making one **full 18 qt.** roaster. The cost of the soup can be donated or reimbursed.

**Dessert Maker:** We like to provide homemade desserts at our suppers. If you are willing to make a dessert that **will serve approx. 15 people**, please sign up at the back of the church.

<b>Soup &amp; Dessert Sign Up</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Soup #1</b>	<b>Soup #2</b>	<b>Desserts (4)</b>
March 5	Pasta Fagoli Diane Carson		1.Diane Dempewolf 2. Gloria Clausen 3.Joannie Kilburg 4.Jackie Dagitz
March 12	Iowa Corn Chowder Gloria Clausen	Chili w/o beans Beth Rogge	1.Beth Rogge 2.Jackie Dagitz 3.Karen Goephert 4.
March 19	Chicken Noodle Season Kutch	Cheeseburger Soup Elizabeth Circle	1.Diane Dempewolf 2.Diane Norpel 3.Sue Bevan 4. Jane Patterson
March 26	Chili w/beans Joel Gritzinger		1.Diane Carson 2. 3. 4.
April 2			1. Diane Dempewolf 2.Jackie Dagitz 3. 4.
April 9	“Wisconsin Chili” Pastor Paul	Soup Smorgasbord (Left Over Soup)	1.Jackie Dagitz 2. 3. 4.



## **EASTER LILIES**

We are inviting people to donate a lily or blooming plant to decorate our church for Easter. Your gift may be given in memory or in honor of someone special, or simply to the glory of God.

In order to uplift the individuals whom the gift was given in memory or honor of, we are asking you to complete and return the "Easter Lily" form located in back of the church.

You can also phone the church office at 872-5849 or contact us by e-mail at: [saintjohn.bellevue@gmail.com](mailto:saintjohn.bellevue@gmail.com).

Please include the following information:

- 1) How many plants you are bringing.
- 2) Who the plant is in memory of, or in honor of,
- 3) Who the plant is given by.

**Deadline - April 10:** To have the names included in the Easter bulletin.

**Lilies and plants** should be brought to the church between **April 17-18**



### **Women's Circles**

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

**ELIZABETH CIRCLE:** Tuesday, March 18 @ 1:30 pm

**REBECCA CIRCLE:** Tuesday, March 25 @ 2:00 pm

### **The Bellevue Bread Basket**

served 43 families (109 people)  
in February





## CONFIRMATION NEWS

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

In our first semester (Sept-Dec) we have had 40 students (6th-8th) participating on Wednesday for Confirmation. This is the most confirmation students in the past 25 years. Our 8th grade group has 17, 7th grade started with 4 and has grown to 9, and our 6th grade has 14. Our average weekly attendance was 34 for the four months.

**Worship Participation** One of the expectations for those students who desire to be confirmed is that they would achieve at least two (2) points each month by either attending worship in-person or by submitting an on-line sermon note when they are unable to attend. A student who attends worship in-person achieves one point (1.0) for each service, or they can achieve three-quarters (.75) of a point for watching and submitting an on-line sermon note.

We want to recognize those students who were committed to achieving the minimum goal of 8 points for the four months Sept—Dec.

### 8th Grade

Claire Dempewolf	17.00
Trace Bonifas	11.25
Jocelyn Ries	10.75
Tempy Anderson	10.50
Carson Casel	9.00
Ali Dierks	8.25
Marcus Small	8.25

### 6th Grade

Addi Kutsch	11.00
Charlee Scheckel	9.75
Coy Schroeder	8.50
Cambree Jess	8.00
Aleyha Mootz	8.00

### 7th Grade

Tobias Humphrey	11.25
Brendan Booker	11.00
Fischer Johnson	8.00



## Confirmation News—Continued

### ACTOLYTE SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

	Student	Sunday	Students
<b>Mar 1</b>	Zoey Bies	<b>Mar 2</b>	Nara Fondell Cambree Jess
<b>Mar 8</b>	Connor Roling	<b>Mar 9</b>	Coy LaCoursiere Aleyha Mootz
<b>Mar 15</b>	Landon Merrick	<b>Mar 16</b>	Addi Kutsch Eli Portz
<b>Mar 22</b>	Carter Ruggeberg	<b>Mar 23</b>	Charlee Scheckel Coy Schroeder
<b>Mar. 29</b>	Leonard Wies	<b>Mar. 30</b>	Trace Bonifas Connor Roling

### Lenten Soup Suppers

During Lent, all students are expected to gather on Wednesdays for worship at 4:00 or 6:15. They are also responsible to serve and clean up at the soup suppers as assigned. (See the serving assignment below.). Servers are to be in the kitchen by 4:30.

CONFIRMATION SERVING SCHEDULE FOR LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS	
Date	Students Assigned
<b>March 5</b>	<b>8th Grade—Girls</b>
<b>March 12</b>	<b>All 7th Grade</b>
<b>March 19</b>	<b>6th Grade—Girls</b>
<b>March 26</b>	<b>8th Grade—Boys</b>
<b>April 2</b>	<b>All 7th Grade</b>
<b>April 9</b>	<b>6th Grade—Boys</b>





## ARK NEWS

Christian Education for  
Elementary Youth (Kind.- 5th Grade)

ARK continues to gather on Fridays after school with an average attendance of 48 youth. Our bible story focus for the Winter/Spring term will be focusing on the stories of Jesus. We are trying to focus our weekly story to the gospel reading in church for that week. As one student shared with their group leader, “I heard this story in church last Sunday.”

### ARK’S REMAINING SCHEDULE

Date	Biblical Focus
March 7	<b>Satan Tempts Jesus</b> Luke 4:1-13 Story Book p.248
March 14	<b>Parable of the Lost Son</b> Luke 15:11-32 Story Book p. 378
March 21	<b>Palm Sunday</b> Luke 10:28-40 Story Book: p. 454
March 28	<b>Jesus Washes the Disciples Feet</b> John 13:17 Story Book: p. 462



### Palm Sunday ARK Students To Sing on Sunday

Every Palm Sunday, the youth are invited to join the procession at the beginning of the service. In the past, the had the ARK students processing and then singing a song for the Sunday morning worship.

We haven’t had the ARK students singing in church since covid. This year, we want to bring that tradition back. We are asking all the parents of the ARK students to make a commitment to having their child join us.

Palm Sunday is on April 13. Place this on your calendar.

## CHILDREN ARE WELCOME TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION

If your child is expressing their desire to receive communion, we believe that the Spirit of God is working within your child, and hence that child is ready to commune.

Parents who would like to have their child receive communion need to indicate this desire to Pastor Paul. Pastor Paul will have a brief conversation with the child. Normally, this conversation happens after or before the worship service.



### WHEN IS FIRST COMMUNION?

A person asked me (Pastor Paul) when does a child receive their first communion at Saint John. This is a great question, especially as we have been experiencing many new families gathering for worship.

For those who have any association with the Roman Catholic Church, *First Communion* is an important event that is celebrated for those youth who are deemed capable of understanding what the Sacrament of Communion is about. The age is normally 7 years old or second grade. Those youth participating in their First Communion come dressed up and after the service, a party is normally given in their honor by their parents.

Going back in time, 'first communion' at Saint John (to the best of my knowledge) was linked with the Rite of Confirmation which happened in eighth grade. When I arrived in 1999, students entering confirmation (7th grade) were able to receive communion for the first time, but there was no formal plan for "First Communion. Many ELCA churches at that time were allowing 5th graders and even 3rd graders to receive communion.

Around 2005, our church decided to move away from a certain prescribed age for children to receive communion. It was our decision that if a child indicated their desire to receive communion and the parents approved, then after a brief conversation with the pastor the child was invited to receive the sacrament.



## INTRODUCTION TO THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### FOR ALL 5TH GRADERS

At Saint John, we welcome children of all ages to commune without attending a “First Communion” class. However, we do believe that the youth would benefit from participating in the “Introduction to the Sacrament of Holy Communion.” This two session course is offered for all fifth graders and will include:

1. the meaning of the Sacrament of Holy Communion,
2. the relationship of Holy Communion to the Passover Meal, and,
3. the baking of bread

This year, the two classes will be held on:

**Sunday evening, April 13**

6:00 - 7:00 - parent and student

**Wednesday, April 16**

after school (3:15-5:00) - for students only.



**Last year's bread makers.**

## Weekly Worship Attendance & Offerings

Weekend of	Sat.	Sun.	Total	General Fund Offerings
February 2	63	45	108	\$3,207.18
February 9	33	52	85	\$1,594.18
February 16	19	63	82	\$2,917.06
February 23	31	33	64	\$1,043.18

### FINANCIAL REPORT

**General Fund Balance—1/27/25** **\$5,519.31**

**Income:**

General Offerings	8,761.60
Cemetery Custodian Reimbursement	500.00
Building Use	100.00
Retreat Center Rental	150.00
Interest & Misc. Income	.41
World Hunger & Disaster Relief	10.00

**Budgeted Expenses:** ( 15,710.95)

**General Fund Negative Balance—2/25/25** **( \$669.63)**

## **Saint John Council Minutes February 18, 2025**

**Present** - Joannie Kilburg, Ann Skoff, Pastor Paul, Marla Mootz, Shannon Abbott, Sara Guenther, Ashley Scheckel, and Laural Ploessl

**Called to order** by President Joannie Kilburg at 6:25 pm. Opening Prayer led by Joannie.

**Agenda** - MSC to approve agenda.

**Council Minutes** - MSC to approve council minutes of January 6 and January 26 as printed.

### **Reports -**

- a) Financial - MSC to accept as printed.
- b) Local/Global Outreach - MSC to accept the as printed.

**Correspondence** - First Presbyterian Church sent a note thanking Saint John for the donation to their Food Share Program. This donation was part of the farmland rental tithe.

**Action by Email Vote** - None

**OLD BUSINESS** - None

### **NEW BUSINESS -**

- a) Coaching Track - MSC to affirm Pastor Paul coaching track this spring.

**Meeting Adjourned** at 6:58 pm.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, March 11 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ann Skoff



## A LITTLE CHURCH HUMOR

### BEING QUIET IN CHURCH

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, “Why should we be quiet in church?” Johnny replied, “Because people are sleeping during pastor’s sermon.”

### JONAH’S STORY

Question: “What did Jonah’s family say when he told them about his adventure?”

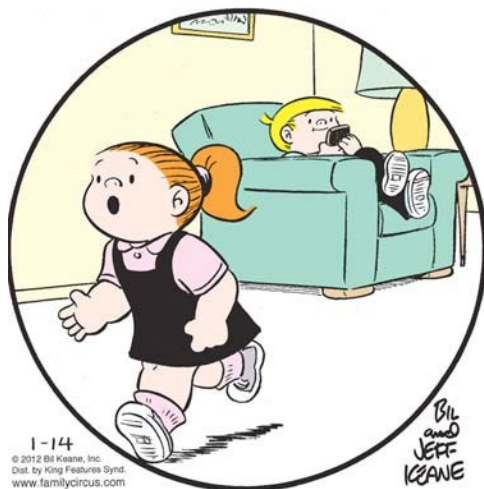
Answer: “Hmm, sounds a little fishy.”

### STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

An outdoor church sign read, “We welcome all denominations—\$1, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, and even \$100.”

### OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF GOD’S KIDS

A young boy told a Sunday school teacher, “When you die, God takes care of you like your parents did when you were alive—only God doesn’t yell at you all the time.”



**“Billy says he doesn’t hafta go to church anymore ’cause his phone has an app for that!”**



**Grace** is when God gives us good things the don't deserve.

**Mercy** is when God spares us from bad things we deserve.

**Blessing** are when God is generous with both.

Truly, we can never run out of reasons to thank God.

**GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME!**