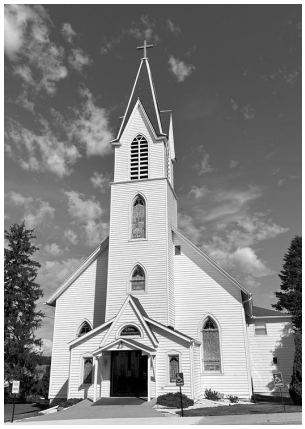


Established 1900

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 SEPTEMBER 2026 ISSUE 94

September brings backpacks and lunch boxes (those are still a thing, right?), and binders, and laptops, pens, pencils, crayons, markers, glue, and excitement. Back to school is a fresh start for all, and in church, we go back to school as well. Sunday school continues at St. John Farmersburg, and we are relaunching Sunday school at St. John Luana. We have some pre-K kids in Luana, which means lots of fun and energy, and we'll dwell in the simplicity of God's love for us for a while. We are also relaunching P.E.E.P.S., our after-school program, but this year we're trying it in Farmersburg. P.E.E.P.S. stands for Praise, Educate, Eat, Play, and Share, and we intend on doing a bit of each of those things every Wednesday. ALL kids are welcome to this opportunity to learn about God's love. Finally, we are getting back into Lutheran basics with confirmation class. If you know of a kid who would be a great fit for confirmation that isn't on our radar already, please encourage them to come. As we step into this season of learning, growing, and gathering together, it is entirely fitting that we turn our hearts toward the enduring instruction of God's word. The writer of Proverbs reminds us of the lifelong value of seeking wisdom and holding fast to instruction:

"Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck... Keep hold of instruction; do not let go; guard her, for she is your life." — Proverbs 4:9, 13

Education in the life of the church has never been merely about filling our heads with facts or keeping our schedules busy. It is about formation. It is about shaping hearts to receive the unconditional grace of God so that we might walk out into our communities as reflections of Christ's love. Martin Luther understood this deeply. He spent an immense portion of his life writing catechisms, teaching the young, and championing the education of all people because he knew that faith is something nurtured, shared, and lived out in community. In his preface to the Small Catechism, Luther passionately urged leaders and teachers to take instruction seriously, writing:

"Dear sirs and pastors, visit and inspect your parishes well. See to it that the young people understand and use the Catechism... Take time with your duties, and let your preaching be simple, plain, and in the German tongue. Do not aim high, but think of the common people, and let the children be your special care."

Martin wanted preaching and teaching to be in the German tongue (rather then Latin) so people can understand it. He wanted teaching to be basic so that it's universal and accessible to all. That remains our special care today at St. John in both Farmersburg and Luana. Whether it is a little one experiencing the joy of Sunday school for the very first time, a Wednesday afternoon filled with the laughter and fellowship of P.E.E.P.S., or our confirmands wrestling with the foundational truths of the faith, we are engaged in holy work. So let us embrace this new season with open minds and joyful spirits. Bring your backpacks, bring your energy, and bring your questions. God is doing a new thing among us, and there is a place for you at the table.

Peace to you and in your learning,

Pastor Jeremy Wolfe



FARMERSBURG

CHURCH COUNCIL
Pres: Linda Schoulte (26)
V. Pres: Dave Hageman (28)
Sec: Loretta Weipert (26)
Treas: Crystal Goltz (27)
Council Members: Ken Erickson (27), Becky Fuelling (28) & Lindelle Scherf (28)

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, Linda Friedlein & Ethel Lenth

MEN'S GROUP:
Pres: Ryan Moon
V. Pres: Brad Hoth
Sec/Treas: Dan Moon

ALTAR GUILD:
Directress: Cheryl Bossard
Sec: Heather Crogan
Treas: Velma Kuehl

ST. JOHN MINISTRY TEAM
Chairperson: Linda Schoulte (26)
Secretary: Vicki Baade (27)
Members: Janelle Smith (28)
Becky Fuelling (28)
Aaron Smith (26)
Amanda Goltz (27)

NEWSLETTER EDITORS;
Cheryl Bossard & Tammy Muller

Church Website:
http://www.stjohn-farmersburg.org

Remember to like St. John Facebook Page.

FARMERSBURG NEWS



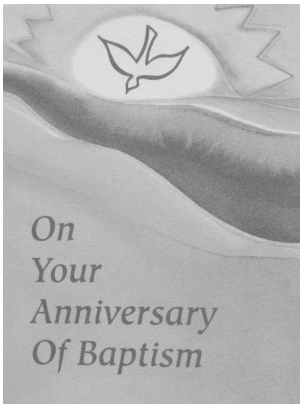
First Day of Sunday School is **September 20th at 9:15 am.**

Blessing of Backpacks Sept. 13 during worship.



Sophia Elaine Palmersheim daughter of Patrick and Emily Palmersheim was baptized on August 16, 2026.
Her sponsors are Ryan Moon and Hannah Adney.

KNOWN "SEPTEMBER" BAPTISMS
Happy Baptismal Birthday
3 Diane (Henning) Stangeland
Morgan Peterson
7 – Lendall Schievelbein
8 – Wyatt Glawe
9 – Cheryl Bossard
11 – Ben Wikner
16 – Nick Scherf
21 – Nicole Tuecke
29 – Kyle Moon
Dacia Schoulte





September
5 William & Michelle Scherf
5 Kurt & Terene Hauschild
7 Ron & Gloria Tayek
9 Danny & Lizzy Forsythe
10 Andrew & Megan Klink
12 Brian & Susan Glawe
14 Dan & Nancy Moon
16 Matthew & Nicole Radloff
18 Bill & Erin Scherf
Jarrod & Laney (Gardner) Van Hauen
20 Paul & Loretta Weipert
23 Ken & Heather Crogan

FARMERSBURG NEWS

September 6 (10:00 am) & September 13 (10:30 am)
Captain Clark Wikner Paul Weipert
Bill Scherf IV Doug Glawe

September 20 & September 27
Captain Don Bossard Wyatt Glawe
Justin Fuelling Jason Klinge

ACOLYTES
September
6 *10:00 am* Scarlett Scherf
13 10:30 am Rylan Hoth
20 10:30 am Annabelle Palmersheim
27 10:30 am Dominic Schoulte



READERS
SEPTEMBER
6 Megan Schoulte
20 Heather Crogan

GREETERS
September
6 Allen & Karen Feldman
13 Josh & Megan Schoulte
20 Bill & Erin Scherf IV.
27 Lindelle Scherf & Martyn Geick

ALTAR GUILD
Bev Moon & Cheryl Bossard

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE
Don & Cheryl Bossard

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS
September 6 Loretta Weipert Combined Worship (10:00 am)
September 20 Ken Erickson

September EVENTS
6 10:00 am Combined Worship @ Farmersburg
16 1:00 pm Unit Meeting & Election of officers
Thought for the Day: Nancy Moon
Devotions: Becky Fuelling
Snack: Shirley Marmann
19 EWALU Quilt Auction
26 Good Will Truck—8:00 am—11:00 am Monona Methodist





September
3 Darci (Kurth) Quamme
4 Heather Crogan
6 Brad Hoth
Nick Kirby
7 Lee Zurcher
Blake Walleser
8 Nathan Johanningmeier
Gloria Tayek
11 Annabelle Rae Palmersheim
Addison Corlett
12 Kenneth Erickson
13 Doug Little
14 Allan Wiedemann
16 Martin Hope
Emma Phillips
17 Michelle Scherf
18 Max Byroade
19 Eleanor Mae Rodas
21 Jordan Klinge
Matthew Radloff
22 Doug Glawe
23 Dennis Henning
25 Lisa Pritchard Knickerbocker
27 Loretta Weipert
Brayden Hoth
28 Charlie Byroade
29 Harold Henning

FARMERSBURG NEWS

St. John Farmersburg Council Minutes
Date: August 16,2026

Present: Becky Fuelling, Lindelle Scherf, Loretta Weipert, Crystal Goltz, Linda Schoulte and Jeremy Wolfe. Absent: Ken Erickson and Dave Hageman

Meeting called to order by President Linda at 11:08 am. Opening devotions given by Jeremy.

Added loose siding to the agenda. Becky moved to approve the updated agenda, seconded by Crystal. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the minutes of June 14, 2026 meeting made by Crystal, second by Becky. Motion carried.

Crystal moved to approve the treasurer's report for June, second by Lindelle. Motion carried. July treasure report corrected the July 1st carry over balance to match the end of June's balance. Loretta moved to approve the treasurer's report for July after correction, second by Becky.

Crystal has a list of questions to review with Kelly such as use of debit card, checks, use of bill pay and etc.

Pastor's Report:
*Luana Day Combined Service next Sunday. Asked to borrow the canopy if needed for service, council granted permission.

Old Business:
*Gutter cover cost: Jake Shaw will be completing. The men's group will cover the cost.
*Basement west wall/north wall: No further leaking noted. Will continue to monitor.
*Candelabras in the basement: Altar guild made aware of the concern discussed at last meeting. At this time they are working. The Altar guild will discuss it at their next meeting.

New Business:
*Church Insurance: Discussing the possibility of changing Insurance companies. Currently through Church Mutual we pay $8796 for 2026 with a $2500 deductible. Josh Stevenson from Stevenson Insurance Group may be able to offer insurance coverage for $3000 annually with a $25,000 deductible. Discussed putting the $5000+ annual savings into a fund to save up to $25000 to have on hand for deductible if switch companies. We need to gather more information to get a quote, and will discuss it further at the next meeting.
*Elevator Door: $2100 to repair. Can't turn into insurance related to not greater than $2500. Pay $700 annually for state inspection of the elevator which is a requirement.
*Loose siding: South side and window frame by bell tower. Dan Gingerich plans to repair. Ken will check with the Men's group to see if can cover the cost.

Committee Reports:
Evangelism - No report
Parish Education - Sept 9 start of PEEPS program after school and confirmation 7-8 pm. Sept 13 Parish Ed Kick off to Beulahland Camp. Meet at the church at 1 pm & return to the church at 4:30 pm. Sunday School starts Sunday Sept 20 at 9:15-10:15
Property - Discussed above.
Stewardship - No report.
Memorial - No report.
Worship - No report.
Women's Group - No report.
Men's Group - Pork meal today.

Motion to adjourn by Crystal, second by Linda. Motion carried.
Next meeting September 13 after worship.
Respectively submitted by Loretta Weipert, secretary.



FARMERSBURG NEWS

June 2026 – Treasurer's Report

Income:

1705.00	
765.00	
425.00	
890.00	
110.00	(VBS registration)
191.56	(CD Interest)
50.00	(PayPal Offering)
242.00	(Thrivant Choice Dollars)

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: 2780.90 + (200.00 Mileage) + (Housing from different Account: 728.80)

Inside Cust.:	215.48
Outside Cust.:	126.98
Organists:	129.29

Expenses:

Black Hills (gas):	84.05	
Alliant (elec):	163.21	
NEIT:	116.51	
Augsburg Fortress	200.00	(Devotionals)
Quill	239.18	(Copier Paper)
Freedom Bank	19.26	(Debt Card Annual Fee)
Church Mutual	733.00	

Total Income: 4378.56
Total Expenses: 5751.86

General Checking Balance – June 1, 2026: 2426.63
June 30, 2026: 1053.33

Kelly Shaw, Treasurer

July 2026 – Treasurer's Report

Income:

1220.00	
1135.00	
1470.00	
815.00	
50.00	
100.00	(PayPal Offering)
25.00	(Thrivant Choice Dollars)

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: 2780.90 + (200.00 Mileage) + (Housing from different Account: 728.80)

Inside Cust.:	215.48
Outside Cust.:	126.98
Organists:	129.29

Expenses:

Black Hills (gas):	51.24	
Alliant (elec):	229.88	
NEIT:	116.70	
City of Farmersburg	255.40	(Utilities)
Church Mutual	733.00	

Total Income: 4815.00
Total Expenses: 5582.87

General Checking Balance – July 1, 2026: 1053.33
July 31, 2026: 285.46

Kelly Shaw, Treasurer



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE
JULY

5	20
12	48
19	18
26	19

LUANA

CHURCH SECRETARY & FINANCIAL TREAS.: Karla Schrader

CHURCH COUNCIL:
President: Jerry Schroeder (26)
V. Pres: Loren Lenth (27)
Sec: Vicky Baade (27)
Cur. Treas: Cindy Landt (28)
Bene. Treas: Luke Steege (27)
Financial Counters: Council
DEACONS:
Jerry Schroeder (26)
Tim Donlon (26)
Loren Lenth (27)
TRUSTEES:
Heath Landt (26)
Vicky Baade (27)
Luke Steege (27)
Cindy Landt (28)
Linda Davis (28)
Jim Meyer (28)

WELCA:
Leaders:
January—March: Lisa Meyer
April—June: Vicky Baade
July—September: Karla Schrader
October—December: Mel Lenth

ALTAR GUILD:
Pres: Sherri Johnson (26)
Sec: Darci Engelhardt (26)
Lisa Meyer (28)
Diane Kraus (28)
Banners/Linens/Candles:
Mary Schroeder (27)
Special Services/Flowers:
Betty Handke (27)
Bapt./Comm.:
Sherri Johnson
Darci Engelhardt
Seasonal Banners:
Mary Schroeder

ST. JOHN MINISTRY TEAM
Chairperson: Linda Schoulte (26)
Secretary: Vicki Baade (27)
Members: Janelle Smith (28)
Becky Fuelling (28)
Aaron Smith (26)
Amanda Goltz (27)

St. John's Luana website
www.stjohn-luana.org

LUANA NEWS



Sundays at 7:45 am

Blessing of Backpacks September 13during worship.

SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: Deb & Keith Hanson

Read Lessons & Prayers: Sept. 6 Jt. Service @ Farmersburg
Sept. 13 Keith Johnson
Sept. 20 Deb Hanson
Sept. 27 Janelle Smith

Acolyte: Sept. 6 Jt. Service @ Farmersburg
Sept. 13 Livia Steege
Sept. 20 Karsten Steege
Sept. 27 Dayne Anderson

Communion Servers: Sept. 20 – Loren Lenth & Luke Stege

Altar Guild: Betty Handke

Flowers: Dawn Dull

Bible Study: September 8st 5:00p.m.

Known Baptismal Birthdays
Happy Baptismal Birthday
September
12 - Kelsi Davis
Tyce Wikner
15 - Robert Handke
Heath Landt
16 - Kelsey McHaney
18 – Jade Moeller
22 - Logan Engelhardt
Sabrina Swenson
23 – Doug Schrader
24 - Dawn Dull
24 – Brooklyn Landt
25 – Diane Kraus
26 – Kim Steeg
27 – Stan Dull
30 – Josh Schierholz



LUANA NEWS



Our prayers and sympathy to the family and friends of Jean Marie Hofer who passed away on August 7, 2026. Her services were on August 15, 2026 at St. John Lutheran Church in Luana.



September
1 – Paul & Jeanne Miller
2 – Paul & Darci Engelhardt
4 – Luke & Kim Steege
27 – Kenneth & Cheryl Wagner

St. John, Luana Council Minutes August 9, 2026

Present were: Pastor Jeremy, Jerry Schroeder, Cindy Landt, Linda Davis, Jim Meyer, Heath Landt, and Vicky Baade. Tim Donlon, Loren Lenth, and Luke Steege were absent. Church secretary, Karla Schrader was also present.

Meeting was called to order by President, Jerry Schroeder.

Pastor led devotions and prayer.

Vicky read the minutes of the July 11 meeting. Jim moved to accept the minutes, Cindy seconded, approved.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed. Cindy moved to accept the report, Heath seconded, approved.

First day for PEEPS and Confirmation will be September 2.
First day for Sunday School will be September 6.
Next year's Froelich Barn worship is planned for August 8. That will be Clayton Co. Fair weekend, but we will probably have breakfast after worship since it went so well this year. The Moser Family will provide music.

The closing on the sale of the parsonage will be in about a week. Jim moved to authorize Jerry to sign the papers on behalf of the congregation, since he is council president. Heath seconded, approved.

If there is bad weather on August 23, the Luana Daze worship will be moved to the church.

There is another insurance company that may be able to provide more affordable coverage with a higher deductible. Pastor is working on the application with input from the council.

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

Next meeting will be September 13 at 7:30am.



Respectfully submitted by Vicky Baade, Council Secretary

September
2 - Diane Kraus
8 – Cindy Landt
13 – Lilian Smith
16 - Dennis Landt
17 – Lisa Donlon
18 – James Meyer
20 - Vicky Baade
22 - Duaine Palas
26 – Duaine Davis





WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	Att.	Comm
July 26	36	
Aug. 2	Froehlich Jt. Service	
Aug. 9	30	
Aug. 16	33	31

July Treasurer's Report

EXPENSES

Black Hills Utilities –Nat. Gas	48.34
Alliant - Electricity	106.78
Karla Schrader –Secretary	523.32
Cindy Landt – Custodian	484.84
NEITEL	119.98
Jeremy Wolfe- salary	2,715.59
Jeremy Wolfe – housing	728.80
Jeremy Wolfe – mileage	200.00
IRS – 2 mo.	334.02
City of Luana –w/s/g.	121.67
Portico	702.75
Plunkett's – ext.	227.85
	6,313.94

INCOME

July 5	1,525.00
July 12	1,207.00
July 19	1,042.00
July 26	902.00
	4,676.00
Thrivent	29.00
From Parsonage	1,050.00
From LPL Financial	5,000.00
	10,755.00

Bal. June 30, 2026	720.41
Income	10,755.00
	11,475.41
Less Expenses	6,313.94
Bal. July 31, 2026	5,161.47

SPECIAL FUNDS

St John Scholarship Fund CD	44,121.10
Willard & Anne Kamin CD	4,788.07
Ruby Breitsprecher CD	5,858.10
St John CD	150,000.00

RENT/REPAIR FUND

Bal. June 30, 2026	$11,812.87
to Current	1,050.00
Bal. July 31, 2026	$10,762.87

CURRENT FUND

	Envelopes	Plate	Total
June 7	1,365.00		1,365.00
June 14	1,262.00		1,262.00
June 21	647.00	10.00	657.00
June 28	857.00	15.00	872.00
	4,131.00	25.00	4,156.00

THRIVENT BALANCE

Bal. May 31, 2026	$150,336.13
Income	483.88
Change in Value	- 774.10
Bal. June 30, 2026	$150,045.91

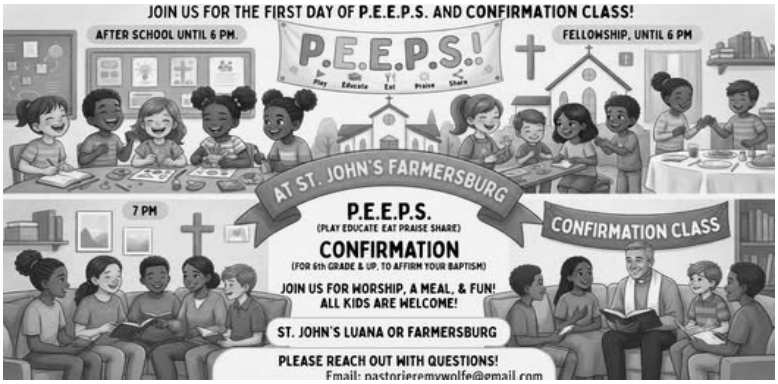
BENEVOLENCE REPORT

		INCOME
July 5	Offering	115.00
	Food Shelf	100.00
July 12	Offering	45.00
	Food Shelf	10.00
	Back to School	100.00
June 19	Offering	20.00
	Operating	50.00
July 26	Offering	60.00
	Food Shelf	60.00
	Operating	25.00
	Back to School	100.00
		685.00

EXPENSES

SOTH	130.00
Food Shelf	170.00
SOTH Oper.	75.00
Back to School	200.00
Synod	110.00
	685.00

Both Churches News



First Day of Peeps and Confirmation.
September 9th Peeps and Confirmation

3:30 pm—6:00 pm Peeps @ St. John Farmersburg
7:00 pm Confirmation @ St. John Farmersburg

EWALU QUILT AUCTION



Live Auction Day: Saturday, September 19, 2026.

- **8:00 AM:** In-person quilt viewing begins and the Country Store opens.
- **11:00 AM:** Worship devotional service.
- **Midday:** Free-will offering lunch and live music.
- **1:00 PM:** Live auction begins, preceded by the featured quilt raffle drawing
- **Online Auction:** Runs from Monday, September 14 through Sunday, September 20, 2026
- **Featured Activities:** Hayride/wagon tours of the camp, live music, and a Country Store selling crafts, baked goods, and produce.
- **Quilt Raffle Details:** **The Quilt:** A stunning 118-inch square king-size "Hocus Pocus" pattern quilt pieced by BilliJo Eckheart and hand-bound by Jeanne Helgerson (valued at $5,000).
  Tickets: $50 each, available through the Ewalu Auction Site or by contacting the camp office at 563-933-4700.
  Drawing: Held right at the start of the live auction at 1:00 PM on September 19, 2026 (winners do not need to be present)

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS : Trent Bollman, Patty Leeman, Dwain Wolter, Roger Landt, Stacy DeSotel, Julie Mohs, Charlie Post, *Dallas Tielbar, Shelby Preston, Bram Byroade, Melody Pate, Jim Fuelling, Mike Reardon, Ron Tayek, Cheryl Bossard, Beth Bries, Alan Feldmann, Lisa Berns, Larry Friedlein*

MILITARY: Avrey Smith, *Andrew Rodas & Beth Rodas, Will Schrandt*
ELKADER CARE CENTER: Grace Doerring,
GARDEN VIEW PLACE: Juanita Mohs, Darlene Moon, *Jeanette Vogt*
TOWER LIVING CENTER: *Lendall Schievelbein*
KENSINGTON ASSISTED LIVING: Mary Russett
WAUKON GOOD SAMARITAN CENTER: *Rita Pritchard*
HOMEBOUND: *Glenda Henkes, Jim Fuelling, Shirley Wagner*



Hydrangeas

by Carl Sandburg



Dragoons, I tell you the white hydrangeas turn rust and go soon.

Already mid September a line of brown runs over them.

One sunset after another tracks the faces, the petals.

Waiting, they look over the fence for what way they go.

Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2026



Thank you all for supporting our Back to School event. We packed school bags for 132 families/328 children. This number may go up as we still are packing bags.

I had amazing volunteers that did a terrific job. I could not do any of this without them.

Also, as a Thrivent member with investments, you can allocate your yearly Choice Dollars to Shepherd of the Hills. Last year, gracious members collectively donated $2,898 through Choice Dollars. We are so blessed to have generous people with big hearts that help us help others. It is tough doing it alone, but if we come together, great things can be possible.

Clothing Center Updates:

We had a lot of items go out the day of our backpack give away. Many families in need were able to find clothing for their children to go back to school. Some of you are probably wondering if we are seeing an influx of families from Postville. We are! We are happy to help families in need as long as we have a referral. It is a tough time for all of us and that is why we have the best prices around….most everything is $1.00 for each item.

We will be transitioning to fall/winter in September so if you are wanting some summer clothes, now is the time to shop.

Shepherd Conference News:

If you would like to help families that were affected by the fire in Postville at Agri Star Meat Packing Plant, here is some basic needs… diapers size 6-7, baby wipes, hygiene products, laundry and dish soap. Monetary donations are also accepted and will be used to help pay for utilities and rent. Drop off location is St. Paul Lutheran Church in Postville. For more information call (563) 864-7643

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:

Annual Hog Roast Fundraiser
October 4th 4pm-7pm

Christmas for Kids
December 16th-17th

***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 9am-12pm and 1pm-4 pm