



The St John Lutheran Newsletter is a monthly publication of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Volume 1 Issue 9

Weekly Schedule:

- Service 9:00 am
- Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:15am
- Confirmation Sunday's 1:30-3:00pm
- Wednesday Coffee Time 8:30am
- Wednesday Scripture Study 9 am
- 2nd & 4th Thursday Fraternal Friends of Marty @ 5:30 pm
- Women's Bible Study 3rd Saturday of Month @ 9am

Special Activities:

- Elders August 7th @ 6pm
- LWML September 7th @ 5:30pm

From Pastor Beltz's Desk

Christianity as Social-Cultural Club with Religious Conviction

For a long time, Christianity was normal in the Western World. You were a weirdo if you did not go to church or claim affiliation to a particular tradition. Now things have changed.

Christianity is no longer normal, and the social-cultural dominance of Christianity has collapsed. One difficulty for many Christians is coping with this collapse. What do we do? Do we fight back? Do we lament and move on? More than that, what is actually changing? One thing that has changed and is continuing to change, is that younger generations of Christians are moving toward higher levels of religious fervor and conviction than previous generations.

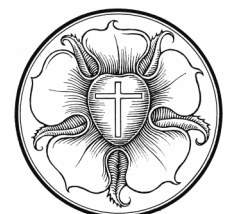
Barna Group, an American evangelical religious research group, has been keeping track of religious trends in North America for some time. What they are finding and reporting is that over the last three decades less and less folks are becoming and staying Christians. However, the young folks who are becoming and staying Christians are doing so with a higher emphasis

on traditional Christian ceremony and deep religious convictions. This is true across religious expressions. In Islam and Judaism young people are flocking to the "old" expressions of religious conviction and ceremony. Among Catholics the largest growing demographic are young families with many children desiring a return to the old Latin mass, incense, and high liturgies of the pre-Vatican II era. Lutherans are not any different. Younger generations are not as Christian in number, but when they are Christian, they are Christian in a way that hasn't really been seen in the West for a long time.

One great issue this generational divide is creating is the way "church" is conceived of and practiced. For example, I have heard stories from St. John and many other Churches about folks teaching Sunday school who weren't members of the Church, or preachers from other traditions coming into the building to preach or share a message, ecumenical services where multiple congregations all communed together. The general idea behind these practices was that denominational divides are like ice-cream flavors. We each have our own tastes, but it's all

ice-cream in the end. This way of thinking elevates a social principle above a religious principle. The challenge is that you cannot really have those principles in competition. They must be in harmony and symbiosis. Church is social, but it must never be social at the expense of our convictions and public confessions. And our confessions and convictions must not be used as a bludgeon. From our convictions and confessions, a social identity grows and a social network organically arises and from our social connections we grow together to love and cherish our religious convictions and practices all the more. This is what it means to be a Christian Congregation.

Pastor Beltz



September Duties:

Elder

Brad Sickels
John Shmalcs

Altar Guild

Myrna Anthony
Betty McWilliams

Acolyte

Lincoln Beltz

Processional Cross

8/17 Gabe Hoy

Greeter

Fran Katko

Hospitality

9/3 Cassie & Charlotte Beltz
9/10 Karen Westercamp & Fran Katko
9/17 Marge Roach & Brooklyn Vanderwilt
9/24 Lauren McCain & Tamra Van Haaften

Cleaning

Beltz Family

A big THANK YOU to all members who served as organists, Hospitality servers, and cleaning crew last month. This is just another part of STEWARDSHIP in action at St. John.

LWML NEWS

LWML ladies will have there monthly meeting on September 7th at 5:30pm. The ladies will be finishing up work on the Fall Rally. All ladies are welcome to attend.



INTAKE FORMS
We are working on updating church files. There is intake forms in the narthex to fill out. Please fill out an intake form for each family member, including children. Please return all intake forms in the basket marked intake forms. My Goal is to have things update so I can do birthday and anniversaries again. This will also help the office update addresses and phone numbers. Thank you for your help.

Mite Bytes

Iowa East District Cross Cultural Outreach Ministry Program









POBLO International
\$5,000

The need for the Body of Christ to reach the lost, non-Christians and the unchurched of the international community, is very real. Of the estimated 3.15 million people in Iowa, about 31,500 are Muslims, Buddhists and Hindus; these families and individuals are open to hearing and accepting whatever kind of seed is sown. It is crucial for congregations of Iowa-East to actively engage in outreach to the international community. The Church may find it daunting about how to begin and are uncertain of how to reach out and connect to those of other cultures.

This grant will cover the cost of initial outreach training and ongoing consultation support to help ensure this training remains effective and affects long-term and perpetual results.



Please include in your prayers daily

-  Sue George and family, Betty Blessum, Betty Loftsgard, Dolores Fynaardt, Lynn Karavitas and Ann Ohms;
-  For those in Ukraine, Russia, Uvalde and other places suffering from acts of senseless violence;
-  For those serving in our Armed Forces and for our Police Officers and Fire Fighters; may they remain safe in their service;
-  For the many that continue to struggle with isolation and loneliness;
 For those directly and in directly affected by the conflict in Ukraine;
-  For the many who continue to struggle with natural disasters and bad storms;
-  For our Church, that God would continue to grant us new members and make us a good gift to each other and our community;
-  For us as a congregation to faithfully receive God's gifts this day.



MEMBERS

I have been asking several members to submit a bio about your family to the newsletter. Some of you have done a great job as others have not responded. If asked to submit a bio please respond to let me know that you can or cannot do this so I can ask someone else. As it is nice to learn more about our congregation.

Monday Night Bible Study

September 11

@ 6:00pm

There will be a meal to start at 5:30pm

This year we will be studying the book of John.

Please plan to join us!

PASTOR HOME VISITS

Pastor would like to start doing pastoral home visits. There is no reason for them other than to check on his flock. So if asked please make time for him or to schedule a time please e-mail the office at office@stjohnosky.org.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Gabriel Hoy	9-02
Lauren McKain	9-03
Dennis Antolik	9-07
Rita Antolik	9-10
Cami Grubb	9-13
John Fynaardt	9-15
Myrna Anthony	9-28
Jerry Upah	9-29

These may not be up to date at this time.

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Dave & Carol Fynaardt	9-06-80
Michael & Elizabeth Pierson	9-07-19
Randy & Carla Malloy	9-10-82
Dennis & Karen Antolik	9-21-85

Bulletin announcements due by end of the day on Wednesday of each week.

Newsletter items due by the 20th of each month.

Pastor Appreciation

As part of celebrating Pastor Appreciation Month, we would like to put together a collection of messages, emails, letters, cards and notes as a keepsake for Pastor Beltz and his family. Over the next few weeks, if you, members of your families and any of Pastors Beltz's friends in the community would pen a special message for him, your contributions will become part of this special book. If possible we would like this to be a surprise. Please email the office at office@stjohnosky.org or put them in the office. Please have them in by September 30. Thank you



Sunday School Starts
September 5
Following Church Service

Also following service

Adult Bible Study will be starting the study of Revelations



**IDE
Conformation
Camp**

October 13 –14

Starting at 7pm on Friday
to 2:45pm Saturday

To register go to
<https://lcmaside.org/confretreat/>



Brent and Beth Fenton

We're retired!! (In June).

Brent worked for Ajinomoto Animal Nutrition North America for 37 years. It was called Heartland Lysine when he helped build it. Beth taught at Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont Junior - Senior High School for 22 years as a special education teacher. Most of her time was co-teaching high school math classes. Before that she was a substitute teacher, stay at home mom, and had a preschool in their home.

Beth enjoys reading and gardening and loves the Cyclones (1983 graduate)! Brent likes welding and fabrication. We like to snowmobile and are super looking forward to snowmobiling in Yellowstone National Park in February 2024.

We have 4 children. Shaun Marie was stillborn in 1984. Benjamin is married to Stacy and their son Brody - 3 ½ - is a joy in our lives. Benjamin is a software developer. Paul is married to Brandon and is a dermatologist. David is also a software developer. We also have 2 foreign exchange sons. Dritero is married to Zerina and they have Rita and Liza and live in Kosovo. Theo lives in Germany. Brent and the boys were baptized at St. John (Beth was born and baptized in Oklahoma), all 5 of us were confirmed at St. John and we were married at St. John.

Beth has been a Sunday School teacher, Youth Leader and Treasurer for St. John. We've lived in Eddyville since 1985 and have been married 40 years.



Duffy's

Adam, Rebecca, Lincoln and Bristol Duffy live at Lake Red Rock with their two German Shorthaired Pointers. Adam is the Assistant Branch Manager with Western Specialty Contractors and Rebecca is the IT Training Manager at Pella Regional Health Center. They enjoy being outdoors; hunting, fishing, and exploring! They have been members of St. John for 8 years.

Thank you Potluck Meal for Pastor and family

October 15

At Lisa Forschler's 1405 J Ave E Oskaloosa

From 4-8pm

Come join us to meet new families and enjoy fellowship with others.



September 2023

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 Reverend Samuel Beltz
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9am Divine Service with Communion 10:15am Bible Study Mite Box Sunday	4	5	6 8:30am Coffee Time 9am Scripture Study Bulletin items due	7 LWML 5:30pm Elders 6pm	8	9
10 9am Matins 10:15am Bible Study Rally Sunday	11 5:30pm Meal 6:00pm Monday Night Bible Study	12	13 8:30am Coffee Time 9am Scripture Study Bulletin items due	14 Friends of Marty 5:30pm	15	16 9am Women's Bible Study
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