



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

Growing and responding
Every Day as disciples of Jesus

April 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

~ 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!

Holy Week Schedule

5th Grade Communion Classes



To view all the pictures in color within this newsletter, go to our website: saintjohnlutheran.net and click on newsletter.



No Pain . . . No Gain
No Cross . . . No Glory

There is a saying in sports: “No Pain, No Gain.” There will be suffering and sacrifices if you want to achieve success.

In our journey in faith, many of us want to live in the glory of the resurrection of Jesus. And so we should. However, we need to remember that if there is no cross, then there will not be any glory.

As a young child I recall going to the three hour service on Good Friday. For me, sitting still and quiet for those three hours was truly a suffering (nothing compared to what Jesus went through). On Easter morning at 6:00 a.m. (way too early especially getting up at 5:00) I was able to experience the glorious news proclaimed in church. “Christ is Risen.” The lights were turned on, the organist played the introduction, and the congregation lifted up their voices singing, “Jesus Christ is Risen Today.”

If only all of life could be lived in that spirit of joy. [Some day we will experience life as we live in the glorious presence of God.]

Over the years, I have shared my lament on how few people attend the service on Good Friday. Comments are shared that Good Friday is a “downer.” Think about it. No cross—no death of Jesus, then no resurrection—no celebration.

As Christians, these two days are the crux of our faith. We are reminded of God’s great love for all, and we are reminded that there is always hope in the midst of suffering, even in death.

We know that even those close disciples fled the cross—perhaps out of fear. But what about you? Will you flee the shadow of the cross, or will you be found at the cross to recall our Lord’s sacrifice and remember his glorious love for you and all.

Upon that cross of Jesus
Mine eye at times can see
The very dying form of One,
Who suffered there for me;
And from my smitten heart, with tears,
Two wonders I confess,
The wonders of His glorious love,
And my own worthlessness.

Holy Week Worship

Observing Palm Sunday

April 12 - 5:00 p.m.
April 13 - 10:00 a.m.



Remembering the Last Supper

Thursday—April 17

Only One Service - 6:15 pm
Holy Communion



Good Friday

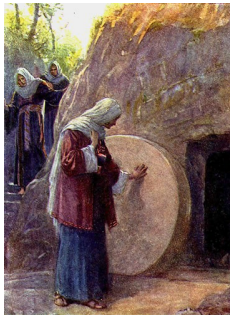
April 18 — Only One Service
6:15 pm



Easter Worship - April 20

Sunrise Service at Saint John Retreat Center*

7:00 am
Followed by
Coffeecake and
Beverages



Festival Service at Church

10:00 am

*Directions to Saint John Retreat Center:
Go South on Hwy. 52 and turn right on Springbrook Road
Turn Left on 407th Ave (first gravel road on the left).
Proceed to top of the hill. Entrance is on the left.



**Join Us for Worship on Maundy Thursday
April 17 at 6:15
“Reenactment of the Last Supper”**

This year we will be adding a reenactment of the Last Supper into the service that will replace the sermon. During this reenactment, we will hear a brief biography of each of the disciples as they take their places at the table. Holy Communion will be celebrated at this service.

We want to thank Taylor Sieverding and Season Kutsch for their time and efforts in bringing this reenactment.



EASTER LILIES

We are inviting people to donate a lily or flowering 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.

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 13: To have the names included in the Easter bulletin. Lilies and plants should be brought to the church between **April 16-18.**



Nancy Hammann.....	4/1	Jason Van Gorp.....	4/14
River Schiefer.....	4/1	Hayes Haan.....	4/15
Kent Massingill.....	4/2	Lucy Griebel.....	4/17
Jill Ruggeberg.....	4/2	Rich Norpel.....	4/17
Judy Graham.....	4/3	Liz Ruggeberg.....	4/18
Tyler Nemmers.....	4/3	Milo Baker.....	4/19
David Brinker.....	4/4	Allan Keil.....	4/19
Ella Evan.....	4/5	Gerald Kuhl.....	4/22
Peggy Hayes.....	4/5	Taylor Back.....	4/23
Bill Kuper.....	4/5	Connie Chantos.....	4/23
Corey Peters.....	4/5	Alison Eggers.....	4/23
Caleb Rowan.....	4/6	Carol Hager.....	4/23
Myles Martin.....	4/7	Avery Deppe.....	4/25
Jessica Portz.....	4/7	Huxtin Wilson.....	4/25
Deb Giesemann.....	4/8	Sawyer Baker.....	4/26
Hailey Bunker.....	4/9	Stephanie Penniston...	4/27
Jill Whiting.....	4/9	Amy Edwards.....	4/28
Scarlett Steines.....	4/12	Anya Clausen.....	4/28
Lori Behrens.....	4/13	Ashton Felderman.....	4/28
Dennis Meyer.....	4/13		

***Celebrating
Her 99th Birthday!***

***Ardis Hinke
April 21***

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

Celebrating Their Wedding Anniversary

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Years</u>
Drew & Erica Koranda	April 14	7
Troy & Jill Kieffer	April 18	16
Mark & Sara Guenther	April 19	28
Eric & Liz Ruggeberg	April 27	6
Ryan & Jessalyn Ernst.....	April 28	13
Jacob & Briana Sieverding	April 28	10



Anniversaries—40 Plus Yrs

April 12 John & Connie Chantos 54th

Pastoral Acts and Rites Celebrated



Baptism—March 23
CULLEN JOHN REEG
 Parents: Cole & Jessica Reeg



WANTING TO ACKNOWLEDGE OUR GRADUATES

Sunday, May 4 is the day we will be recognizing those members and participating partners who will be graduating from high school.

On May 4, those seniors who responded to the quilters information sheet, will be receiving a personalized, handcrafted quilt made by our Quilt Tying Ministry.

At the same time, we would like to acknowledge those who will be receiving a degree from two or four year institutions. If your son or daughter will be receiving a degree this spring or summer, please let the office know by April 28.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

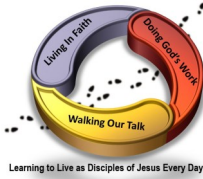


Planning for this summer's Vacation Bible School (VBS) will begin soon! If you are interested in joining the planning committee and/or volunteering to help with VBS, please contact Krisy Dempewolf by email at kmploeger@gmail.com or text/call at (563) 542-3908.



Local-Global Outreach Committee

Again this year, we are overwhelmed by the generous support for the Bread Basket from our congregation. Our hearts are full! We were able to help 30 families (our goal) with laundry soap, dryer sheets, dish soap, shampoo, deodorant, and toothpaste. These items are costly for the Bread Basket as many of these are usually full price. Thanks again, Church Family for your support.



CONFIRMATION NEWS

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

CONFIRMATION RESUMES ON WEDNESDAY - APRIL 23 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.

THANK YOU Our confirmation students want to thank all who made soups and desserts for our Lenten Soup Suppers and those who came and gave a generous donations.

The proceeds from the donations go toward the youth mission ministry (mission trips) (90%) and ELCA World Hunger (10%).



ACTOLYTE SCHEDULE FOR APRIL

Saturday	Student	Sunday	Students
Apr. 6	Tempy Anderson	Apr. 7	Davis Braet Claire Dempewolf
Apr. 13	Tayden Kilburg	Apr. 14	Ali Dierks Hailey Feller
Apr. 20	Avianna Herrig	Apr. 21	Miranda Kettmann Jocelyn Ries
Apr. 27	Brendan Booker	Apr. 28	Cash Kirk Blake Putman
May 4	Jax Eicchorn	May 5	Fischer Johnson Tobias Humphrey



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

It is hard to believe that we are coming to the end of ARK for this year. We are moving into our final month of ARK for 2024-24. Our average weekly attendance has been 48 youth. After Christmas, we have been trying to focus our weekly story with the gospel reading in church. Hopefully, this will help reinforce the lesson. Our last day of ARK will on May 2 and then we will gather again in September.

ARK'S REMAINING SCHEDULE

Date	Biblical Focus
April 4	Jesus is Crucified Luke 23:26-56 Story Book: p. 476
April 11	Jesus is Alive Luke 24:1-12 Story Book p. 482
April 13 Palm Sunday	Children are invited to Process on Sunday And sing.
April 18	No ARK—Good Friday
April 25	Great Commission Luke 24:36-53 & Matthew 28:16-20
May 2	LAST DAY OF ARK — ARK resumes in Sept.



From Your Cemetery Committee

If anyone is interested in purchasing a gravesite contact our president, Todd Giesemann, at 872-5709 to initiate the proceedings.

Flowers and Decorations We want to remind everyone that any flowers or decorations placed on the gravesite must be limited to the cement base surrounding the tombstone. Shepherd hooks are acceptable but must be placed along side the cement base. Our gravesite regulations are meant to help in the mowing and trimming around grave stones

Neither the custodian nor the Cemetery Committee will be responsible for items, flowers and/or containers left at gravesites.



Lawn Mowing Sign Up

Now that spring is here, we are in need of volunteers to assist in the lawn mowing of the church property.

The task of mowing and edging would take approx. one hour plus for one person. You can sign up for several two week blocks. There will be a "Sign up sheet" in the back of the church.

Mowing should be completed on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday morning. A riding mower is available and gas is provided. .



INTRODUCTION TO THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

FOR ALL 5TH GRADERS

At Saint John, we welcome children of all ages to commune without attending “First Communion” classes.

However, we do believe that the youth could 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) - students only.



ELIZABETH CIRCLE

Tuesday, April 15 at 1:30 pm

REBECCA CIRCLE:

Tuesday, April 22 at 2:00 pm



Bellevue Bread Basket

Served 44 families

(99 people)

in March

Weekly Worship Attendance & Offerings

Weekend of	Sat.	Sun.	Total	General Fund Offerings
March 2	28	44	72	\$2,775.18
March 9	22	59	92	\$2,772.18
March 16	34	70	104	\$4,019.18
March 23	35	101	136	\$1,784.06

Midweek Lenten Worship Attendance

Date	4:00	6:15	Total
March 5 Ash Wednesday	49	57	106
March 12	31	41	72
March 19	51	31	82

FINANCIAL REPORT

Negative General Fund Balance— 2/25/25	(\$669.63)
<u>Income:</u>	
General Offerings	11,350.60
Farmland Rent	6,000.00
Cemetery Custodian Reimbursement	500.00
Interest & Misc.	.14
<u>Budgeted Expenses:</u>	(17,458.18)
Negative General Fund Balance—3/26/25	(\$277.07)

The Church Council did not meet in March.