



# The Loveletter

St. John Lutheran Church, 201 Fourth Avenue, Keystone, Iowa 52249

January, 2025

## THE LOVELETTER

Published Monthly by

St. John Lutheran Church  
(Missouri Synod)  
201 Fourth Avenue  
P.O. Box 176  
Keystone, Iowa 52249  
Phone: 319-442-3514

Church E-Mail:  
stjnluth@netins.net

Church Website:  
www.stjohnkeystone.org

## OUR STAFF

Rev. Josiah Schultz  
Pastor  
Phone: 913-223-8261

Donna Busch  
Parish Assistant  
319-721-0952

Relda Pickering  
Custodian  
319-442-3742

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship  
9:00 a.m.

## BIBLE STUDIES

Sunday School  
10:15 - 11:15 a.m.

Sunday Adult Bible Class  
*The Book of Mark*  
10:15 - 11:15

Wednesday Bible Class  
*Studying 1 John*  
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

## SWADDLING CLOTHES

Store open second  
Saturday of each month  
from 9 to noon,  
the following Monday  
afternoon from 4:30 - 6:00.

## Epiphany - January 6th

December 25 (Christmas Day) begins the 'season' of Christmas which lasts **12** days until the festival of Epiphany on January 6. Epiphany, along with Easter and Pentecost is one of the three oldest and most important festivals observed by the early Christian church. The word Epiphany comes from the Greek word *epiphania* which can be translated as **appearing**. Epiphany has a variety of meanings closely related to one another; the shining of a light, a manifestation, an appearance, or a revelation. Epiphany "illuminates" or reveals to us the divinity of our Lord who was made known to the whole world for the first time by the visit of the magi from the east. There is no mention of how many wise men visited but tradition says three, probably because there were three gifts mentioned (gold, frankincense and myrrh). The Hebrews expected for centuries a star as sign of the birth of the Messiah. It was the shining of the **light** (the star) that brought the magi to Jesus who is the "a **light** for revelation to the Gentiles" Luke 2:32. Epiphany is a festival day of **light** and is denoted by the liturgical color **white**. It ushers in the season of Epiphany which lasts until the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Jesus said of himself, "I am the **light** of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the **light** of life." (John 8:12)

## Offering Envelopes

2025 offering envelopes are located in the southeast corner of the sanctuary. If you wanted envelopes but there are none in your name, please contact the church office and we will get them for you. Please discard your 2024 envelopes and use your 2025 envelopes now. Contribution statements will be available for pick up soon. We don't mail our contribution statements unless you request them to be mailed by letting the church office know.

## Sewing for World Relief

The Quilters will begin sewing on Tuesday morning, January 7th, in the lower level. If you'd like to help, bring a scissors, needle with a large eye for tying, and a sack lunch if you plan to stay over the noon hour. Come for as long as you'd like, they usually quit around 2:00. They work each Tuesday morning during the winter months. Invite others to come with you. Questions, contact Cindy Oehlerich.

## 2025 Church Council to be Installed

The 2025 Church Council will be installed during the worship service on Sunday morning, January 12th. The council members for 2025 include: Richard Oehlerich, Doug Buch, Jordan Silhanek, Kent Silhanek, Barbara Hennings, Ann Franzenburg, Mary Sievers, Byran Kimm, and Adrieonna Reddick. Their specific positions within the council will be determined at a Church Council meeting held at 11:00 a.m. on January 12th. We express our sincere thankfulness to both Wayne Ritscher and Justin Slapnicka for all the hard work they have done during the past 6 years! They will be eligible to return to the council after a one year break! Please keep all of our church council members in your prayers.

## St. John Board of Elders

St. John has a Board of Elders in place! The purpose of the Board of Elders is to be a liaison between the church and our pastor. Of course, Pastor Schultz is available anytime to meet with you about issues in the church. If you need to speak with someone other than pastor about issues that need attention, please contact one of the elders, knowing that matters of a private nature are kept strictly confidential. Members of the Board of Elders include Jim Buch, Dave Gahring, Bill Hennings, Bob Albertsen, Dan Busch, Dennis Schwab, and Richard Oehlerich. Their next meeting is Sunday, January 5th at 7:30 a.m., in the overflow area of the education wing.

### Poinsettia Thank You

Thanks to all those who purchased the poinsettias that adorned our sanctuary during the Advent and Christmas season. These beautiful poinsettias were donated by:

- Karen Noe (2) in memory of Harley Noe.
- Tim and Jay Feuerbach (2) in memory of loved ones.
- Darlene Harder (1) in memory of her husband, Roger.
- Joan Seeck (1) in memory of loved ones.
- Mike and Rhonda Seeck (1) in memory of Bob and Betty Roese.
- Dennis Andresen (1) in memory of wife, Joyce, and other loved ones.
- Pam England (1) in memory of Robert Reinhardt.
- Delbert Selk (1) in memory of Jeanette Selk and other loved ones.
- Darlys Rusk (1) in memory of Ray and Doris Junge, and Hap Junge.
- Denny and Susie Albers (1) in memory of Art and Lorene, and Delbert and Madelene.
- Mardean Kromminga (1) in memory of Shelley and Dutch.
- Don and Eleanor Roquet (2) in memory of Don W. and Carol Roquet, and Herbert and Edna Bauer.
- Ruth Oehlerich (1) in memory of Darwin Oehlerich.
- Yvonne Kuch (2) in memory of Leland Kuch and parents.
- Keith and Wendy Junge (2) in memory of Milford and Ethel Wardenburg, and Curtis and Ruth Junge.
- Dan and Donna Busch (2) in memory of loved ones.

Please feel free to take your purchased poinsettia home with you. Please leave the plastic drain pan at the church.

### Quarterly Voters' Meeting

A Quarterly Voters' Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26th, immediately following our worship service. On the agenda will be the presentation of the 2025 budget, a vote on where our 2025 missions should be sent, and approval of voting lay delegate to attend IDE convention with Pastor. Please try to attend!

### Cancellation of Services

Winter weather is close at hand! Here's a reminder of our policy on cancelled services. Services will be held if at all possible; however, if you are in doubt about whether services will be held call the church office at 319-442-3514 and listen to the message there. If it is the normal message, there will be services held as planned; otherwise a cancellation message will be heard. The cancellation message will be recorded at least one hour before the scheduled service. The cancellation will also be posted on the KCRG website ([www.kcrg.com](http://www.kcrg.com)) and television station (channel 9), on our facebook page (St. John Lutheran - Keystone), and on our webpage at [stjohnkeystone.org](http://stjohnkeystone.org). Pastor Schultz should be able to get to the church no matter what the weather; however, if you feel it is unsafe to come in person because of the weather the service can be watched online.

### Giving Tree Wrap Up

The Giving Tree was a success again this year. We were able to provide gifts for 29 people this year and also provided meals to 12 families who otherwise may not have had a Christmas dinner. The names for the Giving Tree were all taken and the gifts and food baskets were delivered out to the recipients on December 17th. Our 12 Christmas Dinner baskets contained enough food to feed a family of 6. The meal was packed in a laundry basket that the recipient got to keep along with a 3# ham, a 5# bag of potatoes, 2 cans of green beans, a large can of fruit cocktail, a 12 count bag of Hawaiian sweet rolls, and a large pumpkin pie. Also in the basket was a new dish towel for each family. We thank everyone who donated to make these projects successful! To God be the glory!



**Be as quick to pray as you are to text. ♥**

### Thank You

Thanks to all who have joined us to celebrate our Savior's birth! We have so many people that we'd like to thank for helping make our Advent and Christmas Services so memorable. To the people who provide such beautiful music in this place – Eleanor Roquet, Ann Franzenburg, Deb Kromminga, Jodi Bierschenk, and the members of our choir. To Amie Slapnicka and all those who helped for the wonderful Children's Service that was presented a couple of weeks ago. St. John has wonderful volunteers! To all those who provided the food for our Advent Soup Suppers, brought in goodies to be served after services, decorated our sanctuary, and took care of the many behind the scenes tasks, we thank you! Hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

### Thrift Store Prom

Attention all youth in 6th through 12 grade! You are invited to attend a St. John - Newhall Youth Group event to be held on Saturday, January 11th, from 7-9 p.m. It's a Thrift Store Prom and should be lots of fun. It will be held in Central's Student Center. Bring a friend. There will be games and dancing, along with prizes for the best outfits. Should be a fun time!

### Uganda Trip

At the end of January, Pastor Preus, who serves Trinity, Vinton, is traveling to Uganda for two weeks to teach both at a pastors' conference and at their seminary. He is raising funds to cover travel expenses and to distribute Bibles and the Lutheran Confessions. If you are willing and able to support the trip with a monetary contribution, you can send checks to (or drop them off at) Trinity Lutheran Church, 1002 E 13th St, Vinton, IA 52349, with "Uganda" in the memo line. Any support would be a wonderful encouragement to our brothers and sisters in Uganda!

### Zach and Hannah Johnson

On Sunday, December 29th, we were pleased to have Zach Johnson and his wife, Hannah (Kimm) Johnson join us in worship. Zach was our preacher that morning. Zach, who is a member here at St. John, is in his last year at the Fort Wayne Seminary. He and Hannah were here in Keystone for Christmas break. Following our worship service, Zach held a question-and-answer period to tell us about life in the seminary and to answer any questions we had. There was a free-will offering basket for Zach that morning. If you missed that day and would like to help out with expenses incurred by a seminary student, donations may be directed to Zach by specifying that your donation be directed to him and we will see that he receives it.

### Dorcas Guild Card Shop

The Dorcas Guild Card Shop, located outside the church office in the overflow area of the education wing, has available cards for all occasion—birthday, get well, anniversary, sympathy, baby, baptism, wedding, confirmation, and more. These cards are available for just 50¢ per card or \$5.00 per box of 12 cards.

### Children's Christmas Service

Our Children's Christmas Service was held on Sunday, December 15th, here at St. John. We were joined by the children of St. Andrew Van Horne, St. Paul Luzerne and First Lutheran Belle Plaine this year. WOW! What a great job these children did in reenacting the birth of our Savior! If you weren't able to be here to see this production and service, it can be viewed on our webpage at [stjohnkeystone.org](http://stjohnkeystone.org) under the YouTube tab. Check it out!

#### ***Bible Studies at St. John***

***\*Sunday Mornings from 10:15 - 11:15 - Book of Mark***

***\*Wednesday mornings at 10:00 - 1 John***

Please join us for these interesting and informative studies.

Let's get to know Jesus better this year!





*The mission of Swaddling Clothes is to share the mercy of Christ with our neighbors through the gifts of clothing, food, friendship, and the forgiving Word of God.*



St. John Lutheran Church started a *Swaddling Clothes* in the lower level of our church located at 201 Fourth Avenue in Keystone back in 2019. Our first shopping day took place on September 14, 2019. That day, we had 6 families come in to see what we are all about. In the 5 years since that time, our numbers have grown significantly. This is not just a program to benefit those in Keystone, but is open to all. We hold a "shopping day" the second Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to noon. A couple of years later, we added a Monday shopping each month for those who couldn't make it on the Saturdays. We never charge for anything taken in our "store", and we are open to anyone who has legal custody of children and who have a need for the items we have collected.

### The Sanctity of Life

God's eternal Son began His earthly life as an embryo. And when that embryo was a grown man, He shed His blood for the entire world, including those who were nothing more than a few cells in their mothers' wombs.

For this reason, God never wants abortion to happen. And, as Christians, one of the greatest ways we can help keep our neighbor far from this temptation is by making pregnancy less frightening.

If you're frightened that you don't have the resources to care for the child in your womb or the children outside your womb, we're here to help.

If you're scared that you don't know how to navigate this new part of your life, we're here to help.

If you're worried about judgment or rejection, we're here with God's word of mercy and hope, a word that no one can take away from you.

Christ loved you from your very beginning. He'll love you to the end. That's why we're here.

### How does "Swaddling Clothes" work?

Swaddling Clothes is a program run by various congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to share the mercy of Christ with our neighbors through the gifts of clothing, food, friendship, and the forgiving Word of God.

From various donors, we assemble a collection of items associated with pregnancy and motherhood - maternity and baby clothes, diapers, formula, bottles, toys, strollers, etc. and even clothing up to size 10. Then, on the second Saturday of each month and the following Monday, St. John hosts a "shopping day" where people can come in and survey our collection and take whatever is needed, up to a certain number of items. If any of the items you take can be re-donated to *Swaddling Clothes* when you are done with them, we ask that you do so to help those in need after you.

We also partner with a number of other organizations, providing you with referrals if you are seeking counseling, health care, employment, etc... And, of course, being a part of a Lutheran congregation, we are always ready to share pastoral care and a Gospel word with those who need them.

### How can you help?

We are in need of good, gently used clothing up to size 10, baby items, formula, bottles, and larger items like cribs, car seats, etc. We have wonderful volunteers who wash all clothing that comes in and who clean all other items as well before they are displayed for our shopping days. We are asking that donations be brought in to the church via the door marked "201" or by calling the church office (319-442-3514) to set up a drop off plan. We also have an account at Stuff, Etc., where non-baby items may be donated with the credit going to St. John. We can then you the credit to either purchase items there, or use the cash to make purchases elsewhere.

*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."*

Matthew 19:14



## Central Lutheran School, Newhall, IA January 2025- Monthly Newsletter



+Providing students with a quality education built on a firm Christian foundation, so they grow in the knowledge of Jesus as their Savior and become loving servants to others.

**Motto: See Jesus, Seek Knowledge, Serve Joyfully +**

As we enter 2025, the CLS Staff and Board of Directors would like to wish everyone a Blessed 2025! Thank you for your support in 2024 through prayers, donations, and talents shared!

May God continue to bless CLS in 2025!

Epiphany Greetings from Central Lutheran School!

### **PARENT INFORMATION MEETING - Monday, January 16, 2025, 6PM**

I pray every parent or at least one parent from each family will attend this meeting on Thursday, January 16. The CLS Board of Directors will be sharing with you about the cost to educate a child at CLS, next year's tuition, other fees, the state of our school, and enhancements to our school, as well as dates for registration. We are anticipating that some classes will fill up quickly, so you will need to hear the information the Board of Directors has to share. This information is for EVERY parent incoming to CLS preschool - 7th grade for the 2024-2025 school year. Tell your friends and neighbors as well in case they are thinking about applying here for next school year. One night only, so please plan to attend!

### **CLS Staff Openings for the 2025-2026 school year**

Central Lutheran School is looking for names to fill the following positions for the 2025-2026 school year.

- 4th Grade Teacher (Mrs. Maddick is retiring)
- Music Teacher- this is a new position at CLS. The music teacher will be responsible for teaching PS-4th grade music class, directing 3 choirs, scheduling choirs to sing in area churches and nursing homes, scheduling classes and choirs to sing for chapel, picking out and purchasing music for choirs and musicals, and helping out with Fine Arts night.

If you have a name or could encourage someone you know, please have them contact Principal Parris at [principal@centrallutherschool.org](mailto:principal@centrallutherschool.org), or call 319-223-5271.

My Identity Is In Christ!

Philippians 1:3-6

Franklin O. Parris – Principal, [principal@centrallutherschool.org](mailto:principal@centrallutherschool.org)

Central Lutheran School, Newhall, IA,

### **Upcoming CLS School Events: School Board Appreciation Month!**

- Jan. 1 - New Year's Day! No school.
- Jan. 2 - Back to School
- Jan. 7 - 7th grade to Orphan Grain Train with donations; 4,5,6,7 Cougar Basketball home vs. Trinity, CR
- Jan. 8 - 8:30 am January Baptismal remembrance chapel, Mr. Parris, Choir sings; 1PM Dismissal; 1:30-3:30 PD for teachers
- Jan. 10 - End of 2nd quarter; Chili Bowl at LIS 4,5,6,7 Cougar basketball games at LIS, Williamsburg
- Jan. 11 - 9, 10,11, 12 Cougar Home basketball vs. Trinity, Davenport
- Jan. 13 - Full day of school- Start of 3rd quarter
- Jan. 14 - 3:10 Cougar JVG basketball dismissed; Cougar basketball @ INCA 4,5,6,7
- Jan. 15 - 8:30 am Chapel Pastor Schanbacher, 1PM Dismissal; 1:30-3:30 Staff Meeting instead of on Friday morning
- Jan. 16 - 6pm Board and Parent Information meeting in the gym
- Jan. 17 - No PS Classes; 1PM Dismissal; Midwinter Varsity Basketball Tournament
- Jan. 18 - Midwinter Varsity Basketball Tournament - CLS host site
- Jan. 19 - Midwinter Varsity Basketball Tournament
- Jan. 20 - No School, MLK Jr. Birthday; 6PM Board of Directors meeting (Melanie)
- Jan. 21 - K-4 Winter Testing
- Jan. 22 - K-4 Winter Testing; 8:30 am chapel Pastor Lingard; 1PM Dismissal; 1:30-3:30 PD for teachers
- Jan. 23 - K-4 Winter Testing; 2:50 Cougar JVG Dismissed, 4,5,6,7 Basketball @ Heritage
- Jan. 24 - K-4 Winter Testing; 6:30pm Cougar Student Council sponsoring Family Movie Night in the gym
- Jan. 25 - Happy Birthday to our Cougar Cafe Lunch Lady - Mrs. Rachel McLeod!!
- Jan. 28 - 4,5,6,7 Cougar basketball @ Trinity, CR
- Jan. 29 - 8:30 am chapel Mr. Runge; Karen piano; 1PM Dismissal; 1:30-3:30 PD Curriculum Trak
- Jan. 30 - 4,5,6,7 Cougar Basketball @ Cedar Valley Christian School
- Jan. 31 - 4,5,6,7 Cougar basketball home vs. INCA



**Ushers and Greeters**

January 5 (9:00 a.m.):	<b>Greeters:</b> Dan and Donna Busch. <b>Ushers:</b> Rick Pickering, Todd and Cheryl Hennings.
12 (9:00 a.m.):	<b>Greeters:</b> Keith and Wendy Junge. <b>Ushers:</b> Kent Silhanek, Jim and Cathy Buch, Ben and Missy Lennie.
19 (9:00 a.m.):	<b>Greeters:</b> Dean and Kathy Scheel. <b>Ushers:</b> Bill and Barbara Hennings, Doug and Colin Buch.
26 (9:00 a.m.):	<b>Greeters:</b> Greg and Carlene Silhanek. <b>Ushers:</b> Eric and Ann Franzenburg, Byran and Tracie Kimm, Jacque Jones.

**Acolytes**

January 5 (9:00 a.m.): Noah  
 12 (9:00 a.m.): Lauren  
 19 (9:00 a.m.): Hunter  
 26 (9:00 a.m.): Kenna

**Videographers**

January 5 (9:00 a.m.): Jordan Silhanek  
 12 (9:00 a.m.): Dan Busch  
 19 (9:00 a.m.): Rich Oehlerich  
 26 (4:00 p.m.): Jim Buch

**Altar Guild for January**

Tracie Kimm  
 Susie Albers

**Deacons**

January 5 (9:00 a.m.): Doug Buch  
 12 (9:00 a.m.): Kent Silhanek  
 19 (9:00 a.m.): Kent Silhanek  
 26 (9:00 a.m.): Jordan Silhanek

**Hospitality Committee for January**

(January 12)

**Bake:** Pat Pohlman  
**Bake and Serve:** Darla Kromminga  
 Wendy Junge



# January, 2025

St. John Lutheran Church  
 P.O. Box 176—201 Fourth Avenue  
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 Church E-mail: stjnluth@netins.net  
 Rev. Josiah Schultz, Pastor  
 Pastor's Cell: 913-223-8261

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 7:30 a.m. - Elder's Mtg. 9:00 a.m. - Divine Service 10:15 a.m. - Adult Bible Class	<i>Epiphany of Our Lord</i> 6 10:30 - 11:15 - Pastor teaching at CLS	7 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. - Sewing for World Relief	8 10:00 a.m. - Bible Class 1:30 - 2:30 - Midweek Class	9 10:30 - 11:15 - Pastor teaching at CLS	10	11 9:00 a.m. to noon - Swaddling Clothes Shopping Day
12 9:00 a.m. - Divine Service with CC installation 10:15 a.m. - Sunday School / Adult Bible Class 11:00 a.m. - CC Mtg.	13 10:30 - 11:15 - Pastor teaching at CLS 4:30 to 6 p.m. - Swaddling Clothes	14 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. - Sewing for World Relief 2:00 p.m. - Lutheran Communion @KNCC	15 10:00 a.m. - Bible Class 1:30 - 2:30 - Midweek Class	16 10:30 - 11:15 - Pastor teaching at CLS	17	18
19 9:00 a.m. - Divine Service 10:15 a.m. - Sunday School / Adult Bible Class	20 10:30 - 11:15 - Pastor teaching at CLS	21 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. - Sewing for World Relief	22 10:00 a.m. - Bible Class 1:30 - 2:30 - Midweek Class	23 10:30 - 11:15 - Pastor teaching at CLS	24	25
26 9:00 a.m. - Divine Service 10:15 a.m. - Sunday School 10:15 a.m. - Quarterly Voters' Meeting	27 10:30 - 11:15 - Pastor teaching at CLS	28 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. - Sewing for World Relief	29 10:00 a.m. - Bible Class 1:30 - 2:30 - Midweek Class	30 10:30 - 11:15 - Pastor teaching at CLS	31	

**Birthdays**

- January 2 - Austin Teneyck
- 3 - Rick Andresen, Korbyn Metz, Boyd Oehlerich
- 5 - Raegan Junge
- 6 - Cathy Graf
- 7 - Alexis Lyne, Mason Vargason
- 8 - Howard Pohlman, John Sindt
- 10 - Richie Loy III
- 11 - Mary Pohlman
- 13 - Jody Grace, Eleanor Roquet
- 14 - Darold Sindt
- 15 - Teri Geiger, Grace Wiese, Rick Wild
- 16 - Leah Clemann, Betsie Niebes, Tiffany Sawyer
- 17 - Adam Albertsen, Mike Seeck
- 19 - Nikki Steffen

**Birthdays (continued)**

- January 20 - Wayne Ritscher
- 23 - Simeon Schultz
- 25 - Matthew Brunssen, Tinley Jones, Scott Schroeder
- 27 - Connie Baumgard, Calvin Franzenburg, Kassie Mather
- 31 - Kathy Ebert

**Anniversaries**

- January 2 - Don and Relda Pickering
- 21 - Howard and Janyce Pohlmann
- 22 - Rick and Dorothy Wild
- 28 - Jordan and Kimberly Silhanek

