



Established 1900

ST. JOHNS MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

208 E. Washington St.
Farmersburg, Iowa 52047
PHONE: 563-536-2800
E-MAIL: stjohn87@neitel.net

307 Church Street
Luana, Iowa 52156
PHONE: 563-539-2321
stjohnluana@neitel.net

Pastor Jeremy Wolfe
pastorjeremywolfe@gmail.com
563-258-2936



Established 1893

VOLUME 1 FEBRUARY 2025 ISSUE 75

February is here, and with it comes a season often overlooked: the in between time. The holidays are behind us, but spring still feels far away. The days are cold, and the nights are long, but in this month of love, community, and reflection, there are opportunities to warm our hearts and reconnect with God and one another. Retailers swapped out Christmas stuff for Valentine's stuff pretty quick! As we approach Valentine's Day and we look towards those we love, why not focus on the one who is love itself (1st John 4:8)?

1st Corinthians chapter 13 tells us more about the nature of God's love. You know this passage if you've been to a wedding or two. While "the love chapter" is great for weddings, Paul is actually talking about spiritual gifts and he's extolling the greatest of all spiritual gifts. Love.

It tells us that love is patient, kind, does not envy, does not boast, is not proud, does not dishonor others, is not self seeking, is not easily angered, and keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. These words remind us that love is not just a fleeting feeling but a way of living that reflects God's love for us. That passage isn't about romantic love but rather the steadfast love of God.

Let's think about how we might embody love in our everyday lives. It could be as simple as a phone call to a friend, a word of encouragement to someone struggling, or an act of service to a neighbor. These small acts of love echo the selfless love Christ shows us, making February a perfect time to practice living out the Gospel.

This month is also a time to deepen our understanding of scripture and reflect on how God's Word speaks to us today. As we reflect on 1 Corinthians 13, we're reminded that love is not passive; it's active and intentional. How can we embody patience and kindness? How can we rejoice in truth and let go of envy or pride? These are questions that challenge us to live out our faith not only in word but in deed.

Though the days may be short and cold, February is also a time of hope. We may find ourselves yearning for spring, but in the waiting, we're reminded of God's promises of renewal, growth, and the unfailing presence of His love.

Let's use this time to draw nearer to God through prayer and reflection. If you find moments of stillness in your day, take a few minutes to meditate on the passage from 1 Corinthians 13. Ask yourself how you can show this kind of love to those in your life, whether family, friends, or strangers. Remember that even the smallest acts of love have the power to reflect God's grace.

We are blessed to be part of a faith community that seeks to live out this kind of love daily. Whether through worship, fellowship, or acts of service, we are called to be Christ's hands and feet in the world. Thank you for being part of this journey. Let's make February a time to grow closer to God and to one another. May God bless and guide us in this season of love and renewal.

Pastor Jeremy Wolfe

FARMERSBURG

CHURCH COUNCIL

Pres: Bill Scherf III. (25)

V. Pres: Bruce Glawe (25)

Sec: Loretta Weipert (26)

Treas: Ryan Moon (24)

Council Members: Ken Erickson (24),
Dave Hageman (25) & Linda Schoulte (26)

CHURCH SECRETARY:

Kelly Shaw

FINANCIAL SECRETARY:

Kelly Shaw

OUTSIDE JANITOR:

Loren Scherf

INSIDE JANITOR:

Mary Beth Tielbar

WELCA:

Pres: Shirley Marmann

V. Pres: Velma Kuehl

Sec: Nancy Moon

Treas: Becky Fuelling

Mission Action: Bev Moon,
Nancy Moon, Marlene Glawe

MEN'S GROUP:

Pres: Jason Klinge

V. Pres: Brad Hoth

Sec/Treas: Don Bossard

ALTAR GUILD:

Directress: Cheryl Bossard

Sec: Heather Crogan

Treas: Velma Kuehl

ST. JOHN MINISTRY TEAM

Chairperson: Tammy Muller (24)

Secretary: Vicki Baade (27)

Members: Janelle Smith (25)
Becky Fuelling (25)
Aaron Smith (26)
Linda Schoulte (26)

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

Cheryl Bossard & Tammy Muller

Church Website:

<http://www.stjohn-farmersburg.org>

Remember to like St. John Facebook
Page.



St. John's Sunday School Christmas Program. Front row left to right: Jameson Palmersheim, Josiah Scherf, Maverick Palmersheim. Second row: Kaylee Hoth, Rylan Hoth, Liam Scherf, Dominic Schoulte, Emma Scherf, Annabelle Palmersheim. In the back: Brayden Hoth.

Known February Baptisms

7 - Olivia Kirby

11 - Samantha Howard
Autumn Shaw

15 - Tammy Muller

17 - Marlene Glawe

22 - Matthew Scherf

23 - Brian Glawe

23 - Bruce Glawe

28 - Garrett Lnenicka



ANNUAL MEETING



St. John's Annual Meeting will be held following
Worship Services on **February 2nd**.
Please plan to attend.

thank you

For the new electric roasters purchased for the
church!
12 from Dave and Heather Hageman and
12 from Pastor Jeremy & Melissa Wolfe.

FARMERSBURG NEWS



The Men of St. John will meet following the annual meeting on February 2nd. Election of officers, and fund raisers will be discussed.

USHERS

If pews are full please pass the tray down the pew.

February 2 & February 9

Captain Jason Klinge Matt Goltz

Bill Scherf III Don Bossard

February 16 & February 23

Captain John Klinge Ken Crogan

Jim Lenth Brad Hoth



ACOLYTES

February

2 Connor Kirby

9 Brayden Hoth

16 Carsen Kirby

23 Connor Kirby

February Altar Guild

Shirley Marmann

Deb Tidwell

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Becky Fuelling

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

February 2 Loretta Weipert

February 16 Bruce Glawe

GREETERS

February

2 Nick & Samantha Kirby

9 Don & Cheryl Bossard

16 Lisa Berns & Beth Bries

23 Clark & Kris Wikner



If you would like to make any changes for the yearbook of ushers, greeters, or any other committees please contact **Tammy Muller, Shirley Marmann or Cheryl Bossard.** The new books will hopefully be completed by the end of February.

February

2 Alexandra (Ali) Moran

3 Dave Hageman

4 John Suhr

Jeffrey Scherf

Ron Tayek

7 Connor Kirby

Carsen Kirby

Foster Wolfe

Wayne Wyatt Glawe

8 Linda McMillin

Noah Klinge

9 Kelly (Schoenfeldt) Titel

Cierra Weipert

10 Elizabeth Crogan

12 Miranda Looby

Matthew Erickson

Chris Schmidt

Emily (Moon) Palmersheim

13 Desirae Henning

14 Kenneth Crogan

Jeremy Howard

15 Dantae Henning

16 Randall Wiedenman

19 Kathy Kluth

20 Shirley Wagner

21 Paul Weipert

Dominic Schoulte

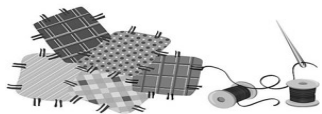
22 Elissa Gardner

23 Linda Friedlein

24 Kurt Kessler

25 Rylan Hoth

27 Julie (Scherf) Morley



The Quilters will be working on February 3rd, 4th, and 5th. We start around 9 AM and work until 3 PM. You can come when you are able and leave when you want. You do not need to know how to quilt or sew. We are looking for anyone that can tie a knot. We have a lot of good help-

ers for any beginners! We also have the supplies that you will need. So if you are retired and looking for a fun activity, come and give it a try. We have a potluck dinner and lots of laughs. We do not quilt if school is called off due to weather. Everyone is welcome. Any questions contact Nancy Moon at 539-4562.

WANTED

Wanted: St. John cookbook with the yellow or orange cover 1900 -1975. If you have one that you are not needing or know of someone that has one (or more) please contact Nancy Moon at 539-4562.



February 20 Don & Cheryl Bossard

**Welcome
BABY BOY!**

Congratulations to Wyatt & Olivia Glawe on the birth of their son Jackson Dean Glawe born December 27, 2024.

FARMERSBURG NEWS

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

St. John Lutheran Church

Council Meeting January 12, 2025

(minutes printed pending official approval)

Present: Ryan Moon, Bruce Glawe, Linda Schoulte, Dave Hageman, Ken Erickson, Bill Scherf and Pastor Jeremy Wolfe

Absent: Loretta Weipert

President Bill Scherf called the meeting to order at 11:33AM, Devotions led by Pastor Jeremy.

Motion by Linda/second by Ken to approve agenda. Motion Carried.

Motion by Ken/second by Linda to approve December secretary minutes. Motion Carried.

Motion by Linda/second by Dave to approve December treasurer report. Motion Carried.

Pastor report

Pastor Jeremy has been keeping busy with services and visits. Pastor gave an overview of how his payroll works and how he keeps track of milage and hours.

Unfinished business-

Budget for the next year was presented from the budget committee. Ryan noted corrections to Pastor's salary and benefits. Motion by Ken/second by Linda to approve budget with corrections. Motion carried.

Budget will be presented for the congregation to vote on at the annual meeting.

Nominating committee met December 29. Will ask for volunteers at the annual meeting to attend meetings and conferences.

New business

Copier is starting to show it's age and have problems. Motion by Ryan/second by Linda to have the memorial committee meet with Kelly, Tammy, and Jeremy to choose a replacement, to be paid for by the memorial committee. Motion carried.

Annual meeting will be February 2 after worship. Items for the agenda will be: 2 pews formerly in the church, stain glass window, and the church anniversary.

Church anniversary committee will be meeting January 19 after worship.

Ministry Team-none

Evangelism-annual report has been submitted

Parish Education-none

Property-annual report has been submitted

Stewardship-none

Worship-Ash Wednesday Mar 5 at Farmersburg

Men-none

WELCA- none

Memorial-annual report has been submitted. Will be meeting about the copier.

Next Meeting will be February 9 after Worship.

Motion to adjourn by Ken/second by Bruce. Meeting Adjourned at 12:23PM

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Ryan Moon



FARMERSBURG NEWS

Fascher Scholarship Program

St. John Lutheran Church with gift monies from Otto & Ardee Fascher has established a scholarship fund. \$1000 is awarded annually. Applicants must be in the top half of the class, must exemplify high moral standards, academic achievement, and have a need for financial assistance. Applicant must be an active member in good standing of the St. John Lutheran Church of Farmersburg, Iowa. Contact the church office or Tammy Muller for an application. Application deadline is March 15.



Schoenfeldt Scholarship Program

St. John was graciously given monies from the estate of Marilyn Schoenfeldt to be used for scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are members of St. John Lutheran Church, Farmersburg. Each year graduating high school seniors who are members of St. John Lutheran Church, Farmersburg may apply for a scholarship. All members who apply will receive some funding. Contact the church office or Tammy Muller for an application. Application deadline is March 15.

December, 2024 – Treasurer's Report

Income:

49.86	CD Interest
1008.00	
1065.00	
806.00	
1995.00	
1900.00	
496.93	(PayPal Offering)



Missions:

NE Iowa Synod:	270.00
SOTH:	232.00
Food Shelf:	122.00
St. Pt. Home:	35.00
LSI:	50.00
EWALU:	35.00

Staff Compensation:

Pastor:	2546.37 + 395.08 + 353.28 (Portico) (Housing from different Account: 681.17)
Inside Cust.:	215.48
Outside Cust.:	126.98
Organists:	193.94

Expenses:

Black Hills (gas):	98.25
Alliant (elec):	171.83
NEIT:	116.37
Church Mutual	597.57
Kwik Star	100.00
1517 Media	189.00
Marco	441.85
Farm & Home	121.63

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

DECEMBER

12-1	22
12-8	30
12-15	No Worship
12-22	52
12-24	48
12-29	22



Total Income: 7320.79

Total Expenses: 6411.43

General Checking Balance – December 1, 2024: 5080.36

December 31, 2024: 5989.72

Kelly Shaw Treasurer

LUANA

CHURCH SECRETARY & FINANCIAL TREAS.:

Karla Schrader

CHURCH COUNCIL:

President: Jerry Schroeder (26)

V. Pres: Aaron Smith (25)

Sec: Vicky Baade (27)

Cur. Treas: Diane Kraus (25)

Bene. Treas: Stan Dull (26)

Financial Counters: Council

DEACONS:

Jerry Schroeder (26)

Tim Donlon (26)

Loren Lenth (27)

TRUSTEES:

Diane Kraus (25)

Aaron Smith (25)

Heath Landt (26)

Vicky Baade (27)

Luke Steege (27)

WELCA:

Leaders:

January—March: Karla Schrader

April—June: Mel Lenth

July—September: Lisa Meyer

Oct.—December: Vicky Baade

ALTAR GUILD:

Pres: Sherri Johnson (26)

Sec: Darci Engelhardt (26)

Banners/Linens/Candles:

Lisa Meyer (25)

Mary Schroeder (27)

Special Services/Flowers:

Diane Kraus (25)

Betty Handke (27)

Bapt./Comm.:

Sherri Johnson

Darci Engelhardt

Seasonal Banners:

Mary Schroeder

ST. JOHN MINISTRY TEAM

Chairperson: Tammy Muller(24)

Secretary: Vicki Baade (27)

Members: Janelle Smith (25)

Becky Fuelling (25)

Aaron Smith (26)

Linda Schoulte (26)

St. John's Luana website

www.stjohn-luana.org

LUANA NEWS

FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: Heath & Chris Landt

Read Lessons & Prayers:

Feb. 2	Luke Steege
Feb. 9	Vicky Baade
Feb. 16	Loren Lenth
Feb. 23	Karla Schrader

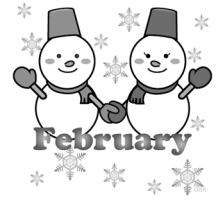
Acolyte:

Feb. 2	Ty Wikner
Feb. 9	Karsten Steege
Feb. 16	Dayne Anderson
Feb. 23	Josh Schierholz

Communion Servers: Feb.2 - Jerry Schroeder and Stan Dull
Feb. 16 - Loren Lenth and Aaron Smith

Altar Guild: Darci Engelhardt

Flowers: Chris Landt



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 – Chris Anderson
12 – Tristen Meyer
15 – Darci Engelhardt
16 – Livia Steege
21 - Adam Smith
22 - Keith Johnson
25 – Randy Mohs
Emme Wikner
27 - Ryne Landt
29 – Amber Moeller



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

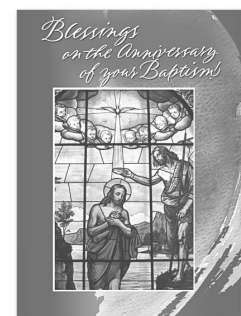


	Att.	Comm
Dec. 22	38	
Dec. 24	69	61
Dec. 29	27	
Jan. 5	34	34
Jan. 12	35	
Jan. 19	<u>37</u>	<u>35</u>
	240	130

Known Baptismal Birthdays

FEBRUARY

3 Darin Schlein
4 Darci Engelhardt
12 Anne Sadler
17 Branden Mohs
24 Julia Mohs
Sonya Anderson
27 Linda Davis



LUANA NEWS

St. John Council Minutes January 19, 2025

Present were: Neil Landt, Tim Donlon, Diane Kraus, Stan Dull, Jerry Schroeder, Loren Lenth, Aaron Smith, and Vicky Baade. Absent were: Luke Steege and Heath Landt. Meeting was called to order by outgoing President, Neil Landt. Jerry Schroeder agreed to be President. Neil then left the meeting. Other officers include:

Vice-Pres Aaron Smith

Secretary: Vicky Baade

Current Treas: Diane Kraus

Benev Treas: Stan Dull

Tim moved to accept these officers, Aaron seconded, approved.

Tim moved to accept the minutes of the December 8, 2024 meeting, Stan seconded, approved.

The Committee Review:

Interchurch Council: Jerry Schroeder, Neil Landt, Aaron Smith

Scholarship Committee: Stephanie Steele, Dawn Dull, Neil Landt, Cyrus Landt

Worship Committee: Linda Davis, Carol Goettler, Marj Schrader

Education Committee: Janelle Smith, Sherri Johnson, Luke Steege

Building Committee: Jim Meyer, Cyrus Landt, Stan Dull, Loren Lenth, Aaron Smith

Auditing Commi9ttee: Stan Dull, Vicky Baade

Stewardship Committee: Council

Evangelism: Council

Nominating Committee: Neil Landt, Melanie Lenth, Sherri Johnson

Deacons: Jerry Schroeder (26), Tim Donlon (26) Loren Lenth (27)

Trustees: Stan Dull (25), Diane Kraus (25), Aaron Smith (25), Heath Landt (26), Luke Steege (27), Vicky Baade (27)

St. John's Ministry Team: Janelle Smith, Aaron Smith, Vicky Baade

Thrivent Committee: Jerry Schroeder, Betty Handke, Duaine Davis

Diane made a motion to distribute the Thanksgiving and Christmas offerings as follows: ½ to Clayton Co. Food Shelf and ½ to Shepherd of the Hills. Loren seconded, approved.

Aaron gave an update on the parsonage repairs. The drywall will be completed this week (ceilings of entry-way and bedroom). Aaron will call Brenen Steele to paint the ceilings. The parsonage basement walls are leaking between the blocks Aaron will ask Jim Meyer for contact info of person who fixed the brick on the church. Loren commented that the basement windows on the south side also need fixing.

Stan made a motion that Karla Schrader, Jerry Schroeder, and Vicky Baade be authorized signers on the Current Fund, Benevolence Fund, Parsonage/Repair/Furnace Fund, Luther League, and CD's – one signature required on each check/withdrawal. Tim seconded, approved. Sherri Johnson will continue to be the signer on the Memorial Fund and Sunday School Fund. Diane Kraus will continue to be the signer on the WELCA account.

Jerry adjourned the meeting. Members prayed the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be February 9 at 7:30am.

Respectfully submitted by Vicky Baade, Council Secretary

LUANA NEWS

December REPORT

Karla Schrader

EXPENSES

Black Hills Utilities –Nat. Gas	103.75
Alliant - Electricity	206.31
Karla Schrader –Secretary	500.24
Cindy Landt – Custodian	461.50
NEITEL	119.53
Jeremy Wolfe- salary	2,546.37
Jeremy Wolfe - Nov. mileage	483.07
Jeremy Wolfe – housing	681.17
Portico – Nov.	723.25
Portico – Dec.	706.56
Jeremy Wolfe – Dec. mileage	410.04
IRS	79.93
City of Luana	295.87
Church Mutual – Ins (940.14&170.00)	1,110.14
Johnson's – Christmas Meal	40.00
Sam's – Christmas dinner	149.50
Access Systems – Main Agreement	178.71
Year End Bonus – 3@\$500	1,500.00
Concordia – Portals of Prayer	136.85
St John Fmbg – Newsletter & Postage	218.59
Farm & Home – Custodian	<u>127.34</u>
	10,778.72

SPECIAL FUNDS

St John Scholarship Fund CD	42,223.05
Ruby Breitsprecher CD	5,676.58
Willard & Anne Kamin CD	4,690.04

CURRENT FUND

	Envelopes	Plate	Total
Nov. 3	2,502.37	47.00	2,549.37
Nov. 10	457.00	136.00	593.00
Nov. 17	697.00	47.00	744.00
Nov. 24	<u>807.00</u>	<u>20.00</u>	<u>827.00</u>
	4,463.37	250.00	4,713.37

BENEVOLENCE REPORT

INCOME

Dec. 1	Offering	170.00	Dec. 25 Christmas	1,443.00
	Operating	50.00	Dec. 29 Offering	170.00
	Food Shelf	50.00	Food Sh	110.00
	Thanksgiving	95.00	Crisis	50.00
Dec. 8	Offering	10.00	Operating	<u>50.00</u>
	Food Shelf	10.00		2,333.00
Dec. 22	Offering	30.00		
	Food Shelf	45.00		
	Operating	50.00		

INCOME

Dec. 1	1,495.00
Dec. 8	817.00
Dec. 15	No Church
Dec. 22	878.00
Dec. 29 & Yr End	<u>4,682.00</u>
	7,872.00
From Psg/Repair	7,000.00
Grant for Xmas Meal	750.00
Wentz REC Dividend	<u>27.48</u>
Total Income	15,649.48

Bal. Nov. 30, 2024	338.55
Income	<u>15,649.48</u>
	15,988.03
Less Expense	<u>10,778.72</u>
Bal. Dec. 31, 2024	5,209.31

RENT/REPAIR FUND

Bal. 11-30-24	\$27,500.26
To current fund	7,750.00
Dec & Jan. Rent	1,200.00
From Christmas Meal	1,640.00
Nov & Dec. Interest	<u>116.56</u>
Bal. 12-31-24	\$22,706.82

THRIVENT BALANCE

Bal. Nov 30, 2024	311,025.50
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EXPENSES

SOTH	130.00
Operating	150.00
Crisis	50.00
Food Shelf	215.00
Synod	<u>250.00</u>
	795.00
*Thanksgiving (not disbursed)	95.00
*Christmas (not disbursed)	<u>1,443.00</u>
	2,333.00



Both Churches News

Game Day & Potluck

Join us on Sunday, February 2 at 12:30 pm at St. John in Farmersburg for a potluck meal and an afternoon of fun.

Bring your favorite board game, deck of cards, or a favorite virtual game. Open to both churches and to the general public.

Bring a dish or snacks to share. Play some games or just sit and visit!



Potluck



PROBERT SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE FOR MFL MAR-MAC SENIORS

The Probert Scholarship Fund was established with a bequest from the estate of James & Marie Probert. Available scholarships are based on earnings each year. At least one scholarship must be given to a graduate who is a member St. John, Farmersburg. Per the will this scholarship fund is administered through St. John Lutheran Church. Scholarships are available to graduating seniors of the MFL MarMac School. Applicants must be in the top half of the class, exemplify high moral standards, academic achievement, and have a need for financial assistance. Students may contact the MFL MarMac High School Guidance Office for application information. Application deadline is March 15.



The Clayton County Food Shelf will be conducting its 26th annual "Souper Bowl Sunday" on **February 9, 2025**.

WHAT IS THE SOUPER BOWL? This is an effort to glorify God and care for the least of these by encouraging parishioners to give **ONE DOLLAR EACH** as they leave worship on Super Bowl Sunday.

WHO COLLECTS THE MONEY? Each church use large soup pots to collect the monetary donations as parishioners leave worship the morning of the game.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO? Each congregation, in Clayton County sends their contribution to the Clayton County Food Shelf, P.O. Box 48, 100 W. Hill St., St. Olaf, IA 52072. The Food Shelf will be using 100% of funds raised to help feed the hungry in our county.

WHEN AND WHERE DID THE "SOUPER BOWL" START? The effort began in the Senior High Youth Fellowship of Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC in 1990. The partnership has grown from 22 congregations the first year to 11,300 congregations in 2000. Worshippers from all 50 states, Canada, Puerto Rico and the Netherlands gave over \$3 million this past year, which included over 4,715 congregations and groups and close to \$200 million has been generated since the "Souper Bowl" went nationwide in 1993. Last year 28 local congregations participated in the Clayton County area giving a total of \$6,076.27.

Wednesday Afternoons!

PEEPS After School Program

St. John Lutheran Church
307 Church Street
Luana, Iowa

Play—from arrival to 4 PM

Educate—4 to 5 PM. Learn about God!

Eat—a simple meal from 5 to 5:30 PM

Praise—Worship from 5:30 to 6 PM

Share—we share in God's love through it all



Eligible for 1st grade on up. Call 563-258-2936 or email pastorjeremywolfe@gmail.com with questions.

Both Churches News

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Dennis Hanson, Stacy DeSotel, Tom Meuleman, Julie Mohs, Charlie Post, Joy David, Jo Schlitter, Dallas Tielbar, Shelby Preston, Bram Byroade, Melody Pate, Jim Fuelling, Mike Reardon, Ron Tayek, Cheryl Bossard, Beth Bries, John Klinge

MILITARY: Avrey Smith, Andrew Rodas & Beth Rodas

ELKADER CARE CENTER: Grace Doerring

GARDEN VIEW PLACE: Juanita Mohs, Darlene Moon

GUTTENBERG CARE CENTER: Harold & Jeanette Vogt

TOWER LIVING CENTER: Lendall Schievelbein

SAMARITAN BETHANY ROCHESTER, MN 55901: Dorothy Kluth

KENSINGTON ASSISTED LIVING: Mary Russett

WAUKON GOOD SAMARITAN CENTER: Rita Pritchard

HOMEBOUND: Glenda Henkes, Lee Klinkenberg, Jeanette Krambeer, Jim Fuelling, Shirley Wagner



Welca Ewalu Stone Center Mary and Martha fun for all

Friday Feb 21 and Sat. Feb. 22, 2025.

YOU and your friends are invited to a retreat to Celebrate all the Mary's and Marthas! This is a Celebration of YOU! Who is welcome? Any woman who belongs to the ELCA and their friends. A Woman, a Christian, a helper, a doer, a listener, a learner.

Activities: bible board games, mixer game, puzzle, bring your own crafting projects (everything is welcome including: Quilting, bandage rolling, knit/crochet, etc.) Celebrating and learning and doing.

Friday Feb 21st arrive anytime after 4pm. 4-6pm Coffee/ drinks/ mixer/ settling in/ visiting 6-7pm meal soup and sandwiches (devotional reading) 7pm hymn sing followed by activities (bring your own projects, games, puzzles, coloring/crafts) Stay overnight and meals for **\$35** Beds, bedding, and towels included (Share a room) What to bring: comfortable clothes, craft projects opt, yourself with a joyful heart.

Saturday Feb. 22nd: 8-9am: Coffee/ breakfast: egg bake, breakfast potatoes **check-in for day people 9am:**

Welcome, Hymn Sing 9:30: Bible Study 10 am: Local project showcase 11 am: project/crafting time and visiting, sharing and/or learning a new skill. Noon meal: hot beef/hot chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans

1 pm: speaker 2 pm share your crafts/projects 2:30pm Hymn sing and send off. Day only rate for meals and building usage **\$15.**

Registration deadline: Monday Feb 17th EWALU Stone Center, 35124 Hwy 13, Strawberry Point, IA which is 2.5 miles north of Strawberry Point. Handicap accessible facility. hosted by Your NE IA Women of the ELCA Synod Board and Katie's Fund Snow dates Feb. 28- March 1 questions ? contact: Christine Schmitt
candcschmitt@gmail.com 641-397-2572 or cell 641-220-5361



Groundhog Day is on **Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025.** The action starts in the early morning hours, when the groundhog is expected to come out of his burrow at sunrise to look for his shadow, approximately 7:20 a.m.



February 14th



Presidents' Day is Monday, February 17, 2025! Did you know that the official federal holiday is called "Washington's Birthday"?

Both Churches News



February reminds us of love. Love for the Lord, love for our partners, and love for friends and family. We offer you this story of the power of love between a mother and daughter.

“Without Amy’s support, I would still be an addict, and I wouldn’t be where I am today,” said Michelle, an LSI client.

Michelle was struggling with substance abuse, legal issues, and mental health issues when she found LSI therapist Amy Davis back in 2021.

“God helps us in ways we don’t always want him to,” said Michelle. “When the coronavirus pandemic hit, I lost my job. The unemployment lines were long at the time, so we went several months without a paycheck, so I decided to get creative with my finances. I started selling drugs and was later arrested with a large quantity of drugs. They came in, took my kid, and I went to jail. After that, I was referred to work with Amy at LSI.”

Michelle and Amy worked through Michelle’s childhood trauma, processing the significant losses in her life due to drug overdose and death. Amy helped Michelle work on building a positive support system, a list of future goals, and a relationship with her daughter, Rachel.

“Rachel and I had a lot of problems when we entered therapy because I was a drug addict, and there was a lot of broken trust between us,” said Michelle. “LSI therapists helped us rebuild that trust and helped show her the progress I had made when she couldn’t see it herself.”

Rachel, in therapy as well, has been seeing LSI Therapist Chelsea Zaragoza since 2019. In addition to one-on-one therapy sessions with their respective therapists, Michelle and Rachel also do family therapy sessions with Amy and Chelsea. These sessions help the mother and daughter have time set aside to talk about issues they are having in a healthy, productive way.

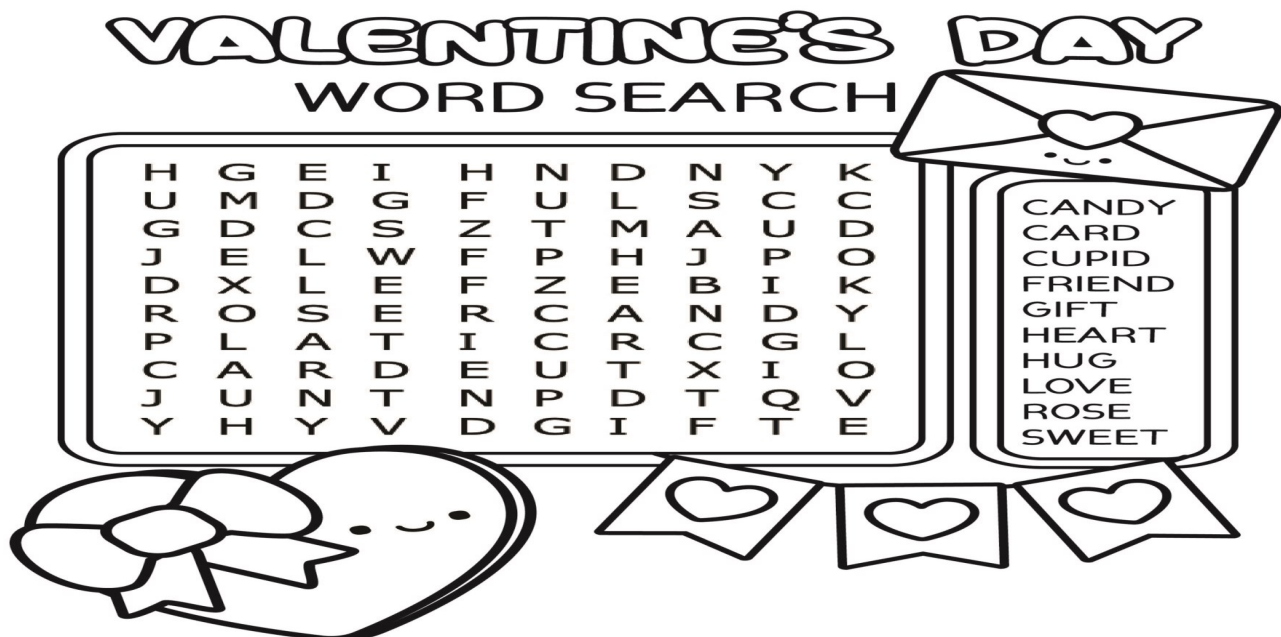
“Michelle has had a lot of struggles, loss, and a lot of people who didn’t believe in her, and her daughter was one of them,” said Amy Davis, LSI Therapist. “We have worked hard doing family and individual therapy to bring those two back together, and it has worked. Where they are now, I don’t think I’ve seen a mother-daughter relationship as healthy as the two of them are.”

Today, Michelle has her daughter back in her home, she is thriving as a general manager at a coffee shop, and she is going to school for substance abuse counseling. She just received her one-year sobriety chip, and she has a good support system.

“To see how far Michelle has come since I met her is truly remarkable,” said Amy. “She built the ladder, and she climbed out.”

“I was a mess when I first came to LSI,” said Michelle. “Now, I’m sober, in college, have a high-paying job, and have my daughter back. Amy believed in me when no one else did, not even myself. She gave me hope.”

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI’s Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.



Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2025

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And that is a “wrap”! Christmas for Kids is now completed, Thank you does not seem to cover the outpouring of support we received for this project. The donations are greatly appreciated. The quilts were beautiful, the books were a great assortment and let’s just say... I may have tested some of the pretty cool toys! I can only imagine how the kids will feel opening up these gifts for Christmas. All of you should feel a little joy knowing you were a big part of a brighter Christmas for these families!

Clothing Center Updates:

We will not be accepting any Christmas items until next year. Winter items will only be accepted from now until March. We appreciate a scheduled day for your donations to maintain the flow and schedule volunteers accordingly. Just a side note... My mom has decided to take a small step back from volunteering so if you are interested in volunteering, please call the office.

Shepherd Conference News:

Congratulations to Pastor Michael Ashman (St. Paul Lutheran and St. John Lutheran- both in Guttenberg) on the anniversary of his ordination on January 3, 1993.

I will be working on the Conference Assembly paperwork. If you are wanting to serve on the SOTH board, we will have openings for secretary (2 yr term) property (2 yr term) and the Synod Representative (3 yr term). If you have an interest in joining the board, please let me know by January 3rd, 2025.

The **Operating Fund** pays the utilities, insurance on the building, supplies, salaries and Lawn/Snow Care.

The **Crisis Fund** is used to help families with emergency rent or utilities and our sponsored events throughout the year

Please utilize the **MEMO LINE** on your check to specify

Crisis or Operating Fund!

Please indicate what church you are from as well to provide better bookkeeping.

IMPORTANT EVENTS/DATES:

**Conference Assembly
February 16th @ 2pm
(snow date of Feb. 23)
St. Paul, Volga**

**Any event may be subject to change*

Shepherd of the Hills:

Heather Hageman
100 W. Hill Street, PO Box 36,
St. Olaf, IA 52072

Telephone: 563-783-2409

Fax: 563-783-2428

E-mail: shephill@neitel.net

Business Hours: Monday-Friday