

February 2026

MESSENGER

God's Love and Guidance Revealed Through Jesus



John 3:16-17 - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him may not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him."

These verses encapsulate the profound depth of God's love and guidance offered to humanity through Jesus. God's love is not distant or abstract—it is personal, sacrificial, and transformative. The act of sending Jesus was not a passing gesture, but the ultimate expression of divine compassion. In a world often marked by uncertainty and brokenness, this love offers a foundation that cannot be shaken. It is a love that seeks out each individual, regardless of background or circumstance, inviting all into a relationship that brings true life.

Jesus embodies this love in every word and action. His teachings guide us toward forgiveness, humility, and service. He models a life of obedience to God, showing us how to navigate challenges with faith and integrity. Through Jesus, we see that God's guidance is not about rigid rules or condemnation, but about leading us into freedom, purpose, and joy.

We are reminded that Jesus did not come to judge or exclude, but to rescue and restore. This guidance is gentle yet firm, calling us away from paths that harm and toward those that heal. In moments of doubt or confusion, we can look to Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life—a constant source of direction and encouragement.

Let us remember that God's love is active and present. God reaches out to us daily, offering guidance through the example of Jesus. Whether we are facing decisions, seeking comfort, or longing for meaning, we can trust that God's love will lead us. By embracing this love and following Jesus, we find not only salvation but also the wisdom and strength to walk in God's purpose for our lives. Amen.

Pastor Todd

St. John Lutheran Church

8:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service

Pastor Todd Burrichter

(641) 228-0235

pastortoddburrichter@gmail.com

Deacon Jackie Schilling

(319) 504-6583

jschilling610@gmail.com

300 Merrill Street

P.O. Box 575

Nashua, IA 50658

641-435-2396

Church Secretary: Lisa Acton

Office email: stjohnlutherannashua@gmail.com

Website: www.stjohnnashua.org

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

President: Tom Franzen

Vice President: Zach Huffman

Council Secretary: Angie Dietz

Building & Grounds: Jeremy Wolf

Technology: Zach Huffman

Worship & Music: Bruce Bruns

Greg Henn, Roger Garbes,

Connor Sullivan, Christopher Kalvig

ADDITIONAL CHURCH LEADERS

Finance: Mark Rodruck

Treasurer: Jo Henn

Agape: Ann Senner

Jubilee: Bruce Bruns

Custodians: Rod & Beth Wilson

Organist: Ann Senner

Organist: Hannah Pederson

December 2025 General Fund Report

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|--------------------|-------------|
| Balance 12/01/2025 | (47,979.12) |
| Receipts | 30,621.95 |
| Expenses | 23,198.87 |
| Transfers | 40,600.00 |
| Balance 12/31/2025 | 43.96 |



January, 2026

| Date | Attend | Giving |
|----------------------|--------|-------------|
| Sun, Jan 4th | 65 | 4,275.00 |
| Wed Jan 7th | 5 | |
| Sun, Jan 11th | 80 | 4,439.33 |
| Wed Jan 14th | 5 | |
| Sun, Jan 18th | 62 | 17,644.30 |
| Wed Jan 21st | ----- | |
| Sun, Jan 25th | 68 | 1,043.00 |
| Wed Jan 28th | | |
| Giving to Date | | \$27,401.63 |
| Vanco Simply Giving | | \$1,630.00 |
| TOTAL Giving to Date | | \$29,031.63 |

Thank you to the **BLOOD DRIVE DONORS** who gave with generosity and compassion – 39 Units – Wed., Jan. 28th.

This can be processed for over **100 patients**, giving them and their families hope. Plan ahead and circle the dates of June 9th and August 18th for again giving this gift. You are appreciated for this constant need!.

Feeding His Sheep in Nashua

Compass Center; Lunches; **Every Tuesday** Free-Will Offering11:30-12:30 p.m.
Nashua Food Pantry: 115 Woodbridge St.; DowntownEvery Friday; 9-11 a.m. & on Call.
Mobile Food Pantry: January 15th(Every 3rd Thursday).....4-5:30 p.m.



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

Monday.....9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tuesday.....9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Wednesday.....9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Thursday.....9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Closed Friday

Saturday.....9 a.m. to Noon

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.

Ida Schloemer: Evergreen Arbor, Bartels, Waverly

Beth Waller: Maquoketa, Iowa

Verna Wiebke: Linden Place, Bartels, Waverly

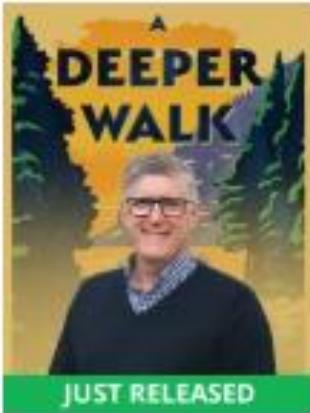
February Birthdays

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|----|-----------------|
| 4 | Trace Steere |
| 4 | Laura Wolf |
| 5 | Megan Stille |
| 11 | Noah Cerwinski |
| 14 | Alisha Stiles |
| 17 | Beth Wilson |
| 18 | Madalyn Rodruck |
| 23 | John Steere |
| 24 | Harper Pratt |
| 25 | Ellie Sudol |
| 28 | Jeanne Olson |
| 28 | Kreg Smith |



A Deeper Walk

MARCUS WARNER • 10 Sessions • 10 Min Avg

**Description**

Too many Christians are stuck and unable to go deeper in their walk with God because traditional discipleship models are overly left-brained and miss the heart.

**Countering Anxiety**

SIDHARA UDALAGAMA

4 Sessions Avg Session - 10 min
2025

February 8th
**Luther
League
Bake Sale**

and

Annual
Meeting
During service
**Jubilee with
Communion**

**Lenten Evening Soup Supper
and Evening Worship Schedule
at St. John Lutheran , Nashua**

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|-----------------------|---|
| 5:30 p.m. Soup Supper | Wed Feb 18th --Ash Wed -- Comm -- 7:00 p.m. |
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| 5 p.m. Soup Supper | Wed Feb 25th Lenten Service 6:00 p.m. Thorn |
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| 5 p.m. Soup Supper | Wed Mar 4th Lenten Service 6:00 p.m. |
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| 5 p.m. Soup Supper | Wed Mar 11th Lenten Service 6:00 p.m. |
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| 5 p.m. Soup Supper | Wed Mar 18th Lenten Service 6:00 p.m. |
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| 5 p.m. Soup Supper | Wed Mar 25th Lenten Service 6:00 p.m. |
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| | April 2nd | Maundy Thursday | Lenten Service 6:00 p.m. |
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| | April 3rd | Good Friday | Lenten Service 6:00 p.m. |
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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.

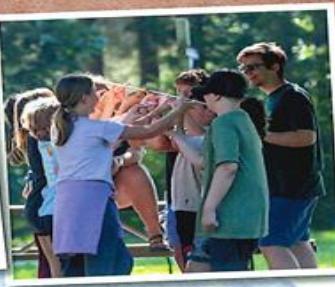
EARLY DISCOUNTS

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

| | February 1st | February 8th | February 15th | | February 22nd | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Worship Servants | 4th Sun Epiphany Traditional Comm | 5th Sun Epiphany Jubilee Comm | Transfiguration of Our Lord Trad | Ash Wednesday February 18th | 1st Sun Lent Jubilee | Lent Wednesday February 25th |
| Head Usher | Lisa Acton | Lisa Acton | Lisa Acton | Lisa Acton | Lisa Acton | Lisa Acton |
| Lector | Myrna Ross | Dawn Lindloff | Anita Sullivan | Rod Wilson? | Jill Kalvig | Joy Krieger? |
| Sound | Kaden Hannemann | Ken Haut | Carter Hennick | Wyatt Burrichter | Troy Stille | Kif Richmann |
| Video | Kami Hannemann | Katelyn Wolf | NEEDED | Joan Lore | Trent Rodruck | Connor Sullivan |
| Greeter & Offering | The Hannemann Family | Miller Family | Sullivan Family | Wilsons | Kalvig Family | Angie Dietz & Sam Rogers |
| Communion | Matt Hannemann | NEEDED | N/A | NEEDED | N/A | N/A |

Preparing for Lent – Returning to God with All My Heart

Beyond Words Ruth Haley Barton

Lectionary Readings for Ash Wednesday: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

“And yet even now,’ says the Lord, ‘return to me with all your heart . . .’” – Joel 2:12

Whether we feel ready or not, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Church’s observance of the Lenten season—six weeks that are set apart for the purpose of drawing closer to God and seeking him with greater intensity. Unfortunately, the Lenten season often gets reduced to the question, “What are you giving up for Lent?” This is a fine question, but it can only take us so far. The real question of the Lenten season is, “How will I repent and return to God with all my heart?” This begs an even deeper question: “Where in my life have I gotten away from God, and what are the disciplines that will enable me to find my way back?”

Honest to God

Ash Wednesday initiates this season in which we are called to be as honest as we are able about the ways we have “left” God and slipped into spiritual mediocrity. *“You desire truth in the inward being,”* Psalm 51 points out, *“Therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.”*

As God gives us wisdom and insight about our true condition, we can choose spiritual practices that are uniquely suited to help us return to God in the places where we have strayed or to renew our passion where our hearts have grown cold. The Scripture readings for Ash Wednesday (which are the same for Cycles A, B, and C) provide a good introduction to some of the concrete disciplines that have the potential to loosen the grip of sin and distraction in our lives—prayer and fasting, hiddenness, self-examination and repentance, forgiving others as we have been forgiven, and storing up treasure in heaven by giving generously to others.

Search Me, O God

Left to ourselves, we probably would not choose to devote a whole season to such rigorous and demanding disciplines, but God knows we need it. As we receive the symbolic gesture of the imposition of ashes on our foreheads, we acknowledge our human finiteness and mortality. No matter who we think we are, receiving the ashes reminds us that, *“You are dust and to dust you will return”* (Genesis 3:19). This is not meant to be morbid; it is just meant to limit our grandiosity and help us to stay in touch with the real human condition we all share.

The ashes marking our foreheads carry the same meaning contained in the Old Testament practice of covering oneself with ashes. They are a graphic reminder of our sinfulness, an outward sign of inward repentance and mourning as we become aware of our sin. This, too, is good for us because we live in so much denial. With as much openness as we can muster, we invite God to search us and know us and (eventually) lead us into resurrection life.

Longing for God

The purpose for engaging in Lenten disciplines is that we would become more finely attuned to our longing for God so we can seek him with all our hearts. Disciplines of fasting and other kinds of abstinence help us face the hold that our sin patterns have on us so we can somehow let go of our attachment to anything that is not God. As we wrestle with a more realistic awareness of the grip our attachments have on us, we enter into the godly grief that leads to repentance, and then forgiveness and freedom. Serious as the Lenten season is, it is also a time of great hope as we experience God’s steadfast love for us, even in the midst of whatever sin we are acknowledging. In the shadow of Christ’s cross and impending resurrection we are assured that there is forgiveness and cleansing for all who turn to him. In him there is the power to pass from death unto life in the places where we ourselves are in need of resurrection.

Preparing for Lent

As we approach Ash Wednesday next week, take some time to reflect on the place in your life where you feel distant from God. What has distracted you from cultivating your relationship with God more intentionally?

Begin your Lenten journey by saying something honest to God and reflecting on what you might “give up” or rearrange in order to create more space and passion for this most important relationship.

Let us pray...

Oh God, let something essential happen to me, something more than interesting or entertaining or thoughtful.

Oh God, let something essential happen to me, something awesome, something real. Speak to my condition, Lord, and change me somewhere inside where it matters. Let something happen which is my real self, Oh God.

Ted Loder, *Guerrillas of Grace*

February

St. John Lutheran Church

300 Merrill St.

P.O. Box 575

Nashua, IA 50658

February 8th

**Luther
League
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and

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**Jubilee with
Communion**

