

June 2026 Messenger

Greetings from Pastor Todd:

Last month, using Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, I discussed the end of the school year and how it marks not only the end of something but also the birth of something new. This reading takes on new meaning with the mixture of joys and sorrows our congregations have experienced in recent weeks.

There is a time and place for everything. For some things, the timing is (relatively) predictable: the sunrise and sunset based on the day of the year; the birth of a child based on conception date and size of the baby. For other things, the timing is unpredictable; we can try and prepare ourselves for the inevitable, but it's always a shock when that day comes.

A person of faith can look at these unexpected events in life as simply the end of something old and the beginning of something new. Birth is the end of one season of life and the beginning of a new life. Baptism is the end of the old (sinful) self and the beginning of new life with Christ. Death is the end of earthly life, but more importantly the beginning of life with God.

While the end of something can be very painful and we can long for a return to those previous times, God promises to be present with us for all time and is presenting us with new opportunities in this next season of life. Take heart in this unbreakable promise of God and believe in His goodness and love for you. This faith will help see you through all of life's moments of transition. May God be with you and bless you; now and forever. Amen.

The Sacred Work of Faith at Home

One of the greatest gifts God entrusts to parents and caregivers is the spiritual formation of their children. In Deuteronomy we hear the clear and loving call: *“Impress these words upon your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you rise”* (Deut. 6:7). Faith was never meant to be something we “drop off” and pick up later. It is woven into the rhythms of daily life—spoken, modeled, questioned, practiced, and lived.

Yet we all know how busy life has become. Between work, school, sports, appointments, and the constant pressure to keep up, it is easy for church to become “one more thing” on the calendar. When that happens, children quickly pick up the message—often unintentionally—that faith is optional, secondary, or something done only when convenient. What happens at home shapes how a child perceives the importance of faith in their lives far more than any program, curriculum, or class ever could.

Research consistently affirms this truth. Studies from the *Search Institute* and the *Fuller Youth Institute* show that the **single strongest predictor of a young person’s lifelong faith** is not the quality of the church program but the **faith practices of their parents and the presence of caring adults who talk about and live their faith openly**. Children whose families pray together, talk about faith weekly, and participate in worship regularly are **2–3 times more likely** to remain active in their faith as adults. And when parents show genuine interest in what their children are learning, engagement and retention skyrocket.

This year’s confirmation class was a beautiful example of what happens when families lean into faith formation together. Pastor Todd and I were deeply encouraged by the thoughtful participation of both students and parents. It was clear that time was spent with the pre-class work, and that preparation made our conversations richer, deeper, and more meaningful. The students came ready to engage, to ask questions, and to connect their faith to real life. Their parents came ready to support, encourage, and walk alongside them. That partnership made all the difference.

In fact, this new format of doing confirmation together has reenergized my own faith formation. Every year I remind our students that **Affirmation of Baptism is not the end of their faith journey—it is the beginning**. The same is true for adults. Faith is not something we graduate from; it is something we grow into.

Because of that, I am developing and preparing to lead an **adult (re)confirmation class**—a space for adults of any age to revisit the foundations of faith, ask questions, explore Scripture, and deepen their understanding of what it means to live as disciples in today’s world. More information will be coming soon, and I hope many of you will consider joining.

As Proverbs reminds us, *“Train children in the right way, and when they are old, they will not stray”* (Prov. 22:6). But that training is not a solo task. It is shared between home and church, parents and pastors, families and faith communities. When we work together, children experience a faith that is alive, joyful, and deeply rooted.

Thank you to all the parents, grandparents, guardians, and caring adults who continue to show up, ask questions, pray with your children, and make faith a priority even in the midst of busy lives. Your presence matters. Your example matters. And your faith—lived out in the ordinary moments of daily life—plants seeds that will grow for years to come.

With gratitude and hope,
Deacon Jackie

Church News

St. John Lutheran Church
 Sunday Worship Service 8:30 a.m.

Pastor Todd Burrichter
 (641) 228-0235
 pastortoddburrichter@gmail.com

Deacon Jackie Schilling
 (319) 504-6583
 jschilling610@gmail.com

Church Secretary: Lisa Acton
 Office email: stjohnlutherannashua@gmail.com
 Website: www.stjohnnashua.org
 Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnlutherannashua>

Council Members

President: **Tom Franzen**
 Vice President: **Zach Huffman**
 Council Secretary: **Angie Dietz**
 Building & Grounds: **Jermey Wolf**
 Technology: **Zach Huffman**
 Worship & Music: **Burce Bruns**
 Additional members:
Greg Henn, Roger Garbes, Connor Sullivan, Christopher Kalvig, Lisa Acton

Additional Leaders

Finance: **Mark Rodruck**
 Treasurer: **Jo Henn**
 Agape: **Ann Senner**
 Jubilee: **Bruce Bruns**
 Custodians: **Rod & Beth Wilson**
 Organists: **Ann Senner & Hannah Pederson**

April 2026 General Fund Report:

Balance 4/01/2026	8,936.03
Receipts	15,619.88
Expenses	17,247.34
Transfers	(250.00)
Balance 3/31/2026	7,058.57

General fund is down \$1,877 for the month and up \$7,015 for the year.

Plan ahead for June 9th from 12:30-5:00pm for the blood drive. You can reach Myrna at 641-435-4804 or visit: RedCrossBlood.org and search Sponsor code Nashua to make an appointment. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Feeding His Sheep in Nashua

Compass Center; Lunches; Every Tuesday Free-Will Offering.....11:30-12:30pm
Nashua Food Pantry: 115 Woodbridge St;.....Every Friday 9-11 & On call
Mobile Food Pantry Every 3rd Thursday.....4-5:30pm



The Community Pantry at St. John Lutheran Church Use North Door Entrance At 300 Merrill St. Nashua

Monday: 9a-2p
 Tuesday: 9a-7p
 Wednesday: 9a-4p
 Thursday: 9a-2p
 Friday: Closed
 Saturday: By appointment
 Other times by appointment: Call 641-435-2396

Homebound Members

Liz Arends: Accura Healthcare, New Hampton

Burton and Edna Dietz: Clarksville Assisted Living Ctr.

Virginia Kraft: Cedar Vale, Nashua

Phyllis Kunzman: 11th St. Chautauqua, Charles City

June Marth: West Des Moines, Iowa

Don Niemeyer: Clarksville Skilled Nursing & Rehab Ctr.

Mary Lou Phyfe: Clarksville Skilled Nursing & Rehab Ctr.

Beth Waller: Maquoketa, Iowa

Verna Wiebke: Linden Place, Bartels, Waverly



2 Nancy Poppe

3 June Marth

10 Jane Wolf

10 Jackie Schilling

10 Dawson Demro

11 Karen Schmidt

12 Marylee Mehman

13 Megan Miller

16 Stacy Huffman

17 Joyce Beck

18 Edna Dietz

22 Tom Sullivan

23 Kayla Dietz (Pratt)

25 Carly Steere

27 Jacob Frost

27 Elijah Pederson

29 Oliver Pederson

29 Judy Rottinghaus

WELCA News

WELCA is for all women in our church. We would like more participation and would welcome you to our meetings

WELCA will not be meeting during the summer months. Watch the church calendar for future meetings.

WELCA has served two large funerals recently. Thank You to everyone who donated bars or salads and for those who helped set up tables and serve at these funerals. Without your help, we would not be able to provide this service for members of our congregation.

Have a great summer and we will see you in the fall.



Community Pantry Earns High Marks, Invites Public to Open House

The Community Pantry in Nashua continues to make a meaningful impact for local families, recently earning a 97% approval score during an inspection conducted by the Northeast Iowa Food Bank (NEIFB). The evaluation, led by Community Programs Manager Tia Gutierrez, assessed key areas including organization, food variety, labeling, data collection, volunteer engagement, and overall cleanliness. Out of a possible 100 points, the pantry's 97th percentile score reflects its strong commitment to quality service and community care.

The pantry is currently well stocked, offering a wide selection of essential items such as frozen meats, vegetables, milk, eggs, beverages, fresh produce, canned goods, and snacks. Individuals and families who may be concerned about having enough food are encouraged to visit. After completing a brief registration process, clients can select items with the help of friendly volunteers, ensuring a supportive and personalized experience.

In recognition of World Hunger Day, the Community Pantry will host a public open house on Thursday, May 28, from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. Community members are invited to stop by, tour the facility, and learn more about its services. Volunteers and representatives from the Northeast Iowa Food Bank will be available to answer questions and share information about local hunger relief efforts.

Regular pantry hours are:

- Monday: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Tuesday: 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- Wednesday: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Thursday: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Saturday: By appointment only (641-435-2396)

The Community Pantry remains a vital resource in the Nashua area, dedicated to ensuring no neighbor goes without access to nutritious food.

Sunday Servants:

June	June 7th Traditional	June 14th Jubilee with communion	June 21 Traditional With Communion	June 28th No service water over dam days
Head Usher	Kif Richmann	Kif Richmann	Kif Richmann	None needed
Lector	Andrea Sullivan	Judy Rottinghaus	Karen Sinnwell	None Needed
Sound	Tom Franzen	Ken Haut	Greg Henn	None Needed
Video		Katelyn Wolf	Joan Lore	None Needed
Greeter/offering	Nat & Amy Sinnwell	Tracy Demro	Angie & Sam	None Needed
Communion	None Needed	Greg & Jo Henn.	Susan & Roger Garbas	None Needed

Camp News

2026 SUMMER CAMP

EWALU

As a Lutheran outdoor ministry, Ewalu offers a variety of programs all summer for youth in grades 1 to 12, guided by trained counselors. Adults and younger kids can join in with Family Camp and Grandparent Camp! **Our "tiered pricing" makes camp more affordable than ever. No child is turned away for reasons of financial need—details and request form online.**

REGISTER NOW!

See all our programs, the summer schedule and pricing online:

www.Ewalu.org/Summer-Camp

More questions? Check out our FAQs at the link above, or contact the camp office at Office@ewalu.org or 563-933-4700.

EARLY DISCOUNTS

Register by **FEBRUARY 28** and take **\$40 off** all full-week overnight youth programs (take \$20 off shorter and family programs).

Register by **APRIL 15** and take **\$20 off** full-week overnight programs (\$10 off shorter programs).

Details online. Works with any tier!

THIS YEAR'S THEME:

🏠 37776 Alpha Ave., Strawberry Point, IA 52076 📞 563-933-4700 ✉ camp@ewalu.org 🌐 www.ewalu.org

Love & the Outcome

St John is proud to once again host **Love & the Outcome**, a popular husband-and-wife Christian music duo from Winnipeg.

The show, which is part of their Sparrow Tour, is scheduled for **Friday, August 14th**, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Tickets are available through the church office.

Love & the Outcome brings an energetic, inspirational mix of pop and rock, with hit songs that include “He is With Us,” and “King of My Heart.” For more information on the musicians, visit loveandtheoutcome.os.fan.

They played at St John during the summer of 2024 and have graciously agreed to bring their wonderful music back to our church. We are excited to host another night of worship and music for Nashua and the surrounding area!



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31 Jackie out of office 8:30am Nashua Traditional service	Jun 1 Pastor Todd out of office 9am Food Pantry 5:30pm Cub Scouts	2 9am Food Pantry	3 9am Comm Pantry 5pm Worship with Bible Study 5pm Food, Family, Fun	4 9am Pantry	5 Pantry Closed	6 7am Men's Breakfast
7 Pastor Todd out of office Megan Gone 8:30am Traditional Service 10:30am St. Peter (Richfield) Worsh	8 9am Food Pantry	9 9am Food Pantry Will be closed. thi 12:30pm BLOOD DRIVE	10 9am Comm Pantry 5pm Worship with Bible Study 5pm Food, Family, Fun	11 9am Pantry 6:30pm Book Club	12 Pantry Closed	13
14 8:30am Nashua Jubilee Communion 10:30am St John (Stapleton)	15 9am Food Pantry 5:30pm Cub Scouts	16 9am Food Pantry	17 9am Comm Pantry 5pm Worship with Bible Study 5pm Food, Family, Fun	18 9am Pantry 4pm Mobile Food Pantry of Chickles	19 Pantry Closed	20
21 8:30am Nashua Trad with communi 10:30am St. Peter (Richfield)	22 9am Food Pantry	23 9am Food Pantry	24 9am Comm Pantry 5pm Worship with Bible Study 5pm Food, Family, Fun	25 Water over the dam days 9am Pantry	26 Pantry Closed	27
28 Water over the dam days 10:30am St John (Stapleton)	29 9am Food Pantry	30 9am Food Pantry	Jul 1 9am Comm Pantry 5pm Worship with Bible Study 5pm Food, Family, Fun	2 9am Pantry	3 Pantry Closed	4 7am Men's Breakfast

St. John Lutheran Church

300 Merrill St.

P.O. Box 575

Nashua, IA 50658