

July 2026 Messenger

Greetings from Pastor Todd:

The Book of Proverbs is one of Scripture's great gifts for daily life. It speaks to us all in different ways; reaching into the everyday places where faith is lived out: our words, our choices, our friendships, our work, our money, and our attitudes.

Proverbs contains clear, faithful instructions from start to finish. Faith is found in such wisdom, and we open ourselves up to wisdom when we admit that we are not the center of the universe and that God's way is better than our own.

Proverbs teaches us how to walk faithfully and thoughtfully through the world with its short, memorable sayings that are not meant to be read quickly and then forgotten, but rather pondered, prayed over, and practiced.

Proverbs also teaches the value of diligence and integrity. It warns against laziness, dishonesty, and shortcuts that promise gain but lead to harm, and reminds us that our faithful work matters to God.

Another major theme in Proverbs is the importance of the company we keep. The book encourages us to listen to wise counsel, honor our parents, choose friends carefully, and avoid the path of those who delight in trouble. Our relationships shape our habits, our priorities, and often our direction in life. Proverbs invites us to seek people who help us become more faithful, humble, and loving.

Faith calls us to encourage instead of criticize, listen before speaking, forgive instead of keeping score, and tell the truth with love. We are not promised a life that will always be easy or that every question will be answered immediately, but we are assured that God is worthy of our trust.

We live with many choices, pressures, and distractions. Proverbs helps us slow down and ask better questions: Is this decision pleasing to God? Are my words building up or tearing down? Am I acting with honesty? Am I listening to wise counsel? Am I trusting the Lord or only my own understanding? What wisdom is God inviting me to practice today?

The Book of Proverbs reminds us that wisdom is not merely knowing the right thing; it is living the right way before God. May the Lord give us hearts that listen, minds that discern, tongues that speak grace, and lives that reflect his wisdom in the world today.

Faith Formation in the Summertime

Summer brings sunshine, vacations, ball games, and family adventures. It's a season of rest and renewal—but it's also the time when many families naturally attend church less often. Studies show that most congregations experience a **15–30% drop in attendance** during the summer months, largely due to travel, sports schedules, and shifting routines. This pattern isn't unique to any one church—it's part of the rhythm of community life.

But faith formation doesn't take a vacation. It begins—and grows—at home. Summer offers a beautiful opportunity to nurture our children's faith through the way we live each day. The Bible reminds us, *"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"* (Deuteronomy 6:7). Faith is woven into ordinary moments—meals, car rides, laughter, and even chores.

Here are simple, intentional ways families can demonstrate what being a Christian looks like all summer long:

- **Pray together**—before meals, at bedtime, or before a big game.
- **Serve others**—help a neighbor, volunteer at the food pantry, or pick up litter at the park.
- **Show gratitude**—thank God for the beauty of creation and the gift of time together.
- **Practice forgiveness**—model grace when conflicts arise.
- **Read Scripture outdoors**—bring a Bible to the campground or beach.
- **Worship through music**—sing hymns or Christian songs on road trips.
- **Talk about faith**—share where you've seen God's presence in your day.

These small acts teach children that faith isn't confined to Sunday mornings—it's a way of life. As Psalm 34:1 says, *"I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise will always be on my lips."*

While it's perfectly fine—and healthy—to take time away for rest or travel, regular worship attendance helps children see that being part of the church family isn't seasonal or convenient. Hebrews 10:25 encourages us, *"Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have made a habit, but let us encourage one another."*

When families make worship a priority—even during busy summers—they send a powerful message: faith isn't formed only in the big moments like weddings, funerals, Christmas, or Easter. It's shaped in the **ordinary, everyday moments** of prayer, service, and community. Those habits prepare us for the big moments when they come.

Lamentations 3:22–23 reminds us that *"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies are new every morning."* Summer's slower pace can help us notice those mercies more clearly. Whether you're worshipping in the sanctuary, joining online, or praying around a campfire, God is present—and faith continues to grow.

So enjoy your vacations, cheer at the ball games, and rest in the sunshine. But also make space for worship and connection. Because faith isn't formed in the extraordinary—it's strengthened in the ordinary, everyday rhythms of life.

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: Megan Stille
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**

May 2026 General Fund Report:

Balance 5/1/26	7,058.57
Receipts	14,167.60
Expenses	17,951.72
Transfers	(350.00)
Balance 3/31/2026	2,924.45

General fund is down \$4,134 for the month
and up \$ 2,880 for the year.

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 Liz Arends
2 Vicki Jones
10 Connor Sullivan
10 Mark Rodruck
13 Sharon Pahnisch
18 Tom Krieger
18 Wes Wolf
21 Randy Sinnwell
24 Carol Hicok
24 Noah Huffman
26 Rick Drewlow
29 Lyla Burrichter
29 Wyatt Burrichter
30 Brian Sullivan
30 Aiden Sullivan

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.

Pantry News

From the Community Pantry



A new contract year is underway for the Community Pantry, located at 300 Merrill Street, in St. John Lutheran Church. Ann Senner has been designated the lead volunteer for pantry activities and has signed a contract for services to continue under the umbrella of the Northeast Iowa Food Bank (NEIFB), Waterloo.

Community Pantry volunteers recently hosted an open house on May 28 in recognition of World Hunger Day. Visiting dignitaries at the Nashua Community Pantry site included representatives from local government and members of the NEIFB from Waterloo, along with Nashua-area citizens. Ann Senner offered tours of the operation and guests were treated to refreshments.

The pantry is fully-stocked and offers a variety of foodstuffs. Items available include canned goods, dry goods, a variety of frozen meats, milk, beverages, breads, and assorted fresh fruits and vegetables when available. The Community Pantry also has a Rescue Food agreement with local retail establishments, offering an assortment of foodstuffs. Local partners include Kwik Star, Dollar General, and Casey's.

Volunteers are available to assist patrons 4 days a week. Community Pantry hours are:

- Monday and Thursday: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Tuesday: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Wednesday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Volunteer Opportunities with the Community Pantry

The Community Pantry has a number of volunteer opportunities available to help serve Pantry clients. Persons can sign up for shorter or longer volunteer slots, as their schedules allow.

After filling out basic paperwork, clients may choose foodstuffs their household can use. Volunteers assist by filling their orders and weighing the total amount of items they have chosen. Training is offered for the simple paperwork volunteers take care of.

Volunteers may choose to do a solo shift, or if you have a friend or relative you would like to spend some time with, this is a great chance to do something for your community and spend quality time with another volunteer.

If you are interested in this rewarding volunteer opportunity, contact any Community Pantry board member. They are:

- Ann Senner: 641-330-5798
- Lori Bruns: 641-220-4098
- Beth Wilson: 641-330-2225
- Laurie Kristiansen: 641-229-1030
- Kristy Richmann: 319-325-4775
- Jackie Schilling: 319-504-6583

Community Pantry volunteers, Ann Senner and Laurie Kristiansen, hosted an open house during World Hunger Day on May 28th. Northeast Iowa Food Bank representative Tia Gutierrez (center) also attended the event.



Sunday Servants:

July	July 5 traditional with Communion	July 12 Jubilee with Communion	July 19th Traditional	July 26 Jubilee
Head Usher	Tom Franzen	Tom Franzen	Tom Franzen	Tom Franzen
Lector	Bruce Bruns			Judy R
Sound	Tom Franzen	Troy Stille	Kif Richmann	Jeff Trost
Video		Katelyn Wolf		Wyatt/ Lyla B.
Greeter/offering		Tom & Joy Kreiger	Nat & Amy Sinnwell	Judy and Dan
Communion	Angie Dietz	Jill Stille /Lori Bruns		

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:

Wear Love

COLOSSIANS 3:12

📍 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!



VBS



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN, NASHUA

300 MERRILL ST.

AUGUST 3RD - AUGUST 6TH

5:00 MEAL

5:30 PM - 7 PM CLASS

REGISTER @
STJOHNNASHUA.ORG

SUN 28	MON 29	TUE 30	WED Jul 1	THU 2	FRI 3	SAT 4
Water over the dam days ● 10:30am St John (Stapleton)	● 9am Food Pantry	● 9am Food Pantry	● 9am Comm Pantry ● 5pm Worship with Bible Study ● 5pm Food, Family, Fun	● 9am Pantry	Pantry Closed	● 7am Men's Breakfast
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
● 8:30am Traditional Communion Ser ● 10:30am St. Peter (Richfield) Worsh	● 9am Food Pantry ● 5:30pm Cub Scouts	● 9am Food Pantry	● 9am Comm Pantry ● 5pm Worship with Bible Study ● 5pm Food, Family, Fun	● 9am Pantry	Pantry Closed	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
● 8:30am Nashua Jubilee Communion ● 10:30am St John (Stapleton)	Pastor Todd out of office ● 9am Food Pantry	● 9am Food Pantry	● 9am Comm Pantry ● 5pm Worship with Bible Study ● 5pm Food, Family, Fun	● 9am Pantry ● 4pm Mobile Food Pantry of Chickas	Pantry Closed	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Pastor Todd out of office ● 8:30am Nashua Trad Service ● 10:30am St. Peter (Richfield)	● 9am Food Pantry ● 5:30pm Cub Scouts ● 6pm Council Meeting ● 6pm PEO Meeting	● 9am Food Pantry	● 9am Comm Pantry ● 5pm Worship with Bible Study ● 5pm Food, Family, Fun	● 9am Pantry	Pantry Closed	
26	27	28	29	30	31	Aug 1
● 8:30am Nashua Jubilee Service ● 10:30am St John (Stapleton)	● 9am Food Pantry	● 9am Food Pantry	● 9am Comm Pantry ● 5pm Worship with Bible Study ● 5pm Food, Family, Fun	● 9am Pantry	Pantry Closed	● 7am Men's Breakfast

St. John Lutheran Church

300 Merrill St.

P.O. Box 575

Nashua, IA 50658